

Forest Health Monitoring Program Highlights

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National Program Manager





2012 Program Highlights

- Management Team
- Evaluation Monitoring
- Reporting Highlights
- Budget Summary
- Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Forest Service

FHM Management Team

- **Chair – National Program Manager- Borys Tkacz**

- **FHP Rep. for each FHM Region**
 - NE – Jim Steinman
 - NC – Manfred Mielke
 - SO – Dale Starkey
 - INT –Jeri Lyn Harris
 - WC – Alison Nelson

- **State Rep. for each FHM Region**
 - NE – **Tom Hall, PA**
 - NC – **Roger Mech, MI**
 - SO – Chris Asaro, VA
 - INT – **Les Koch, WY**
 - WC – Tom Smith, CA

- **FIA National Program Leader – Greg Reams**
- **FHM National Research Team – Kurt Riitters**
- **NFS EMC – Tracy Hancock**
- **FHTET – Frank Sapio**
- **SPF U&CF - Keith Cline**

Evaluation Monitoring Projects 2012

BASE

- **White pine blister rust in AZ – INT**
- **Mountain pine beetle, C/N cycling – INT**
- **Limber Pine and MPB – INT**
- **Walnut health in SW – INT**
- **White bark pine and MPB - INT**
- **Bur oak blight in IA – NC**
- **Sugar maple dieback - NC**
- **Beech Bark Disease in WI – NC**
- **Long-term effects of EAB – NC**
- **Eastern larch beetle - NC**
- **White Ash in Allegheny Plateau – NE**
- **Causes of mortality in VT – NE**
- ***Phytophthora cinamomi* & oak mortality – NE**
- **Beech bark disease resistance – NE**
- **Southern pine beetle in NJ - NE**
- **Southern pine decline – SO**
- **Laurel wilt disease – SO**
- ***Myoporum* thrips in HI – WC**
- **White bark pine health in OR, WA, CA – WC**
- **Shore pine mortality in AK - WC**

FIRE PLAN

- **Pandora moth prediction in AZ – INT**
- **Fuels in high elev. 5-needle pines – INT**
- **Mountain pine beetle outbreaks & fire – INT**
- **Mountain pine beetle in riparian forests – INT**
- **Effects of reburns on DWM, carbon, and productivity – INT**
- **Mountain pine beetle, fuels, and fire behavior – INT**
- **White bark pine health in GYE – INT**
- **Bark beetles in SW Ponderosa pine - INT**
- ***Ailanthus* and oak restoration in OH – NC**
- **Impact of climate change on SE forests – SE**
- **Hurricanes and fire risk in Southeast – SE**
- **Southern CA bark beetle impacts – WC**
- **Resiliency of ponderosa pine to bark beetles – WC**
- **Impacts of pine butterfly in OR - WC**

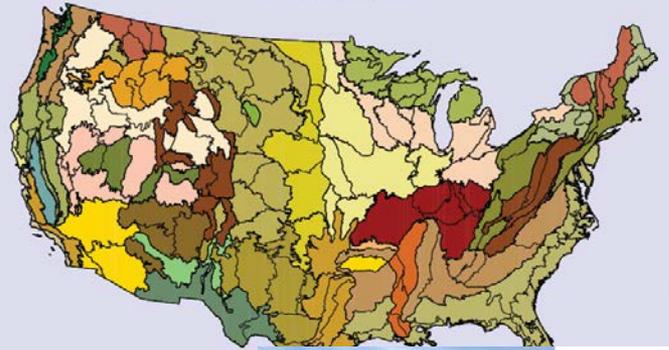
Reporting Highlights

- National Reports
 - FHM National Technical Reports
 - 2007 published
 - 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 in press (posted on FHM website)
 - 2012 in review
- Forest Health Highlights – 2011
- FHM Website URL:

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

Forest Health Monitoring: 2007 National Technical Report

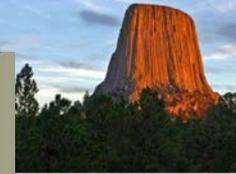
Barbara L. Conkling, Editor



United States
Department of
Agriculture
Forest
Service

Forest
Health
Monitoring
Report
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Wyoming 2011 Forest Health Highlights



National Monument. Photo taken from the Wyoming State Official Travel Website.

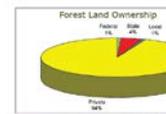
The screenshot shows the website's homepage with a navigation menu on the left, a main content area with a 'Welcome' message, and a sidebar with 'Hot Topics' and 'What's New' sections. The 'Hot Topics' list includes items like 'Asian Longhorned Beetle', 'Emerald Ash Borer', and 'Sudden Oak Death'. The 'What's New' section lists '2004 Aerial Survey Results' and 'Forest Health Monitoring National Technical Report'.

The cover features the title 'Forest Health Highlights MAINE' and three circular images showing forest scenes: a tree with a hole, a close-up of a tree trunk, and a forest landscape.

Forest Resource Summary

Almost all of the forest lands in Maine are privately owned—approximately 94 percent—with only 1 percent in Federal ownership that encompasses the eastern portion of the White Mountain National Forest. The latest Maine forest inventory estimates that there are approximately 17.7 million acres in the State that are forested. The forest resource is made up of a variety of forest types, mostly spruce and balsam fir, maples, other hardwoods, and pine.

Maine's forests provide much of the raw materials to fuel the State's mills and serve as the backdrop for the recreation industry. These forest-based industries employ more than 12 percent of Maine's workforce and generate more than 11 percent of the State's payroll. The overall annual contribution of the forest resource to Maine's economy exceeds \$8.5 billion. The forests of the State also



Forest Health Programs in the Northeast

State forestry agencies work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor forest conditions and trends. In their State and respond to pest outbreaks to protect the forest resource.

Forest General Description:

land area of over 62.6 million acres with roughly 17 percent of this land area classified as two percent classified as woodlands. Timberlands are composed of tree species used in the forest products industry. Woodlands are composed of woody species that have not been used by industry, but are important for ecological reasons. Lodgepole pine is the most common tree type covering over 2.6 million acres of forest land; second is spruce-fir at 1.8 million acres of forest area; Douglas-fir and Engelmann spruce each represent 1.1 million acres of forest area; whitebark pine five percent; four percent. There are roughly 24,000 non-industrial private forest landowners in

Key Issues/Concerns:

Recent forest health concern in Wyoming continues to be the spread of mountain pine beetle, additional 163,000 acres were detected across Wyoming bringing the total number of acres since the early to mid 1990s. Mountain pine beetle mortality was observed on the Laramie Mountains range from Casper to the Colorado border. Since 1996, roughly 10 million acres have been affected by mountain pine beetle over the Laramie Mountains range.

Over 1.5 million acres at risk of significant basal area loss associated with bark-beetle mortality over the next 15 years. The at-risk acres are located in every forested part of the state and conditions combined with favorable weather conditions have allowed mountain pine beetle and spruce beetle populations to increase statewide. Forest stands are mostly mature and overly dense. Bark beetle caused tree mortality has significantly affected the national Forest, Shoshone National Forest, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and national Forest in addition to surrounding state and private lands. The Big Horn National Forest and surrounding state and private lands are also experiencing a lot of tree mortality caused by bark beetles. Mountain pine beetle susceptible hosts as small diameter are currently being attacked and subsequently killed statewide. An ongoing beetle outbreak continues to kill large amounts of ponderosa pine in the Black Hills in Wyoming.



Budget Summary

Program Component	FY 2010 Allocated \$K	FY 2011 Allocated \$K	FY 2012 Allocated \$K
Federal Lands Survey	812	812	737
Cooperative Lands Survey* <small>* Federal Share of 50/50 Cost Shared Program</small>	2628	2628	2703
FHM Analysis	234	195	100
SOD Detection Surveys	441	426	376
EM Base Projects	734	875	875
EM Fire Plan Projects	500	575	534
Analysis & Reporting-RTP	150	150	150
National Activities	203.5	92	40
TOTAL	5702.5	5753	5515

Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessments

A Strategy to Improve the IM&A
System





IM&A Project Purpose

Identify and recommend improvements to achieve an agency-wide IM&A system that is integrated, aligned, effective and efficient in supporting priority business requirements of the Forest Service and partners.



IM&A System Improvement: Why Now?

- Environmental threats and evolving “business requirements”
- Increasing need for collaboration and transparency.
- Available resources are not likely to increase.
- There is a need to be more proactive in assessing and managing risks and impacts.



IM&A Problem Statement

The Forest Service does not have a comprehensive system for managing IM&A activities.

- We lack consistent, accurate, timely, transparent and accessible resource information to answer core management questions.
- We do not have effective policy, direction, processes and governance for IM&A activities and investments.
- Collaboration with partners is not as consistent and inclusive as it needs to be.
- Significant data gaps and redundancies exist within the system.



Approach and Status

- Established IM&A Steering Committee and Core Team
- Engaged Partners and Stakeholders:
 - FS Leadership
 - FS Program Managers
 - FS IM&A Practitioners
 - Agency partners
 - NGOs
 - Tribes
- Collaboratively developing goals, objectives, strategic improvements and implementation actions
- Draft strategy undergoing broad review



IM&A Vision

Land managers have the resource information they need to manage all lands in a collaborative way.

To support this, an IM&A system needs to:

- Work with partners and stakeholders toward shared objectives.
- Integrate Forest Service programs in this common effort.
- Continually implement program and process improvements.



Desired Condition of the IM&A System

IM&A information, technology and processes:

- Use the best available science (scientific credibility).
- Are accessible and accurate.
- Support an all-lands approach.
- Are collaborative, transparent, timely, and useful.
- Are based on national standards and processes developed with partners.
- Are adaptive and responsive to changing conditions and business requirements.



Broad Scope of the IM&A System

Address priority business requirements such as:

- Ecosystem / watershed health and sustainability
- National & broad scale FS and partner assessments
- Adapting to a changing climate – Climate Change Scorecard
- New Planning Rule (broad-scale monitoring)
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
- Montreal Process reporting



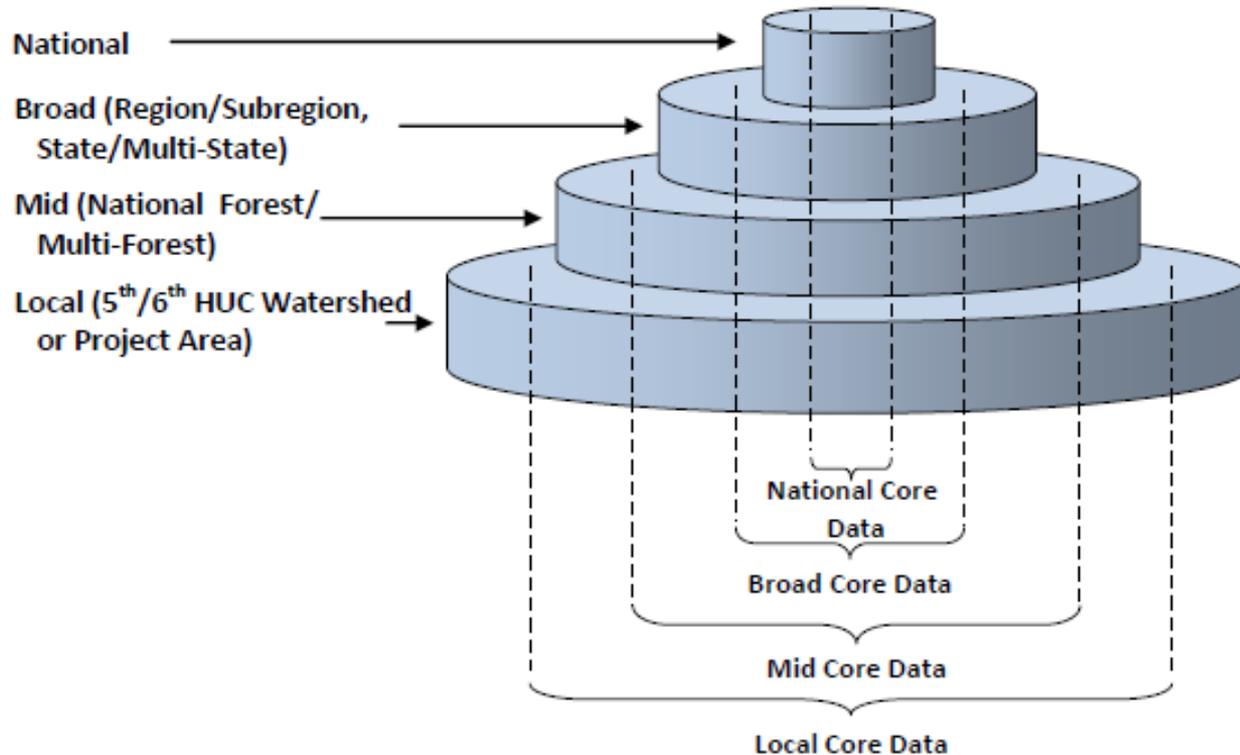
Approach

- Define priority Forest Service and partner business requirements.
- Identify the associated core management questions.
- Improve the IM&A system to focus on delivering the information that answers those core management questions.



“Core” Information Concept

Organizational Level (Geographic Scale)





Steps to Success

- We are building on prior efforts, current successful programs, and lessons learned.
- We are being strategic and concentrating on what is most important.
- The system will be adaptive, through phased implementation, innovation, and continuous learning.
- All FS deputy areas are involved and committed.
- We are engaging our partners.