

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update February 2016

WHAT'S NEW

Digital Mobile Sketch Mapping (DMSM) is going operational next spring!

After a successful national pilot test where over 20 prospective users have contributed to the new reporting standard, Forest Health Protection (FHP) plans to distribute multiple android tablets to users nationally. Along with the aviation centric DMSM application, The Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET) plans to distribute an application targeting ground reporting. Both applications will target the same database leveraging the efficiency of aerial applications with the accuracy of ground observations. DMSM will have one more development sprint yet this winter before unveiling in the spring. New features will be released as the field season progresses.

The FHM Program expresses congratulations and thanks to Les Koch, who is leaving the Wyoming State Forestry Division after 16 years. Les served as the Interior West Region State representative on the FHM Management Team for five years.

NEWS ABOUT FHM PARTNERS

The Oregon Department of Forestry is pleased to welcome Sarah Navarro as the Department's new Forest Pathologist. Sarah comes most recently from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), where she has been serving as a Plant Health Specialist in ODA's *Phytophthora ramorum* detection program for plant and landscape nurseries. *P. ramorum* is the invasive pathogen responsible for sudden oak death.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 3-7, 2016. Asheville, NC. 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. Registration is now open; early

registration ends **February 15, 2016**. The deadline for hotel reservations is **March 11, 2016**. For complete information, see the [meeting website](#).

***April 26-28, 2016**. Denver, CO. The Collaborative Restoration Workshop: Working Towards Resilient Landscapes and Communities. This workshop is sponsored by the National Forest Foundation (NFF) with the U.S. Forest Service as a major sponsor. The target audience is approximately 300 restoration practitioners, including FS employees, other federal agencies, state forestry, tribal, and other partners who are planning, implementing, and monitoring restoration efforts on-the-ground. The workshop will be organized around five “tracks”: Planning for Restoration; Integrating Science and Action; Community Engagement; Partnerships, and Collaboration; Implementation; and Monitoring to Guide Change, in addition to plenary sessions on the future of collaborative restoration. By bringing together Forest Service staff and partners, the event aims to enhance the outcomes of existing restoration efforts, learn from experience to achieve more effective and efficient planning and implementation, strategize for future challenges, and build relationships and networks that will last beyond the workshop. Complete information is available on the [conference web site](#). Register by **March 15, 2016** to receive a discounted rate. You may also contact Emily Olsen at the National Forest Foundation – eolsen@nationalforests.org. To be added to the Forest Service email update list for the workshop, contact Susan Cook-Patton at susancookpatton@fs.fed.us.

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. Please see the conference website at [this address](#) 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. 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. The submission deadline for poster presentation abstracts is **March 14, 2016**. For complete information including registration and lodging deadlines, visit the [workshop website](#).

June 21-23, 2016. San Francisco, CA. Sixth Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium: Biosecurity, Plant Trade, and Native Habitats. The Sixth Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium brings together scientists and practitioners from throughout the world working on *Phytophthora* plant pathogens in wildlands and nurseries. The meeting will provide a scientific update on the state of our knowledge about Phytophthoras and associated diseases in urban and wildland forests as well as nurseries, landscapes, and restoration areas. This conference reflects widening concerns related to *Phytophthora* species in U.S. wildlands and the potential for spread from native and ornamental plant production facilities to restoration sites and adjacent lands. *Phytophthora ramorum*, cause of sudden oak death and other plant diseases, has killed millions of tanoak and coast live oak trees along the Pacific Coast and forced the removal of millions of Japanese larch trees in the U.K. The pathogen was inadvertently introduced to both North America and Europe on ornamental nursery stock and is a quarantined pest in over 65 countries. In California, the first U.S. detection of *P. tentaculata* in native plant nurseries and on outplanted restoration plants has heightened concern over other *Phytophthora* species in endemic plant and animal habitats. This meeting will expand the concept of the Sudden Oak Death Science Symposiums, with presentations on sudden oak death research and management progress since the Fifth Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium (June 2012, Petaluma) as well as other nursery and wildland *Phytophthora* issues. A call for abstracts of proposed papers or posters to be submitted by January 29, 2016 was posted on the [conference web site](http://ucanr.edu/sites/sod6/) (<http://ucanr.edu/sites/sod6/>). Symposium proceedings will be produced. Speakers are requested to provide manuscripts; extended abstracts will be accepted. Complete instructions for paper preparation will be sent out with abstract acceptance notifications. Submissions should focus on one of the following areas addressing Sudden Oak Death/*P. ramorum* or *Phytophthora* spp. in native habitats, restoration areas and wildlands: biology and pathology; organisms associated with Phytophthoras; ecology; economic, social, and environmental impacts; modeling and risk assessment; management and control strategies; monitoring; arboriculture and urban forestry; nursery management; policy; or other related topics. Applicants will be notified by March 11, 2016 as to the acceptance of their submission. For more information, see the [conference web site](http://ucanr.edu/sites/sod6/).

***November 2-6, 2016.** Madison, WI. The 2016 Society of American Foresters (SAF) National Convention. The theme of the 2016 SAF National Convention is *Our Transcontinental Land Ethic: Exploring the Differences that Unite Us*. A call for oral and poster presentations is posted on the [SAF web site](http://www.safnet.org) (www.safnet.org). Presentation abstract submissions will close **March 31, 2016**. Poster abstract submissions will close **September 30, 2016**. See the conference web site for the full list of themes and topics for which scientific and technical session abstracts are invited. Travel information is also currently posted. What the website for updated information.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

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

***Learn at Lunch Live Webinar: Country Mouse, City Mouse: Fruit Gleaning Programs for Large and Small Communities.** (Sponsored by the Utah State University Forestry Extension, and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands) Speakers: Shawn Peterson (The Green Urban Lunchbox) and Jason Barto (Wasatch Back Trees). Access to fresh, healthy food is a critical issue. By empowering neighbors and other volunteers to share in the harvest and care of fruit trees, we prevent waste, build community knowledge and resources, and create sustainable, low cost ways to obtain healthy, organic, locally-grown fruit. Learn how two programs, large and small, are working to advance solutions. 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 February 16, 2016.** 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 Change Detection Tools](#) - (**Technical**) In this two-day workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn fundamental concepts for conducting change analyses and be introduced to a variety of tools for acquiring and processing imagery and mapping changes in land-cover. This course focuses primarily on bi-temporal change detection methods appropriate for moderate and coarse resolution satellite data. It is recommended that participants have some remote sensing experience and are familiar with ArcGIS software. Participants will also be required to sign up for a Google Earth Engine (GEE) Trusted Tester account, though no prior experience with GEE is necessary. This

webinar will be conducted from **10:00 am – 4:00 pm (Mountain Time) on February 10 and 11, 2016**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).

- [Advanced eCognition](#) - (**Technical**) eCognition is powerful remote sensing software, best known for its advanced segmentation capabilities (i.e. dividing an image up into homogenous features). Aside from segmentation, eCognition can be used for a host of other remote sensing related processes, such as classification, band math (i.e., NDVI and other indices), and much more. In this course we expand on the basics learned in the Introduction to eCognition webinar or tutorial, which is highly recommended as a prerequisite. You can access the "Introduction to eCognition" tutorial at the following link: (http://fsweb.geotraining.fs.fed.us/www/index.php?lessons_ID=2898). This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on February 18, 2016**. [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 other data? This 2-day workshop provides an overview of orthorectifying scanned imagery using ERDAS Imagine (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 24 and 25, 2016**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).
- [Using the R Statistical Package to Explore Lidar Inventory Models](#) - (**Technical**) In this 1-day workshop, we will use RStudio to streamline the process of building statistical models with lidar data or similar datasets in R. The hands-on portion of the webinar will introduce participants to working with data in R (both a statistical package and computing language) using RStudio. Participants will gain experience exploring data, building and evaluating models and using models to make predictions. No R experience is required for this course. This webinar will be conducted from **10:00am – 4:00pm (Mountain Time) on March 3, 2016**. [Click here to register or for additional information](#).

Job Opportunities

The U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station is conducting outreach for Forester (GS-0460-5/7/9) and Natural Resource Specialist (GS-040105/7/9) position. This position is with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) unit and will be located in St. Paul, MN. The incumbent will be a member of the Pre-field group with responsibilities that include interpretation of aerial photography utilizing GIS software; analysis of remote sensing imagery to identify areas of forest/

nonforest and define land use, land cover, and change related to research locations; support of field research personnel with navigation material and maps; creation and management of basic database queries and data retrievals; creation of basic statistical reports using a variety of statistical tools; and assistance in the creation of interactive maps that display research material in a creative manner. There will be up to 3 positions and are permanent full time, and may be eligible for telework and other flexible work arrangements, but it is not a virtual position. Government housing is not available. If you are interested in this position, please complete the outreach response form, attached to this Update as attachment 1, and return it to James Blehm at jblehm@fs.fed.us by **February 19, 2016**. *USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center.** 2016. Forest ThreatNet, the January/February 2016 edition of the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center's newsletter. Available online: [*The Forest ThreatNet*](#)
2. **Hennon, Paul J.; McKenzie, Carol M.; D'Amore, David V.; Wittwer, Dustin T.; Mulvey, Robin, L.; Lamb, Melinda S.; Biles, Frances E.; Cronn, Rich C.** 2016. A climate adaptation strategy for conservation and management of yellow-cedar in Alaska. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-917. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 382 p. Available online: [Yellow-cedar report \(http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr917.pdf\)](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr917.pdf)
3. **Khorram, Siamak.; van der Wiele, Cynthia F.; Koch, Frank H.; Nelson, Stacy A.C.; Potts, Matthew D.** 2016. Principles of applied remote sensing. New York: Springer International Publishing. 307 p. DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-22560-9

FOR MORE FHM INFORMATION

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

SUBMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

AGENCY EMPLOYED WITH: USFS BLM OTHER

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT *IF* CURRENT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE:

PERMANENT TEMPORARY TERM VRA PWD OTHER

CURRENT REGION/FOREST/DISTRICT
(IF APPLICABLE): _____

CURRENT SERIES AND GRADE
(IF APPLICABLE): _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

CURRENT POSITION TITLE: _____

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

VETERANS READJUSTMENT

DISABLED VETERANS WITH 30% COMPENSABLE DISABILITY

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1998

FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER

STUDENT CAREER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

OTHER

Thank you for your interest!

E-mail responses to: jblehm@fs.fed.us