FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION

About Us

Forest Health Protection's mission is to protect and improve the health of America's rural, wildland, and urban forests. We are part of the State and Private Forestry Deputy Area of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service. We have over 250 specialists in the areas of forest entomology, forest pathology, invasive plants, pesticide use, survey and monitoring, suppression and control, technology development, and other forest health-related services. Our staffs are located in Forest Service National Headquarters, all Regional Offices, the Northeastern Area Office, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry, the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, and over 25 field offices.

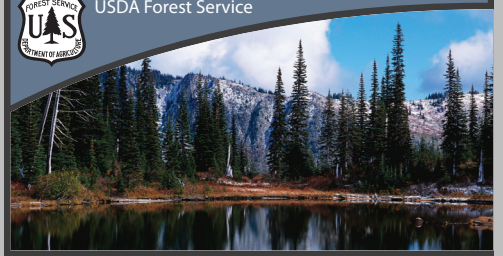
What We Do

Forest Health Protection provides technical assistance on forest health-related matters, particularly those related to disturbance agents such as native and non-native insects, pathogens, and invasive plants. We value and work through partnerships across lands of all ownerships. We work closely with land managers and resource staff with the National Forest System, the Department of the Interior, Department of Defense, other federal agencies, Tribes, all 50 States, U.S. Territories, universities, private landowners and other countries. We provide forest insect, disease and invasive plant survey and monitoring information, and technical and financial assistance to prevent, suppress and control outbreaks threatening forest resources. We help to maintain, enhance, and restore healthy forest conditions and look for links between changing climate and pest conditions. We provide specialized assistance to incorporate disturbance considerations in forest plan and decisions. Our Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team develops leading-edge technologies that help us and our many partners carry out forest health protection work with more accuracy and cost efficiency. We work closely with USDA Animal and Plant Health inspection Service to detect introductions of new forest pests into the United States and eradication of introductions that pose significant threats to forest resources. http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth

Photographs used for this display can be accessed online through www.forestimages.org
Photographers: Dean Trevor, USDA Forest Service; Tom Eagle, USDA Forest Service; William D. Boyer, USDA Forest Service; USDA APHIS PPQ Archive; Milan Zubrick, Forest Research Institute - Slovenia; James Evans; William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International; Gerald F. Billings, Texas Forest Service; James Henderson, Gulf South Research Corporation; Donald Cappaert, Michigan State University, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team; Kenneth R. Gray, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Resource Management Archive. Other photographs taken from: "Aerial Signatures of Forest Insect and Disease Damage in the Western United States".

Display design and layout: Sheryl A. Burkhart, Information Technology expert, Inc., Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team, Fort Collins, CO

USDA Forest Service

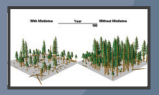


Our Programs and Services

Forest Health Monitoring

We monitor the forests of the United States to determine detrimental changes or improvements to forest health that occur over time. http://fhm.fs.fed.us

Technology Development



We develop and apply leading-edge technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems, Insect and Pathogen Modeling, Remote Sensing, and Early Warning Systems.
http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology

Forest Health Protection

Technical Assistance

We provide technical information and advice on the various techniques available to maintain healthy forests.

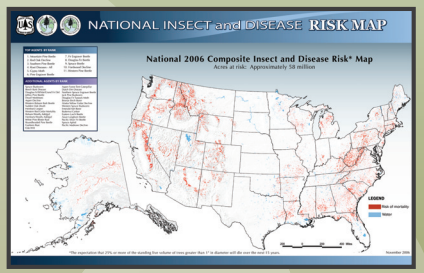
Forest Health Management

We work in partnerships to prevent, suppress and slow-the-spread of native and non-native forest insects, pathogens, and invasive plants affecting urban, rural, and wildland forests. http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth

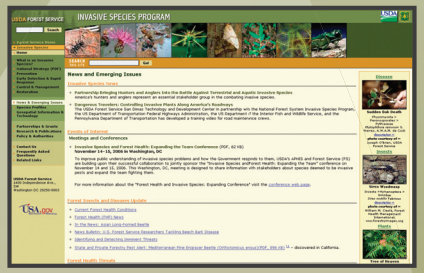
Pesticide Use Management

We provide technical information on the use of low-risk pesticides, conduct human health and ecological risk assessments, and help develop new, biologically-based pest control compounds such as microbial pesticides and pheromones.

Examples of Products Produced



The 2006 National Insect and Disease Risk Map (NIDRM) displays the projected risk of mortality at a national scale. The risk assessment estimates that 58 million acres are at risk. Most of this risk can be attributed to 42 risk agents, including 13 non-native (exotic) forest pest species already established in the contiguous U.S. and Alaska.



The goal of the USDA Forest Service invasive species program is to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the potential for introduction, establishment, spread, and impact of invasive species across all landscapes and ownerships. The Invasive Species Program integrates many divisions of the agency.

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