

2009 Forest Health Monitoring Workgroup Meeting

February 23-27, 2009
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Savannah, GA

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS

Aerial Surveys / Disturbance Tracking

A. Leaders:

Frank Sapio, FHTET Director (fsapio@fs.fed.us)

Eric Smith, FHTET Program Manager, Quantitative Analysis (elsmith@fs.fed.us)

B. Issues:

1. Making the new pest list work for us in Aerial Survey
2. Nationalizing our Data; using the new pest list to bridge to new nationally consistent Pest Coding or more importantly National Reporting
3. Where are we on Standard Review & Update?

Aerial Survey/Disturbance Tracking Focus Group

Frank J. Sapio

It been 10 years since National ADS reporting standards have been adopted by the forest health protection community. Discussions at the 2008 focus group focused on area of coverage and data quality issues. Those discussions culminated on three focus group resolutions. Significant progress regarding data quality and national reporting is occurring and it is now time to update the work group on progress to date and to set the course for this years work.

Progress The PTIPS list has been completely vetted and restructured. This new list will be available for review and adoption. A metadata utility for the Digital Aerial Sketch Mapping (DASM) has been developed and is ready for deployment. A demonstration of the new system modification will be made available.

Challenges Problems regarding flown/not flown reporting and the national rollup of survey data continue to occur across the national dataset. While this continues to be an issue, *flown not flown will not be a major topic for discussion during this workgroup!*

During the last work group, the ADS/Disturbance Tracking Focus Group resolved that we look at the national standards, while we will be addressing standards per se, the discussion will be structured regarding reporting and rollup of the national and regional data sets. *Statistics regarding the regional and within regional variability of damage and host coding will be presented. This proves to be a challenge for the national program, especially when estimates vary between regions and the national rollup.*

Several DRAFT map/data rollup scenarios will be presented for review and consensus. If the FHM workgroup can reach consensus on this data roll up strategy, then work regarding reporting standard issues will be better described.

2009 Forest Health Monitoring Workgroup Meeting

February 23-27, 2009
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Savannah, GA

Forest Health Inputs into State Assessments

A. Leaders:

Gail Durham, Nevada Forestry, (gdurham@forestry.nv.gov)
Ed Barnard, Florida DOF (barnare@doacs.state.fl.us)

B. Issues:

- 1. How are states doing the Forest Health portion of their Forest Resource Assessment Plans (FRAP's)?**
- 2. What has been done and works well assessing the Stat's Forest Health?**
- 3. What key elements are you including in your Forest Health inputs? What formats appear to be most suited for presentation (graphic, narrative, photographs, etc.)?**

Abstract: With the change to competitive grant funding for the States and the requirement of completing a Forest Resource Assessment Plan (FRAP) by each state outlining their greatest issues/concerns related to their forest resources, there is "mandated" interest/activity with respect to completing FRAPS. As forest health specialists, we are tasked to complete or at least contribute to the Forest Health portion of the FRAPs in our respective states. This has led to involved discussions regarding what defines forest health and how various components of forest health should be incorporated into FRAPs. We plan on exploring this in detail.

Participate in this focus group to **learn from current leaders** in FRAP including:

- Dr. Ron Billings, Forest Entomologist and Assistant Department Head, Texas Forest Service, College Station, TX
- John Watermolen, GIS/Stewardship/FRAP Coordinator, NV Div Forestry, DCNR, Carson City, NV

With their guidance and your forest health expertise, help craft workable outlines and guidelines for inclusion of forest health information into your state's FRAP and/or discuss how to best approach this very complex subject. Focus will be directed at issues such as 1) important criteria, 2) what format is the best to use for your plan, and 3) what has worked well that might be adaptable to your situation?

Why is this Focus Group needed? To respond to continuing questions about FRAP in relation to the need for meaningful forest health information incorporated into state Forest Resource Assessment Plans. To draw from and capitalize on the expertise/experience of colleagues? To consider various approaches to this critical element of state FRAPs.

2009 Forest Health Monitoring Workgroup Meeting

February 23-27, 2009
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Savannah, GA

Risk Map – Insect and Disease Model Development

A. Leaders:

Frank Krist, FHTET, Program Manager, Spatial Analysis (fkrist@fs.fed.us)
Jim Steinman, NA Regional Program Manager (jsteinman@fs.fed.us)
Eric Smith, Quantitative Analysis Program Manager (elsmith@fs.fed.us)

B. Issues:

- 1. Developing insect and disease models**
- 2. Updates and validation**
- 3. What works and how can we improve?**

National Insect and Disease Risk Map (NIDRM) - Model Development

Abstract: The USFS Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET) is leading an effort to produce the next version of the NIDRM for targeted release in 2011. The goal of this effort is to update spatial depictions of risk of tree mortality based on: 1) newly derived 30-m geospatial information depicting the distribution of tree hosts, pests, and associated factors influencing risk, and 2) modifications of risk models used in the 2006 NIDRM with improved national consistency and precision.

Leaders of this focus group will discuss and demonstrate the methods and tools that will be used in developing the 2011 NIDRM effort. Discussion leaders will consist of:

Frank Krist, NIDRM Data Development Team Leader, USFS FHTET
Eric Smith, NIDRM Model and Database Support Leader, USFS FHTET
Jim Steinman, National NIDRM Modeling Team Leader, USFS Northeastern Area

Attendees of this focus group will learn how they can help participate in the 2011 NIDRM effort during an overview of the:

1. Multi criteria framework used in constructing models in a consistent transparent manner.
2. Use of newly developed 30-m tree species layers to depict pest host distributions.
3. Use of a comprehensive risk model database.
4. Use of a pest/host range database.
5. Use of a desktop GIS modeling software application to create map outputs.

Why is this focus group needed? Much work needs to be completed in the next couple of years to produce an updated version of the NIDRM. Success of the effort relies upon participation from both federal and non-federal forest health expertise at the local level. This focus group helps provide the necessary guidance for participation and accommodates initial input and feedback on the 2011 NIDRM process. Resolutions generated from this focus group discussion will help provide further direction for the NIDRM effort.

2009 Forest Health Monitoring Workgroup Meeting

February 23-27, 2009
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Savannah, GA

Earlier Detection of Invasives

A. Leaders:

Alison Nelson, FHM Coordinator (asnelson@fs.fed.us)
Kyle Lombard, NH Forests & Lands (klombard@dred.state.nh.us)

B. Issues:

1. Discussion & examples of "earlier" responses outside existing FHP EDRR / scolytids.
2. What has worked, what hasn't?
3. Could we develop a national database with a public portal to share info?

Abstract: Early Detection (ED) programs to monitor for invasive insects, diseases and plants are one of the most sought after activities in the Forest Health Protection arena and the FHM website states "Monitoring for invasive plant, insects, and diseases is fast becoming a large part of DM efforts". What role does the Forest Health Monitoring Program have in ED and/or Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR)? Who does what? With other USFS initiatives to provide ED for specific pests does the Detection Monitoring section of FHM have a responsibility to fill in the gaps, and or provide national leadership in design and implementation of regional ED projects and proposals?

Participate in this focus group to **learn from current leaders** in ED initiatives including:

- Bob Rabaglia with the existing FHP EDRR Scolytids project
- Steve Oak with FHM Sudden Oak Death program
- Gary Smith, Director Plant Pathogens and Weed Program, APHIS
- Ken Gooch, Massachusetts ALB IC, with Mike Bohne, USFS
- Kerry Britton, USFS Research Pathologist, Sentinel Planting Network

With their guidance and your pest expertise help craft the future of ED activities within FHM and/or identify program needs in other units. Possibilities could be discussed such as developing a handout with roles, responsibilities and contact info; developing a national database portal for all ED data delivery; or even developing a new FHM component for ED which requests proposals from Agencies with the need to monitor invasive pests in a way that isn't currently being done.

Why is this Focus Group needed? To respond to continuing questions and clarify who does what, and where they are located. Also, who has expertise we can draw from? Our goal is to be as well prepared as we can to address and respond to future invasives.