Forest Health Monitoring Program
Monthly Update
June 2016

NEWS ABOUT FHM PARTNERS

Coordinating with the FS Southern Research Station and FS Northern Research Station Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) programs, air specialists in FS Region 8 and Region 9 will be revisiting lichen indicator plots this summer on national forest lands. In the twenty years since the original surveys were conducted by FIA/FHM, emissions of nitrogen and sulfur oxides have decreased substantially and with it the deposition of acidic and fertilizing pollutants. The air program is interested in learning whether emissions improvements are translating into improved ecological health, as indicated by lichen community composition and concentrations of nitrogen, sulfur, and metals in target lichen species.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

June 14-17, 2016. Flagstaff, AZ. The 2016 World Conference on Natural Resource Modeling. The theme of the conference is *Quantitative Modeling of Managing Natural Resources in an Era of Climate Change*. Researchers from a variety of disciplines such as ecology, economics, mathematics, fisheries, and forestry will meet to share ideas and develop options for solving complex problems of the environment. The deadline for submitting abstracts was April 15, 2016. The deadline for early registration was May 15, 2016. For complete information about the conference, visit the conference web site.

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 heighted 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. 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 were notified by March 11, 2016 as to the acceptance of their submission. For more information, see the conference web site.

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. Presentation abstract submissions closed 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:** (Sponsored by the Utah State University Forestry Extension and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, & State Lands) **Part 1. Fires and Beetles and Droughts, oh my: Recent Status and Trends from the National Forest health Monitoring Program.** Speaker: Dr. Kevin Potter (Research Associate Professor, Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, North Carolina State University). Healthy forests are vital to our future, and consistent, long-term monitoring of forest health indicators is necessary to identify forest resources deteriorating across large regions. The Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Program of the USDA Forest Service, with

cooperating researchers within and outside the Forest Service, quantifies status, changes and trends in the health of U.S. forests. This presentation will offer a broad-scale snapshot of recent threats to U.S. forests, including insects and diseases, wildfire, and drought. The results are from the most recent annual FHM national report, which is produced by forest health monitoring researchers at the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC) of the USDA Forest Service in collaboration with North Carolina State University cooperators. **Part 2. Tree Sleuths: Finding out Why Forest Trees were Dying in Vermont.** Speaker: Sandy Wilmot (Forest Health Specialist and Climate Change Coordinator, Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, Vermont). Examine the facts and learn about the revelations gleaned from this Vermont mystery case concerning a spike in dead trees from our 2008 statewide forest inventory. Determining causes for declines after the fact requires some keen sleuthing skills, looking at forest pests, weather events, acid deposition effects, and climatic changes as initiating or intensifying this decline. Some general characteristics of the mortality to peak your interest: declines were found in both northern and southern Vermont; high elevation forests as well as timberland forests were affected; and mortality was not related to tree stocking levels. Several species seemed to be affected including red spruce, white birch, balsam fir, red maple, and American beech. Local concern about white ash decline led to its inclusion in this investigation. 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. (MT)** on **June 14, 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.

Job Opportunities

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is currently advertising the position of Lands Program Manager to be located in Coeur d'Alene, ID. The IDL is offering an opportunity for an experienced and talented individual to lead the Department's Forest Health Program. The successful candidate will have a diverse and strong forest health background, a service-oriented work style and a superior ability to effectively communicate and work with all levels of the organization and the forest landowners we assist. This person must also possess strong character, leadership and interpersonal skills. This position reports directly to the Forestry Assistance Bureau Chief in the Coeur d'Alene Staff office. Position Responsibilities: The Forest Health Program Manager is responsible for statewide administration and implementation of forest health monitoring, suppression and prevention activities. This position leads and supervises several program specialists and program

support staff and is responsible for administering a variety of agreements, memorandums of understanding, and consulting contracts to achieve statewide program objectives. The position provides assistance to State, Industrial, and Non-industrial forest landowners overseeing more than four million acres of forest lands across Idaho. Responsibilities include: Plan, schedule and direct staff activities for forest insect and disease detection, evaluation, suppression and prevention; Develop program operating procedures and guidelines; Develop and oversee program budget including federal grants administration; Coordinate program activities with federal and state partner agencies; Conduct interagency training programs in insect and disease identification and prevention; Coordinate and conduct public meetings regarding insect and disease control projects; Participate in partner/stakeholder meetings; Coordinate training and technical assistance for state and private forest owners and managers; Direct aerial and field surveys to detect damage from insects and diseases; determine feasibility and justification of suppression activities; prepare and administer contracts for associated work; Review timber management plans and prescriptions and inspect state timber sales to ensure compliance with pest control methods; Prepare bulletins on forest pest problems and pest management techniques; Provide data to USDA regarding incidence, frequency, and distribution of forest insect pests. The position is open for recruitment: **May 27, 2016 – June 24, 2016**. For complete information about the position including instructions for applying, see the online position announcement. Hiring is done without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability. In addition, preference may be given to veterans who qualify under state and federal laws and regulations. If you need special accommodations to satisfy testing requirements, please contact the Division of Human Resources.

Northern Arizona University (NAU) is currently advertising a postdoctoral research associate position, A postdoctoral research associate position is available at Northern Arizona University (NAU), duty station USDA Forest Service's Dorena Genetic Resource Center (DGRC), Cottage Grove, OR, in support of NSF-funded disease resistance and ecological genetics research to explore population variation in adaptive traits, particularly resistance to white pine blister rust, of southwestern white pine. The successful applicant will collect and analyze data, primarily related to disease resistance, coordinate with other team members located around the US and Mexico, publish results (including as lead author), and travel occasionally in support of the research. Opportunities for mentoring and outreach will be provided. Anticipated start date is August 15, 2016; position is available for up to 3 years with satisfactory performance. The position will be supervised by Dr. Richard Sniezko, (DGRC Center Geneticist) and Dr. Kristen Waring (NAU). Minimum Qualifications: PhD in pathology, statistics, ecology, botany, forestry, biology, genetics or a related field conferred by start date. Preferred Qualifications: Demonstrated knowledge of statistical analysis and the associated software (including R) for nonlinear mixed-effects models and multivariate analysis; Demonstrated

skills in communicating science through publications and public speaking; Demonstrated knowledge of genetics, including analysis of genetics data. Knowledge Skills and Abilities: Working knowledge of GIS and tree physiology/phenology measurements and analysis desirable; Ability to spend long hours under variable field conditions collecting accurate data. Application Deadline: **June 8, 2016 at 11:59 pm**. How to Apply: Go to the NAU Human Resources careers website, click on Staff Openings, search for job code 602561 and click 'Apply'. If you are an individual with a disability and need reasonable accommodation to participate in the hiring process please contact the Office of Equity and Access at: 928-523-3312/TDD - 928-523-1006 or PO Box 4083, Flagstaff AZ 86011. Northern Arizona University is a committed Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution. Women, minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. NAU is responsive to the needs of dual career couples

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Website of interest.** The Southeastern Cohesive Fire Strategy Website. (www.southernwildfire.net) This website provides wildland fire news, success stories, recommended activities, and resources for all 13 southern states in addition to Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

2. **Website of interest.** Ecosystem Benefits and Risks. (http://applcc.org/ecosystem-risks-benefits) The Ecosystem Benefits and Risks research and website support natural research management across the Appalachians.

3. **Website of interest**. The Southern Forest Health Website. (http://southernforesthealth.net) This website provides education and training materials on forest health and invasive species in the Southeastern U.S.

FOR MORE FHM INFORMATION

Visit the FHM homepage and the Forest Health Portal
or access both via the **USDA Forest Service homepage**