

FEMC Regional Exploration Project: Exploring Trends in Tree Mortality as a Response to Disturbance Drivers



Tree Mortality Working Group Opportunity – 2023

Project Background

The FEMC community is interested in exploring patterns of tree mortality and how regional coordination of monitoring for both acute events and delayed responses following chronic stress can lead to a better understanding of regional impacts. The information currently available from FIA data does not provide the level of detail needed by the community. Cooperators are interested in developing a rapid response plan to implement during and following outbreaks and mortality events.

Project Objectives

The purpose of this project is to develop monitoring and management practices for responding to disturbance events that result in tree mortality. The project will also explore the ability to review and compare tree mortality data currently available to evaluate how well mortality patterns compare to each other, and if there are any trends or risks that can be determined from the long-term data.

Working Group Objective

The Tree Mortality Working Group will consist of 6-8 individuals who have interest and expertise in monitoring or managing land following disturbance that results in mortality events. For the initial scoping phase of this project, we will focus on the impacts of Emerald Ash Borer. This specific area of focus aligns with a complementary project that is near completion, the Northeast Invasive Forest Insects Network.

Working Group Expectations

The working group will follow the [FEMC Working Group guidelines](#).

We expect the working group will meet bi-monthly for one-hour meetings, led by FEMC staff, and have approximately 4 hours of asynchronous work per month throughout 2023. The working group will determine the specific schedules.

Working Group Outputs

The working group will develop a monitoring plan that can be implemented during and following a mortality event that is a result of EAB. This plan will be created to use as a template for other disturbance drivers. A regional stakeholder list will also be created to begin the process of forming a first

responder network of organizations and agencies that will be available to establish monitoring and management strategies following an event.

For more information about participating on this Working Group, please contact Elissa Schuett (Elissa.Schuett@uvm.edu).