

EXPLORING WAYS TO SERVE YOUR SCIENCE: PROVIDING FOREST THREAT INFORMATION TO A VARIETY OF AUDIENCES

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ABSTRACT

The Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC) was established to generate, integrate, and apply knowledge in order to predict, detect, and assess environmental threats to public and private forests of the eastern U.S., and to deliver this knowledge to managers in ways that are timely, useful, and user friendly. The collaboration between EFETAC and the National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center (NEMAC) aims to support this mission with the development of advanced tools and technologies that support integrated threat assessments for a variety of audiences.

These audiences are separated into three main categories based on their needs for data access related to Forest Threats. The three categories are (1) general public including land owners; (2) forest professionals including research scientists, forest managers, and extension specialists; and (3) decision makers, which includes all of these and policy makers.

The foundation of the Forest Threat Toolset is an integrated database system that will serve information

to all of the data access tools. The four main threat assessment tools in development are (1) Forest Threat Summary Viewer, (2) Forest Threat GIS Viewer, (3) Forest Threat Search Tool, and (4) Comparative Risk Assessment Framework and Tool Version 2 (CRAFT V2).

These tools will (1) educate the public and land owners with useful online information and knowledge generated by the U.S. Forest Service and its partners about threats that are impacting their land; (2) provide rapid access to new, integrated, and relevant data and information for forest professionals, researchers, and scientists; and (3) deliver a superior team-facilitated decision making process that uses all technologies of the Forest Threat Toolset including GIS map-viewers, database systems, search engines, and Wiki technologies to make the most informed decisions about threats to our eastern forests.

The development of innovative, robust, and advanced technologies and tools, as well as the coordination of data sharing and communication among other EFETAC partnerships, will address the common recognition of the need for integrated threat assessments.