

Forest Health Monitoring Program

Monthly Update

September 2014

WHAT'S NEW

Borys Tkacz, the National Program Manager for Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) has accepted a new position as Assistant Director for Research with the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland, OR. Borys has been the National Program Manager for FHM since 2001. Prior to that he served as the National Forest Pathologist, Arizona Zone Leader for Forest Health, and Forest Pathologist in the Intermountain Region of the Forest Service. Borys will be starting in his new position on September 22. Questions regarding the national FHM program may be directed to Bob Rabaglia, Acting Deputy Director for Forest Health Protection in the Washington. Bob can be reached via phone at 703-605-5338 or email at brabaglia@fs.fed.us.

Evaluation Monitoring (EM) Request for Proposals – The Forest Health Monitoring Program is requesting proposals for FY 2015 EM projects designed to determine the extent, severity, and causes of undesirable changes in forest health. Project proposals for new and continuing projects should be submitted by **September 30, 2014** to the FHM Regional Managers: Jim Steinman for Northeast FHM Region (jsteinman@fs.fed.us), Manfred Mielke for North Central FHM Region (mmielke@fs.fed.us), John Nowak for Southern FHM Region (jnowak@fs.fed.us), Jeri Lyn Harris for Interior West FHM Region (jharris@fs.fed.us), or Alison Nelson for West Coast FHM Region (asnelson@fs.fed.us). The FHM Regional Managers will, in turn, forward their top selected proposals to the Washington Office by November 7, 2014. Detailed instructions and a template for project proposals are available on the [EM portion of the FHM website](#).

The progress of Rocky Mountain, Great Basin, Great Sand Dunes, and Crater Lake National Parks in building a science foundation to aid in the development of conservation strategies for high elevation five-needle pine ecosystems was reviewed and the results published (see Schoettle and others, 2013 in the *Publications* section). Due to the current impacts or threat of impacts from white pine blister rust, mountain pine beetle and climate change, each of these parks considers their five-needle pine species of conservation concern. The scientific knowledge reduces the uncertainty in projecting outcomes of interventions or inactivity to improve trade-off analyses as managers assess their options; it can also feed into economic analyses and be used to inform the public. Depending on the intensity of impact, efforts are focused on developing (1) restoration activities in declining landscapes (Restoration Strategy) and/or (2) proactive interventions in threatened ecosystems to mitigate future impacts (Proactive Strategy). Rocky Mountain, Great Basin, and Great Sand Dunes National Parks are currently following the Proactive Strategy approach and Crater Lake National Park the Restoration Strategy approach. Restoration treatments can slow impacts and rebuild impacted populations and proactive interventions can help prepare the landscape for invasion to mitigate the severity of future impacts. The goal of both approaches is to conserve the species and promote self-sustaining five-needle pine ecosystems in the presence of white pine blister

rust using available tools and methods that are compatible with land use designations. These programs include sampling frameworks, *in situ* and *ex situ* gene conservation, demographic, regeneration, and forest health assessments, developing rust resistant populations, and restoration plantings and trials. Interagency collaboration between the National Park Service and USDA Forest Service has facilitated the progress of these programs in each park.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

***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. The FHM Program will be featured in a booth in the Exhibition Hall. For complete information, visit the [IUFRO XXIV World Congress](#).

***October 8-11, 2014.** Salt Lake City, UT. The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is partnering with the Canadian Institute of Forestry/l'Institut forestier du Canada (CIF/IFC) for a joint convention to be co-located with the IUFRO World Congress mentioned above. These co-located events will enhance knowledge exchange and networking among professionals who study and manage forest resources around the globe. For complete information visit [the meeting website](#).

November 3-4, 2014. Charlotte, NC. SAVE THE DATE! The Tenth Meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry National Conference. Planned updates and expert discussions will include: emerging international and regional issues in forest health; Healthy Trees, Healthy Cities efforts; Don't Move Firewood, the Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative, and industry-led firewood certification; lightning-round presentations by national leaders; Apps, social media, and forest pests; and facilitated group discussion on the Continental Forest Dialogue's next 10 years. Information about the Continental Dialogue Meeting as well as the Arbor Day Partners Conference can be found online at www.arborday.org/pcf and www.continentalforestdialogue.org.

September 17-20, 2015. Ashland, OR. 2015. EARLY ALERT! 2015 Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation Annual Science and Management Workshop. This will be the first time the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation (WPEF) has had their scientific meeting in the Pacific Coast range of whitebark pine – a chance to feature unique aspects of this part of the range (California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia), the other high elevation white pine species, and to hear key information from scientists and managers from other areas. The hope is to feature not only whitebark pine, but also the other high-elevation 5-needle pines (foxtail, limber, southwestern white pine, the two bristlecone

pinus – many of which occur in this area [and notably in California]). Also, the definitive (through 2015) information on genetic blister rust resistance will be available. The Crater Lake National Park field trip will feature many things, including the successful restoration plantings they have established, the dramatic impacts of mountain pine beetle on whitebark pine, the selection of trees for resistance testing and gene conservation, and much more. Tentative schedule:

Thursday: WPEF board meeting; and optional field trip to foxtail pine area in Northern California?

Friday: WPEF Science meeting (all day) at Southern Oregon University

Saturday: Field trip to Crater Lake National Park

Sunday: Optional fieldtrip to Dorena Genetic Resource Center (see all 9 U.S. species of white pines in blister rust testing) + fieldsite

Monday: Alternate day for Dorena Genetic Resource Center field trip (if Sunday is used for foxtail pine trip, etc.).

If you have topics (and speakers) to suggest for the Friday indoor session, please send information to Kristen Chadwick (kchadwick@fs.fed.us), Jen Beck (Jen_Beck@nps.gov) or Richard Sniezko (rsniezko@fs.fed.us).

Job Opportunities

The U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will soon be advertising one permanent full-time Forest Pathologist, GS-434-9/11 position located at the Forestry Sciences Lab in Wenatchee, Washington. The response to this outreach will determine how the position will be advertised. The incumbent serves as a Forest Pathologist for the Wenatchee Forest Insect and Disease Service Center. The team also includes one GS-13 Forest Pathologist, one GS-13 and one GS-11 Forest Entomologist, and one GS-9 Technician/GIS specialist. Wenatchee Forest Insect & Disease Service Center: The Okanogan-Wenatchee acts as a “host” forest for the Wenatchee Forest Insect & Disease Service Center, which is a field office of USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection. The Service Center is physically located at the Wenatchee Forestry Sciences Laboratory, about three and one-half miles south of the Forest Supervisor’s Office. The Service Center provides forest insect and disease expertise to all federal lands in much of eastern and central Washington. The service area also extends to the west side of the Cascade Mountains. Our clients include the Okanogan-Wenatchee, Colville and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests, the Colville, Kalispel, Spokane and Yakama Indian Reservations, Mt. Rainier and North Cascades National Parks, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, Little Pend Oreille and Turnbull National Wildlife Refuges, Spokane BLM District, Wenatchee BLM Resource Area, and Fairchild Airforce Base. The total land base for all clients is about 16 million acres. Some of the major diseases of concern are dwarf mistletoes, root diseases, stem decays, and foliar pathogens. If you are interested in applying for this position, please respond on the Outreach Notice Form attached to this Update as attachment 1 by **September 11, 2014**. For additional information, please contact Forest Entomologist Darci Dickinson at 509-664-1724 (or email: darcimdickinson@fs.fed.us), or Forest Entomologist Connie Mehmel at 509-664-9213 (or email: cmehmel@fs.fed.us). *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) will soon be advertising a permanent, full-time Forest Entomologist position, at the Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) 4 level, to fill a critical vacancy in the Forest Health Section. This outreach announcement is being circulated to provide information on the position and to alert prospective applicants of the upcoming recruitment. The duty station is the ODF headquarters in Salem, Oregon where the prospective candidate will work with a team that includes a forest pathologist, forest health survey and monitoring specialist, invasive species specialist, and a forest management technician. The position is non-supervisory and the work is closely coordinated with this team. Duties and Working Conditions: The primary duties of the position are to provide statewide, professional entomological expertise and leadership within the Forest Health Section. It includes responsibility for all entomological functions including the design and completion of detection, monitoring, and evaluation surveys; technical advice to the Agency, clients, and public on forest insects and other damaging agents; preparation and distribution of reports on surveys or other projects; participating in cooperative research efforts; and representing the Agency and Oregon at local, regional, and national-level forest health meetings, conferences, and symposia. Participation as an aerial observer in a small, fixed-wing aircraft is required, and proficiency with digital sketch-mapping systems and geographic information systems is highly preferred. Frequent overnight in-state travel is required as well as sustained physical exertion while working in a field environment during all types of weather. Out-of-state travel to regional, national, and international meetings is required. The Oregon Department of Forestry: This position is housed within the Forest Health Section of the Private Forests Division, which implements programs supporting the Board of Forestry's and Oregon State Legislature's policies on: (1) the regulation of forest operations on non-federal forest lands, (2) technical and financial assistance in the management of private non-industrial forest lands, (3) promoting the development of urban forests and Tree City programs, and (4) monitoring and minimizing the incidence and severity of native and non-native forest insects and diseases on Oregon's forests. The Forest Health Section is an integral component of the Division and is focused on detection and monitoring of forest health conditions and the agents that affect them, participating in early detection and treatment programs for priority native and non-native insects, diseases, and plants affecting forest ecosystems, and providing technical assistance to professional forest managers, landowners, and the public. For more information about ODF, visit [the Oregon Department of Forestry website](#). If you have questions about this position, contact Rob Flowers at rflowers@odf.stste.or.us. To receive notification when he recruitment is opened, please provide your name and email address to Jim Cathcart:

Email: jcathcart@odf.state.or.us

Mail: Attn: Jim Cathcart
Cooperative Forestry Manager
Oregon Dept. of Forestry
2600 State Street, Building D
Salem, Oregon 97310
Phone: (503) 945-7493
Fax: (503) 945-7490

Responses will be accepted until which time the position is formally advertised, which is expected to be on or around October 1, 2014. *The Oregon Department of Forestry is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Biggsby, Kevin M.; Ambrose, Mark J.; Tobin, Patrick C.; Sills, Erin O.** 2014. The cost of gypsy moth sex in the city. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*. 13(3): 459-468.
2. **Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center.** 2014. Forest ThreatNet, the August/September 2014 edition of the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center's newsletter. Available online: [Forest ThreatNet](#).
3. **Schoettle, A.W.; Connor, J.; Mack, J.; Pineda Bovin, P.; Beck, J.; Baker, G.M.; Sniezko, R.A.; Burns, K.S.** 2013. Establishing the science foundation to sustain high-elevation five-needle pine forests threatened by novel interacting stresses in four western National Parks. *The George Wright Forum* 30:302-312. Available online as a .pdf on the [George Wright website](#).
4. **Sniezko, Richard A.; Smith, Jason; Liu, Jun-Jun; Hamelin, Richard C.** 2014. Genetic resistance to fusiform rust in southern pines and white pine blister rust in white pines – a contrasting tale of two rust pathosystems – current and future projects. *Forests*. 5(9): 2050-2085. doi: 10.3390/f5092050

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

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Send your response form by **September 1, 2014** to Darci Dickinson - by email, fax, or mail

email : darcimdickinson@fs.fed.us

fax: 509-665-8362 (please also phone 509-664-1724 or email to notify of fax transmission)

address: Forestry Sciences Lab
Attn: Darci Dickinson
1133 N. Western Ave.
Wenatchee WA 98801

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Internet Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, name of Agency _____

Current Duty

Location: _____

Current Position

(title/series/grade): _____

Current type of appointment: Permanent _____ Temporary _____

If no, Current Position: _____

Current Location: _____

Name of Current Employer _____

Eligible for Other Hiring Authority (check one), such as:

30% Disabled Vet _____

Reinstatement
Eligible _____

Peace Corps

Handicap Authority

Thank you for your interest in our position!