



New Mexico



Program Fact Sheet	Cooperative Forest Health Management	2000
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Introduction

The New Mexico Cooperative Forest Health Management (CFHM) program is administered by the New Mexico Forestry Division in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health-New Mexico Zone Office. Federal funding is matched by State contributions to the program. Through an agreement with the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, a full-time pest management specialist conducts annual forest insect and disease surveys and provides leadership, guidance, direct technical assistance and other services to State and private land managers and landowners.

Healthy forests play an important role in meeting the diverse cultural, recreational, and economic needs of the people of New Mexico. A total of 15.2 million acres within the state are forested. Nearly two million acres of timberland and more than four million acres of woodland are in private ownership.

Changing forest conditions due to the past uses and management of New Mexico's forests have affected forest health. Changes in tree density, species composition, and tree size are reflected in the behavior, abundance, and impact of native forest insects and diseases as well as in the risk and effect of wildfire.

Goals

- Promote healthy forest ecosystems capable of meeting landowner objectives now and into the future.
- Reduce adverse forest insect and disease impacts on State and private lands by providing pest management technical assistance and silvicultural guidance to land managers and landowners.
- Train landowners, land managers, and State natural resource agency and extension personnel to recognize forest insect and disease symptoms and to report damage.
- Address urban forest pest management needs of land managers and urban dwellers.
- Enhance forest health issue awareness among educators and youth leaders

Budget

The table below reflects funding for surveys and insect and disease suppression/prevention activities. Federal cost-sharing requires the State to match the Federal contribution.

Federal dollars provided annually to the State of New Mexico for forest health activities.				
FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000
\$44,500	\$45,000	\$59,000	\$53,000	\$53,000 ¹
¹ FY2000 figure is projected, pending final allocation.				

Issues

- Historical land use patterns and forest management practices, including fire suppression, have resulted in overcrowded forests containing many small diameter trees.
- A reduction in fire frequency has also contributed to an increase in shade-tolerant tree species normally found at higher elevations. Such off-site stands of trees are more susceptible to insect attack and drought.
- Lack of species diversity in urban forest plantings is resulting in increased pest problems such as ash bark beetles, pine tip moths, and sycamore scale.
- Lack of public awareness regarding forest health and the condition of New Mexico's forests is an ongoing challenge.

Program Highlights

Detection and evaluation. Ground and aerial surveys covering 1.65 million acres of State and private forest land detected 50,164 acres of western spruce budworm defoliation, 10,188 acres of aspen defoliation, 1,600 acres of ponderosa pine needle miner, more than 1,975 acres of ponderosa pine needle cast, and some *Ips* and *Dendroctonus* bark beetle activity. Information on sawflies, needle scales, Douglas-fir tussock moth, pine tip moths, twig beetles various bark beetles, dwarf mistletoe, and over forty urban tree pests was also collected.

Task force support and development. The Bernalillo and Capitan State Forestry Districts support, respectively, the Backyard Tree Farm Association of the Sandia/Manzano Mts. area and the Forest Health Association of Lincoln County. These grassroots organizations work with local government to address forest health issues through public workshops and the media. Information and ongoing support is given to the city of Santa Fe and a citizen's group to develop an integrated pest management program for city trees.

Educational outreach. Fourteen public workshops on forest health were held in forested communities across New Mexico and two outdoor workshops for educators focused on forest ecosystem health. A one-week camp attended by 50 New Mexico teenagers and 15 adult volunteers focused on New Mexico Forest Health issues. Twenty-one presentations on forest health were directed to youth organizations. Thirteen workshops on tree care and pest management were held in urban areas.

Use of the media. Eight news releases on forest health, tree pests and tree care were prepared. Forest Health and/or tree pest management information was included in twelve issues of the New Mexico State University *Plant Sciences News*. Two radio spots were broadcast and one magazine article was published.



For more information contact:

Robert J. Cain, Entomologist
Forestry Div., Energy, Minerals
& Natural Resources Dept.
P.O. Box 1948
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Debra Allen-Reid, Zone Leader
Forest Health, New Mexico Zone Office
USDA Forest Service, FOR/FH
517 Gold Ave., SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

