

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update March 2014

WHAT'S NEW

Following is an updated list of members of the National Forest Health Monitoring Management Team, which discusses and plans program activities on a regular basis:

Borys Tkacz	National Program Manager for FHM	btkacz@fs.fed.us
Jim Steinman	FHP Northeastern Area	jsteinman@fs.fed.us
Manfred Mielke	FHP Northeastern Area	mmielke@fs.fed.us
John Nowak	FHP Southern Region	jnowak@fs.fed.us
Jeri Lyn Harris	FHP Rocky Mountain Region	jharris@fs.fed.us
Alison Nelson	FHP Pacific Northwest Region	asnelson@fs.fed.us
Frank Koch	FHM Research Team	fhkoch@fs.fed.us
Frank Sapio	National Director of FHTET	fsapio@fs.fed.us
Greg Reams	National Program Leader for FIA	greams@fs.fed.us
Patrice Janiga	NFS Inventory & Design, QA Nat. Coord.	pjaniga@fs.fed.us
Keith Cline	SPF (WO), Urban & Community Forestry	kcline@fs.fed.us
Chris Asaro	Virginia Department of Forestry	chris.asaro@dof.virginia.gov
Tom Smith	California Department of Forestry and Fire	tom.smith@fire.ca.gov
Les Koch	Wyoming State Forestry Division	leslie.koch@wyo.gov
Roger Mech	Michigan Department of Natural Resources	MechR@michigan.gov
Thomas Hall	Pennsylvania DCNR-Bureau of Forestry	thall@state.pa.us

[FHP =U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Protection; FHTET = U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team; FIA = U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis; NFS = U.S. Forest Service National Forest System; SPF (WO) = U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry (Washington Office); PA DCNR= Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources]

Please contact any of these members for more information about FHM Program activities described on the [FHM homepage](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Items beginning with * indicate a new listing or new information)

March 18-20, 2014. Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. The 2014 Northeastern Forest Pest Council (NEFPC) Meeting. The meeting will be held in Quebec City - Tuesday March 18 A.M. to Thursday March 20 noon (2.5 days) and include a student forum, state and province forest health updates, and presentations on current research of forest health issues in the U.S. and Canada. Topics planned include emerald ash borer, spruce budworm and white pine blister rust. If you have a topic you would like to see covered or would like to present your research please contact Julie Coop. ph: 617-797-3392 Email: julie.coop@state.ma.us. If you are a student and would like to be a part of the student forum please see the website and contact Dr. William H. Livingston by January

17, 2014. ph: 207-581-2990 Email: WilliamL@maine.edu. The Delta hotel has set up links for room reservations (Deadline is February 18):

English: [Delta Hotel link for room reservations in English](#)

French: [Delta Hotel link for room reservations in French](#)

If you are traveling from the US don't forget to make sure your passport is in order:

[U.S. government link to passport information](#)

More information about the NEFPC can be found at: [Link to more information about the Northeastern Forest Pest Council](#)

March 25-27, 2014. The Forest Health Monitoring Program Biennial Workgroup Meeting will be held March 25-27, 2014 near Jacksonville, FL. The meeting will be held at the Ft. George Island Cultural Park/Ribault facility. Lodging will be approximately a 30-minute drive at the Aloft Jacksonville Airport Hotel, (904-714-3800). A block of rooms has been arranged under the name "Forest Health Monitoring Workgroup – US Forest Service." The government rate of \$83 will be honored. Reservations need to be made by **March 17, 2014** to ensure receiving this rate. Additional information about the meeting including the draft agenda, poster registration, and the meeting registration form are available on the [FHM homepage](#). The deadline for meeting registration is **March 14, 2014**. Please read the information completely because the arrangements are different from past workgroup meetings.

July 6-10, 2014. St. Thomas, the U.S. Virgin Islands. 50th Caribbean Food Crop Society (CFCS) Annual Meeting and American Phytopathological Society – Caribbean Division (APS-CD) Annual Meeting. These two scientific regional meetings will be held together in St. Thomas. More information about each of these meetings will be available soon on their respective websites: [50th Caribbean Food Crop Society \(FCS\) Annual Meeting](#) and [American Phytopathological Society - Caribbean Division \(APS-CD\) Annual Meeting](#).

June 15-20, 2014. Ft. Collins, CO. IUFRO Joint Conference of 2.02.15 Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines, 7.02.05 Rusts of Forest Trees, and Strobosphere. The joint meeting will bring together scientists working with genetics and conservation of white pine species (five-needle pines), and those working with rusts of forest trees. Great changes/advances have happened since each of these groups last met (e.g., genome sequencing, gene conservation efforts, rust resistance advances), so it is extremely timely to bring these groups together. In addition, the conference includes two field trips to see some unique forest ecosystems in the Rocky Mountains and an additional optional 1-day field trip immediately following the conference. Abstracts for oral presentations and posters are being accepted until **March 5, 2014**. Early registration is open until **April 7, 2014**. For complete conference information please visit the [IUFRO Pine-Rust-Genomics conference website](#). If you have questions you may also contact Anna Schoettle (USDA Forest Service) at aschoettle@fs.fed.us or Richard Sniezko (USDA Forest Service) at rsniezko@fs.fed.us.

July 7-11, 2014. Manoa, HI. Island Biology 2014. This international conference will be held at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The conference will consist of plenary lectures, symposia, contributed talks, and posters. Content will cover a broad range of taxa, regions, and biological disciplines. The deadline for abstract submissions is January 31, 2014. The deadline for notification of acceptance is February 28, 2014.

Final acceptance requires that the author register for the conference by April 15, 2014. For more information including instructions for submitting an abstract, visit the conference [Island Biology 2014 internal conference website](#).

Job Opportunities

The USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection, Pacific Northwest Region will soon be advertising the following position located in Portland, Oregon: Entomologist, GS-0414-11/12/13. This position is located in Forest Health Protection, State & Private Forestry and serves as an entomologist in the Regional Office. Although there are some opportunities to assist in field level activities with the entomologists and pathologists in the Service Centers, activities and work are primarily at the regional level assisting in, and providing entomological input into, regional programs and coordinating regional level programs. The position coordinates with other staffs in the regional office, as well as regional or state level staff of other federal and state agencies. This position is the Program Manager for the invasive forest insects program, which includes providing updates on invasive insects; responding to new and potential insect introductions; participating as an ad-hoc member of R6 RISIT as needed; providing information to, and reviews of, environmental documents involving invasive insects; designing and coordinating region-wide surveys, technology development and other projects involving invasive insects; and administering and monitoring grants and agreements concerning invasive insects, including working in, and accessing IWEB. Work with invasive insects requires a close coordination and relationship with the APHIS offices in both WA and OR, and State Departments of Agriculture in both WA and OR. The incumbent coordinates and works closely with the regional entomologist and pathologist, and the Service Center professionals on both invasive and native forest insects and identifies opportunities for regional and landscape level analysis involving forest insects and diseases. Participates in training and technical assistance activities, as needed. Keeps up-to-date on insect and disease models used in the R6 Forest Vegetation Simulator and participates in the Regional annual FVS training. Serves as the program manager for the R6 prevention/suppression-project program by preparing the annual call letter to Forest Supervisors for project proposals; compiling project proposal scores from a review team; leading and coordinating the annual proposal-review meeting; periodically revising the proposal-evaluation criteria and the review process; and maintaining and providing the R6 input to the FAD database. Serves as the National Coordinator for the Forest Insect and Disease Leaflets series. Maintains the FIDL database; assigns numbers to new leaflets; reviews leaflets prior to publication for consistency, format and layout; works with the regional Public Affairs for publication; and coordinates distribution nationwide. Serves as the FHP webmaster for the regional office. Updates and maintains the RO FHP websites by maintaining the FHP regional websites, uploads the Forest Health Monitoring Highlight reports and other publications, maintains the national International Activity Team (IAT) website, coordinates with the regional webmaster, and keeps abreast of changes in website standards and requirements. As needed, provides advice to the Forest Health Protection staff in Alaska concerning invasive insects, prevention/suppression projects, and related topics. This is a permanent full-time position. Although a professional level

entomologist position, this position could be developmental and filled at a journeyman level, with grade increases, as appropriate, without further competition. This position may be eligible for telework and other flexible work arrangements, but it is not a virtual position. Some travel and field work is required. If you are interested in this position, return the outreach reply form (attached to this Update as attachment 1) to Doug Daoust by e-mail ddaoust@fs.fed.us by **April 1, 2014**. For more information about the position, contact Peg Polichio, Director for State & Private Forestry at 503-808-2340, or Doug Daoust, Assistant Director of State & Private Forestry, at 503-808-2913. PLEASE NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the advertisement (e.g., target grade or multi-grade and service-wide, region-wide, government-wide, or DEMO). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection, Southwestern Region will soon be advertising to fill a permanent, full-time Natural Resource Specialist on the Forest Health (FH) staff located in Flagstaff, AZ. The target grade is GS-401-9 and may be advertised as a GS-401-7/9. This position will be supervised by the Arizona Zone Leader. The major duties for this position include (1) Plan, coordinate, organize and implement aerial and ground surveys, statewide in coordination with entomologist and plant pathologist, to detect, monitor and evaluate the presence, location, and trend of insect populations, insect and disease damage, other damaging agents and over-all forest health; (2) Acts as the primary aerial observer for the Arizona Zone FH during months of August-Oct, and at other times as necessary. Must be able to fly as an observer in fixed and rotary wing aircraft at low levels over mountainous terrain for extended periods of time, or similar activities. Normal color and stereovision is essential for accurate recognition of discolored, injured vegetation. The work may also require some physical exertion, such as long periods of standing, walking over rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces, recurring bending, stooping, reaching; (3) Responsible for the application and use of geographic information systems (GIS) technology; (4) Summarizes and analyzes survey data, using computer software programs such as GIS-including specialized programming of GIS software to conduct advanced spatial analyses to monitor long term forest health trends and maintain historical information of forest health conditions; (5) Performs project planning activities concerning forest health protection. Adapts a design, coordinates and executes FH field and laboratory projects. Resolves administrative and safety concerns related to the project and trains and supervises lower grade employees assigned to the project; (6) Maintains fleet, insect and disease collections, laboratory and associated equipment. The Arizona Zone Office consists of 1 zone leader, 1 plant pathologist, 2 entomologists, and 1 natural resource specialist. They maintain an active and full forest health program including all aspects of surveillance, detection, technical assistance, technology development, training, and prevention & suppression. The office is co-located with the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station on the campus of Northern Arizona University. This arrangement allows for interaction with natural resource research scientists with both state and federal agencies. If you are interested in this position, return the outreach reply form (attached to this Update as attachment 2) to John Anhold by e-mail janhold@fs.fed.us or mail by **April 4, 2014**. NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to

establish the appropriate recruitment method (service-wide, region-wide, government-wide, or DEMO, i.e. non-government). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest plans to fill the Regional Aerial Survey Program Manager (Insect and Disease Detection) position, Interdisciplinary GS-0401/0414/0434-12. This position is part of the State and Private Forest Health Protection (FHP) Staff in the Pacific Northwest Region, and reports to the Group Leader of the Westside FHP Service Center, which is located on the Mt. Hood National Forest. This position will have some supervisory responsibilities (less than 20 percent of the time). The duty station is located in Sandy, Oregon. The Regional Aerial Survey Program Manager furnishes leadership and guidance for the Pacific Northwest Region Aerial Survey Program, and is responsible for the application of aerial survey methodologies and associated technologies to meet program objectives. Responsible for leadership in developing and implementing a comprehensive program, long and short range plans to integrate safety standards and new technology, training and technology transfer to Regional personnel and State cooperators. Core Duties: responsible for planning and conducting the annual FHP aerial detection survey for the Region and for incorporating aerial insect and disease survey information into FHP reporting databases and publications; resolves logistical and safety problems, monitors aerial survey progress and provides quality control for survey; provides coordination between the R6 FHP Aerial Survey Program and other National, Federal, State, and local aviation regulatory agencies; implements National aerial detection survey standards; plans and conducts training sessions to insure compliance with forest health monitoring quality assurance and quality control; provides Regional FHP Aviation Safety Program leadership, oversight, and coordination; plans and conducts annual training sessions to insure compliance with aviation safety requirements; provides technical assistance concerning forest pest location, extent and severity to land managers for integration into timber sales and vegetation management activities, and assists clients with retrieval and analysis of aerial survey data; functions as a staff specialist in geographic positioning systems (GPS), geographic information systems (GIS), and remote sensing technology; coordinates with GIS and statistical specialists and other survey participants to ensure accurate compilation, computation, and conversion to National format of survey data and maps; and production of tabular and spatial data and summary output for accuracy within specified timelines. The successful candidate will have skills in the use of geospatial software including ESRI ArcGIS and relational databases including Access, experience conducting aerial insect and disease detection surveys, experience working with and presenting natural resources data, possess good organization and communications skills, and have the ability to work in a team environment. Please note the career series for this position—0401/0414/0434. Applicants will be expected to meet the ‘positive education’ qualifications for the 0401, 0413, or 0434 series, as well as time-in-grade requirements. For more information on the 0401, 0413, or 0434 career series, visit the Office of Personnel Management webpage; 0401, 0414, 0434. This outreach notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of this upcoming opportunity and to gain insight regarding the potential applicant pool that may be interested in this position. If you are interested in this position please complete the form attached to this Update as attachment 3. Email, Fax, or mail the completed form to Beth Willhite (Group Leader, Westside FHP Service Center) at

bwillhite@fs.fed.us, FAX 503-668-1423, 16400 Champion Way, Sandy, OR 97055 by the end of day **March 21, 2014**. For additional information about this job opportunity, please contact Beth Willhite at 503-668-1477, bwillhite@fs.fed.us. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

PUBLICATIONS
OF INTEREST

1. **Hennon, Paul E.; Mulvey, Robin L.** 2014. Managing heart rot in live trees for wildlife habitat in young-growth forests of coastal Alaska. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-890. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 23 p.
2. **Snieszko, R.A; Danchok, R.; Long, S.; Savin, D.P.; Kegley, A.; Mayo, J.; Hill, J.** 2014. Growth and survival of sugar pine through age 25 in six progeny tests on sites of low to high blister rust hazard in southwest Oregon. In: Browning, J. comp. Proceedings of the 60th annual western international forest disease work conference, October 8-12, 2012, Tahoe City, CA. Pp. 167-170.

FOR MORE
FHM
INFORMATION

Visit the [FHM homepage](#) and the [Forest Health Portal](#) or access both via the [USDA Forest Service homepage](#)

OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM ~
Natural Resource Specialist GS-0401-7/9

Please submit this form by close of business April 4, 2014 to:

Return Form To: John Anhold janhold@fs.fed.us **Fax: (928) 256-2130**
USDA Forest Service **Office: (928) 556-2073**
2500 S. Pine Knoll Dr.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish the appropriate recruitment method (service-wide, region-wide, government-wide, or DEMO, i.e. non-government). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination.

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

Government Employee: Yes ___ No ___

If Yes, name of Agency: _____

Current Duty Location: _____

Current Position (title/series/grade): _____

If no, Current Position: _____

Current Location: _____

Name of Current Employer: _____

IF NOT A CURRENT PERMANENT (CAREER OR CAREER CONDITIONAL) EMPLOYEE
ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BE HIRED UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL
AUTHORITIES (please check those that apply):

- ___ PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
- ___ VETERANS RECRUITMENT APPOINTMENT
- ___ DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- ___ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- ___ RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- ___ PATHWAYS (Students and Recent Graduates Internship Program)
- ___ OTHER _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR VACANCY

OUTREACH NOTICE RESPONSE FORM

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST, HEADQUARTERS
Sandy, OR

Aerial Survey Program Manager (Insect and Disease Detection), Interdisciplinary GS-0401/414/434-12

If you are interested in this position, please complete and submit this outreach notice form to bwillhite@fs.fed.us (or FAX or mail hardcopy to address below*) by end of day **March 21, 2014**. This will help us determine the level of interest of prospective candidates and establish the area of consideration.

Date: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ **Alternate Phone:** _____

Federal Agency Employed with: USFS Other (Please list):

Type of appointment currently under (please check one):

Permanent Temporary Term Other (Please list):

Current Title:

Current Series/Grade:

Current Region/Forest/District:

If not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities:

Persons with Disabilities

Veterans Recruitment Appointment

Disabled Veteran w/30%

Compensable Disability

Veteran Employment Opportunities

Act of 1998

Former Peace Corp Volunteer

Student Career Experience

Program

Other (explain):

Briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position (if additional space is needed, please attach below).

This outreach form does not constitute an application. The Job Announcement (Single Vacancy) will appear on the USAJOBS website: www.usajobs.gov/

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE!

*Mailing Address: Attn: Beth Willhite, Mt. Hood National Forest HQ, 16400 Champion Way, Sandy, OR 97055
FAX: 503-668-1423