

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update January 2015

WHAT'S NEW

Acting National Program Manager for FHM. On January 26, 2015 Frank Krist, GIS and Spatial Analysis Program Manager at FHTET, will begin a 120 day detail as Acting FHM Program Manager in the Washington Office of the S&PF FHP Program. Since 1998 Frank has worked on an array of state, regional, and national FHM and related projects including work with Pacific Meridian Resources/Space Imaging in residence at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, development of the 2006 and 2012 National Insect and Disease Risk assessments, and management of the national aerial and ground survey monitoring database. Throughout his career Frank has strived to develop novel technical approaches which make geospatial tools, analysis, and information accessible to forest health partners across the country. Frank holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology with a specialization in archaeology/GIS from Michigan State University. Beginning January 26, please contact Frank at fkrist@fs.fed.us or 703-605-5343.

The Director for State and Private Forestry in Regions 6 & 10 has announced that Iral Ragenovich has accepted the 120 day NTE acting assignment as Assistant Director for State and Private Forestry Pacific Northwest Region. Her duty station will be in Portland. Iral is the Entomology/Interagency Program Manager for the FHP Region 6. Her strong working knowledge of the program in Region 6 and familiarity with their partners will provide a steady and familiar presence during this transitional time. Her report date was Jan 3, 2015.

The Director for State and Private Forestry in Regions 6 & 10 has announced announce that Michael Shepard has accepted the acting assignment as Deputy Director for State and Private Forestry Alaska region. His duty station will be in Anchorage. Michael currently works for National Parks System and has previously held positions within State and Private Forestry in the Alaska Region. He has a long history of building relationships and collaborating with internal and external partners and stakeholders. Michael's report date is January 26th, 2015.

A new section, UPCOMING WEBINARS, has been added to the Forest Health Monitoring Monthly Update in response to the growing number of webinars that may be of interest to the forest health community. Take advantage of the wealth of opportunities available for information and learning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 10-12, 2015. Hanover, NH. The 77th meeting of the Northeastern Forest Pest Council. The meeting will be held in Hanover, NH at the Hanover Inn Dartmouth and will run from Tuesday (March 10) at noon to Thursday (March 12) at noon. Hotel rooms are being held for us until January 23 and reservations can be made by calling the Inn at 603-643-4300. A draft agenda and registration form can be found on the website: <https://sites.google.com/site/northeasternforestpestcouncil/meetings>
Hotel Info: <http://www.hanoverinn.com/>

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 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. 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).

UPCOMING WEBINARS

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

***Herbivory in Aspen Forests: Ecological Context and Mechanisms of Defense.** (Utah State University Forestry Extension and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands) The pressures facing quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) forests in the Intermountain West are multifaceted. Fire suppression, climate change and browsing pressure by ungulates are just several of the factors that threaten the health of this foundation species. Here we present two leading scientists in North America who study aspen forest ecology. Dr. Rick Lindroth (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will discuss the chemical defense mechanisms underlying aspen ecology and the roles that genotype, environment and their interaction play in impacting the effectiveness of defenses. Dr. Sam St. Clair (Brigham Young University) will discuss the health of aspen forests within the ecological context of other environmental stressors facing this species in the Interior West. He will focus on the impacts of fire regimes, climate change and ungulate herbivory on aspen forest resilience. This webinar will be conducted at **12:00 p.m. (MT) on January 20, 2015**. To access this free webinar, visit [this webpage](#) for more details. SAF CEU's available for attendees.

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) directly after Jan. 26 to make accommodations. Before Jan. 26, please contact Brenna Schwert (bmschwert@fs.fed.us) to ensure you can register for the classes you want.**

- * **[Overview of Remote Sensing Technology in the USDA Forest Service \(Awareness\)](#)** This awareness session is designed to highlight a variety of remote sensing technologies and describe how they are used in addressing resource management issues in the Forest Service. The session will also provide additional information on obtaining remote sensing datasets, highlight upcoming training opportunities and provide a list of remote sensing contacts. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 12:00pm (Mountain Time) on January 15th, 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 common GIS workflows using *arcpy* with an emphasis on raster geoprocessing. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on January 20th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).

- * [Understanding Error Matrices \(Accuracy Assessment\)](#) (**Lightning Talk**) This 15 minute “Lightning Talk” will explain how to interpret an error matrix and manipulate it to derive basic metrics for accuracy assessments. There will be an optional question and answer session immediately after the presentation. The presentation will begin exactly on top of the hour, so please make sure you have joined the webinar and teleconference a few minutes early to ensure complete participation. This lightning talk will be conducted from **10:00am-10:20am (Mountain Time) on January 22nd, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).
- * [Introduction to eCognition](#) (**Technical**) This one-day workshop is designed to provide a conceptual overview of eCog software and give students hands-on instruction pertaining to software installation, project setup and image segmentation workflows. In addition there will be some time spent on advanced techniques and basic image classification. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on January 28th, 2015**. *Note: The course will be limited to a maximum of 15 students because of a limited number of eCognition licenses.* [Click here to register or for additional information](#).
- * [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 February 4th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).
- * [Improving Communication and Data Sharing with Google Earth](#) (**Technical**) As technology improves and evolves, projects are becoming increasingly interdisciplinary and often include cooperators from a wide range of backgrounds and areas of expertise. GIS and remote sensing are being put to use more and more frequently, but the associated data and methods aren't easily viewed, manipulated, or understood by those without a GIS/RS background. This webinar seeks to demonstrate the ways in which Google Earth can be used to: (1) improve communication between cooperators; (2) facilitate data sharing (for those without access to commonly used GIS software, such as ArcGIS); and (3) perform basic GIS/RS tasks. The morning session will focus on an overview of the Google Earth environment and its basic functionality, while the afternoon will focus on live demonstrations that

address specific tips, techniques, and tasks. This course is targeted for both those without any previous GIS experience and those with stronger backgrounds -- participants may choose to skip the morning session if they are already comfortable using Google Earth. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on February 11th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information.](#)

- * [Orthorectification of Scanned Aerial Imagery](#) (**Technical**) Do you have a stack of aerial photos that you would like to use in your GIS with your other data? This 2-day workshop provides an overview of orthorectifying scanned imagery using ERDAS Photogrammetry (formerly known as Leica Photogrammetry Suite). The course will also include information about scanning aerial photos and using them after they have been orthorectified. The course material includes presentations, demos, and exercises. This webinar will be conducted from 10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on February 25th and 26th, 2015. [Click here to register or for additional information.](#)
- * [Introduction to Raster Geoprocessing](#) (**Technical**) This 2-day course is designed to enable GIS users to efficiently use raster datasets by providing an overview of the logic behind raster datasets and their associated characteristics. In addition, the course provides an introduction to general processing skills in Arc Map, including, but not limited to: converting, clipping, georeferencing, and mosaicking; and advanced skills such as surface analysis and raster math. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on March 4th and 5th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information.](#)
- * [RSAC Webinar Series – Integrating Lidar Derived High Resolution DEMs into Geospatial Workflows](#) (**Awareness**) You finally got lidar for your forest but what does that mean for you and how can you integrate some of the delivered products into your resource management workflows? This one-hour awareness webinar will provide information on how lidar derived high resolution DEM surfaces (Lidar BareEarth (BE) surfaces) are created, their accuracy and how they can and should be integrated into geospatial workflows. As lidar datasets become more common place it is imperative that we understand the advantages and limitations of the available products and take advantage of the information they provide. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 11:00pm (Mountain Time) on March 12th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information.](#)
- * [RSAC Webinar Series – Integrating Lidar Derived 3-D Canopy Structure Derivatives into Geospatial Workflows](#) (**Awareness**) You finally got lidar for your forest but what does that mean for you and how can you integrate some of the delivered products into your resource management workflows? This one-hour awareness webinar will provide information on how lidar derived 3-D canopy structure derivatives (canopy cover, canopy height, understory density, etc.) are created, their accuracy and how they can and should be integrated into geospatial workflows. As lidar datasets become more common place it is imperative that we understand the advantages and

limitations of the available products and take advantage of the information they provide. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 11:00pm (Mountain Time) on March 18th, 2015**. [Click here to register or for additional information.](#)

Job Opportunities

The U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Monitoring Program is conducting outreach for the Regional Forest Health Monitoring Program Manager for the Southern Region. The series and grade of the outreach position are Biologist (GS-0401-13). The position is in the Forest Health Protection Unit to be located in the Southern Regional Office in Atlanta, GA. The Regional Forest Health Monitoring Program Manager is responsible for the Southern Region's part of the national Forest Health Monitoring Program. The FHM Program Manager is an expert in the field of forest health and monitoring of forest pest damage. He/she is a key member of the regional Forest Health Protection staff unit and serves as the principal advisor to the FHP Director on forest health monitoring issues. The manager serves on the national FHM Management Team with the national FHM program manager, regional FHM managers, and others who direct the program. The incumbent coordinates efforts of state, national forest, and other cooperators for forest pest detection, occurrence, and damage reporting. Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) Program ground plot data and other data sources are often used in analyses and reports. A key component of FHM is upward reporting using standard methods and databases. Special surveys and evaluation projects are often funded as enhancements to regular program activities. You are encouraged to express your interest in the position by completing the attached Outreach Response Form (attached to this Update as attachment 1). 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. If you would like more information about this opportunity, please contact Debra Harrell by email at daharrell@fs.fed.us. Please send you completed response form to Sharon Heidt at sheidt@fs.fed.us by **March 13, 2015**. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

The U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program in Anchorage, Alaska is conducting outreach in anticipation of hiring 3-5 temporary positions (6 months maximum) to serve as crew members on the data collection team in Alaska. These positions are with the [Pacific Northwest Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis \(FIA\) Program](#). The Alaska FIA Program conducts forest inventories and forest health monitoring on forestlands of all land ownerships. FIA installs permanent research plots that are measured on a 10 cycle. A wide range of forestry

variables are collected on each plot in addition to forest health measurements that include; vegetation, lichens, soils, fuels, and crown measurements. Alaska is divided into two units, coastal and interior. During the 2015 field season, all positions will be working within the coastal unit, with limited work occurring in the interior portion of the state. Inventory work will primarily be conducted in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska between Ketchikan and the Kenai Peninsula. While in Alaska, field operations will be based primarily aboard a research vessel, the [Norseman II](#). Travel to and from research sites is accomplished predominantly by helicopter flights, with occasional skiff, float plane, and vehicle access. In future years, more work may be divided between Alaska's Coastal and Interior units. Positions with FIA in Alaska are adventurous, challenging, and rewarding. The terrain encountered while flying, hiking, and working can be immensely spectacular, but it can also be very physically and mentally challenging. Physical fitness, willingness to work long hours in close quarters, and flexibility to changing situations are key qualities for success. Temporary positions generally last from 3-6 months (6 months not guaranteed) and may not exceed 1039 hours. Training begins in early May (in Anchorage) and the field season runs from late May-August. Additional work may be available with FIA crews in California, Oregon, or Washington after the completion of the Alaska field season. Duties: The majority of work will be devoted to data collection operations, of which, approximately three to five months will be spent in the field. Crews of two to five people will collect data for inventory and forest health monitoring, primarily in the coastal regions of Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. Duties include photo interpretation, locating inventory plots in remote settings, measuring various forest and site attributes, and supporting our safety program. Duties also include daily documentation, downloading, and editing of field data. After training in Anchorage, the field season work schedule is 11 days in the field followed by 4 days off in Anchorage. If you are interested in these positions please complete and submit the Outreach response form (attached to this Update as attachment 2) by **January 12, 2015**. To apply for these positions, you must apply when vacancy announcements are posted on USA jobs (<http://www.usajobs.gov/>). The program hopes to have the vacancy announcement posted in February. When you respond to this form, you will be sent a link to the vacancy announcement when it opens. For more information please contact Dan Irvine, Coastal Alaska Coordinator (danielirvine@fs.fed.us). You may also send in the attached response form by regular mail to: Dan Irvine, Coastal Alaska Coordinator, Anchorage Forestry Sciences Lab., 161 East 1st St., Door 8, Anchorage, AK 99501. 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. *USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

PUBLICATIONS
OF INTEREST

1. **Rawinski, Thomas J.** 2014. White-tailed deer in Northeastern forests: understanding and assessing impacts. NA-IN-02-14. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, 27 p. Available online:
http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/2014/NA-IN-02-14_WhitetailedDeerNEForestsWEB.pdf

FOR MORE
FHM
INFORMATION

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

Outreach Notices Response Form
Respond to Sharon Heidt
(sheidt@fs.fed.us)

By March 13, 2015

Title of Outreach Position: Regional Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Program Manager

Series and Grade of Outreach Position: Biologist GS-0401-13

Unit Name of Outreach Notice: Forest Health Protection

Outreach Position Location: Atlanta, Georgia

RESPONDING EMPLOYEE:

Name: _____

Current Employer/Agency/Region/Forest/District: _____

Current Position Title: _____

Current Series and Grade (if applicable): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Brief statement of how you think your experience/education meets the duties and basic qualifications of the outreach position.

OUTREACH NOTICE

GS-0462-05/06 Forestry Technician (Temporary, 1039 hours)

Research Crew Member

Pacific Northwest Research Station, Resource Monitoring and Assessment Program

Forest Inventory and Analysis

Anchorage, Alaska

PLEASE SUBMIT BY January 12th, 2015

If you are interested in this position, please complete this outreach notice and return it, along with a current resume (optional), to Dan Irvine, 161 East 1st Street, Door 8, Anchorage, AK, 99501 or danielirvine@fs.fed.us. Electronic submissions are preferred. Individuals who respond to this notice will be notified of the vacancy announcement for the position. The job announcement will be advertised on the USAJobs website www.usajobs.gov.

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

If you are currently employed by the Federal Government:

WHAT AGENCY ARE YOU EMPLOYED BY: _____

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: _____

PERMANENT _____ TEMPORARY _____ TERM _____ OTHER _____

If you are not currently a Federal Employee:

CURRENT EMPLOYER: _____

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

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

The announcement will contain all of the information you need to apply for the position. To be considered, applicants must be U.S. citizens. The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential applicant pool for this position and to establish an appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the vacancy announcement (Region-wide, Service-wide, USDA-wide, Government-wide, and/or DEMO). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make these determinations.

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Attachment 2

programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).