

Aerial Detection Survey (ADS) / Disturbance Tracking Focus Group

Leaders: Jeff Mai, FS, WO; Aviation Safety Manager FHP, Chair ASWG
Frank Sapio, FS, WO; Director FHTET
Gail Durham, Nevada Division of Forestry

The Focus Group will briefly review and provide updates to FHM Resolutions and relevant Aerial Survey Working Group (ASWG) Key Issues from the January 2007 meetings. The remainder of the session will center on issues identified by the FHM management team.

Focus Group attendees should come prepared to discuss progress on last year’s resolutions and topics for 2008 (Digital Aerial Mapping System, field checks, ADS as it relates to Criterion and Indicators of Sustainability, metadata, and disturbance tracking). Specific issues include:

1. How do we improve the consistency, quality, and coverage of disturbance tracking and reporting Nationally?
2. What is the real cost of aerial survey?
Who benefits from this cost?
3. What are the obstacles to “complete” National Reporting?

Evaluating successes and continuing to improve upon existing methods of data collection and reporting will be the focus. Advances in mapping technology and guidelines for ground checks hone aerial sketchmapper skills and increase the reliability and accuracy of data collected. Missions Metadata and standards via DASM may assist users in assessing the conditions under which aerial survey data is collected, facilitating determination of appropriate data use. Perseverance in these endeavors is necessary to best meet the needs of forest health professionals and the public concerned with forest planning and management at all levels. Utilizing these data in related studies and reports, such as the Roundtable for Sustainable Forestry, Criterion and Indicators and pest event reporting, continues to be explored and enhanced where applicable. Near Real Time Disturbance mapping using MODIS will be discussed as a tool to aid identifying areas of mortality and Disturbance immediately prior to surveys being flown to potentially augment flight planning and increase data utility and efficiency. Further development of tools and technology to facilitate cost-effective, safe operations remains a recurring theme in this year’s focus group.

Hours Allotted	Topic	Discussion Leader
1.5	Progress Report on Last Year’s Resolutions & Pertinent ASWG Key Issues. Carryover Resolutions.	Jeff Mai – WO
1.5	MODIS Disturbance Tracking. Discuss Resolutions.	Everett Hinkley (Mark Finco or Eric Nielsen) – WO
1	Cost of Aerial Survey. Discuss Resolutions.	Jeff Mai - WO
1.5	Obstacles to National Reporting. Discuss Resolutions.	Frank Krist – WO
1	Wrap-up, Refine New Resolutions.	Frank Sapio – WO