

Forest Health Monitoring Program Monthly Update December 2010

WHAT'S NEW

The **Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET)** is pleased to announce the initial release of the Forest Health Protection (FHP) mapping and reporting portal www.foresthealth.info for your information and review. This website brings together a wide range of complex tabular and spatial databases while providing access to these data in a consistent fashion through two simple web interfaces; Forest Pest Conditions and Data Summaries. Additional websites for cooperating staff conducting Aerial Detection Surveys and those reporting forest pest events have also been developed to maintain these data, but are only available after training and the issuance of a password. Initial regional representatives have already been contacted regarding this training. As familiarity with these tools and interest increase, FHTET plans to broaden the input audience significantly. Built using the latest geospatial web site technology and designed to be a companion to the annual Major Forest Insect and Disease Conditions Reports (<http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/adsm.shtml>), the Forest Pest Conditions page provides:

- A simple mapping interface through which the distribution of damaging forest insect and disease populations and their biological range can be viewed for the last five years.
- An "FHP database of record" for individual pest range.
- An overview of biology, current conditions and survey methods, along with photos and web links for each forest insect and disease.
- Access to pest activity trends.
- The ability to generate reports and download tabular information.
- The ability to "Live link" to other databases in development (read no double entry)

The Data Summaries interface provides the ability to review, query, and download tabular data for all forest insect and disease activity recorded across the United States since 2005. A more sophisticated website will address more complex queries and access to the entire database for the FHP community soon. FHTET has currently reconciled data for the thirty pests commonly found in pest conditions reports, but would like to document all important pests, and acknowledge that several are currently missing. FHTET would like assistance in broadening the list and fixing questionable range information. Questions regarding the website or the data portrayed should be directed to Frank Krist (fkrist@fs.fed.us), Eric L. Smith (elsmith@fs.fed.us), or Frank Sapio (fsapio@fs.fed.us).

NEWS ABOUT FHM PARTNERS

Region 10 of the U.S. Forest Service is pleased to announce that Dustin Wittwer, GIS and Aerial Survey Specialist with the Southeast Alaska Field Office of FHP has accepted a promotion to Biological Scientist with the Information Resource Management Staff with the Regional Office in Juneau, Alaska. We thank Dustin for his outstanding efforts in support of the FHM program in Alaska and wish him well in his new position.

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

***January 11-14, 2011.** Annapolis, MD. 22nd USDA Interagency Research Forum on Invasive Species. The General Session topics are: applying population ecology to strategies for eradicating invasive forest insects; chemical and behavioral cues used by *Buprestid* and *Cerambycid* wood borers; bio-economic analysis of forest insect and disease invasions to support more sound trade policies; and emerald ash borer program highlights. A variety of other topics will be covered in invited and offered presentations. There also will be poster display sessions throughout the meeting. For complete information about the meeting including a preliminary agenda, lodging information, and information about submitting a poster, visit www.nrs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive_species/interagency_forum/.

***March 22-23, 2011.** Milford, PA. The 73rd Annual Northeastern Forest Pest Council Meeting. Registration materials, hotel information, and an agenda will be emailed in December. The developing agenda will include a field tour of long-term ecological research sites in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area, a tour of Gifford Pinchot's ancestral home, the return of the Kodachrome slide parade, the Gerald N. Lanier graduate student forum, and State and Province forest pest updates. Additional information will be listed here as it becomes available.

May 3-5, 2011. Lexington, KY. Joint Meeting of the 2nd Kentucky Invasive Species Conference and the 13th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Conference. This meeting will encompass topics related to the research, management, outreach, education, and policy of invasive species in the eastern and central regions of the United States. Contributions in the following major areas are welcomed: (1) Ecology of invasive species and their impact on ecosystem functions and processes, (2) Invasive species management, and (3) Invasive species education and policy. Deadline for oral and poster presentation abstracts is **February 7, 2011**. Please submit your abstract electronically via <http://invasives2011.org>, including the following information (1) type of submission – Oral Presentation or Poster, (2) title of the submission, (3) the author(s) and their affiliations, (4) corresponding author's mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and email

address, and (5) abstract (250 words or less). The conference will publish electronic proceedings. All presenters are encouraged to submit a full-length paper. All presentations will be published online unless a waiver form is signed. Questions may be directed to Songlin Fei at songlin.fe@uky.edu. Complete conference information is available at <http://invasives2011.org>.

JOB **OPPORTUNITIES**

The USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station is currently advertising a Forester GS-0460-09/11 position. This is a full time permanent position located in Pennsylvania. This position provides computer program and/or system design assistance; provides assistance and technical support in data capture, conversion and manipulation, and extraction of information from the database, and technical expertise and coordination in the design, implementation, management, analysis, and use of resource spatial and attribute databases (this involves the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and Microsoft Access or Oracle. Analyzes forest inventory and analysis (FIA) data for customers); collaborates with team members on joint projects, and consults with and/or assists researchers; and may include training other program staff in technical applications, operation of specialized software, and implementation of new technology. This position is open to the public (vacancy number 11-24500003-0488DP-CP) and to status candidates (vacancy number 11-24500003-0488G-CP). The position closes **December 20, 2010**. See the full announcement including instructions for applying at www.usajobs.opm.gov. *USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.*

The USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station (SRS) will soon be advertising a vacancy for a GS12/13 Research Scientist, to be located in Athens, GA. The scientist will serve as a research pathologist in SRS-4552: Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants. SRS-4552 is part of the SRS “Threats to Forest Health” science Area, which contributes to generating, integrating, and applying knowledge to (1) predict, detect, assess, and prevent environmental threats to public and private forests in the east; (2) develop silvicultural treatments to reduce the vulnerability of forests to threats; (3) mitigate impacts; and (4) deliver this knowledge to managers in ways that are timely, useful, and user friendly. The mission of this unit is to provide the basic biological and ecological knowledge and innovative management strategies required for management and control of native and non-native insect pests (including bark beetles and termites), pathogens and invasive plants in changing forest ecosystems. The scientist will be responsible for conceiving, planning, designing, implementing, and reporting personal research. The primary focus of the scientist’s research will be to investigate non-native, invasive organisms in an effort to understand their basic pathology, biology, and population structure, which is further complicated by human-created changes in the forest environment. In carrying out this research assignment, the scientist must assemble cooperative alliances with various disciplines such as entomology,

silviculture, soil science, and tree physiology, and molecular genetics. The scientist must devise new methodologies in order to address the more basic questions centered on the mechanisms of action associated with tree-pathogen interactions. Publications, consultations, oral and poster presentations, and written recommendations disseminate research information. Users of information and technology generated by the scientist are National Forest silviculturists, Forest Health Specialists (International, State, and Federal), the academic scientific community and private individuals. If you are interested in this position, please use the response form attached to this Update as attachment 1 to express your interest by December 30, 2010. You can send your response to Doug Streett by e-mail to dastreett@fs.fed.us or mail it to: Douglas Streett, 2500 Shreveport Highway, Pineville, LA 71360. This is just a pre-announcement. Please do not send application materials including resumes and transcripts at this time. When the position is advertised, the announcement will be posted on the Office of Personnel Management web site www.usajobs.opm.gov and will include instructions and a list of required application materials. The announcement will contain all of the information you need to apply for the position. *USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. The purpose of this early alert is to maximize diversity of the pool of candidates for this outreach opportunity. USDA prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. The Forest Service provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application or detail process, please notify Cheryl Jefferson at 828-259-0562.*

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1. Staeben, J.C.; Clarke, S.; Gandhi, K.J.K.** 2010. Black turpentine beetle. Forest Insect and Disease Leaflet 12, revised April 2010. FS/R6/RO/FIDL#12-11/002. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region (R6). 8 p.

FOR MORE FHM INFORMATION

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

Outreach Response Form

USDA Forest Service
Southern Research Station

Position Title/Series/Grade: **Research Plant Pathologist, GS-434-12/13**

Duty Station: Athens, GA

I am interested in the position and will call the contact person, in addition to checking <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> for the position announcement, which will be posted at a later date.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

E-Mail: _____

Current Federal Employee? Yes_____ No_____

Current title/series/grade/location: _____

Current type of appointment: _____
(e.g., Career, Career-Conditional, Excepted, Excepted VRA, etc)

Submit Outreach Notice no later than December 30, 2010 to:

Douglas Streett

E-mail: dastreett@fs.fed.us or

Mail: Alexandria Forestry Center

2500 Shreveport Highway

Pineville, LA 71360

Phone: (318) 473-7238

It is anticipated that the vacancy announcement will be posted on OPM's USA Jobs website (www.usajobs.opm.gov).

Please do not send résumés and/or transcripts when responding to this Outreach notice.