

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST NEWS RELEASE

FOREST SERVICE - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE
OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST
E6248 US HWY 2
IRONWOOD, MI 49938
906-932-1330

RANGER DISTRICTS:

BESSEMER RANGER DISTRICT
FOREST SERVICE, USDA
BESSEMER, MI 49911
906-932-1330

IRON RIVER RANGER DISTRICT
FOREST SERVICE, USDA
990 LALLEY ROAD
IRON RIVER, MI 49935
906-265-5139

KENTON RANGER DISTRICT
FOREST SERVICE, USDA
4810 E M-28
KENTON, MI 49967
906-852-3500

ONTONAGON RANGER DISTRICT
FOREST SERVICE, USDA
1209 ROCKLAND ROAD
ONTONAGON, MI 49953
906-884-2085

WATERSMEET RANGER
DISTRICT
FOREST SERVICE, USDA
E24036 Old US 2 East
WATERSMEET, MI 49969
906-358-4551

J.W. TOUMEY NURSERY
FOREST SERVICE, USDA
PO BOX 340
E23895 Old US 2
WATERSMEET, MI 49969
906-358-4523

Contact: Lisa Klaus, Public Affairs
Ottawa National Forest
E6248 US Hwy. 2
Ironwood, MI 49938
906-932-1330, ext. 328

Date: June 11, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BATTLE AGAINST THE EMERALD ASH BORER

Ironwood, Michigan. – The onset of the 2008 camping season is a good time for the Ottawa National Forest to remind people about a pesky, little bug that is unwelcome in the Upper Peninsula: the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

This non-native pest has been making a slow and deadly migration throughout the Midwest. Millions of ash trees have been destroyed in lower Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana, and, most recently, the EAB has been found in the eastern Upper Peninsula (U.P.).

Working hard to contain and halt the spread of this pest, the Ottawa National Forest issued a closure order restricting the movement of firewood from outside of the U.P. of Michigan on National Forest System lands last year. This ban is still in effect. Why restrict people from bringing in firewood from outside the area?

--more--

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The EAB is notorious for hitching a ride on transported firewood then escaping to cause death and destruction to green, white, or black ash. Unable to travel more than two miles on its own, most experts agree that the movement of firewood is the most likely source of many infestations throughout the Great Lakes region. You can help stop the spread of EAB by using firewood that is available locally.



Visitors to the Forest may also notice some large box-kite-looking purple traps hanging high from trees. These have been installed to trap the EAB in the event they have made their way into the western U.P. The outer walls of the trap are smeared with glue. A bag of pungent manuka oil that broadcasts the scent of a distressed tree hangs inside. The traps will remain in place until after summer, when they will be removed and checked for the insect. These traps will not bring EAB to a non-infested site; they will simply let us know if the beetle is already there. Then, measures can be taken to control the insect before it builds up to unmanageable numbers. The Forest is asking for the public's cooperation ensuring that these traps are left alone.

In addition to the traps, a small band of bark on selected, small ash trees will be stripped in a process known as "girdling." This stresses and/or kills the tree, attracting EAB if present on the site. In some cases, a sticky mesh is applied to the bole of the tree to which EAB is trapped. When this sticky mesh is not used the tree is cut down after one or two summers and the bark is peeled to determine if EAB entered the tree.

The Forest is working cooperatively with the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry department, Michigan Tech University, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service. For more information on EAB, visit our website at: www.fs.fed.us/r9/ottawa.

--end--