

# FY 2012 PROPOSED WORK PLAN

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As presented to the Forest Health Cooperative  
Advisory Committee

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## FY 2012 WORK PLAN

### GOAL A: RESEARCH

#### Objective 1. Identify research projects

##### Proposed FY2012:

1. Ecology of siricids and fungal associates in southeastern pine forests: potential for biological control and competition – APHIS for travel, supplies and graduate student \$99,493 - *Decision pending dependent upon continuation of funds*
2. Exploring soil microbial communities as mediators of complex threats to southern conifers – Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant (3 years) \$497,000 - *Will resubmit fall with modifications*
3. Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) Detection Survey (Stream Sampling) in AL and MS – FHM, USFS for all travel, supplies and laboratory technician \$42,000 – *Will submit August*

##### Newly Funded FY2012:

1. Forest health evaluation of stand health in association with biomass removal and standard silvicultural practices between two land managers (extension for post-treatment data collection as treatments were delayed due to no market for chips so could not sell contract) – FHP, USFS for all travel, supplies and student worker \$16,810
2. Delineating loblolly pine decline in the Southeast using FHM/FIA data – submitted to FHM, USFS for all travel and supplies associated with the project \$35,000 – (Funded Year 2 for \$17,000)

##### Funded FY2011:

1. Hylastes population dynamics and forest health evaluation in association with thinning and fertilization on new RW19 in Louisiana – Funding through FHP and FHC
2. Using Fungus/Forest Dogs to find root fungi (*Leptographium*, *Grosmannia*, *Ophiostoma*, *Heterobasidium*) and help land managers make informed decisions – SFWS for travel and supplies \$1,000
3. Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) Detection Survey (Stream Sampling) in AL and MS – FHM, USFS for all travel, supplies and laboratory technician \$42,000
4. Delineating loblolly pine decline in the Southeast using FHM/FIA data – submitted to FHM, USFS for all travel and supplies associated with the project \$35,000 – (Funded Year 1 for \$17,000)

## **Objective 2. Recruit graduate students**

Currently searching for masters student for FY2012 starting Fall to continue family screening.

## **Objective 3. Initiate and continue research projects: Determine location, cooperators, and set up research plots dependent upon projects chosen by the membership.**

*Hylastes* population dynamics and forest health evaluation in association with thinning and harvesting.

1. Post-treatment data is currently being collected.

Cogongrass and ecologically based weed management strategies: Impacts on insect diversity and pine decline in the southeastern United States.

1. Plot data currently being collected: tree measurement and vigor, root infection, and resin.

Delineating loblolly pine decline in the Southeast using county survey and FHM/FIA data.

1. Data retrieval has initiated.

Resistance of *Pinus taeda* families under artificial inoculations with native and non-native *Leptographium* species involved in premature mortality.

1. Family screening data being collected and analyzed.
2. Nutrition data being collected. Experiment will be destructively sampled August 2011.
3. Need to identify families for FY13 screening. Need to identify species to be screened: loblolly and slash or longleaf. Need to determine if nutrition portion of project should be implemented for FY13.

*Hylastes* population dynamics and forest health evaluation in association with thinning and fertilization.

1. Plots and insects have been installed on the RW19 study in Leesville, LA. Eight weeks of trapping will take place prior to thinning treatments.

Forest health evaluation of stand health in association with biomass removal and standard silvicultural practices between two land managers.

1. Treatments currently underway. Insect traps will be reinstalled upon completion.

Blue-stain fungi associated with feral hogs causing rooting damage in longleaf and loblolly pine stands.

1. Working on manuscripts for publication.

Two-year diversity study of insect associated with pine decline at the Talladega National Forest in Tuscaloosa Alabama.

1. Working on manuscripts for publication.

## **GOAL B: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

**Objective 1.        Serve as a clearinghouse of information related to forest health issues.**

### **Maintain and Update Forest Health Cooperative Web Site**

The Forest Health Cooperative Staff will continue to update the Forest Health Cooperative website for use by Forest Health Cooperative Members. (Eckhardt)

### **Leveraging Forest Health Cooperative Data**

The Forest Health Cooperative staff will continue to stress the importance of the Cooperative membership and when possible, leverage Cooperative information for grant proposals. (Staff)

**Objective 2.        Efficiently and regularly transfer the results of cooperative research to the membership.**

### **Research Reports (Staff)**

We plan on producing Research Reports and Technical Notes in FY12.

### **Newsletters**

Newsletter distribution will be planned for March (Spring) and September (Fall). Members are encouraged to submit articles.

**Objective 3.        Provide a limited consultancy function to the membership in the area of forest health.**

## **Individual and Organized Contacts**

An on-going activity and is handled as individual situations and cases arise. (Eckhardt/Anderson)

## **Short Courses**

The Forest Health Cooperative will offer a Forest Health Short Course in Auburn for member personnel in July 2013. We need a minimum of 20 attendees and will survey the membership in January 2013 for interest.

# **GOAL C: COOP DEVELOPMENT**

**Objective 1.        Provide for the continual relevancy and efficiency of the Cooperative research and technology transfer programs.**

## **Advisory Committee Meeting**

The FY12 Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on June 22-23, 2012. A 2 day meeting will be planned. If there are any meetings that conflict with this time frame, let us know and we can try and accommodate Advisory Members. (Eckhardt/Bowersock)

## **Forest Health Cooperative Membership**

The Forest Health Cooperative staff should make an effort to recruit new members. (Staff)

## **Update the Cooperative Membership Directory**

An on-going activity with an updated directory distributed annually. (Bowersock)

**Objective 2.        Increase the visibility and effectiveness of the Cooperative as a source of information on issues related to forest health.**

## **Presentations at Meetings**

Forest Health Cooperative staff will continue to be encouraged to participate as a speaker or attendee in regional and national meetings. (Staff)

## **Publications**

Forest Health Cooperative staff are encouraged to publish research results in scientific journals. (Staff)

**Extramural Funding of Forest Health Cooperative Projects**

Forest Health Cooperative staff will continue to be encouraged to locate and generate extramural funding opportunities directly related forest health.

**Interaction with other Research Cooperatives**

The Forest Health Cooperative staff will make efforts to interact, attend, work with other regional and national forest research Cooperatives in an attempt to broaden and strengthen research ties that can benefit forest health.