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UNH and Space Grant Consortium Offer Forest Watch Training Session for Teachers

By *Carmelle Druchniak*
UNH News Bureau

DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Space Grant Consortium this summer offer a training session for teachers interested in participating in Forest Watch, an innovative K-12 science education outreach program focused on the study of white pine health in New England.

The program is scheduled Aug. 9-11, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sessions will be held in Rudman Hall, Room G51, though hands-on and interactive training takes place in both the laboratory and the field.

There is no cost to attend the workshop, but registration is limited to the first 25 applicants. Priority will be given for registering two or more teachers from a school or district. Lunches and snacks will be provided.

As part of the workshop, teachers will learn about the Forest Watch program, how to involve students in conducting real and meaningful research, and how to integrate the program into their curriculum. Scientists will instruct teachers on how to set up a permanent sampling site, collect branch samples, analyze physical measurements and work with their data.

Teachers will receive several resource materials which include a teacher's manual, videos and several handouts. Follow-up support and workshops will be provided on a regular basis to assist teachers in implementing the program.

UNH researchers initiated Forest Watch in 1991 to involve K-12 students in the collection and processing of data relating to air pollution damage in forest stands. The program currently involves more than 150 teachers and their students from across New England.

For more information, contact Shannon Spencer at the UNH Complex Systems Research Center at 603-862-1792 or by e-mail at forestwatch@unh.edu. For more information on Forest Watch, visit the program web site at www.forestwatch.sr.unh.edu

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