

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update June 2014

WHAT'S NEW

Borys Tkacz, the National Program Manager for Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) started a detail as Acting Director for State and Private Forestry for Regions 6 and 10 on May 19. During Borys' absence, questions regarding the national FHM program may be directed to Anne Hoover, Deputy Director for Forest Health Protection in the Washington. Anne can be reached via phone at 703-605-5332 or email at ahoover@fs.fed.us

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

***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 were accepted until March 5, 2014. Early registration was open until April 7, 2014. For complete conference information please visit the [IUFRO Pine-Rust-Genomics conference website](#). The conference agenda is [now available](#). 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 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](#).

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 was 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](#).

October 5-11, 2014. Salt Lake City, UT. International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) – World Congress. The Congress title is Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research. The scientific program for the XXIV IUFRO World Congress will consist of plenary sessions, sub-plenary sessions, technical sessions, and themed poster sessions. The Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) is developing a program to highlight how forest science is helping address significant environmental, social, and economic challenges facing the world. The program will reflect diverse contributions from the forest science community across the full range of natural and social science disciplines. Early-bird registration is now open. For complete information, visit the [IUFRO XXIV World Congress](#).

Job Opportunities

The USDA Forest Service, Mt. Hood National Forest is currently advertising a Biological Scientist/Plant Pathologist/Entomologist position(GS-0434/0414/0401-12). This is 1 vacancy and is full-time permanent. This position is located in the Mt. Hood National Forest Headquarters, Westside Forest Health Protection Service Center. The duty station for the position is in Sandy, Oregon. The position serves as the Regional program manager for the forest health protection aerial survey program. Duties include: furnishes leadership and guidance for the Pacific Northwest Region Aerial Survey Program; applies aerial survey methodologies and associated technologies to meet program objectives; develops and manages aerial survey data and databases for Regional Forest Health Protection Aerial Survey Program; serves as a staff specialist in global positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS); incorporates information from aerial surveys into geospatial databases, ensures accurate compilation, computation, and conversion to national format of survey data and maps, produces tabular and spatial data summary outputs; provides technical assistance concerning forest pest location, extent and severity to land managers and other clients; maintains working relationships with other land management agencies, research organizations and educational institutions; works in collaboration with a wide variety of Federal and State agencies to demonstrate and market the application and utilization of aerial survey data to assist resource management; prepares and writes reports to present survey data including maps, summary tables and graphic displays. For additional information about the position, including how to apply, view the full vacancy announcements on the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management website](#). The job announcement for all U.S. citizens and Nationals is 14-0606-25280DP-KW and the open period is **Monday, June 02, 2014 to Friday, June 06, 2014**. The job announcement for federal career and status eligible applicants (see announcement for a full list) is 14-0606-25280G-KW and the open period is **Monday, June 02, 2014 to Wednesday, June 11, 2014**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) will soon be advertising for a Research Urban Ecologist. The position will be located at the Pacific Southwest Research Station in Riverside, Davis, Los Angeles, or Albany, California. We aim to find the best match between candidate and assigned location. The incumbent will be a scientist in the Urban Ecosystem and Social Dynamics (UESD) Program. The UESD program of research is national in scope, with documented extensions to international applications. Three problem areas are addressed: (1) Realize an abundant and sustainable supply of ecosystems by examining the relationships among human uses, human values, ecosystem services, and management; (2) Investigate how to reconnect humans and nature considering the roles of changing demographics, cultures, urbanization, socio-economics, and technology on use and sustainability of natural resources; and (3) Manage ecosystems to better reflect the desires of the American people by determining the impacts of public policies on ecological and social patterns and processes. The goal for research in these areas is to better understand the interconnections among ecosystems, people and social institutions in ways that will inform policy and improve management of forests and other natural resources. Duties: Land use change and urban development, habitat fragmentation, biodiversity, and maintenance of ecosystem processes are areas of emphasis for this assignment. Components of the ecosystem and their inter-relationships, including air, water, soils, trees, and other vegetation may be examined. Restoration and / or maintenance of ecosystem function and processes may be explored, as well as outputs and services provided by urban ecosystems. Potential threats such as invasives, environmental change, and rate and extent of urban development may be examined. Strategies to enhance ecosystem function and process are likely informed by this work. The incumbent will be responsible for advancing fundamental knowledge and understanding surrounding urban ecosystems. This includes a range of research related tasks including knowledge synthesis; testing of theories, paradigms, or existing approaches; and knowledge development including offering revisions to existing theories and or approaches or entirely new approaches. Results are expected to inform and improve urban natural resources sustainability. Findings are presented through a variety of means including publications in refereed outlets, agency publications and documents, presentations at scientific and professional meetings, consultations, web-based publications and technologies, and training sessions. Administrative tasks include managing an allocated budget, reporting and monitoring processes and agreements, and various supporting roles that aid the research program, station, or agency as a whole. The incumbent will conduct scientific reviews as needed and is expected to serve on location, station, agency, and collaborating committees and assignments. Performs other duties as assigned. If you are interested in this position please complete the form attached to this Update as attachment 1 and return it to Patricia Winter, Ph.D., by email to pwinter@fs.fed.us no later than **June 20, 2014**. For additional information you may contact Dr. Winter at the same email address. The job announcement will appear on the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management website](#) when available. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

PUBLICATIONS **OF INTEREST**

1. **Campbell, Faith Thompson; Schlarbaum, Scott E.** 2014. Fading forests III: American forests, what choice will we make? University of Tennessee and The Nature Conservancy. Available online: www.nature.org/fadingforests
2. **Yemshanov, D.; Koch, F.H.; Lu, B.; Lyons, D.B.; Prestemon, J.P.; Scarr, T.; Koehler, K.** 2014. There is no silver bullet: The value of diversification in planning invasive species surveillance. *Ecological Economics* 104: 61-72.

FOR MORE **FHM** **INFORMATION**

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

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RESEARCH STATION

Urban Ecosystems and Social Dynamics

Research Urban Ecologist, GS 0408/12

Riverside, Davis, Los Angeles, or Albany, California

If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete this form and send it by e-mail Patricia Winter, Ph.D., by email to pwinter@fs.fed.us. For additional information you may contact Dr. Winter at the same email address or by calling 951-680-1557.

Please respond no later than June 20, 2014.

INTERESTED APPLICANT INFORMATION:

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

TYPE OF CURRENT APPOINTMENT: (if applicable)

PERMANENT TEMPORARY TERM

CURRENT STATION/LAB/REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT: (if applicable)

CURRENT PAY or SERIES AND GRADE: (if applicable)

CURRENT POSITION TITLE:

I AM ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL NON-COMPETITIVE HIRING AS (check any that apply):

VRA (Veterans Recruitment Authority) ___ SCHEDULE A (Persons with disabilities) ___
Reinstatement (prior permanent career/career conditional employees) ___ OTHER ___

****Note: for candidates that do not understand what these authorities mean, or the criteria that needs to be met in order to be eligible for non-competitive hiring authorities, please see the information below.**

- **30% or More Compensable Disabled Veterans:** Temporary and career opportunities can be provided to qualified disabled veterans who were discharged because of a service-connected disability or retired with a disability rating of 30% or more, and have been rated by the VA since 1991 or later as having a compensable service-connected disability of 30% or more.
http://www.opm.gov/Strategic_Management_of_Human_Capital/fhfr/FLX02020.asp
- **Veteran's Recruitment Authority (VRA):** Allows for temporary and career opportunities for positions at grade levels through GS-11. Qualified veterans must be disabled or, have served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized or, received an Armed Forces Service Medal or, was recently (within the last 3 years) separated from active duty. http://www.opm.gov/Strategic_Management_of_Human_Capital/fhfr/FLX02020.asp