

# Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update August 2010

## NEWS ABOUT FHM PARTNERS

**A session on the National Insect & Disease Risk Map (NIDRM)** was held July 22, 2010 during the Southern Forest Insect Work Conference. Dr. Frank Koch (North Carolina State University) spoke on uncertainty in risk mapping and Frank Sapio (USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Technology and Enterprise Team) gave an update on the status of the NIDRM effort. Dale Starkey (USDA Forest Service, Region 8) outlined the southern modeling team composition and plans. A live internet demonstration of the Risk Map Application followed and a simple risk model for southern pine beetle was created in the interactive GIS environment. Participants were able to see the use of host species layers and other layers such as pest occurrence, soil, topographic, or climatic data in building pest risk models as well as the model outputs of overall risk and predicted basal area loss.

**The Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center (WWETAC)** has created the Threat News Explorer, which is a custom media search site that uses a news search engine to locate articles relevant to wildland threats. The site is linked to the main WWETAC web page [www.fs.fed.us/wwetac/tools.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/wwetac/tools.html). The site is a convenient way to track ongoing news about wildfires, bark beetles, climate change, and other important wildland threats. The site is hosted on an elastic cloud and is one of the first applications in the Forest Service that employs cloud computing technology. WWETAC welcomes comments and suggestions on the site. For more information contact Alan Ager (USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station) at [aager@fs.fed.us](mailto:aager@fs.fed.us).

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

**\*September 16-17, 2010.** Front Royal, VA. Good Green, Bad Green, Invasive Plant Control for Habitat Restoration. This conference is intended to increase awareness among landowners, natural resource professionals, green industry workers and volunteers about the destructive potential of non-native invasive plant species, both from economic and biodiversity standpoints. The conference will include both talks and field tours. Complete information about the conference including registration, lodging and an agenda is available at the conference website: [www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/](http://www.forestryforthebay.org/ggbg/).

**\*October 4-7, 2010.** Elkhart Lake, WI. North Central Forest Pest Workshop (NCFPW). The NCFPW is an annual meeting of persons interested in forest health in the North Central portion of North America. It is usually attended by plant pathologists, entomologists, foresters, other scientists, and students. The agenda usually includes a day and a half of indoor presentations and a full day field trip. A block of rooms is reserved at the Osthoff Resort at a conference price until September 3, 2010. Early registration for the meeting is due by September 20, 2010. Please register for the workshop by completing and mailing the registration form as instructed on the form; do not email the registration form. For complete information about the meeting, including an agenda, housing, and registration forms for the meeting and the poster session, please visit <http://www.forestpathology.org/hosted/ncfpw>.

**\*October 5-6, 2010.** The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases. Waltham, MA. The Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases works to bring diverse groups interested in the status of North American forests together to work collaboratively toward reducing the threat of non-native forest insects and diseases. More information about the Dialogue can be found at [www.continentalforestdialogue.org](http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org). The sixth annual meeting will include a choice of field trips, multiple panel discussions, breakout working sessions, and time to meet and talk informally with other attendees. Complete information about the meeting, including registration (cost and deadlines), lodging, field trips and a draft agenda, is available on the meeting website: <http://www.continentalforestdialogue.org/events/dialogue/2010-10-05/index.html>.

**October 5-7, 2010.** Knoxville, TN. FIA Symposium 2010: Monitoring Across Borders. The USDA Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program and the Southern Mensurationists are pleased to announce: "Monitoring Across Borders," and the opportunity to participate in the FIA Symposium 2010. The symposium will shed new light on contemporary issues, science policy, mensuration, remote sensing/GIS/geo-spatial products, and other topics. The theme of the symposium is intended to include monitoring across biomes, spatial scales, regions, etc. For complete information including registration and lodging, visit the symposium website at [www.fia.fs.fed.us/symposium](http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/symposium).

**October 20-21, 2010.** North Lake Tahoe, CA. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium. The call for abstracts has been issued for the symposium, which has the theme "Networking the Networks". 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 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. NADP subcommittee meetings, open to all, convene October 18. 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 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.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Worrall, J.J.;** Marchetti, S.B.; Egeland, L.; Mask, R.A.; Eager, T.; Howell, B. 2010. Effects and etiology of sudden aspen decline in southwestern Colorado, USA. *Forest Ecology and Management*. 260: 638-648.
2. **The Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC)** spring/summer edition of the newsletter *Forest ThreatNet* is now available online at the EFETAC website: <http://www.forestthreats.org/news-events/newsletter>.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**The USDA Forest Service**, Southern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis Program is currently advertising for the Deputy (Assistant) Program Manager position in Knoxville, TN. This is a permanent, full-time position and is advertised as a Supervisory Biological Scientist. The position accomplishes work related to the conceptualization, design, documentation, and management of agricultural development programs or projects; designs, documents, and evaluates mission-specific and/or centralized agricultural development programs or projects; performs the administrative and human resource management functions relative to the staff supervised; plans, schedules, and assigns work to subordinates; establishes guidelines and performance expectations for staff members; provides feedback and periodically evaluates employee performance; provides advice, counsel, and/or instruction to staff members; recommends or approves appointments, selections, or reassignments to positions appropriate to the selection authority delegated; effects disciplinary measures as appropriate to the authority delegated in this area; and carries out Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policies and program activities. The position is open to US citizens (Job announcement number 10-3367-0343DP-CDO), and to status eligibles (Job announcement number 10-3367-0343-CDO) as explained in the job announcement. The position is open to **August 18, 2010**. Complete information including how to apply is listed on <http://usajobs.gov>.

**The New Mexico Forestry Division** is currently advertising for a Forest Entomologist (Forester-A) position located in Santa Fe, NM. This position is responsible for managing the Forestry Division's Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management Program. This position is responsible for managing the Forestry Division's Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management Program. The position will conduct activities that assess and detect, prevent and suppress forest pest infestations and disease conditions on state and private forestlands in New Mexico. This position provides leadership, guidance, direct technical

assistance, and other services to State and private land managers and landowners. This position is a critical first line of defense in regard to identifying unhealthy forests stands and watersheds, which left untreated, are very susceptible to wildland fire. This position gathers this data by discovery, identification and reporting of damaging pests. Discovery is accomplished by surveillance and/or planned surveys. This position is responsible for the annual forest insect and disease condition report and aerial survey maps which will be submitted to the U.S. Forest Service in September of each year. Systematic detection surveys of forestlands are conducted to augment discovery of pest problems obtained by field surveillance. Areas to be surveyed will be prioritized by coordinating with the U.S. Forest Service. Problem areas detected in aerial survey will be ground checked wherever appropriate. Apply between July 26, 2010 and **August 8, 2010**. For complete information, visit [www.spo.state.nm.us](http://www.spo.state.nm.us) and search for forest entomologist.

**The USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region** will soon be advertising a Biological Science Technician position with the Forest Health Management Staff. The position is full-time and is located at the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, Colorado. The incumbent serves as the Lakewood Service Center biological science technician and provides technical assistance to entomologists and plant pathologists in field surveys, laboratory studies, and biological evaluations of forested land along the Front Range and the northern portion of Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, and Kansas. Major field duties include providing assistance in pest detection surveys in the air and on the ground. Laboratory duties include the collection, rearing, and identification of insect and disease organisms. The incumbent is required to be proficient in basic forestry, biological data collection and summarization, and must be proficient in the use of computers, software, and other electronic equipment (e.g., data loggers, GPS data recorders). The incumbent will be required to work in mountainous, steep, and uneven terrain under variable or inclement weather conditions. A major portion of the work includes annual aerial pest detection and sketch mapping surveys flying in single engine aircraft over mountainous terrain. The position requires considerable travel (weekly overnight travel) throughout the Lakewood Service Center area and the Rocky Mountain Region. The vacancy announcement will be issued soon and will be available via [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov). Questions or interest should be directed to Jeff Witcosky at [jwitcosky@fs.fed.us](mailto:jwitcosky@fs.fed.us) or 303-236-9541 by **August 12, 2010**. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

**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)