

# Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters

## Forest Health Committee

### Work Plan FFY 2012

#### Background

Since the Forest Health Committee became operational under the charter and bylaws of NAASF (FFY 2007), it has focused on addressing issues deemed to be regionally important. The Committee has worked to identify priority Forest Health issues for the 20-state NA and to develop and propose actions, positions, and plans of work for those priority FH issues.

A summary of key accomplishments for FFY 2011 includes the following:

- Held a 3-day meeting in St. Paul, MN in March 2011. Fifteen of 20 states sent representatives with one additional call-in, for a **state participation rate of 80%**. USFS, NAASF, and the Urban and Community Forestry Committee were also represented. Major topics of discussion included:
  - Clarification of membership and roles (States, NAASF, USFS)
  - Extensive discussions of individual insect & disease pests, their relative threat levels throughout the NA, and best course of action for FFY 2012.
  - Invasive plants
  - Implementation of State Assessment objectives
  - CARP process
- Established a Forest Health Committee page on the NAASF web site, which currently serves contact information, minutes, and key documents. (<http://www.northeasternforests.org/foresthealth/>). Functionality and content of the Committee web site will continue to grow during FFY 2012.
- Upgraded Committee membership and frequency of interaction
  - Added Washington, DC as a voting “state” member.
  - Created an *ad hoc* liaison position to coordinate urban pest detection efforts between Forest Health and Urban & Community Forestry Committees.
  - Bi-monthly Leadership Team conference calls.
  - Quarterly “Full Committee” conference calls.
  - Formation of five sub-committees (subcommittees work outside the regular committee call schedule and have been active since April 2011).
    - Firewood transport
    - Pest response plan
    - Urban pest detection
    - CARP

## FFY 2012 Work Plan

1. **Create a *pest matrix*** to be available on the NAASF Forest Health Committee web page. The matrix will be developed with input from the full Committee and will identify the most important insect and disease threats to the forest resource in the NA. Relevant issues and recommendations will be consolidated into a single document to help coordinate efforts among all 20 States and Washington, DC. For each pest, the following information will be included:
  - a. Pest name
  - b. Threat assessment & important issues
  - c. Research needs
  - d. Recommendations to state foresters regarding best course of action

***Deliverable:*** The pest matrix will be finalized and uploaded to the NAASF Forest Health Committee web site no later than September 1, 2011.

2. **Increase coordination with NA Urban & Community Forestry Committee.** Urban pest detection is a key activity for both NA Committees and the Committees began to work more closely in 2011 through the creation of the liaison position, a pest detection subcommittee, and more regular interaction. This interaction will continue in the coming year, including a joint conference call in July 2011.
3. **Continue with bi-monthly Leadership Team conference calls and quarterly Full Committee calls.** All discussions will focus on the best role for this Committee with regard to identified issues.
4. **Firewood Transport.** Recognizing the threat posed by firewood transport, the Committee will provide a leadership role on this issue through representation in the Continental Dialogue (CD). The Committee will also examine the existing National Firewood Task Force Recommendations (March 2010 report) and will assess whether action items are occurring as identified in that document.

***Deliverable:*** The Firewood Subcommittee will update the full Committee and NAASF on an as-needed basis, and will complete its review of the NFTF document no later than April 1, 2012.

5. **Disaster Response Plan Template.** Subcommittee (already established) will create a template response plan defining roles and responsibilities for an unexpected catastrophic event, e.g. a major Asian longhorned beetle infestation in a new State. Existing State response plans will be examined and commonalities will be incorporated into the template for possible use by States that currently do not have such response plans. Such a template could increase the effectiveness and timeliness of response efforts.

***Deliverable:*** Subcommittee will provide a draft template to the Full Committee no later than December 15, 2011. A final template will be submitted to NAASF by March 15, 2012.

6. Provide support to NAASF efforts to improve NA decision process for distributing Forest Health special project funds.

## Forest Health Committee

### Budget Request FFY 2012

1. Forest Health Committee Chair Attendance at NAASF Annual Meeting.  
The request is for NAASF funds for travel expenses for the Forest Health Committee Chair or delegated representative to attend and report to the 2012 NAASF Summer meeting. Estimated need is **\$1,500.**
2. State Forester Liaison Attendance at Annual Forest Health Committee Meeting.  
The request is for funds for travel expenses of the State Forester Liaison to the Forest Health Committee to attend an approximate one full day meeting (travel may require two overnights). Estimated need is **\$1,500.**

**Total Request: \$3,000**