

Forest Health Monitoring Program

Monthly Update

June 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

June 19-13, 2011. Roanoke, VA. The 8th North American Forest Ecology Workshop. The 8th North American Forest Ecology Workshop will be held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, in Roanoke, Virginia. The conference will allow forest ecologists from Canada, Mexico, and the United States to gather and exchange current research and management approaches with the backdrop of the hardwood forests of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The conference theme, "Forest Ecology in a Managed Landscape," reflects some of the challenges and opportunities faced by forest ecologists working in the southeastern United States – a region dominated by short-rotation pine plantations. Mid-conference field trips will allow attendees to tour local production-oriented pine forests, naturally regenerated hardwood forests, and nature preserves established to conserve some of the high biodiversity of the southern Appalachian Mountains. For complete information, visit the workshop website (<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/nafew/index.html>).

July 13-14, 2011. Calaveras Big Tree State Park, CA. The California Forest Pest Council will have their summer Weed Tour. For more information contact Tom Smith (California Department of Forestry and Fire) at 916-599-6882 or tom.smith@fire.ca.gov, or visit the California Forest Pest Council website at <http://caforestpestcouncil.org>. Information will be posted soon.

July 26, 2011. Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, CA. The California Forest Pest Council will have their summer Insect Disease and Animal Damage Tour. For more information contact Tom Smith (California Department of Forestry and Fire) at 916-599-6882 or tom.smith@fire.ca.gov, or visit the California Forest Pest Council website at <http://caforestpestcouncil.org>. Information will be posted soon.

***July 31 – August 5, 2011.** Eugene, OR. The Fourth International Workshop on the Genetics of Host-Parasite Interaction in Forestry: Disease and Insect Resistance in Forest Trees. Scientists from around the world will be convening in Eugene, Oregon at the Valley River Inn, for the Fourth International Workshop on the Genetics of Host-Parasite Interactions in Forestry: Disease and Insect Resistance in Forest Trees. It has been three decades since the last international workshop on 'Resistance Breeding in Forest Trees to Pathogens and Insects'. During this time, ongoing resistance programs have made significant progress, and several new serious insect and pathogen problems have arisen. Scientists, land managers and policy-makers with experience in genetics, tree breeding, pathology, entomology, physiology, evolutionary biology, forestry and other related areas are encouraged to attend to foster exchange of

ideas. The purpose of this workshop is to advance progress in genetic resistance programs by fostering collaboration between scientific and management communities from throughout the world. Updates on current status, issues and future plans for applied resistance programs, as well as research information and tools to fast-track the development and use of resistance in trees will be presented and discussed. Over 80 abstracts have been submitted for oral and poster presentations. The August 3rd field trip to the USDA Forest Service's Dorena Genetic Resource Center and US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard will feature operational resistance programs and species of the Pacific Northwest. For details or to register or book a room, visit the website:

http://ucanr.org/sites/tree_resistance_2011conference/.

***August 7-11, 2011.** Amos, Québec, Canada. 6th International Symposium on Root Development. Meeting organizers seek practitioners and scientists to contribute to a mixture of basic and applied science, and discuss advances and future directions in root development research with model plant species as well as those with applications in horticulture, agronomy, forestry, and general ecology. The meeting will bring together scientists from applied and fundamental studies on root induction and development of both embryonic and postembryonic root types. For more information, visit: <http://root2011.uqat.ca/>

October 5-6, 2011. Boulder, CO. The Seventh Meeting of the Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases. Save the date! Field trip options tentatively planned for Wednesday morning include: exploring impacts of 1000 cankers disease locally in the urban environment and the implications for the forest ecosystem in the East. The meeting will begin midday Wednesday and adjourn Thursday afternoon – current panel topics being considered include: Applying What we Know to Managing the Firewood Pathway; Climate Change Impacts on Forests and the Spread of Invasives; and Technology Applications for Managing Invasives. A draft agenda is available at www.continentalforestdialogue.org. For more information, please contact the meeting facilitation team at RESOLVE: Debbie Lee (dlee@resolv.org; 202-965-6381) or Beth Weaver (bweaver@resolv.org; 202-965-6211). For more information about the Dialogue, or to join the Dialogue, go to: www.continentalforestdialogue.org.

***October 18-19, 2011.** Utah State University, Logan, UT. Restoring the West Conference 2011: Sustaining Forests, Woodlands, and Communities Through Biomass use. The conference will examine how woody biomass harvest can facilitate land restoration projects while supplying much-needed fuel for renewable energy. Talks will focus on how biomass harvest can occur in ways that improve the ecological and financial feasibility of restoration projects. The conference will have a dual focus on the ecological effects of woody biomass harvest, and the technology of woody biomass harvest and use. Discussions will appeal to land managers and owners, researchers, and business people. For more information, visit: <http://www.restoringthewest.org/>

JOB
OPPORTUNITIES

The USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station' Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management Research Work Unit (RWU) in Asheville, North Carolina seeks an early-career scientist with interests in advancing landscape ecology, especially as it relates to ecosystem management and restoration and solving important applied research problems, and who has strong interests in interdisciplinary collaboration. The position is targeted for the GS-12 and GS-13 grade level. The successful candidate is expected to work independently and participate in multidisciplinary teams in formulation and execution of diverse research, technology transfer, and technical support directed at management and restoration of upland hardwood forest. Routine publication in scientific, peer-reviewed journals is expected. This is a permanent full-time scientific position covered by the Research Grade Evaluation Guide (RGEG). Application is open to all U.S. citizens. The mission of the Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management RWU is to develop and disseminate sound scientific information and strategies for restoring, managing, and sustaining the vegetation and wildlife of upland hardwood-dominated forest ecosystems of the southern Central Hardwood Region of the United States. The two main problem areas assigned to the team are (1) improving the understanding of how upland hardwood forests are affected by disturbances, both natural and silvicultural, across environmental gradients; and (2) determining the response of wildlife to silvicultural or other disturbance-induced changes in vegetation composition, habitat structure, and food resources, and improving techniques for wildlife inventory and monitoring. The incumbent's research is broadly interdisciplinary, integrative and collaborative. The primary research objectives are to understand and apply stand-scale forest response to natural, silvicultural, and other anthropogenic disturbances at multiple spatial scales in landscape-level models. Research is approached through a conceptual framework based on a hierarchy of spatial scales, in which large-scale factors constrain responses to smaller-scale factors. Knowledge gaps identified through landscape-scale analyses are addressed by targeted field studies, data analysis, and computer modeling. The resulting analytical tools are suitable for addressing contemporary multidisciplinary forest management issues as well as emerging issues such as climate change, exotic and invasive plant/pathogen issues, and bioenergy production. The incumbent works independently, and participates in and leads multidisciplinary teams that include other scientists and support staff in the RWU, scientists from other RWU's, land managers, University faculty, and partners in formulating and executing diverse research, technology transfer, and technical support efforts directed at management and restoration of forested ecosystems. Results of existing studies involving sites of varying qualities and/or silvicultural treatments can be used to calibrate or develop spatially explicit landscape models to forecast change in forest structure, species composition and spatial pattern in response to natural and anthropogenic disturbance regimes (e.g., succession, harvest, wind, ice, climate, or fire). The goals will not be to identify the future fate of an individual stand, but methods are well suited for comparing the cumulative, long-term, landscape-scale consequences of alternative management regimes. The modeling process identifies knowledge gaps that are prioritized and addressed with new research

studies. Outcomes will provide information useful to forest silviculturists, land managers, and ecologists. Landscape models have the capacity to forecast consequences of alternative management practices and policies on landscapes of large acreage. Results will provide comparisons of the impacts of different disturbance regimes (fire, wind, ice, climate, harvest) on standing timber, timber harvest, forest size/age structure, landscape pattern (e.g., patch size distribution, core area, amount of edge, location and timing of disturbances), carbon storage, and wildlife habitat suitability. Results are directly applicable to forest planning on National Forests and on other public and private forestlands. Methodologies are amenable to analysis of issues such as carbon sequestration, bioenergy production, species restoration, climate change mitigation, and aspects of forest sustainability. The significance of progress is that silviculturists, ecologists, land managers and land planners have a stronger scientific basis for conservation, and land management planning that guides their decision-making. Moreover, the science, models and management guidelines are integrated across multiple spatial scales – tree, stand, landscape, and ecoregion. The modeling tools and their application simultaneously address multiple components of forest change including species composition, age structure, diversity, volume, and habitat quality for numerous wildlife species. Scientific findings and associated models will be used for applied management problems and theoretical analyses of forest management practices at stand and landscape scales. Results will be disseminated by the incumbent through peer-reviewed and technical publications, professional meetings, workshops, field tours, and symposia and consultations. U.S. Office of Personnel Management qualifications standard for the GS-408, Ecology series will be used to determine whether applicants are qualified and can be reviewed in any Federal Personnel Office or are available on the internet at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.htm>. Candidates meeting the qualifications and interested in the position should submit a completed Outreach Response form, attached to this Update as Attachment 1, to James Kerzwick no later than **June 30, 2011**. It is anticipated that the vacancy announcement will be posted on OPM's USA Jobs website (www.usajobs.opm.gov). For more information about the position contact Katie Greenberg, Project Leader for the Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management Research Work Unit, at (828) 667-5261 or e-mail kgreenberg@fs.fed.us. *USDA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Aubry, C.; DeVine, W.; Shoal, R.; Bower, A.; Miller, J.; Maggiulli, N.** 2011. Climate Change and Forest Biodiversity: A Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan for National Forests in Western Washington. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region. 308 pp. <http://ecoshare.info/2011/05/09/climate-change-and-forest-biodiversity/>[Online: <http://ecoshare.info/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/CCFB.pdf>]

2. **Riitters, K.H.** 2011. Spatial patterns of land cover in the United States: a technical document supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-136. Asheville, NC: Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 64 p. Available online at: <http://treearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/37766>

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 Ecologist GS-0408/0460-12
Research Ecologist GS-0408/0460-13**

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 June 30, 2011 to:

James Kerzwick

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

Mail: Bent Creek Experimental Forest

1577 Brevard Road

Asheville, NC 28806

Phone: (828) 667-5261 x 114

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.