

Analysis and Reporting – Leading Forest Health Indicators

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Goals:

- Designate leading forest health indicators
- Who is responsible for analysis
- When where how to be reported
- Do we need a corporate look
- Do we want each state highlight to look the same

Issues

- Can we get to a group of leading indicators to define forest health?
- Bill: we are not reporting indicators that “mean anything”
- We can’t define “forest health” very well
- Indicators need to be measurable over time
- Other disciplines fair better than FHM
- Quality of life issues
- Need to identify linkages to other monitoring programs (EPA, NRCS, etc.)
- Indicators that are responsive
- Distinct Human impacts
- Keystone species as biological indicators
- Short term vs. long term indicators
- Concentrate on data that we collect that contribute to the indicators developed by the Montreal Process
- We could establish baseline insect and disease information based on historic
- Look at NYC watershed as an example of success of communicating forest health issues to the public
- Mortality is not a good indicator of forest health
- Develop USATODAY style figures to show overall forest health

Indicators

- Ability to capture and measure carbon (growth rate)
- Age and species distribution
- Desertification
- Dieback (recovery)
- Change in soil nutrition
- Water production/quality
- Forest Loss/Land Conversion/Ownership
- Presence and Abundance of Invasive Species
- Fragmentation/Parcelization
- Critical habitat
- Historic range data – setting benchmarks
- Resiliency of ecosystems
- Regeneration
- Pollution
- Lichens

- Land use/land use change
- Change in WUI
- Change in ecosystem functions
- Sustainability

Who is responsible to do the analysis?

- Are we reporting at the national, regional, or local level?
 - National generally agreed upon
- Who is the intended audience – public? Congress?
- FHM should act as the Expert panel to deliver these leading forest health indices
- Develop a website for data entry for reporting forest health indicators?
- Leading Indicators:
 1. Area of Forest Land
 - a. Fragmentation
 - b. parcelization
 - c. Land conversion
 2. Age Distribution and Composition
 3. Presence and Abundance of Invasives
 4. Change in native pest activity
 5. Fire
 6. Pollution – ozone, lichens
 7. Water Quality