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Route To:

Subject: 2009 Forest Health Monitoring Workgroup Meeting

To: Forest Health Monitoring Community

The Georgia Forestry Commission and the Forest Service, Forest Health Monitoring Program are co-sponsoring the 2009 Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Workgroup Meeting to be held in Savannah, Georgia, from February 23 - February 27, 2009.

Primary objectives of the workshop are to:

- Report on forest health conditions and trends;
- Present recent advances in forest health monitoring, evaluations, and research; and
- Use participant focus groups to develop recommendations for improving the FHM program.

Enclosed please find the preliminary agenda, meeting logistics, preliminary registration, and poster registration. Please forward this announcement to your staffs responsible for FHM, and to other interested partners. We urge all FHM participants to be represented, since accepted recommendations will apply to all FHM participants and will shape future program activities.

As in previous years, the workshop will include time and opportunities to share information about State, regional, and national program status, needs, and accomplishments. The workshop theme is "New Invaders of Forests and Urban Environments." The 2009 agenda will include theme-relevant presentations as well as concurrent focus groups designed to address emerging issues related to aerial surveys and disturbance tracking, forest health input into State assessments, risk mapping, and earlier detection of invasives. A poster session will present status and results of FHM funded Evaluation Monitoring (EM) projects and other topics of interest. All recipients of EM funding are expected to present posters at this workshop. Please see enclosed poster instructions for details.

This year's FHM meeting comes with a bonus opportunity -- an additional one-day meeting regarding the non-native redbay ambrosia beetle / laurel wilt complex will be held following the regular FHM agenda. This complex is causing major impacts to redbay and other species in coastal Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina and will be observed during the Thursday afternoon field trip. For those attendees interested in learning more about this problem, the add-on meeting will consist of a poster session on Thursday evening and a moderated session of presentations from experts on Friday from 8:00 - 2:00. Please note that this meeting requires a separate registration fee (see registration sheet).



We look forward to discussing forest health issues with all of our partners and working on enhancing the FHM program for the future. If you have any questions about the workshop, please contact the Chair of the Program Committee, Rob Cruz by telephone at 801-625-5162 or email at rcruz@fs.fed.us.

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Enclosures (4)