

# Forest Health Survey and Technical Assistance

USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry



**Description:** The Northeastern Area Forest Health Protection staff (NA-FHP) conducts surveys and provides technical assistance to monitor the conditions of forests and to detect and evaluate insect, pathogen, and invasive plant infestations (including exotic pest introductions); weather-related damage; and human-caused stresses. Forest health specialists annually report detection survey results and recommend measures to mitigate damage from pest outbreaks. NA-FHP staff at several locations, combined with one or more forest health specialists in each state, represent the region's capacity to address forest health issues. Services are provided directly to National Forests, other federal land management agencies, Tribal governments, and through State partners to nonfederal public cooperators and private landowners. This combined federal and state staff is also the primary forest entomology and pathology operational staff at the national level.

## Key Issues:

- The number of new exotic pests affecting urban and rural forests continues to rise. During the last decade, much of NA's forest health assistance has been directed at these new pest introductions.
- Historically, about three quarters of our annual forest health resources have focused on addressing established exotic pests like gypsy moth, hemlock woolly adelgid, and Dutch elm disease.

## Accomplishments:

- Surveyed nearly 244 million acres of federal, tribal, State, and private lands in 2007.
- Adopted digital aerial sketchmapping systems to improve damage detection on federal and state lands. This allows development of more timely, accurate data, speeding the response to forest-damaging events.
- Surveyed New York and neighboring states for *Sirex noctilio* wood wasp in cooperation with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and various state partners. New infested counties were found in New York and Pennsylvania. New state detection records were registered in Michigan and Vermont.
- Coordinated with state partners, universities, and APHIS to implement sudden oak death and emerald ash borer surveys in high risk/high priority areas across the 20 states served by NA.
- Evaluated the effects of invasive plant infestations, and made management and monitoring recommendations to federal, state, and private land management organizations.
- Participated on USDA Management Teams and Science panels for key exotic pests of national concern including emerald ash borer and siren wood wasp.

## Budget History:

Forest Health Survey & Technical Assistance (\$ thousands)				
	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Federal Lands Survey & Tech. Assist.	\$5,500	\$5,059	\$5,181	
Coop Lands Survey & Tech. Assist	\$2,932	\$2,563	\$2,746	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8,432</b>	<b>\$7,622</b>	<b>\$7,927</b>	

## Future Direction:

- More states will develop invasive species response plans to clarify agency roles and responsibilities.
- Major focus on existing and potential future introductions of invasive insects or diseases will continue.

- Improved risk maps will allow greater efficiency and effectiveness in early detection/rapid response.

---

**Kathryn Maloney**, *Director*  
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
610-557-4103 (4177-FAX)  
kmaloney@fs.fed.us

<http://na.fs.fed.us>

**Jerry Boughton**, *Asst. Director*  
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
610-557-4139 (4136-FAX)  
jboughton@fs.fed.us

**Noel Schneeberger**, *Program Manager*  
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
610-557-4121 (4136-FAX)  
nschneeberger@fs.fed.us

12/10/2007

