

State, Private & Tribal Forestry, Forest Health Protection | Connecting People to Conserve Forests

Spotlight Story | January 16, 2024

Region 5 Forest Health Protection: Training the next generation of land managers

Forest Health Protection entomologists and plant pathologists had a busy year in 2023 providing forest insect and disease identification and management training to Forest Service employees and partners across the state and beyond. Training sessions were mostly held in the field highlighting the most important pest agents affecting forest health. Participants were shown examples of bark beetles, defoliators, root diseases, cankers, and mistletoes as well as other agents that play important roles in forest ecosystems, often determining forest density, species composition and size class of trees. The impacts that these forest pests can have on recreation, wildlife, timber and fuels management objectives were emphasized with treatment alternatives presented to reduce their negative impacts. Sessions also included additional information on invasive pests and hazard trees.



Participants learn about forest insects, diseases and hazard trees during a training on the Sequoia National Forest.

Multi-day training sessions were held in Eureka, Redding, Quincy and Big Bear Lake with the assistance of CAL FIRE forest health specialists and in Reno, NV to assist partners in Region 4. In between the multi-day sessions, one-day trainings were conducted on the Sequoia, Inyo, Sierra, Lassen, Plumas, and Tahoe National Forests and Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park. Approximately 150 people attended the training sessions

representing a wide array of partners including multiple National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service Research, Forest Inventory and Analysis, US Geological Survey, Nevada Division of Forestry, National Forest Foundation, Great Basin Institute, American Conservation Experience, Whitebark Institute, and UC Berkeley.



Participants from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and Rocky Mountain Research Station learn about woodboring beetle activity in dwarf mistletoe-infected Jeffrey pine at Galena Creek Regional Park.

Additional field trainings included hazard tree mitigation and root disease management for southern Sierra forests that reached over 80 Forest Service employees, hazard tree and fungal pathogen training for eight members of the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians and root pathogen training for 76 people affiliated with partners in the western Pacific Islands. Forest Health Protection staff also

presented information at the California Forest Pest Council field trip where over 50 people from multiple State and Federal agencies and private industry learned about post-Caldor fire insect and disease impacts and tree

hazards. Finally, in October, sixth graders from multiple Lassen County school districts learned about forest health issues from Forest Health Protection staff as part of their weeklong outdoor camp.

Providing forest insect and disease and hazard tree training is an important part the Forest Health Protection mission. More multi-day sessions are being planned for the 2024 calendar year and local training requests are typically accommodated.

Please check out the R5 Forest Health Protection website for more forest health resources and a list of forest entomologists and plant pathologists in your area:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/forest-grasslandhealth>



Lassen County 6th graders learn about local tree species and what makes a healthy forest.