

# Forest.Health

## Responding to the growing scale of pests threatening forests

Forest.Health is a multinational effort that accelerates innovation to save threatened tree species. It includes consideration of community input, policy regimes, ecological impacts, and scientific breakthroughs. It operates with oversight from a Steering Committee and Project Secretariat<sup>1</sup>. Key aspects to know are that Forest.Health:

- is a public-private partnership with broad based support from industry, state and federal agencies, foundations, and citizens;
- is focused on real-world results while remaining technology agnostic;
- weighs risks holistically between that of using a technology and of taking no action;
- rapidly incorporates new information from experts, models, and sensors;
- provides a continuous path for integration of new collaborators and technologies;
- prioritizes results that advance sustainable forest management;
- considers social, economic, ecological effects alongside scientific research;
- concurrently addresses multiple avenues of intervention across technologies, genetics, policy, society, geography, and scales of threat;
- incorporates public outreach and education into the core of the effort.

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Forest.Health is saving our forests by bringing experts together with advanced technologies to deploy innovative pest solutions.

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Forest.Health uses the US Forest Service CAPTURE<sup>2</sup> model to identify imperiled species based on exposure and susceptibility to pests and pathogens, expected climate change pressure, and low adaptive capacity. A group of experts will prioritize the imperiled species list considering economic and social criteria in mid 2018.

A partner meeting in late 2018 will bring US and Canadian federal, state and municipal partners, forestry groups, and commercial entities together along with international scientific experts to develop research and funding agendas. The meeting will focus on 2-3 critically imperiled tree species and will include presentations on the current state of research, promising intervention options, and partner needs. This will be followed by group discussions and aggressive timeline setting for achieving agreed upon forest health goals. A compilation of papers and outcomes from the meeting will be published to guide subsequent work on forest health.

This document and further information is available online at: [forest.health](http://forest.health)

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<sup>1</sup> Forest.Health is managed by the Institute of Forest Biosciences (IFB) - a 15-year-old 501c3 non-profit organization headquartered in the U.S. with a satellite office in Canada. Its mission is to advance technologies and research to create healthier and more productive forests.

<sup>2</sup> Potter, K.M., B.S. Crane, and W.W. Hargrove. 2017. A United States national prioritization framework for tree species vulnerability to climate change. *New Forests*. 48(2):275-300.