



Monitoring and Communicating Changes in Forest Disturbance Regimes

Help develop integrative new tools for assessing the impacts of changing disturbance regimes on northeastern forests

This year the FEMC was tasked with synthesizing data region-wide to better understand how disturbance regimes are changing in northeastern forests, streams, lakes, soils, and wildlife, how these changes are connected to climate change, and what monitoring gaps exist to track these changes.

The final products will integrate common forest disturbance products (e.g. aerial sketch maps), with other localized efforts (e.g. intensive monitoring sites), research products (e.g. research papers), climate models and expert synthesis. We will also conduct a comprehensive gap analysis to identify critical needs to best inform ongoing monitoring and planning activities. For more information on this project, visit https://www.uvm.edu/femc/cooperative/projects/disturbance_regimes

What are the goals of the project?

Develop data visualization and information access tools to capture temporal trends and spatial extent, allowing users to explore changing extent of a subset of disturbance types.

Aggregate and archive historical data on disturbance extent and timing from current and historical research, surveys and reports

Develop easy to use datasets summarizing historical trends and, where possible, spatial extents of key disturbance agents and responses to disturbance.

Expand the [Northeastern Forest Health Atlas](#) with additional disturbance regimes and a longer temporal record.

Comprehensive report on the trends observed in the data, gaps in monitoring, recommendations to state and federal land managers to guide data collection and study moving forward, and model monitoring methods for tracking change in disturbance.

How can I participate?

Take our survey.

Consider taking a few minutes to [share your knowledge](#) and expertise about forest disturbance patterns, impacts and climate implications.

Do you have forest disturbance data?

Consider contributing datasets to help increase the depth and utility of this project.

Connect us with potential collaborators.

If you know others who might have data or interest in this project, reach out to them about this project or help us connect with them

Interested in utilizing this aggregation of data?

Join our advisory committee or contribute ideas for synthesis to guide our efforts and provide expert interpretation of how regimes are changing.

Timeline for Implementation

FEMC staff will be working with partners over the next year according to the following timeline:

May-June 2020	Initial engagement with the cooperative
Summer 2020	Collect data on key disturbance agents and disturbance regimes in northeastern forests
Winter 2020	Develop outputs: online tool and datasets
Spring 2020	Present findings and launch tool

Interested in getting more involved with this effort? Contact Project Coordinator Emma Tait (Emma.Tait@uvm.edu) to get started.

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