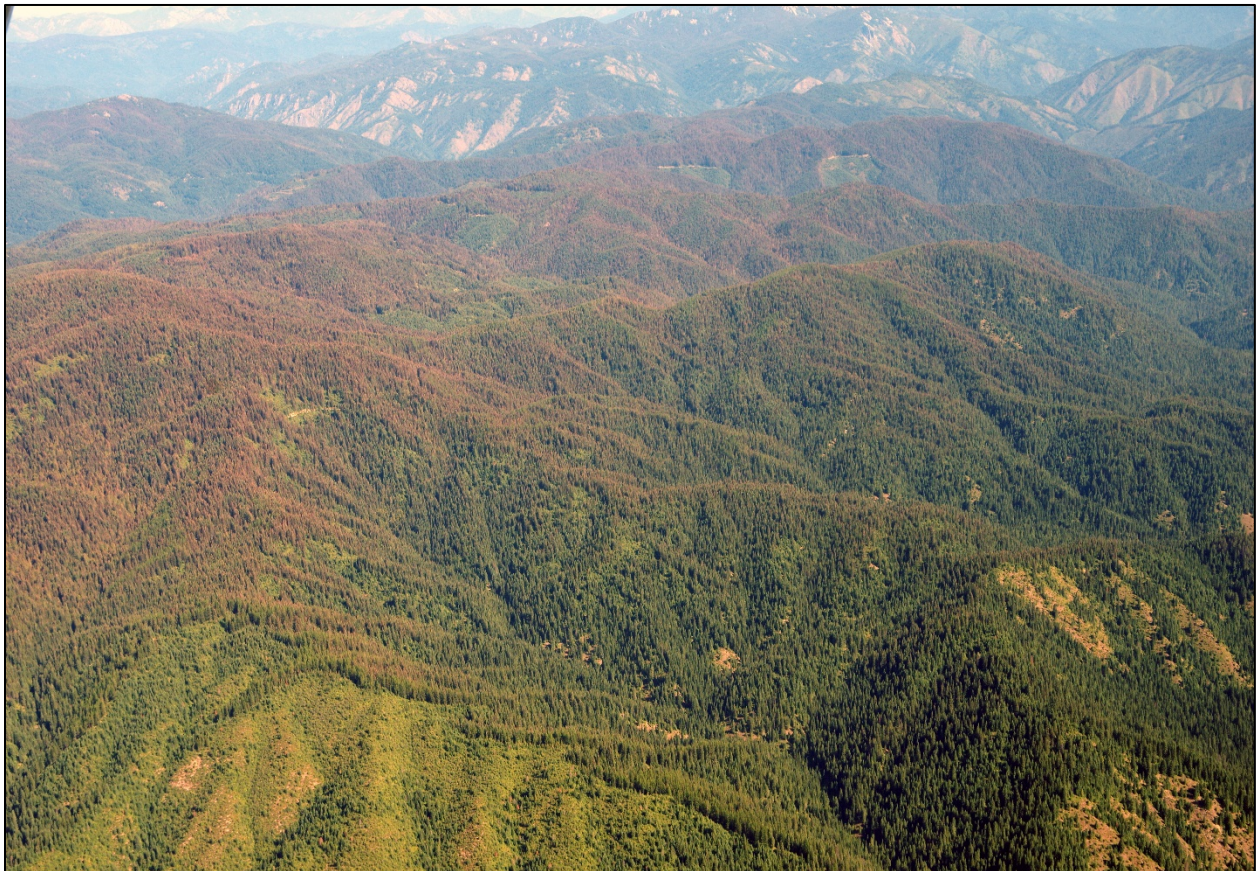




Forest Health Protection



Forest Health Protection Organizational Summary and Emphasis



**USDA Forest Service
State and Private Forestry
Northern and Intermountain Regions (Regions 1 & 4)
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Organizational Structure and Emphasis

This document aims to concisely communicate our Region 1 & 4 Forest Health Protection (FHP) organizational structure, role, and emphasis to partners and customers. It provides an overview of core values and vision that provide a foundation for our FHP workforce to build upon for tactical program delivery. This foundation is to be used in conjunction with a strategic, five-year Implementation Plan to designate workload across our FHP field offices and program areas.

What is Forest Health?

Our organization defines a ‘healthy forest’ as a condition wherein a forest has the capacity across the landscape for renewal, for recovery from a wide range of disturbances, and for retention of its ecological resiliency while meeting current and future needs of people for desired levels of values, uses, products, and services.

Forest Health Protection Vision

The U.S. Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

To support this mission, FHP strives to promote healthy, productive forest ecosystems by protecting trees and forests from insect outbreaks, diseases, exotic plant invasions, abiotic stressors, and human-caused damage. The emphasis of our work ties directly to National and Regional priorities to **improve forest conditions**.

Our **vision** for success is for healthy, resilient forests to be pervasive across Regions 1 & 4. Currently, unhealthy forest conditions are estimated to cover 19.5 million acres across the two Regions ([Washington Office-FHP National Insect and Disease Forest Risk Assessment](#)). These conditions indicate a need for widespread restoration efforts to improve forest health.

Forest Health Protection Workforce

FHP is committed to promoting a desirable and fulfilling place to work that promotes a diverse, well-trained workforce to support our customers. We strive to achieve professional excellence and implement innovative techniques to respond to forest health threats.

FHP staff report to the Director of State and Private Forestry for Regions 1 & 4, then to each Region’s respective Regional Foresters. FHP programmatic direction and funding are provided through FHP’s Washington Office.

FHP personnel specialize in forest entomology, plant pathology, invasive plants, aerial surveillance, biological control, weed science and pesticide-use. We combine financial assistance with specialist expertise to provide scientific information to guide effective treatments to manage forest insects, diseases, and noxious weeds using

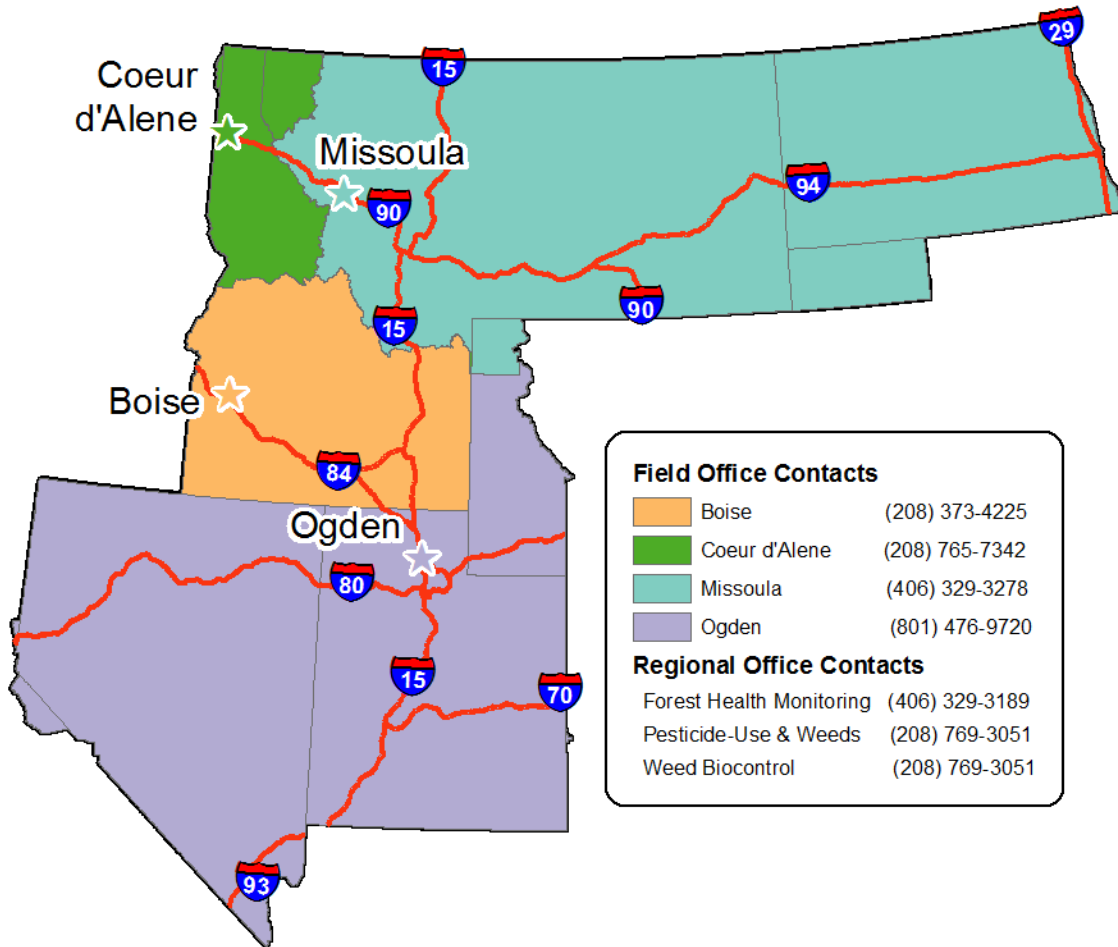


Figure 1. FHP workforce engaged in forest management training for professional foresters (top) and forest health education for the general public (bottom).

integrated pest management techniques. While all FHP partners have need for this expertise, it is not efficient for each local unit to have specialists on staff. Our offices are located across Regions 1 & 4 to provide this needed service.

Staff are located across Regions 1 & 4 in Boise, ID; Coeur d'Alene, ID; Missoula, MT; and Ogden, UT within field office and regional office units (Figure 2). Field office staff provide forest insect and disease-related support across service areas while regional office staff administer Pesticide-Use and Coordination, Weed Biological Control, and Forest Health Monitoring programs that encompass all of Regions 1 & 4.

Figure 2. Map of Forest Health Protection field office service areas and contact information across Regions 1 & 4.



Programmatic Emphasis: Monitoring and Management

Our organization is tasked with monitoring the status of forest insects, diseases, and other damage agents across all lands. This information is reported out to inform resource managers, the public, and Congress on forest health threats so timely management activities can be implemented.

FHP provides program delivery through (1) **monitoring** activities that target early detection, surveillance, and assessment of forest health threats; and (2) **management** activities aimed to prevent or reduce forest losses caused by insects, diseases, and other stressors.

Further details and specific authorities that guide FHP work can be found in USFS Manual ([FSM 3400](#)) and Handbook direction ([FSH 6509.11g Chap 20](#)).

Under these authorities, FHP staff work to monitor and manage forest health conditions.

Forest Health Monitoring

1. FHP **monitors**, with State and other partners, forest health through:
 - Annual aerial detection surveys that monitor insect and disease activity to report locations impacted and damage agent trends.
 - Monitoring studies to quantify the presence, population abundance, and impact of insects, diseases, invasive plant pests, and abiotic stressors.
 - Trapping programs and ground surveys to detect native and non-native pests and pathogens.
 - Development of tools and technologies to aid in insect, disease, invasive plant, and abiotic stress surveys that inform management.
 - Collaborative efforts with partners (federal, state, local agencies) to facilitate the detection of non-native insects, diseases, and invasive plants to inform rapid management responses.

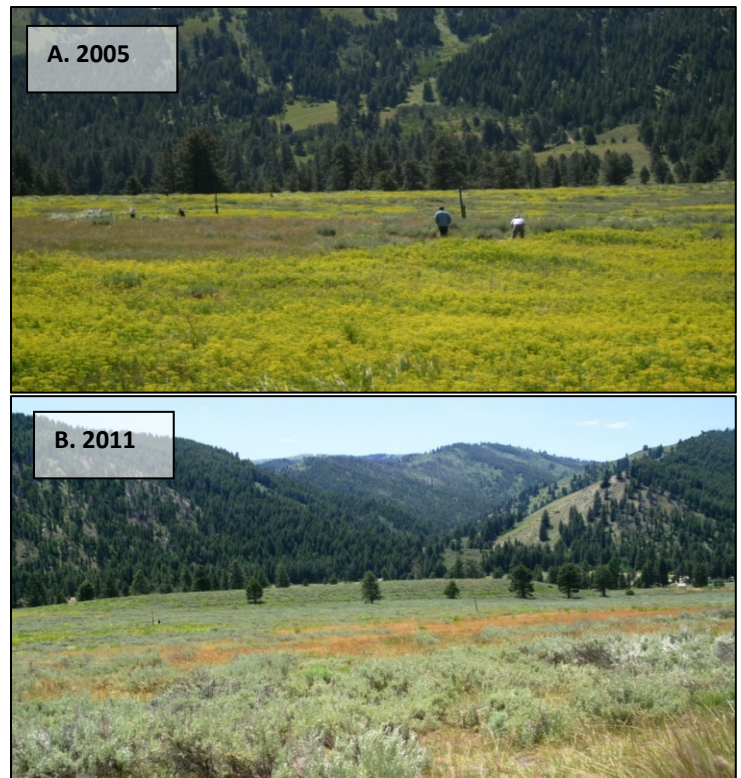


Figure 3. FHP monitoring photos taken six years following treatment to document the efficacy of insect biological control agent releases to control invasive leafy spurge plants.



Figure 4. Thinning treatments to reduce tree density and prevent insect-caused damage that were supported with FHP management funding and technical expertise.

Forest Health Management

2. FHP workforce supports forest health **management** activities with:

- Expertise to reduce pest, pathogen, and invasive plant impacts to promote critical ecosystem processes needed to meet management objectives.
- Trainings for professional managers to identify pest agents and provide best-available science to support forest management. Trainings are often specific to forest insects and diseases, invasive plants, biological control of invasive plants, pesticide-use, or hazard trees.
- Technical assistance for resource management planning, including assisting agencies with Forest Plan Revisions and Tribal Forestry Plans.
- Working with cooperators to advance effective pesticide treatments and biological control agents to mitigate non-native species invasions.
- Collaboration with partners such as USFS Research and Universities on applied management studies to improve forest health.
- Financial assistance to prevent or suppress forest pests across tribal and federally managed lands.
- Support for State pest management programs that administer financial and technical assistance to private, state, county, and city-managed forests.



Figure 5. Photo depicts a pesticide bolean-spray treatment to protect high-value trees from insect-attack that was supported with FHP management funds and technical expertise.

Conclusion

This document represents a broad overview of our FHP organizational structure, values, and workforce within Regions 1 & 4. It was written as an organizational summary to provide programmatic information to our customers and provide a foundation for work planning. For strategic plan details, please refer to our Region 1 and 4 FHP Five-Year Plan of Work.