

CWSF
COUNCIL OF WESTERN STATE FORESTERS

FY 2025

FOREST HEALTH
IMPACT REPORT

SD | Josh Birnbaum

SUPPORTS HEALTHY FORESTS ACROSS ALL JURISDICTIONS

The USDA Forest Service **Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management** (FHM) program supports efforts to **reduce wildfire risk** in forests near communities, **promotes proactive forest management** to sustain forest product markets, and funds treatments that assess and help **mitigate forest health threats** across all land ownerships.

Every western state forestry agency has a Forest Health Program (FHP) that delivers **information**, **education**, **technical assistance**, and **integrated pest management strategies** to state and federal land managers, professional foresters, private landowners, and other stakeholders. This assistance helps to prevent and manage native, non-native, and invasive pests to achieve healthy and resilient forest stand conditions.

Funding provided by the USDA Forest Service FHM program is typically matched dollar-for-dollar by states and partners, doubling the impact of federal investment. *(Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Justification, page 55, USDA Forest Service)*

HELPS REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK AND SEVERITY

State FHPs provide technical assistance to the public and non-federal stakeholders through integrated management strategies that help prevent and manage outbreaks of native, non-native, and invasive insects, diseases, and plants.

In 2025, western state and Pacific Island FHPs provided outreach and education opportunities to nearly 9.6 million people. These opportunities help **reduce localized insect, disease, and invasive plant populations**, further **reducing the wildfire risk** in these areas and **increasing public awareness** of ongoing forest health issues.

An important component of the FHP includes collecting annual aerial survey data that highlights where current insect and disease activity is occurring throughout the West. **In fiscal year (FY) 2025, western states and Pacific Islands surveyed or monitored nearly 122 million acres of forested lands across all land ownerships.** This data is utilized by natural resource managers to guide the locations and prescriptions of future and ongoing timber sales, helping to further reduce the risk of wildfire and decrease its potential severity.

BY THE NUMBERS

OUTREACH TO OVER
9.5 MILLION
DIRECT & INDIRECT CONTACTS

121,987,851
ACRES SURVEYED OR MONITORED
FOR FOREST DAMAGE & POST-RELEASE BIO-CONTROL

42,161
ACRES TREATED
FOR PESTS, DISEASES, & INVASIVE PLANTS

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FOREST HEALTH IMPACT REPORT

INCREASES TIMBER YIELDS AND REVENUE


NV | Michelle Roberts

Insects and disease have the potential to significantly reduce timber yields. State forest health personnel work to **mitigate forest health threats** by surveying for new threats, monitoring current damage agents, and providing site-specific recommendations.

FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT:

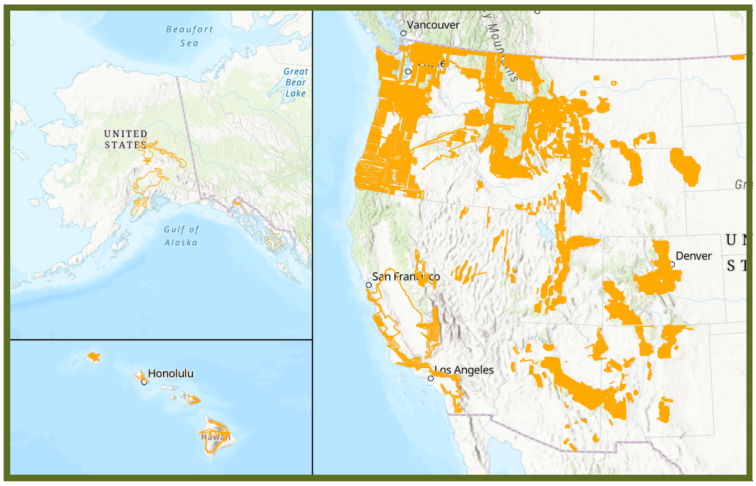
- Reduces tree mortality and loss from bark beetles, defoliators, and pathogens.
- Increases the quality of sawtimber by promoting higher-quality and more valuable trees.
- Results in faster, more productive growth, reducing the time it takes to bring stands to a merchantable state.
- Provides recommendations that can help land managers prepare for and mitigate forest health threats that can adversely impact strategic goals/targets.

ENHANCES PUBLIC BENEFITS FROM TREES

Technical assistance, surveys, and monitoring efforts provide **real-time data** for making sound forest management decisions. This data is **used to address present and potential threats** to trees, especially in high-use areas like communities, campgrounds, and other recreation sites.

Education and outreach efforts convey crucial forest management strategies to partners and the public. These efforts **increase awareness** of native and invasive pests and proper forestry practices, which provide the public with safe and positive outdoor experiences.

2025 WESTERN STATES AERIAL SURVEY COVERAGE



Every year, state FHP staff partner with the USDA Forest Service to conduct insect and disease surveys across the western United States. State personnel contribute as aerial surveyors and contracting partners, and perform ground data verification across all forested lands.

In 2025, western states and federal partners surveyed 184,392,850 acres primarily via aircraft.

This figure differs from the surveyed or monitored figure above due to variations in reporting methods.

The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization comprised of 17 western State Foresters and six U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Island Foresters. Learn more about CWSF at www.westernforesters.org. *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*