



## Forest Health Monitoring Brief



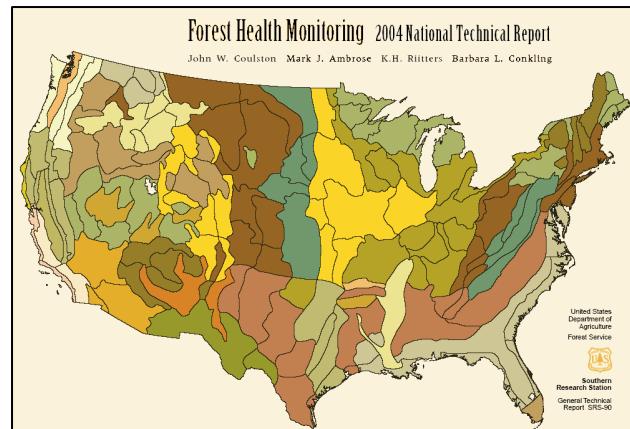
# Reporting

### Objective

A major objective of the Forest Health Monitoring Program is to report on the status and trends of forest health conditions with a focus on addressing key forest health issues identified through detection monitoring efforts. A comprehensive set of detection monitoring information is derived from analyses of a variety of data; Forest Health Protection insect and disease surveys, Forest Inventory and Analysis plots and information from other government agencies pertaining to weather, fire, forest fragmentation, and acidic deposition. Different kinds of reports are written for audiences ranging from technical to the general public as described in the FHM Reporting Plan.

### FHM Reporting Plan

A Reporting Plan for the FHM Program (Steinman et al, unpublished) was revised in 2004 to provide general guidance about the type and frequency of reporting to be conducted by the FHM Program. The plan describes a framework for publishing National, Regional (Multi-State), and State reports on forest conditions and trends. The reporting plan was prepared using a process similar to that used to create the 1998 reporting plan - a team of forest health specialists from different agencies and programs was used to provide different perspectives on reporting. Reviews by other participants with the FHM, FHP, and FIA Programs were used for additional editing. Final edits to the draft were presented to the FHM Management Team for a policy review, approval and publication.



Annual FHM National Technical Reports focus on broad scale analyses of multi-agency data to assess reductions in forest biological diversity, productivity, tree vitality, and soil quality as associated with threats from fragmentation, invasive insects and diseases, fire, drought, and air pollutants.

### National Reports

Annual FHM National Reports are produced to present forest health analyses from a national perspective, and to present techniques useful for analyzing large forest health data sets. Indicators of forest health are used based on those described in the Criteria and Indicators for Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (Anon. 1995a). These reports summarize the general status and trends of forest conditions, detect areas that deviate from normal conditions, and provide guidance for identifying topics of interest for evaluation monitoring projects. The FHM Program also provides information used in other national reporting efforts including The Heinz Center Report on the State of the Nation's Ecosystems, the 2003 Sustainability Report utilizing the Montreal Process of Criteria and Indicators, and the EPA US/Canada Air Quality Report.

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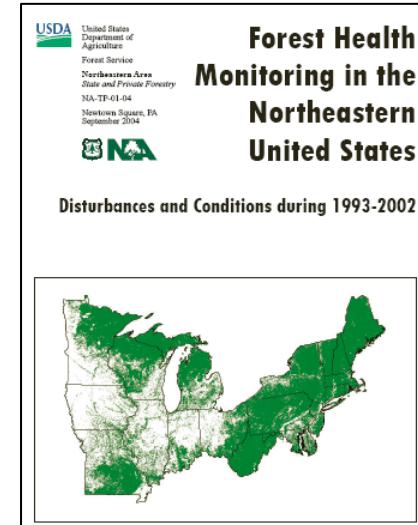
FHM website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm>

## Multi-State and Regional Reports

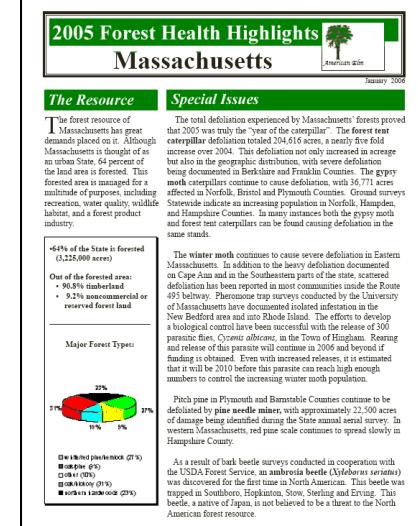
Regional FHM Programs produce Multi-State and Regional Reports that provide information with greater spatial detail than presented in National Reports. Multi-State/Regional reports can follow different formats; 1) a comprehensive report effort on many forest health issues as they pertain to a geographic reporting region of interest, or 2) an in-depth reporting effort focused on addressing a particular issue. The geographic scope, scale of analysis, and timing of reports are each determined by FHM regional programs working with their partners. Although reports may cover a FHM administrative region, some forest health issues will define other Multi-State areas that are subsets of the administrative regions or a combination of States across multiple regions. As with State reports, there may be a sufficient overlap in material between the FHM and FIA Programs for collaborative reporting.

## State Reports

State Cooperators participate in the FHM Program by collecting data and identifying forest health issues that provide the building blocks of information used in National Reports and Multi-State/Regional Reports. State partners also collaborate in the development of annual FHM Forest Health Highlights that summarize insect and disease activities in their State along with other disturbance events. The contained information includes that provided to annual FHP Pest Condition Reports, along with survey data maps, tabular summaries and other graphics. Some summary statistics from the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program are also included in Forest Health Highlights to provide basic information about forest conditions. A goal is to enhance this information by including some data summaries on the Phase 3 forest health indicators measured and reporting on by the FIA Program.



The 2004 Regional FHM Report produced by the Northeastern Area addresses various forest health issues related to insects, diseases, fire, drought, forest fragmentation and air pollutants along with showing associated forest conditions.



FHM Forest Health Highlights are produced annually in cooperation with State Cooperators to summarize a variety of issues occurring in their States for a given year. Descriptive text provides is presented along with maps, tables and other graphics.

## The National FHM Program Web Site

Electronic versions of all reports produced by the FHM Program are available at the National FHM Program web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm>. This web site serves as a clearing house for reports and other information pertaining to the FHM Program activities.