

# Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update October 2010

## WHAT'S NEW

**2011 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meeting Cancelled.** We will plan to hold the meeting on a biennial basis. Even though the 2011 meeting has been cancelled, we still expect recipients of Evaluation Monitoring funding to submit posters presenting their results and progress to their respective Regional Program Managers by the end of January. These will be posted on the FHM website.

**The USDA Forest Service's Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET)** welcomes Mr. Donald Ewing as FHTET's new information systems program manager! FHTET is very excited to have someone with Don's depth in information systems management as part of their group. Don comes to FHTET from the USDA OCIO in Fort Collins where he currently administers wide area networks for the department. He is very familiar with the kind of technical challenges faced by FHTET. Please welcome Don to the team!

## UPCOMING (Items beginning with \* indicate a new listing or new information added) EVENTS

**October 20-21, 2010.** North Lake Tahoe, CA. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium. NADP is an internationally recognized cooperative program that provides long-term, high-quality precipitation chemistry and other measurements to evaluate temporal and spatial trends in atmospheric deposition. NADP monitoring networks measure acids, nutrients, base cations and mercury in precipitation. Data from NADP networks and CASTNet (the Clean Air Status and Trends Network) dry deposition network support research on multi-pollutant source/receptor relationships, the potential for deposition effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and biogeochemical cycling of pollutants. NADP's mission also includes outreach to science educators and the general public. The meeting, which has the theme "Networking the Networks," is intended for scientists, policy-makers, resource managers and students interested in climate change, air quality, atmospheric deposition and its effects on natural and cultural resources (<http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/meetings/fall2010/a/default.asp>). NADP subcommittee meetings, open to all, convene October 19. The Scientific Symposium will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21. This will include a poster session and reception on Wednesday evening October 20. An

optional research/educational field trip is planned for Friday, October 22, to the Tahoe Environmental Research Center. For questions about the symposium or student support, please contact Pam Padgett, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research, Riverside CA 951-680-1584 or [ppadgett@fs.fed.us](mailto:ppadgett@fs.fed.us). Direct other inquiries to Kathy Douglas at the Program Office, 217-333-7871.

**\*October 25, 2010.** Burlington, VT. The Vermont Monitoring Cooperators Annual Meeting. The Vermont Monitoring Cooperative (VMC) is soliciting posters for display at the Vermont Monitoring Cooperators Annual Meeting. The theme this year is "Forecasting the Forest's Future". Posters outlining research done at VMC intensive sites at Mt. Mansfield and Lye Brook or using VMC monitoring data are especially welcome, but topics can represent the whole range of forested ecosystem studies whether directly linked to the VMC or not. The meeting will take place in the Sugar Maple ballroom at the Davis Student Center on the UVM Campus. Poster set up will occur from 8:15 to 9:00 A.M. before the meeting. The VMC has easels and boards available for displaying posters but please contact the VMC staff to reserve one. Registration for the meeting is open. Please go to the homepage of the VMC website (<http://sal.snr.uvm.edu/vmc/>) and click on "News" then click on "VMC Annual Meeting Registration" or click on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HDDH8GB> to go to the online registration form.

**October 26-28, 2010.** Fairbanks, AK. The Alaska Invasive Species Conference. This is the combined annual meeting of two groups, the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management and the Alaska Invasive Species Working Group. Speakers will include John Peter Thompson, of the National Agricultural Research Alliance, speaking on "Horticulture Industry Efforts to Address the Invasive Species Issue: A National Perspective;" Dr. F. Stuart Chapin, University of Alaska Fairbanks, speaking on "Ecosystem Services - the Impacts of Invasive Species in Rural Alaskan Communities;" David Roon, University of Alaska Fairbanks, speaking on "Birdcherry Impacts to Salmon on Anchorage Streams;" and Dr. Matt Carlson, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, speaking on "When Are Range Expansions Invasive?" Complete conference information can be found at <http://alaskainvasivespeciesconference.wikispaces.com/>

**October 26-27, 2010.** Logan, UT. The Restoring the West Conference. The 2010 Restoring the West conference (<http://restoringthewest.org/>) will examine management conflicts between animal populations and the plant communities they inhabit. Talks will focus on wildlife and vegetation issues in forest and sagebrush steppe environments. Featured themes include large herbivore relations to aspen, and sage grouse interactions with sagebrush. Additional topics include interactions between other animals, ecosystems, and humans. We see this as an opportunity to explore, debate, and propose solutions to contentious issues in the Intermountain West. Discussions will appeal to managers and researchers, including public and private land managers,

landowners, and others. This year's conference will include two full days of invited presentations with a poster session. Poster submissions are requested.

**\*November 3 and December 2.** Webinar: Predicting Behavior of Forest Diseases as Climate Changes. Please join a free hour-long webinar to address the potential synergistic effects of climate change and forest diseases on tree and forest health. Speakers will present case studies of sudden aspen decline, Swiss needle cast, Alaska yellow cedar decline and other diseases to illustrate drivers of tree declines, and management options to minimize the undesirable effects of forest diseases as climate changes. The hour concludes with questions and answer among speakers and participants. This webinar will be offered twice: **Wednesday, November 3, 2010** from 1:15-2:15 P.M. PDT, and again on **Thursday, December 2, 2010** from 9:30-10:30 A.M. PST. The number of participants for each session is limited so please register soon. We will reply with a toll-free call in number and a link to the online webinar. Visit [http://ucanr.org/wwetac\\_registration](http://ucanr.org/wwetac_registration) to register for either session. Please contact Janice Alexander ([jalexander@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jalexander@ucdavis.edu), 415-499-3041) for more information. Sponsored by USDA Forest Service, Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center & Pacific Southwest Research Station; University of California Cooperative Extension, Marin County; and University of California, Santa Barbara.

**\*November 16-17, 2010.** McClelland, CA. The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the California Forest Pest Council. The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the California Forest Pest Council will take place on November 16 and 17, 2010, at the US Forest Service Wildland Fire Training and Conference Center in McClelland, CA (Sacramento area). For more information please visit the California Forest Pest Council website at: <http://caforestpestcouncil.org/2010/08/2010-california-forest-pest-council-59th-annual-meeting/> or contact Tom Smith, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at 916-599-6882.

## **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 1. Koch, F.H.; Yemshanov, D.; Colunga-Garcia, M.; Magarey, R.D.; Smith, W.D.** 2010. Potential establishment of alien-invasive forest insect species in the United States: where and how many? *Biol. Invasions*. DOI 10.1007/s10530-010-9883-8.
- 2. Yemshanov, D.; Koch, F.H.; Ben-Haim, Y.; Smith, W.D.** 2010. Detection capacity, information gaps and the design of surveillance programs for invasive forest pests. *Journal of Environmental Management*. 91: 2535-2546.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**The USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station** will be filling a GS-0460-9/11 Forester permanent position and a GS-0460-9 or GS-0460-11 Forester term position. These positions are administered and funded by the Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis (NRS-FIA), National Inventory and Monitoring Applications Center (NIMAC). The incumbent serves as a member of a team responsible for customizing and writing enhancements to forest inventory compilation and analysis software for use by NIMAC customers – States, National Forests, and foreign countries. Training in biometrics and programming is needed to assist NIMAC with a broader range of support to NIMAC customers from sampling design, data processing, and data analysis. The assignment encompasses development of applications to collect, compile, and analyze forest inventory data. The assignment requires knowledge of biometrics, geospatial analyses, and data applications to provide assistance and technical support in data capture, conversion and manipulation, and extraction of information from the database, and technical expertise and coordination in the design, implementation, management, analysis, and use of resource spatial and attribute databases. The assignment also includes responsibility for analyzing existing FIA data for a specific customer, such as State-owned land or a National Forest. The incumbent collaboratively uses these results to determine the sampling design to meet the customer needs. Some statistical and programming skills are needed to optimize the solution for individual customers and to enhance the existing sampling design software. Additional responsibilities include loading, editing, and compiling field data, as well as preparing the database and analytical software for the customer's use. Working with customers requires some overnight travel, and perhaps international travel. The incumbent may also work on other inventory-related projects and solve unusual problems in performing a variety of duties related to special projects involving administrative or program issues. The incumbent will collaborate with team members on joint projects, and consult with and/or assist researchers to satisfy their specific requirements. This work may include training other program staff in technical applications, operation of specialized software, and implementation of new technology. This early alert notification is being circulated to inform prospective applicants of these upcoming opportunities and to determine interest. Individuals are encouraged to express their interest in these positions by completing the Outreach Notice Form attached to this Update as Attachment 1. It is expected these positions will be advertised in October 2010. Once advertised, further information on the positions and how to apply will be posted at the following web page: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>. For further information on this position, contact: James A. Westfall, Research Forester, USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis, 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200, Newtown Square, PA, USA 19073. Phone: 610-557-4043; Fax 610-557-4250; E-mail: [jameswestfall@fs.fed.us](mailto:jameswestfall@fs.fed.us)  
*The USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color,*

*national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. The USDA Forest Service also provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify Bill Mannion, Human Resources Specialist, at (610) 557-4236. USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.*

**The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland**

**Forestry Sciences Lab** is filling one position for a GS-0401- 12 or -13 Supervisory Biological Scientist who will function as the Data Collection Team Leader for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. This is a permanent, full-time position located at the Portland Forestry Sciences Lab in Portland, Oregon. The position will be open to current government employees (Career or Career-Conditional status) and the general public. The Team Leader is the expert consultant on data collection and supervisor responsible for the data collection portion of the FIA program for the states of California, Oregon, and Washington. The incumbent will be responsible for organizing operations, coordinating overall program work with other Team Leaders in the Program, maintaining quality and productivity, financial planning, supervision, and safety. The person will develop short and long term plans to determine safe and efficient ways to implement data collection procedures including staffing, budgets, performance standards, changes to field procedures, and data quality. The person will participate with other PNW-FIA Team Leaders on setting overall program goals and accomplishments. The person will participate with FIA Data Collection Team Leaders and FIA Program Managers from other regions to shape the national FIA data collection program goals and accomplishments. The Data Collection Team Leader will supervise four GS-11 State and Quality Assurance Coordinators, two GS-9 Professional Positions, two GS-7 Technical Positions, and is the second-line supervisor for 60+ Professional and Technical Staff located in at least 3 states. Safety is a high-priority responsibility. Work will primarily be performed in the Portland Forestry Science Lab, but occasionally the incumbent will spend time working with the crews and Quality Assurance staff in the field. Work conditions there are often arduous. When the position is advertised (expected soon), the announcement will be posted on the Office of Personnel Management web site: [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

**The USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection Alaska Region** will soon advertise a Plant Pathologist position on the State and Private Forestry (SPF) staff. This is a GS-0434-11/12, permanent, full time position with a duty station of Juneau, Alaska. Headquartered in Anchorage, the State and Private Forestry offices are part of the Alaska Regional Office located in Juneau. This position reports directly to the Assistant Director of SPF, Forest Health Protection (FHP). As the plant pathologist for southeast portion of Alaska, the incumbent coordinates and implements a complex major forest pathogen detection, evaluation, prevention and control program for plant diseases. At the GS-12

level, the incumbent would also supervise 3 full-time employees. Applicant must have or be able to obtain state driver's license. By October 29, 2010, interested applicants, or those desiring further information, should contact Steve Patterson, Assistant Director, SPF, FHP, by phone (907) 743-9451, or by e-mail, [spatterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:spatterson@fs.fed.us). Please complete the Outreach Notice Form attached to this Update as Attachment 2 to express your interest and share brief information on your current status. When the position is advertised, the announcement will be posted on the Office of Personnel Management web site: [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

**The USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection Region 5** is seeking to fill a detail/temporary aerial survey position. Prefer a start date of April 1, 2011 or sooner if little or no aerial survey experience; can start as late as June 1 for experienced applicants. Position will not exceed six months in duration, ending October 2011. Duties are 60% assisting in conducting aerial surveys; 25% GIS work and reporting, and other office duties; and 15% assisting in ground-checking aerial survey data in the field. Desired qualifications are (1) Forest Health aerial survey experience; (2) ability to spend extended periods of time in light aircraft in turbulent conditions; (3) experience with ArcGIS<sup>®1</sup>; (4) experience with forestry, forest entomology, and or plant pathology; (5) experience in aviation/aviation safety; and (6) related ground survey experience (forest health, forestry, ecology, etc.) This position will require applicant to be in travel status up to 3 weeks per month. This position may be filled as a term position (not to exceed 1 year), a work detail, or as a contract position. Please direct questions to Zack Heath (email [zheath@fs.fed.us](mailto:zheath@fs.fed.us) phone 530-759-1751). The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University** at Blacksburg two Ph.D. graduate research assistantships available: physiological decline and recovery of eastern hemlock and consequences to the causal agent, the hemlock woolly adelgid. A first project goal is to assess the physiological changes within eastern hemlock trees as they decline from colonization and attack by the non-native invasive hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). A second goal will be to determine how the physiological status of the trees change upon remediation treatments and subsequent recovery. A third goal is to assess how the declining health of the tree impacts the availability and quality of nutrients and water resources for HWA as reflected in the insect's fitness, fecundity, and physiology. One assistantship is available for work focused on the physiology of the eastern hemlock and will be directed by Dr. John Seiler (Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation). A second assistantship will focus on the pest insect's physiology in relation to changing host conditions and will be directed by Drs. Scott Salom and Don Mullins (Department of Entomology). Each will provide a unique opportunity to work with both forestry and

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<sup>1</sup> The use of trade or firm names in this publication is for reader information and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of any product or service.

entomology faculty. This project is supported by the USDA Forest Service. Eastern hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis* L. Carriere, are damaged by the feeding activities of the non-native HWA, *Adelges tsugae* (Hemiptera: Adelgidae). HWA nymphs feed on the parenchyma cells in the xylem rays. Tree health deteriorates due the depletion of photosynthates, which then inhibits shoot growth and causes bud mortality, twig dieback, foliage discoloration and premature defoliation. The broad goal will be to characterize the physiological attributes of tree decline, so that managers may be able to consider site or stand amelioration actions that would prevent newly infested trees from declining so quickly. Findings could also contribute to a better understanding of factors critical in host resistance. For assistantship one, An M.S. degree in forestry, plant physiology, ecophysiology, or related field is required. Previous experience with whole-plant physiological measurements is desired. For Assistantship two, an M.S. degree in biology, plant sciences or related field is preferred. The Dept. of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation (FREC) (<http://www.cnre.vt.edu/forestry>) at Virginia Tech has excellent ecophysiology laboratories and strong programs in all aspects of forestry. Strong supporting programs in Entomology (<http://web.ento.vt.edu/ento>), Crop and Soil Environmental Science, Horticulture, Botany, and Chemistry exist at Virginia Tech (<http://www.vt.edu>). Ph.D. assistantships in the Departments of FREC and Entomology at Virginia Tech provide a very competitive stipend. Additionally, tuition is waived for students on assistantships. Graduate research assistants are actively involved in the departmental teaching program. Interested students should contact either:

Dr. John Seiler, [jseiler@vt.edu](mailto:jseiler@vt.edu)  
Professor of Forest Ecophysiology  
Department of Forest Resources and  
Environmental Conservation (0324)  
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061  
(540) 231-5461

Dr. Scott Salom, [salom@vt.edu](mailto:salom@vt.edu)  
Professor of Forest Entomology  
Department of Entomology  
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061  
(540) 231-2794

**FOR MORE**  
**FHM**  
**INFORMATION**

**Visit the FHM homepage:** [www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/)  
or access via the USDA Forest Service homepage at [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

# OUTREACH NOTICE FORM

NIMAC Forester

GS-460-9/11

If you are not a current Forest Service employee or do not have access to e-mail please complete the form and mail to: USDA-FS, Northern Research Station Attn: James Westfall, 11 Campus Blvd. Suite 200, Newtown Square, PA 19073. You may also FAX the form to FAX# 610-557-4250, or e-mail to jameswestfall@fs.fed.us

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy.

Position Title/Series/Grade
Location:
PERSONAL INFORMATION
Name:
Address:
E-mail:
Phone:
Current job title:
Are you currently a Federal employee?
IF YES, current Agency and location:

**OUTREACH NOTICE  
FORM  
Alaska Region  
Plant Pathologist – GS-0434-11/12  
State and Private Forestry  
Forest Health Protection  
Duty Station – Juneau, AK**

I am interested in the position at the (check all that apply): GS-11 \_\_\_\_\_ GS-12 \_\_\_\_\_

I will check USAJOBS for the announcement, or call the contact person.

Name:			
Mailing Address:			
Phone:		e-mail:	

Current Position Title, Series and Grade:

Are you currently a Federal employee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, current Agency and location

If yes, what is your current type of appointment: Permanent \_\_\_\_\_ Temporary \_\_\_\_\_

Term \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran’s Readjustment Appointment \_\_\_\_\_

Persons With Disabilities \_\_\_\_\_ Other (identify) \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe why you will be a quality candidate for this position:

If you are not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities: Persons with Disabilities, Disabled Veterans with 30% or More Compensable Disability, Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998, Former Peace Corps Volunteer, Student Career Experience Program, Other?

Thank you for your interest in our Vacancy!  
Please return your completed form electronically to  
Steve Patterson- [spatterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:spatterson@fs.fed.us) **NO LATER THAN October 29, 2010**