

Forest Health Monitoring

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) is a national activity of the Forest Health Protection (FHP) Program. A working partnership whose members include the Forest Service, State Foresters, other State and federal agencies, and academic groups, the mission of FHM is to monitor, assess, and report on the status and trends in forest ecosystem health. The group provides timely, objective, consistent reports on forest health issues to a wide range of audiences.

Scientific data is collected, compiled, and analyzed by the Forest Service in cooperation with State partners. The FHP Program provides aerial and ground survey data on damage from agents such as insects, diseases, and weather. The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program provides data from their plots for forest health indicators.

Key Issues:

- **Detection monitoring:** estimate the current status, extent, changes, and trends in key indicators of forest ecosystem conditions.
- **Evaluation monitoring:** establish potential relationships between changes and trends in forest condition, including forest extent and distribution, and natural and human-caused stressors.
- **Research Techniques:** improve methods for detection and evaluation monitoring.

Accomplishments:

- Distributed the *2004 regional FHM report* of forest conditions and disturbances to State agencies, NA field offices, Forest Service research, and Washington, D.C. staff on an ongoing basis.
- Produced “Forest Health Highlights” for each state in NA and distributed on the Internet.
- Compiled *detection monitoring* data for FHP pest surveys and FIA plot conditions for 1990 – 2005 into a regional geographic information system database.
- Continued a *ground survey for the sudden oak death (SOD) pathogen* in each of the 20 NA States, part of a national move toward a standardized SOD early detection system.
- Awarded *evaluation monitoring grants* to several state agencies, Forest Service research, and academic institutions to investigate forest health problems identified by detection monitoring.
- Produced a *final regional tree mortality risk map* as part to predict influences of insects and diseases.
- Produced reports on *pilot projects for urban forest health monitoring* for four states.
- Testing a new *tree damage indicator* for potential FIA Program implementation.

Budget History:

FHM Program (\$ Thousands)					
	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08
Totals	\$1,630	\$2,130	\$2,151	\$1,858	

Future Direction:

- Develop tools to deliver regional FHP survey data via the Internet
- Continue to refine risk maps using new and additional data from field offices and state agencies
- Develop standardized methods for collecting and reporting ground-based pest survey data

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