

FHM West Coast Region – State Highlights
January 2004

Alaska (Roger Burnside, Alaska Department of Natural Resources)

- High profile project: Biocontrol against exotic birch leafminer. Trees turn brown in late July or mid August. Probably doesn't kill trees, but does pre-dispose them to secondary agents. Widespread in Anchorage area. APHIS permit required to obtain live parasitized larvae from Canada. Got permit. Project is on track. Challenge is getting enough larvae and parasitoids collected to do release next July. Applied for suppression funds also.
- Spruce beetle outbreak back to endemic levels in most areas. Are still active in spots. Focus on restoration efforts. Kenai Borough has applied for cooperative funds for large project.
- INFEST Symposium planned for February, 2004. This is a culmination of work, research, and results of last 15 years studying the Spruce Beetle epidemic. Over 50 confirmed speakers. Can get info from FHM Monthly Updates.
- Concentrating to better define how conduct aerial survey and use technology. Can survey about 30 million acres per year. Have 120 million acres of productive forest land in Alaska. Prioritize annual surveys based on surveyor experience, input from outreach, and survey requests. Have to determine if are doing adequate coverage each year. Also need to get commitment for jump from manual to digital aerial sketchmapping.

California (Jesse Rios, California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection)

- Terrible fires occurred in Southern California this fall in areas with high levels of conifer mortality. Jesse is seeking an analysis from FIA on current forest mortality levels. The mortality is pretty much drought related, with precipitation in the last few years the lowest levels ever recorded. Although the drought was somewhat relieved in 2003 (for example, the San Bernadino area received approximately 80% of normal precipitation), but not all areas had relief. Trees are still under great stress and insect activity is expected to continue to be high.
- Lots of funding is flowing into Southern California to deal with the conifer mortality. Not directly linked to FHM, but does come from other federal sources.
- Terrible budget situation. Have submitted grant proposals seeking many categories of funds including Emergency Pest Suppression.
- New Governor and new Natural Resources appointments are being made. Hoping that some of the funding that was discontinued this year (Sudden Oak Death) will be restored. They can continue to do SOD work for a couple of years though because of the way contracts were written to do that work.

Hawaii

- Anne Marie LaRosa is the newly hired Forest Health Management Coordinator, for the USFS, working in the Invasive Species Unit of the Institute of Pacific Island Forestry in Hilo. We still need to confirm our State of Hawaii contact person. The Hawaii State Forester is very involved in Invasive Species issues nation-wide, and may be a good connection to the FHM program.

Oregon (Jim Mair, Oregon Dept of Forestry)

- Due to reorganization at ODF, Jim Cathcart may be the new Forest Health Program Manager and main contact for FHM, as of June 2004. Both attending Sedona FHM Working Group Meeting.
- More SOD spots detected in spring 2003. The quarantine area will likely be expanded 1 mile northward. The infestation seems to be following a wind path. Have detected more SOD spots (a decreasing amount from recent new detections), located on the edge of the current eradication sites. Are doing stump treatments because infected stumps sprout. SOD appears to be confined on forest level. Agriculture Department seems to have a good handle on nursery surveys and detections.
- Aerial surveys, followed by intense ground checking, continues in Southern Oregon where tanoak grows. There have not been forest surveys in areas which don't have hosts that die with a really obvious mortality signature.
- Swiss Needle cast foliage disease of Douglas-fir. Continues to be very important, although may be "decreasing somewhat" to "about the same". SNC will be an on-going issue in coastal Oregon.
- Risk mapping: Jim Mair continues as state rep for WestCoast and Interior West regions on Risk Map Steering Team. Insure state involvement and product that will be useful to all.

Washington (Karen Ripley, Washington Department of Natural Resources)

- Excellent success using the digital sketchmapping system this summer. Surveys were completed very quickly and draft quadrangle maps were available on the Internet for same-season viewing.
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/as/quad/index.shtml>. Electronic data were just finalized recently and the paper maps are not yet available, so this really was highly beneficial in terms of getting information (albeit draft information) into the hands of forest managers and other clients quickly.
- Currently working on the 2003 State Highlights report and working more closely with FIA/FHM analyst to obtain better inventory/general description information and some plot information than has been included in the past.
- Our aerial surveyor Jeff Moore was detailed to Arizona for two weeks to assist with an aerial survey of pinyon mortality.
- SOD Survey of nursery perimeters and forest plots. Thirty-four nurseries (125 transects) and 5 forest sites (20 transects) were surveyed in June 2003. One hundred and three symptomatic foliage samples were collected from known and potential hosts. All of the samples tested negative for *Phytophthora ramorum*.

For more detailed information, current **Forest Health Highlights** for Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington are posted on R6 FHP website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/pubs.shtml