# Early Detection and Rapid Response for Exotic Forest Pests

USDA Forest Service
**Northeastern Area**
State and Private Forestry

**Description:** Early detection and rapid response to new introductions of exotic forest and tree insects and pathogens is a significant component of the Northeastern Area (NA) Forest Health Management Program. The Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) pilot project was initiated in FY 2001. This project is developing a framework for a national, interagency detection, monitoring and response system for exotic forest pests. It will be an important component of the *Early Warning System* for forest health concerns described in Title VI of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Public interest and professional concern about the adverse effects caused by recently introduced exotic tree pests stresses the importance of and need for EDRR in order to contain and eradicate these pests before they become established and adversely affect our rural and community forests.

## Key Issues:

- Exotic bark beetles pose a threat in NA that should be focused upon in an EDRR effort.
- Eradication of these pests will take many years of concerted effort and require a long-term commitment of future resources. These resources will not be available for other needs.
- Costs can be reduced and eradication success increased by EDRR.
- The Forest Service and the Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) signed a 2001 Memorandum of Understanding outlining agency invasive species responsibilities and areas of coordination, and pledged to work cooperatively to find and respond to new insect and disease plant pests.
- The EDRR pilot project promotes cooperation between federal and state partners in a national program.

## Accomplishments:

- EDRR discovered several exotic bark and ambrosia beetles in NA since 2001 including a European bark beetle, *Hylurgops palliatus*, caught at Erie, PA, in 2001; a banded elm bark beetle, *Scolytus schevyrew* found in Detroit, MI, and Carteret, NJ, in 2004; and a Japanese ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus seriatus*, detected in central MA in 2005.
- EDRR initiative was implemented in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania in 2005, and Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Maryland, New York, and New Hampshire in 2006.

## Budget History:

**EDRR Funding**
*($ Thousands)*

| | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY2007 | FY2008 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Totals | $105 | $105 | $105 | $232 | |

## Future Direction:

- Develop more taxonomic expertise for exotic forest pests likely to enter the US.
- Add other states in NA to the EDRR effort to detect exotic bark beetles.
- Examine compatibility of EDRR with APHIS's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys.

**Kathryn Maloney**, *Director*
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103 (4177-FAX)
kmaloney@fs.fed.us

**Jerry Boughton**, *Assistant Director*
Forest Health & Economics
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4180 (4136-FAX)
jboughton@fs.fed.us

**Jim Steinman**
*Forest Health Monitoring Coordinator*
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4158 (4136-FAX)
jsteinman@fs.fed.us