

Western North American Defoliator Working Group: Where do we go from here?

Notes from the Concurrent Session at the Western Forest Insect Work Conference

March 7, 2013

Members Present

Kathy Sheehan (moderator)	Amanda Grady
Bruce Hostetler	Iral Ragenovich
Lia Spiegel	Mike Johnson
Laura Lazarus	Tom Eckberg
David Beckman	Amy Gannon
Beth Willhite	Glenn Kohler
Stephen Nicholson	Rob Flowers
Nancy Sturdevant	Sandy Kegley
Connie Mehmel (note taker)	Adam Polinko

WNADWG History

The WNADWG was originally organized to review defoliator control projects. John Wenz was the chair. Currently it is a loose organization that meets in late November or December to review condition reports and discuss new defoliator issues. The date is set to coincide with a time when Aerial Detection Survey data is available. The group did not meet in 2011 or 2012. Should we start it up again?

Folks who were doing the DFTM Early Warning System trapping used meet to review results and plan the next year's trapping program. Later, the group evolved to include other defoliators.

When the Special Technology Development Projects (STDP) program started, WNADWG became one of the technical committees giving advice to that program. However, WNADWG no longer advises the STDP program.

Possible Meeting Option: Coordinate with BBTWG

We discussed meeting jointly with the Bark Beetle Technical Working Group. BBTWG meets annually (usually in October) to provide input regarding research needs. It is a small group, and prefers to remain focused on bark beetles. Currently there are few FS researchers working on defoliators, and no more emphasis on aerial application.

Beth attended the BBTWG last fall, and currently chairs the group. They will meet in October 2013 in the Hood River, OR, area. While they prefer to meet separately, they are open to coordinating with WNADWG to have "back to back" meetings in the same location.

Why have Working Group meetings?

- Exchange knowledge across regions, learn from each other, mentor new people.
- Provide formal training as needed
- Identify partners for projects or research; general coordination.
- Share data and publications.
- Provide group input on issues that should be raised upward.

- Identify research needs (i.e. climate change).
- Incentive to write up reports.
- Provide ongoing documentation for the future.
- Brainstorm to address issues raised by participants.

Meeting Logistics:

Be sure researchers are on the email list, i.e. Rob Progar (pine butterfly, balsam woolly adelgid), Ann Lynch (western spruce budworm, spruce aphid). The email list should be standardized; it is now cumulative (based on who attended the most recent meetings).

Should we meet every 2 years? Probably not. There is a sense of urgency about outbreaks.

What time of year should we meet? For 2013, we will coordinate with the BBTWG and meet at Hood River, OR, in October. October is a difficult time for folks working on aerial survey. Traditionally we have met in late November (after the Thanksgiving holiday week) or during the first 2 weeks in December, when aerial survey results are usually available and few other meetings are scheduled. After coordinating our meeting with the BBTWG meeting for 2013, we'll evaluate whether to continue synchronizing these two meetings.

We will keep the groups separate. Tentatively, we plan to start Monday afternoon (10/28/2013) and meet for 1½ days.

Topics:

- Highlights by defoliator (no condition reports)
- Condition reports as handouts (1 page limit)
- Emerging issues
- Posters

Field trip? No; it's the wrong time of year.

No powerpoints – though a few images of new insects or damage are fine. This will be a round table discussion.

Assignments:

- Beth Willhite – 2013 local arrangements
- Kathy Sheehan – maintain email list (contact ksheehan@fs.fed.us) and website (www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r6/fhp/wnadwg)
- Nancy Sturdevant – program chair (2013-2014)
- Glenn Kohler – program chair (2015-2016)
- Stephen Nicholson – will send Kathy a list of Canadians who might be interested

Location will be rotated. To minimize travel costs, meeting locations need to be easy to access.

What about a name change? (No other names were proposed.)