

# 2005 Focus Group Findings

**CEM can:**

- **Build engagement of communities**
- **Provide useful data**
- **Educate students and adults about the environment**



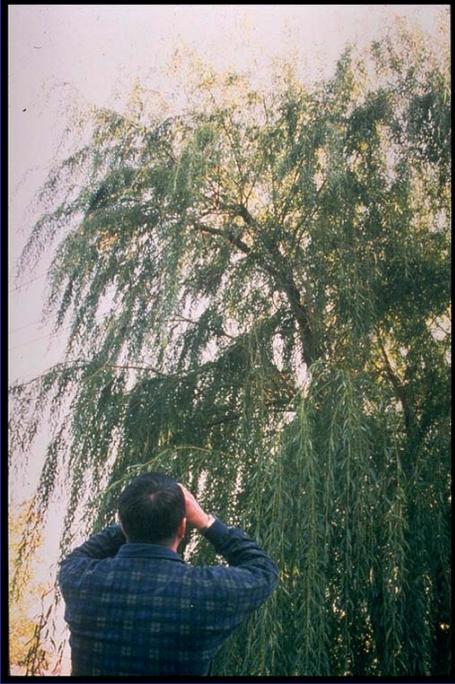
**Do you or does someone familiar  
in your agency use citizens or  
students to conduct any  
environmental monitoring or  
research?**

**NO: 32 64%**

**YES: 18 36%**

**What projects? Are/Were you satisfied?**

## 29 projects identified:



- **Surveys (water quality, amphibian populations, pest activity, tree canopy condition, exotic or invasive plant and insect detection)**
- **Research (students assist with deer exclosure study, mapping rare habitats)**
- **Extension (Teacher training, Master Gardeners, Oak Wilt Specialists, website and FAQ development)**

**Satisfied? Yes: 24 (84%) Mixed: 5 (16%)**



## **Best projects:**

- **Participants learned more about natural resources and monitoring techniques**
- **Useful, high quality data were obtained**
- **Good contact was provided with scientist**
- **Excellent training and repeatable procedures were necessary**
- **Retired scientists or interest group activated**
- **Volunteers helping funded staff**

# Less-successful Projects:



- **Data were not reliable**
- **Products were not widely used (monitoring kits, extension information, collected data)**
- **Difficult to get reports finished**

**Could your organization  
potentially benefit and/or your  
job be made easier or more  
effective by efficiently using  
CEMs?**

**YES: 34 72%**

**NO: 7 15%**

**MAYBE: 6 13%**

**(Did not answer: 3)**

# Ideas:



- **Invasive species detection**
- **Teach citizens how to assess their own forests (special lands, urban, forest certification)**
- **Communicate on forest issues, develop website content, disperse biocontrol agents**
- **Ozone indicator**
- **Snag surveys**
- **Aid professional monitors**

# Conclusions:



- There are opportunities to engage and use CEMs in the business of Forest Health Monitoring
- Some survey respondents are already using CEMs successfully for projects (36%). 37% of respondents have been asked for opportunities. 72% of respondents felt that using CEMs could make their jobs easier or more efficient.
- Not all FHM work can be shifted to CEMs and CEMs don't miraculously "save time"
- Training, QC and data handling needs are important
- Toolkits could facilitate standards, aid communication, and increase success.

# 2006 CEM Resolutions

1. FHM MT should continue to support the development, testing, and publication of toolkit protocols to facilitate Citizen Monitoring efforts for invasive plant detection/impact monitoring and plot-based assessments of forest condition in unique areas that are too small to be evaluated by the P2-P3 grid (e.g. urban parks, counties, linear features).

# 2006 CEM Resolutions

2. FHM MT should support the development of a “how to effectively work with CEMs” publication that synthesizes case studies and recommends to interested FHM participants how to work with CEMs and what makes a successful CEM collaboration.

# 2006 CEM Resolutions

3. FHM MT should commit to developing a national invasive plant detection monitoring system with CEMs as an integral part of the monitoring method and that can be piloted in the 2009 field season.