

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update July 2015

WHAT'S NEW

U.S. Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, Alaska Forest Health

Protection welcomes Stephen Burr to the Alaska Forest Health Protection Team in Fairbanks, AK. He has experience working in both hardwood and conifer forests. He has worked on projects assessing insect trap design, optimization of chemical attractants, insect population dynamics, and stand regeneration. He has collaborated with state, county, and city officials writing reports, giving talks, and making management recommendations to mitigate insect induced tree mortality. Stephen will be in Fairbanks getting a good sense of the boreal forest for a week in July, but will be officially reporting in October.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

***July 21-24, 2015.** Fayetteville, AR. The 57th Annual Southern Forest Insect Work Conference. The conference will be held at The Chancellor Hotel, 70 North East Ave., Fayetteville, Arkansas; Phone reservations: 1-855-285-6162 (or 479-442-5555). Mention that you are attending the *Southern Forest Insect Work Conference*. A block of rooms has been set aside for the conference. Visit the [hotel website](#) for hotel information. Meeting registration is available at [the conference website](#).

August 23-28, 2015. Orléans, France. The 5th International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions. The deadline for submission of abstracts was April 15, 2015. The deadline for early bird registration was April 15, 2015. To help the organizers with this event AND if you are considering attending the meeting but still waiting for money/approval, **please create a user account** on the conference's website. Creating a user account on the website does not imply registration to the conference or abstract submission, it is just a way to let organizers know that there is a fair probability that you will come. **To create your user account, just click [on this link](#)**, (if the link does not work, go to the conference website <https://colloque.inra.fr/tree-parasite-interactions2015> and you will find a link in the "Abstract submission" section. Although the link states "I want to create an account to submit" you will not be forced to submit an abstract once your account is created.) This workshop is intended to foster

collaboration and communication among all scientific disciplines working on tree-parasite interactions, and between science and management. Forest trees will be the main focus, but contributions regarding ornamental or fruit trees are also welcome. For more information including the main topics, visit the workshop website: <https://colloque.inra.fr/tree-parasite-interactions2015>.

September 17-20, 2015. Ashland, OR. 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 pines – 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. There will be an indoor session followed by a poster session, and multiple field trips. For complete meeting information including registration instructions, visit [the meeting website](#). Contacts for more information are: Kristen Chadwick (kchadwick@fs.fed.us), Richard Sniezko (rsniezko@fs.fed.us) and Jen Beck (Jen_Beck@nps.gov).

September 21-25, 2015. Newport, OR. The 63rd Western International Forest Disease Work Conference (WIFDWC). The conference will be held at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn. Register with the inn by **August 21, 2015** to receive the conference rate. Visit [the conference website](#) for updated information about the conference as it becomes available.

***October 28-29, 2015.** Logan, UT. Restoring the West Conference 2015. This annual conference to be held at Utah State University in Logan, UT addresses prominent science and management issues in the western U.S. This year's theme will be "Fire ecology and restoration in the Interior West" and will feature aspen and cohort forest communities, as well as other vegetation zones. Check the [Restoring the West](#) website as details continue to be posted in the coming months.

November 3-7, 2015. Baton Rouge, LA. Society of American Foresters 2015 National Convention. The theme of the convention is *Recreating Forestry: The Confluence of Science, Society, and Technology*. The 2015 call for presentations is currently posted. The deadline for presentation submissions was March 31, 2015. The deadline for poster submissions is **September 30, 2015**. For complete information about the convention, visit the [Society of American Foresters convention website](#).

December 8-10, 2015. Portland, OR. 2015 Forest Inventory and Analysis Science Symposium. The US Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program is pleased to announce the 2015 FIA Science Symposium. The theme of the 12th biennial Science Symposium is *Pushing Boundaries – New Directions in Inventory Techniques & Applications*, emphasizing the development of innovative approaches to incorporating non-traditional approaches and uses of inventory information. The Symposium brings together international forest scientists, managers, and stakeholders to share insights on a wide variety of topics, including contemporary issues, science policy, mensuration, geospatial products, and inventory methods. For more information about the symposium, visit [the symposium website](#) or contact Sharon Stanton (sharonMstanton@fs.fed.us).

***May 16-19, 2016.** Chicago, IL. Gene Conservation of Tree Species: Banking on the Future. Early Alert! The USDA Forest Service is sponsoring a workshop that will bring together a mix of land managers, conservation and restoration practitioners, researchers, and non-governmental organizations who share the goal of conserving tree species. The workshop will include invited and contributed presentations and posters, and a field trip hosted by The Morton Arboretum. More information is available at the [workshop website](#).

UPCOMING WEBINARS

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

***Learn at Lunch Live Webinar: Biochar and Applications for Restoration in the Uinta Basin** (Sponsored by the Utah State University Forestry Extension and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands) Speakers: Chris Peltz (Soil Scientist, Research Services, LLC) and Darren McAvoy (Utah State University Forestry Extension Associate). Biochar is a porous, charcoal-like product that is the result of pyrolysis (cooking) of materials containing carbon such as wood, crop residues, solid waste, livestock manure and other organic material. Biochar has a variety of unique properties that make it an excellent candidate for aiding in the reclamation of abandoned oil and gas pad sites in the Uinta Basin. Soil scientist Chris Peltz will describe an ongoing study looking at biochar and its ability to enhance native vegetation germination and reduce erosion on previously abandoned oil and gas pads in the Uinta Basin where energy development is ongoing. USU Forestry Associate Darren McAvoy will describe other biochar studies sponsored by the Utah Biomass Resources Group and offer a broad perspective on the biochar market in Utah and beyond. No registration is required! CEUs are available from the following organizations: International Society of Arboriculture, and Society of American Foresters. This webinar will be conducted at **12:00 p.m. (MST) on July 28, 2015**. To access this free webinar, visit [the webinar information site](#) for more details. Plan to access the site a few minutes early.

The Sustainable Forest Roundtable offers periodic webinars. For information about accessing past and future webinars, please visit [the Webinar Portal for Sustainable Forests](#).

Job Opportunities

The U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station, The Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants of Southern Forests unit (RWU 4552), plans to advertise a vacancy for a permanent, full-time, Research Ecologist position with a focus on invasive plant research, at the GS-12 level. There will be one position filled in either Athens, GA or Pineville, LA. The scientist is responsible for conceiving, planning, organizing, designing, implementing, interpreting, and reporting individual and cooperative research. The research focuses in two primary areas: (1) development and improvement of control tactics and integrated management methods and strategies for non-native invasive plant infestations in southern US forests, and (2) management strategies for restoring or creating desired conditions in native plant communities and forest ecosystems degraded by invasive species. The scientist's research therefore requires both an applied understanding of techniques used in integrated vegetation management and an ecological understanding of varied plant communities including forests, easements, and other natural areas. This ecological understanding includes multi-trophic interactions, interrelationships among multiple plant and animal taxa, soils, climate, and disturbance. The scientist formulates an individual research program addressing problems of broad scope and complexity. The scientist is an authority on invasive plant biology, ecology and management and is solely responsible for planning, designing, conducting, analyzing and developing knowledge from individual research. In carrying out this research assignment, the scientist assembles cooperative alliances with various institutions such as the USFS National Forests, forest industry, and universities, in disciplines such as plant ecology and biology, forest management, entomology and pathology, soil science, and molecular approaches. A working knowledge of plant taxonomy and ecology, plant physiology, invasion biology, biotic relationships (above- and below-ground), and invasive plant species control methods (e.g., chemical, mechanical, cultural and biological) is required. The scientist devises new methodologies to address current and future barriers to sustainable forest and ecosystem management caused by non-native invasive plants. Peer-reviewed journal publications, oral and poster presentations, consultations, and written recommendations are used to disseminate research results and information. Users of information and technology generated by the scientist include National Forest silviculturists, biologists and other managers, forest health specialists (state, federal, and international), commercial applicators, invasive plant councils, the academic scientific community, and the interested public. The official announcement of the position is anticipated in the

near future, with an anticipated start date by January 11, 2016. If you are interested in this position, please fill out and return the outreach form (attached to this Update as attachment 1) and send, with a copy of your CV/resume, to Dr. Bud Mayfield, Research Entomologist and Project Leader, USDA Forest Service, 200 WT Weaver Blvd, Asheville, NC 28804, or email to amayfield02@fs.fed.us, by **July 17, 2015**. Those interested will be sent a copy of the announcement with duties, qualifications required, and application instructions. For more information, contact Dr. Mayfield at (828) 257-4358 or visit the unit webpage at <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/idip>. The Forest Service provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application or outreach process, please notify Cheryl Jefferson at 828-259-0562, email: cjefferson@fs.fed.us. *USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.*

The U.S. Forest Service, R5-Pacific Southwest Region, is planning to fill the following permanent position: Aerial Survey Program Manager, GS-401-12, to be located at the Pacific Southwest Research Station Office in Davis, CA. This position serves as the Regional Forest Health Protection (FHP) Aerial Survey Program Manager for the Region's State and Private Forestry Staff. The position is responsible for planning, coordinating and conducting the annual FHP aerial detection survey for the Region. The position coordinates with national, federal, State, and local aviation regulatory agencies to develop cooperative agreements that identify areas to be surveyed and directs follow-up ground surveys as needed. Duties developing flight plans and maps for aerial surveys and coordinating with land managers, partners, dispatchers, and aviation officers to schedule missions. Recognizing and recording pest damage by visual observation from aircraft or by remote sensing, and interpreting visual observations or remote sensing data. Work also includes developing and maintaining aerial survey data and databases, incorporating information from aerial detection surveys into documents and producing tabular and spatial data products and summary output for publications. If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete the outreach reply form (attached to this Update as attachment 2) and return it to Chris Fischer (Deputy Director, State & Private Forestry) at cfischer@fs.fed.us. Please respond by **July 28, 2015**. Submission of this form is voluntary, but is encouraged. *USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.*

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Eastern Forest Environmental Threat assessment Center.** 2015. The May/June 2015 issue of the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center's news update, [*The Forest ThreatNet*](#) is now available.

2. **Mortenson, Leif A.**; Gray, Andrew N.; Shaw, David C. 2015. A forest health inventory assessment of red fir(*abies magnifica*) in upper montane California. *Écoscience* (July)
3. **Randolph, KaDonna C.**; **Cowling, Ellis B.**; **Starkey, Dale A.** 2015. Long-term changes in fusiform rust incidence in the southeastern United States. *Journal of Forestry*. 113(4): 381-392.

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

Research Ecologist, *GS-0408-12*

Duty Station: Athens, GA or Pineville, LA

If you are interested in this position, complete this form and send it via email, along with a copy of your resume or CV, by July 17, 2015, to:

Dr. Albert Mayfield, Research Entomologist and Project Leader, SRS 4552
USDA Forest Service, 200 WT Weaver Blvd, Asheville, NC 28804 amayfield02@fs.fed.us

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Phone:	

EMPLOYMENT

Are you currently a Federal Employee? Yes No

If Yes:

Name of your Agency & Location: _____

Current title/series/grade: _____

Type of Appointment: Permanent Term Temporary

If No:

Current Employer: _____

LOCATION

I'd be interested in accepting this position in: Athens GA Pineville LA Either location

I would prefer to accept this position in: Athens GA Pineville LA No preference

Are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former Peace Corps | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Employment Opp. Act of 1998 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Person with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Readjustment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Employment Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement Eligibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran with 30% Compensable Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Thank you for your interest in the position

OUTREACH REPLY FORM
Please respond by: July 28, 2015
USDA-FOREST SERVICE
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION (REGION 5)
1323 CLUB DRIVE, VALLEJO, CA 94592

Title/Grade of Position: Aerial Survey Program Manager, GS-401 12

RETURN REPLY FORM TO:

Chris Fischer
Deputy Director, State & Private Forestry
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Regional Office
W: 707-562-8921
M: 707-373-9091
Email: cfischer@fs.fed.us

NAME: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: _____ USFS _____ BLM _____ OTHER _____
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: _____ PERMANENT _____ TEMPORARY _____ TERM
_____ VRA _____ PWD _____ OTHER

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT: _____
CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE IF APPLICABLE: _____
CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _____
WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT VACANCY/OUTREACH? _____

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

- _____ PERSON WITH DISABILITIES
- _____ DISABLED VETERANS W/30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY
- _____ VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998
- _____ FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
- _____ VETERANS READJUSTMENT
- _____ STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
- _____ OTHER _____

This outreach form does not constitute an application. The vacancy announcement will appear on the USAJOBS website: www.usajobs.gov/

Submission of this form is voluntary, but is encouraged.

Thank you for your interest!