
Forest Health Monitoring Program
February Monthly Update
February 19, 2010

Recent Happenings

The 2010 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meeting was held January 25-28 in Albuquerque, NM. Activities included a panel discussion about climate change and current and projected effects on southwestern forests, an optional field trip, and five half-day focus groups. The focus groups were aerial survey/disturbance tracking, detection of invasive species, climate change-monitoring effects on forests, national insect and disease risk map, and communicating FHM successes. Resolutions from the focus groups were considered by the meeting attendees and approved resolutions will be forwarded to the FHM Management Team for consideration at the next Management Team meeting. Approximately 50 posters were displayed, including about 27 from evaluation monitoring projects. To recognize and encourage excellence in poster preparation, several awards are given. The 2010 first place recipients were:

Fewest Words category – *New technology for collecting pest event data in the field* by Meghan Woods, Sanborn Map Company (on-site with USFS FHP); Zhanfeng Liu, General Dynamics Network Systems (on-site with USFS FHP); Joel Egan, USDA Forest Service, FHP-R5; Lisa Fischer, USDA Forest Service, FHP-R5

Best Graphics category - *Monitoring 2009 forest disturbance across the conterminous United States based on near-real time and historical MODIS 250-meter NDVI products* by J. Spruce, Applied Sciences Department, Science Systems and Application Incorporated, Stennis Space Center; W. Hargrove, USDA Forest Service, SRS; G. Gasser, Lockheed Martin Civil Programs, Stennis Space Center; J.C. Smoot, Applied Sciences Department, Science Systems and Application Incorporated, Stennis Space Center; and P. Kuper, Applied Sciences Department, Science Systems and Application Incorporated, Stennis Space Center

Most Exciting Science category – *Assessing forest tree risk of genetic degradation from climate change* by Kevin Potter, North Carolina State University; Bill Hargrove, USDA Forest Service, USDA Forest Service, SRS; Frank Koch, North Carolina State University

Best Overall category – *Health of whitebark pine forest after mountain pine beetle outbreaks* by Sandy Kegley, USDA Forest Service, FHP-R1; John Schwandt, USDA Forest Service, FHP-R1; Ken Gibson, USDA Forest Service, FHP-R1; and Dana Perkins, Bureau of Land Management

Electronic copies of the posters will be posted soon on FHM website.

Borys Tkacz, FHM National Program Manager, also presented the following awards:

Certificate of Merit to Robert Cruz, Intermountain Region (R4) – FHP, for outstanding leadership of the 2009 and 2010 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meeting Planning Committees;

Certificate of Merit to Bruce Moltzan (WO) – FHP, for outstanding efforts as Coordinator of the Focus Group Sessions for the 2008 and 2009 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meetings;

Certificate of Appreciation to James Johnson, GA Forest Service, for outstanding efforts on local arrangements for the 2008 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meeting in Savannah, Georgia;

Certificate of Appreciation to Ed Barnard, FL Division of Forestry, for his service as the State Representative for the Southern Region on the Forest Health Monitoring Management Team;

Certificate of Appreciation to Gail Durham, NV Division of Forestry, for her service as the State Representative for the Interior West Region on the Forest Health Monitoring Management Team;

Certificate of Appreciation to Barbara Burns, VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, for her participation on the Planning Committee for the 2008 and 2009 Forest Health Monitoring Work Group Meetings.

Following is an updated list of members of the National Forest Health Monitoring Management Team, which discusses and plans program activities on a regular basis:

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Thomas Hall	Pennsylvania DCNR-Bureau of Forestry	thall@state.pa.us

[FHP =U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Protection; FHTET = U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team; FIA = U.S. Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis; NFS = U.S. Forest Service National Forest System; SPF (WO) = U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry (Washington Office); PA DCNR= Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources]

Please contact any of these members for more information about FHM Program activities described on the FHM website at www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/.

The Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Data Portal went live this past summer even with beetle populations at historically low levels. This, however, was good as State cooperators could test-drive the web-based SPB database recording/management program with small amounts of data. Several States entered or uploaded SPB data to the Portal with good results. The program captures core data fields for detected SPB (or other bark beetles, eg. *Ips*) spots -- location, identifying number, date detected, size (acres), total volume and total value. Some of these can be derived from other data entered. Ground-check data can be entered and used in management and suppression programs. The Portal program was envisioned by southern entomologists and built at FHP's Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team with much discussion, input, feedback and testing by a core group of federal and State entomologists. We look forward to full implementation of the Portal by all the southern states in 2010.

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) is accepting proposals to conduct research on Sudden Oak Death/*Phytophthora ramorum*. The deadline for submission of proposals is **Wednesday, March 31, 2010**. From 2001 through 2009, the PSW has funded over \$11 million in research on Sudden Oak Death/*Phytophthora ramorum*. Results from this research have provided much of our fundamental understanding of this pathogen, and served as the basis for monitoring, management, and regulatory practices. However, additional information is critically needed on the biology, epidemiology, and behavior of *P. ramorum*; development of new treatment strategies; pathogenicity and resistance; and short- and long-range spread if we are to effectively minimize the pathogen's ecological, social, and economic impacts. Approximately \$500,000 will be available in summer 2010 to fund new projects from the submitted proposals. Multi-year, collaborative projects are encouraged. The PSW is requesting that interested researchers submit proposals for funding within one of the following topics: biology, hosts, & epidemiology; risks to conifer; disease detection, monitoring; treatment/control/disease management; impacts on ecological, economic and social impacts, science delivery; and restoration & rehabilitation.

Complete information about this request for proposals, including additional research questions, is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/>. If you have questions, please contact Susan Frankel, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Sudden Oak Death/*Phytophthora ramorum* Research Program Manager at 510-559-6472 or via email at sfrankel@fs.fed.us.

Upcoming Events (items beginning with * indicate a new listing or new information added)

March 9-11, 2010. West Lafayette, IN. A Symposium on Ash Trees in North America. The USDA Forest Service and Purdue University are sponsoring this symposium to explore the value and preservation of ash (*Fraxinus sp.*) in North America. The symposium is open to all, but will be of special interest to researchers, industries and businesses that use ash, nursery growers, urban resource specialists, community leaders, educators, forest managers, and regulators. The symposium brings together experts on the many facets of the ash resource to highlight the overall significance of ash trees to life in North America. The meeting will feature a versatile agenda that addresses the distribution of ash throughout North America, the role of ash species in natural areas, forest management both before and after the arrival of emerald ash borer (EAB), ash in today's hardwood markets, novel methods of ash utilization, resistance mechanisms in ash to EAB, climate change as a threat to the resource, the role of ash in Native American culture, and management of ash in the presence of EAB. Students and professionals may also exhibit posters on work addressing ash utilization, research, education, or extension work in North America. Poster abstracts submitted before the December 1 deadline and accepted for publication will be published in the symposium proceedings. For more information including registering for the meeting and submitting poster abstracts, please visit: <http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/ashsymposium/index.htm> .

***July 20-23, 2010.** The 53rd Southern Forest Insect Work Conference. This conference will be held at Wilmington, NC. Entomologists from the South and other areas of the country (along with others such as pathologists) gather to present papers, discuss programs and network. It is one of the best-attended meetings by State and federal entomologists. Complete information on the meeting can be viewed at: <http://sfiwc.org> . Note the instructions about room availability and room reservations. If questions, contact William P. Shepherd (USDA Forest Service) at williamshepherd@fs.fed.us or by phone at 318-473-7256.

August 9-13, 2010. Sundsvall, Sweden. Northern Primeval Forests: Ecology, Conservation and Management. This scientific conference is sponsored by the Nordic Forest Research Cooperative and The Swedish Research Council Formas. Sizeable areas of the Northern hemispheres' forests remain unmanaged by man. These primeval forests not only harbour unique conservation and recreational values, but also provide important reference areas, critical to our understanding of forest structure, composition and processes. The scientific scope of the conference will gather researchers, administrators and conservation managers from a wide spectrum of regions and disciplines. Results will aid in designing scientifically well-founded strategies to deal with current threats to forest biodiversity. Topics: Old growth forests; What is efficient protection of natural forests?; Restoring naturalness; Protecting natural forests in an era of climate change; Disturbance dynamics; Carbon sequestration in natural forests; Biodiversity value of old-growth forest remnants; Primeval forests as sources for genetic diversity; Old growth elements in managed forests; and People and old growth. Details including deadlines for abstract submission and registration are found at the following website: <http://www.prifor2010.org/index.html> .

Publications of Interest

Ambrose, M.J.; Conkling, B.L. (editors). 2009. The Forest Health Monitoring 2006 national technical report. GTR-SRS-117. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 84 p. now available online at: <http://srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/34402>

Miles, P.D.; Smith, W.B. 2009. Specific gravity and other properties of wood and bark for 156 tree species found in North America. Research Note. RN-NRS-38. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 35p. available online at: <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/34185>

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. 2010. 2009 forest insect and disease conditions in Pennsylvania. Middletown, PA: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Division of Forest Pest Management. Available online at: http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/leaflets/2009_PA_ForestHealth_Report.pdf

Proceedings of the 2nd National Oak Wilt Symposium, held on June 4-7, 2007, in Austin, Texas, have been published as Texas Forest Service Publication 166 with financial support from the USFS Forest Health Protection, Region 8. The proceedings include presentations by leading oak wilt researchers and pest managers: 10 presentations on our current understanding of oaks and oak wilt (caused by *Ceratocystis fagacearum*), 3 on regional impacts of oak wilt, and 6 concerning current and potential oak wilt management practices. Summaries of two other oak diseases, the sudden oak death pathogen (*Phytophthora ramorum*) and bacterial leaf scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*), also are included. A copy of this 267-page proceedings is available upon request from Ron Billings, Texas Forest Service, while supplies last. Contact him at rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu. These proceedings also are available on the Texas invasive species webpage at www.texasinvasives.org.

Yemshanov, D.; Koch, F.H.; Ben-Haim, Y; Smith, W,D, 2010. Robustness of risk maps and survey networks to knowledge gaps about a new invasive pest. Risk Analysis. 30(2): 261-276.

Job Announcements

The USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station is currently advertising for a Supervisory Biological Scientist (ADS-PNW-401-00160G (CT)) or Supervisory Physical Scientist ADS10-PNW-1301-00160G (CT) (1 position) to be located in Prineville, OR. This position is open to Status eligibles (see announcements for complete explanation). The incumbent is Center Director of the Pacific Northwest Research Station's Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center (WWETAC) located in Prineville, OR. The position reports to the Station Director of the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. For complete information about this position including how to apply, you may access the announcements via www.usajobs.gov using the announcement numbers listed above. For questions related to the duties of the position contact Terry Shaw (USDA Forest Service) at cgshaw@fs.fed.us.

FHM Homepage: : www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/
or access via the USDA Forest Service homepage at www.fs.fed.us