

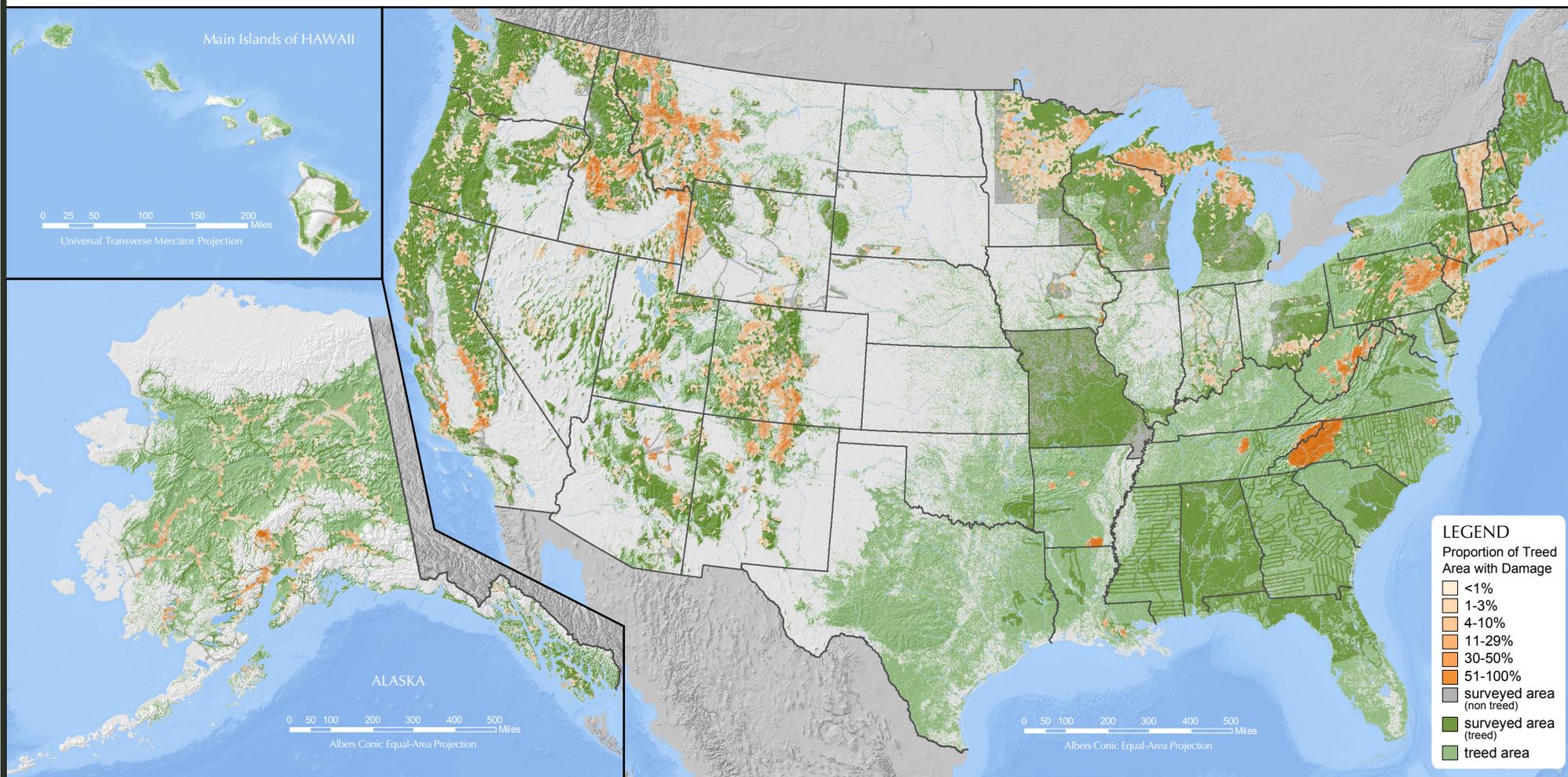


United States Department of Agriculture

# FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION

## 2015 Damage\* Detection Survey by Subwatersheds (6th Level HUCs)

Approximate Footprint Acres with Other Tree Damage: 14.4 million\*\*



\*Damage types include defoliation, discoloration, dieback, topkill, branch breakage, main stem broken/uprooted and branch flagging.

\*\*Acres are summarized from current year's observations only and are not cumulative. The "footprint" total represents the affected area on the ground with no multiple counting of acres affected by multiple agents.

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Forest Service

Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team



# 2015 Forest Health Damage Detection Surveys – Acres with Other\* Damage

## Detection and Aerial Survey Overview

Aerial detection surveys are an efficient and economical method of collecting and reporting data on forest insects, diseases, and other disturbances. Aerial sketchmapping is the primary data-collection method: data are collected by aerial observers from the Forest Service and other cooperating state and federal agencies. Areas of damage are captured as polygons on hardcopy 1:100,000 scale maps or through a Digital Sketchmapping System (D-ASM). The D-ASM uses a moving map display, GPS tracking, and touch screen technology to create a digital version of the data on-the-fly in the aircraft. Regardless of the method, it is important to note that sketchmapping is a valuable but subjective endeavor with inherent spatial and attribute inaccuracies.

Polygons are coded to identify the damage agent, damage type, and other attributes. In large areas where damage is widely scattered, other attributes may be used to capture the pattern of damage. In all cases, damage may be continuous or discontinuous; therefore, acres are reported as acres “with” damage.

Areas with damage are summarized on this map by 12-digit or 6<sup>th</sup>-level USGS subwatersheds. These 10,000 to 40,000 acre units are consistent with those in the Forest Service Watershed Condition Framework (Potyondy and Geier 2011). At the national scale, watershed summarization makes it easier to visualize damage information. It especially helps highlight areas where activity consists of small and sparsely located polygons.

\*Damage types include defoliation, discoloration, dieback, topkill, branch breakage, main stem broken/uprooted and branch flagging.

### Resources:

A Guide to Conducting Aerial Sketchmapping Surveys. McConnell, T.J., Johnson, E.W., and Burns, B., USDA Forest Service Publication, FHTET 00-01, March 2000.

Digital Aerial Sketchmapping. Schrader-Patton, C., USDA Forest Service Remote Sensing Application Center publication, RSAC-LSP-3400-RPT2, May 2002.

Detection Surveys Overview, online at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/detection\\_surveys.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/detection_surveys.shtml).

Aerial Survey Geographic Information System Handbook, November 2005, and Forest Health Monitoring Aerial Survey Standards, October 1999, online at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/ads\\_standards.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/ads_standards.shtml)

Potyondy, John P.; Geier, Theodore W. 2011. Watershed condition classification technical guide. FS-978. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 41 p. Online at: [www.fs.fed.us/publications/watershed/watershed\\_classification\\_guide.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/watershed/watershed_classification_guide.pdf).

## Summary for 2015:

Footprint acres with other\* tree damage:

14,395,000

*Note: Acres are summarized from current year's observations only and are not cumulative. The "footprint" total represents the affected area on the ground with no multiple counting of acres affected by multiple agents.*

Top 5 agents: Percent of footprint acres with damage

- Yellow poplar weevil 38%
- Spruce budworm (W&E) 27%
- Gypsy moth 11%
- Drought 4%
- Unknown defoliator 3%

Acres with other damage were reported in 41 states. North Carolina reported the most with 4.4 million acres.

