

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update November 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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. Online registration for the Symposium is now open. Early registration ended November 6, 2015 and registration closes **November 20, 2015**. Information about hotel reservations is also available. Reservations at the Portland Marriot Downtown Waterfront must be made by **November 9, 2015** to receive the discounted group room rate. For more information about the symposium, visit [the symposium website](#) or contact Sharon Stanton (sharonMstanton@fs.fed.us).

***April 3-7, 2016.** Asheville, NC. SAVE THE DATE! The US_IALE 2016 Annual Meeting. The theme of this meeting is Landscape Change. Program highlights will include plenary sessions with featured speakers, symposia and contributed papers, in-depth workshops on key topics, field trips, and networking events. The plenary session and keynote speakers have been announced. For this and other information including deadlines, see the [meeting website](#).

***May 9-13, 2016.** Sitka, AK. SAVE THE DATE for the Western International Forest Disease Work Conference (WIFDWC)! This meeting is generally a gathering of forest pathologists and forest health specialists from the western United States and Canada. Fieldtrips and special panels are both important components of the meeting, as well as committee meetings on specific pathology topics (mistletoes, climate change, rusts, twig and foliage diseases, hazard trees, root diseases, and nursery diseases). The planning committee is working on the agenda. Among other topics, panels are likely to focus on boreal forest health and forest declines. The conference website is not yet active, but will be at [this address](#). Please see the attachment (attachment 1 of this Update) for information about lodging, travel arrangements, contributed papers and posters, graduate student introductions and presentations, field trips planned for

before and during the meeting, and Meeting Management deadlines for FS participants.

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 including the call for papers and posters is available at the [workshop website](#).

UPCOMING WEBINARS

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

***Learn at Lunch Live Webinar: How to Fit Large Trees into Communities.** (Sponsored by the Utah State University Forestry Extension, and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands) Speaker: Dr. Mike Kuhns (Utah State University Extension Forestry Specialist). Smaller trees often seem best for the restrictions of modern life (liability concerns, hurry-up mentality, cost, lack of space, etc.). Larger trees often are best for community values. We have the tools to fit large, high quality trees into our communities. No registration is required! 1 CEU is 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 December 1, 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](#).

***Webinars offered by the U.S Forest Service Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC)** include three varieties. The lightning talks (**Lightning Talk**) are very short presentations that will last approximately 15 minutes; they will focus on specific geoprocessing tasks and are designed to provide concise and useful information in a very efficient manner. The Awareness Sessions (**Awareness**) are designed to build your knowledge base on the particular topic and enable you to further explore the technology with realistic expectations. The Technical Training Webcasts (**Technical**) are designed to provide you with the technical skills and tools to complete remote sensing geoprocessing tasks. **Note: If you don't have access to the Forest Service Intranet, the registration links will not work. Please email Brent Mitchell (brentmitchell@fs.fed.us) to make accommodations.**

- [Introduction to Image Interpretation](#) - (**Technical**) This 1-day hands-on webinar will provide users with the basic concepts of aerial photography, where

to get it, how to interpret it and how to extract information from it. In addition, the course will provide users with knowledge of free tools available for information extraction from high resolution imagery in ArcMap – namely we will be using the Image Sampler and Canopy Cover tools. This webinar includes lectures, demos and hands-on exercises and will be conducted from **10:00am-4:00pm (Mountain Time) on November 19th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).

- [Using Fusion \(with lidar data\)](#) - (**Technical**) Fusion is a lidar visualization and analysis software suite developed by the Silviculture and Forest Models Team of the Pacific Northwest Research Station. Fusion is readily installed and will run on corporate hardware. This course is designed to assist users in understanding their Lidar data through display, visualization and interactive measurements. Ultimately you will learn how to extract GIS information products from the lidar data that are easily integrated into your geospatial workflow. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on December 3rd, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).
- [Large Lidar Acquisition Processing – Advanced Workflows](#) - (**Technical**) This one day webinar will explore the complexities, and potential work-flows, for processing large lidar datasets to extract canopy structure metrics in the form of seamless ArcGIS raster products. Participants will walk away with the tools and knowledge to apply the workflow to their existing lidar datasets. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on December 8th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).
- [Introduction to Python for Geoprocessing](#) - (**Technical**) The objective of this one-day introductory workshop is to help participants get started scripting in Python to streamline their geospatial workflows. The course will introduce fundamental concepts and explore a variety of Python data structures, methods, applications and resources. Participants will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge in a set of technical exercises representing simple GIS workflows using *arcpy* with an emphasis on raster geoprocessing. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on December 10th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).

Job Opportunities

The U.S. Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Pacific Southwest Region, Region 5; San Bernardino National Forest is conducting outreach for one GS-0414-11/12 Entomologist position. This is a permanent position located in San Bernardino, CA. Major duties include:

- Coordinates all aspects of a complex major insect detection, evaluation, prevention, and suppression program such as mountain pine beetle, budworm, gypsy moth, etc.; Exercises scientific judgment of a high order to conceive and conduct special evaluations, often collaborating with research, to gain additional specific knowledge concerning insect biology,

ecological relationships, parasitic effects, survey methodology, or new control techniques.

- Prepares plans designed to meet technical objectives, organizes assigned staff members, collects field data, supervises seasonal field crews, processes and analyzes data, consults with other professionals, evaluates the results, and makes recommendations. Prepares technical reports and manuscripts of which incumbent is responsible for technical adequacy and soundness of conclusions and recommendations.
- Provides site-specific, technical assistance concerning forest insects to land managers. Assistance usually is documented by incumbent in written guidelines which are incorporated into various resource project plans. Develops guidelines by identifying and determining the present amount of damage caused, and exercises scientific judgment of a high order in evaluating the actual or potential seriousness of the infestation. Where reduction of pest effects is desirable, incumbent develops current, effective, environmentally safe, and economically sound pest management alternatives which are consistent with specific land management objectives.
- Organizes, plans, and conducts forest insect related training programs, presentations, or seminars, for various Federal, State, and private individuals. Presentations are tailored to the specific needs and objectives of the requesting unit and involve summarization and presentation of complex scientific forest insect subject matter for new research developments in a concise, understandable manner.

Knowledge required by the position includes a comprehensive professional knowledge of forest entomology; knowledge of forest insect prevention, detection, evaluation, and suppression methods and procedures; and knowledge of forest inventory methods and sampling procedures to assess insect problems. Incumbent must have a working knowledge of forest land managers' programs, priorities, and decision making processes (including environmental assessments and environmental impact statements) to enhance integration of pest management information with resource management guidelines. Incumbent must have a working knowledge of research techniques in order to understand, interpret, and apply highly complex original research data, formulas, and information in developing management direction, and in planning administrative studies and demonstration areas. Field work for evaluations is physically demanding. The work involves considerable walking over rough and/or mountainous terrain. When assigned to aerial detection work, the employee must be able to perform low-level flights with minimal airsickness and be relatively comfortable with the work to obtain sufficient accuracy. The employee cannot be colorblind. To express interest in this position or for additional information please contact via email Sheri Smith at ssmith11@fs.fed.us; phone (530)-252-6667, or visit the [position outreach link](#). The vacancy announcement, when open, will be posted at the [U.S. Office of Personnel Management website](#), the U.S. Government's official site for jobs and employment information. Please respond by **November 21, 2015**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The U.S. Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, State and Private Forestry, Washington Office (detached), Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team is conducting outreach for a Manager Invasive Species Program position. This is a position located in Fort Collins, CO. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Serves as Program Manager for Invasive Species Program on the staff of the Director, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team-Fort Collins (FHTET-FC), located in Fort Collins, CO. This unit is national in scope, receiving direction from the Washington Office-Forest Health Protection.
- The incumbent is responsible for planning, developing, administering and implementing the Invasive Species Program. One major goal of this program is to develop and manage invasive species risk assessments for key forest pests. These risk assessments are used to characterize, analyze, and predict forest insect and disease conditions including that of charismatic macro-fauna, their impacts on forest resources and forest health, and the effects of forest management on these conditions and impacts.
- Works closely with sister agencies on the development of pest risk assessment technologies.
- Administers the Special Technology Development Program for the Washington Office.
- Authors reports, studies, and scientific publications, and prepares and delivers presentations to management and scientific audiences, regarding the products of the Invasive Species Program.
- Serves as a consultant and advisor to the FHTET Director and FHP Director providing high level leadership, representation, consultation, liaison, and/or coordination regarding invasive species
- Represents the FHTET Director or FHP Director at mid high-level meetings, conferences, and committees.
- Oversees the work of experienced contractors.
- Develops, as part of a high functioning team, sophisticated technologies and methods for assessing and improving the health of America's forests.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Frank Sapio (U.S. Forest Service, Director, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team) at fsapio@fs.fed.us by **December 15, 2015**.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center.** 2015. The forest threatnet. The September/October edition of the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center Newsletter. Available online at [The Forest ThreatNet](#).

2. **Guo, G; Fei, S.; Dukes, J.S.; Oswald, C.M.; Iannone, B.V.; Potter, K.M.** 2015. A unified approach to quantify invisibility and degree of invasion. *Ecology*. 95(10): 2613-2621.

FOR MORE
FHM
INFORMATION

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

64th Annual Western International Forest Disease Work Conference

Sitka, Alaska
May 9-13, 2016

FOR THE LATEST INFO: <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/wif/>

LOCATION

Sitka is located on the west coast of Baranof Island in the Alexander Archipelago, Alaska's Panhandle, and can only be reached by boat or plane. Sitka has a rich cultural history and outstanding natural environment. Near the Gulf of Alaska, Sitka hosts coastal temperate rainforests dominated by western hemlock and Sitka spruce, along with yellow-cedar, mountain hemlock, shore pine, and red alder. Stem decays, hemlock dwarf mistletoe, and yellow-cedar decline are important forest health issues on full display in the abundant old-growth coastal forests of Baranof Island and coastal Alaska.

REGISTRATION

Please see the registration form on the registration page. The deadline for early registration is **March 25th**. Online registration will begin in February and can be accessed on the registration page.

*****MEETINGS MANAGEMENT (USFS employees only)*****

IMPORTANT: all USFS attendees need to add themselves to the **Cost Estimation Worksheet** for this meeting on the O drive no later than **December 1st** for the Meeting Management Package. **Forest Service employees missing from the worksheet will not be permitted to attend.** Contact Robin Mulvey (rlmulvey@fs.fed.us, 907-586-7971) with questions or for assistance.

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(Cut & paste this link into your Windows Explorer file browser while connected to the network)

TRAVEL & LODGING

Please see the travel and lodging page for information. [Alaska Airlines](#) is the only airline carrier in early-May. Reserve a room at the [Westmark Hotel](#) Sitka (907-747-6241) for \$139/night plus tax before **March 25th**. Reserve a dorm room with shared bathrooms at the [Sitka Fine Arts Camp](#) for \$35-70/night by completing their online request [form](#). All rooms have two single (twin) beds and can be reserved for 1 or 2 people (determines the nightly rate). Sitka Fine Arts Camp is the main conference venue and both lodging options are within easy walking distance.

RIDE & ROOM SHARE

You can easily get around Sitka without a rental car, but some may desire the freedom to venture farther afield. There are shuttles from the airport and those of us helping with local arrangements can also help to facilitate airport pickup. If you would like to share rides to/from the airport (or anywhere else) or a hotel/dorm room while in Sitka, you can find others that are interested in sharing at the WIFDWC Ride and Room share forum: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/wifdwc-ride-and-room-share>

You will first need to subscribe to the group and then sign in with your existing Google/Gmail account information or create a new Google account. You may start a new post if there are none that fit your needs or read through those that are already there to find accommodations. If you create a post, please include: your name, dates you will be traveling or staying, a way to contact you (email, phone, telegram, etc.), and any other information that you would like to share. If you find a possibility, contact the original poster and work out any details off-line. Once a request has been filled please indicate in a response to the original message. Questions? Please contact Danny Norlander (danny.norlander@oregon.gov)

PAPERS & POSTERS

Contributed Papers – Panel topics are now being considered- more information to come. Please contact Harry Kope (Harry.Kope@gov.bc.ca, 250-387-5225) if you would like to present a special/contributed paper at the meeting. Please send a title and brief description of your proposed paper to Harry by **April 4th**. If we receive more papers than we have time, we will review date of receipt and titles to select papers for presentation. Authors will be notified before closing of early registration.

Graduate Student Introductions and Presentations – We request all graduate student attendees to do a brief introduction (5-10 minutes) of you and your research program. Students should contact Betsy Goodrich (agoodrich@fs.fed.us) by **April 4th** in order to be included in these activities. This will take place on the morning of Tuesday May 10th. Graduate students are encouraged to present more details on their work in either a poster or as a contributed paper.

Poster Session – There will be a poster session in combination with the ice cream social and silent auction. Please contact Christy Cleaver (ccleaver@fs.fed.us) your poster titles by **April 4th** to reserve space.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congratulations to Brian Geils for his Outstanding Achievement Award nomination in 2015! Nominations for the 2016 WIFDWC Outstanding Achievement Award (OAA) are now open and will remain open until **April 4th**. Please see the Call for Nominations page. All questions regarding the nomination process should go to Kathy Lewis (kathy.lewis@unbc.ca).

SILENT AUCTION

The WIFDWC silent auction is in its 7th year and raises \$1000+ per year to support student travel. Sarah Navarro will be helping the student travel award committee to organize the auction (snavarro@oda.state.or.us). Last year we were able to distribute 9 travel awards to deserving graduate students! Start thinking about what you can donate. Ideas include: handmade items, books, rare journal articles, photos, and WIFDWC swag from years past!

PHOTO CONTEST

There will be a photo contest at the Banquet Thursday evening May 12th, organized by Josh Bronson (jjbronson@fs.fed.us). More details to come!

REGIONAL REPORTS

Regional reports will be collected before the meeting and distributed in a packet at the meeting. Please plan to submit one compiled report from your region including current projects, staff changes and anything else that might be of interest to our meeting attendees to Brent Oblinger (boblinger@fs.fed.us) by **April 29th**. There will be a white board at the meeting to list job opportunities (these can be submitted ahead of time to Brent or written during the meeting).

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

Travel awards up to US\$500 are available for qualified graduate students to subsidize attendance at this year's meeting. Interested graduate students should download the information sheet and application form from the [graduate student travel award](#) page. The application deadline is Monday **March 28th**. Questions about the travel awards should be directed to Dave Shaw (dave.shaw@oregonstate.edu).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following committees are schedule to meet. Please contact the moderator if you wish time on the agenda for a short presentation in a committee meeting.

Day/Time	Committee	Moderator
Tuesday May 10, 7:00-8:30AM	Foliage Diseases	Harry Kope
Tuesday May 10, 12:00-1:30PM	Rusts	Helen Maffei
Wednesday May 11, 7:00-8:30AM	Root Disease	Blakey Lockman
Wednesday May 11, 11:30-12:45PM	Hazard Trees	Kristen Chadwick
Wednesday May 11, 6:00-8:00PM	Climate Change	Susan Frankel
Thursday May 12, 7:00-8:30AM	Dwarf Mistletoes	Dave Shaw
Friday May 13, 7:00-8:30AM	Nursery Diseases	Anna Leon

PRE-MEETING FIELDTRIPS (Monday May 9th)

1. Investigate mature hemlock mortality at Starrigaven Campground

We will work with the Sitka Ranger District staff to fell and dissect one or more large symptomatic western hemlock trees in the campground. There has been an abnormal rate of western hemlock mortality in the campground in recent years and the agent is unknown. We will also visit sites on Harbor Mountain Road to view and collect samples from small hemlocks with hemlock canker. Gerry Adams and Robin Mulvey are working to identify the causal fungus. There is no registration fee for the field trip; participants are expected to bring their own food and water. Final trip logistics will be arranged based on the number of participants.

2. Hikes: Beaver Lake or Mt. Verstovia.

The *Beaver Lake trail* climbs gradually along a beautiful creek from the Herring Cove trailhead through old-growth Sitka spruce-western hemlock forest with abundant recent stem breakage from stem decay and high winds. The trail reaches and circles Beaver Lake, with plentiful healthy yellow-cedar and a muskeg with bonsai-like shore pine. The mountain views around the lake are outstanding. The trail is about 4mi and gains 250ft. The *Mt. Verstovia trail* is more challenging (rated Difficult). This trail switchbacks through Alaska's oldest commercial clearcut (1850s) and offers a chance to view a mature second-growth forest, with considerable hemlock dwarf-mistletoe, beginning to acquire gaps and other old-growth characteristics. The track is frequently

Attachment 1

muddy, with slippery rocks, roots and logs to scramble over. The trail climbs to a ridge and finishes at a scenic rocky outcrop; views are spectacular as long as the clouds aren't too low. In some places ropes and cables provide hand or footholds. The trail is 5mi, gains 2550ft, and takes 4-6 hours. A route continues to Mt. Arrowhead (total elevation gain 3300ft), will probably not be accessible in May.

If you're interested in these field trips, please contact Robin Mulvey (rlmulvey@fs.fed.us, 907-586-7971) by **May 2nd**. Please be bear aware and do not hike alone. Please contact Robin Mulvey if you are interested in a list of alternative day trip options.

FIELD TRIPS

There will be 1.5 days of field trips. On **Wednesday May 11th** (~1:00-5:30PM) we will cruise on the 100-passenger [Allen Marine](#) boat to view and hear presentations about yellow-cedar decline. On **Thursday May 12th** we will spend the entire day (8:45AM-5:00PM) on the Sitka road system. Field trip stops will include Herring Cove (old-growth stem decays), Mt. Verstovia (Alaska's oldest clearcut, 1850s), Starrigaven Campground (hazard trees and young-growth management), and Totem Park (spruce aphid and hemlock dwarf mistletoe). Our lunch stop will depend on weather: Harbor Mountain Picnic Area if clear, Starrigaven Campground if too rainy/cloudy for views. Please bring warm layering clothes, full rain gear, and sturdy footwear. In early May, you may still want a warm hat and gloves.

WIFDWC PLANNING COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chair Person, Paul Hennon, phenon@fs.fed.us, 907-586-8769

Program Chair, Harry Kope, Harry.Kope@gov.bc.ca, 250-387-5225

Treasurer, Holly Kearns, hkearns@fs.fed.us, 503-668-1475

Secretary, Brent Oblinger, boblinger@fs.fed.us, 541-383-5788

Local Arrangements, Robin Mulvey, rlmulvey@fs.fed.us, 907-586-7971