

Exotic Forest Pest Workshop for the Midwestern States

Coordinating Across State Lines for Healthier Forests

The Challenge

To be effective, response to invasive species has to be implemented in a consistent fashion across state lines and federal and state agencies have to be coordinated in their actions.

The Solution

The St. Paul Field Office conducted an informal survey of our state cooperators and found support for an annual, informal workshop to discuss issues, coordinate plans, and improve strategies for dealing with exotic forest pests. The workshop is now in its ninth year and has been instrumental in improving interagency communication and coordination related to gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, common pine shoot beetle, pine engraver beetles, dogwood anthracnose, emerald ash borer, and sudden oak death. In addition to the workshop, participants also communicate via an electronic list-serve enabling instant communication among participants outside of the annual meeting.

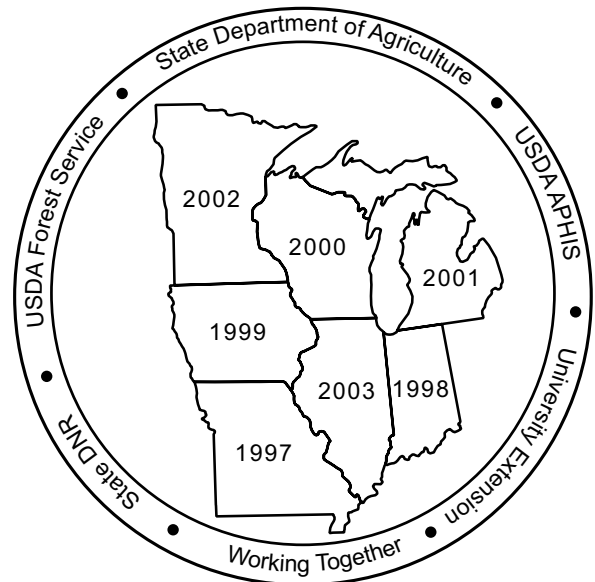
Resulting Benefits

Natural resource managers involved in the day-to-day decision making for exotic forest pests – State Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture, as well as University Extension and the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service and the Forest Service – have a forum for learning about new infestations and for coordinating across state lines. This has resulted in efficiencies in time and money as agencies learn from each other and are better prepared to deal with emerging pest issues.

“The Exotic Forest Pest Workshop is the most valuable meeting that I attend. I’m not aware of another forum providing that amount of detailed information that we can quickly put to use in forest health education and monitoring efforts. The Workshop also is a great conduit for increasing communications among forest health specialists and pest regulatory officials in neighboring states.”

*– Rob Lawrence, Forest Entomologist,
Missouri Department of Conservation.*

EXOTIC FOREST PEST WORKSHOP FOR MIDWEST STATES



**ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
1 - 2 DECEMBER 2004**

Logo depicting locations of recent Forest Pest Workshops.

This increased networking increases the chances that new infestations will be identified quicker and will be dealt with in a consistent manner – which is critical to successfully protecting trees and forests from invasive insects and diseases.

Sharing Success

Although designed to target the Midwestern States, surrounding states with similar issues have periodically participated in the Workshop. To broaden the sharing of information as well as to increase the amount of discussion time at the actual Workshop, reports and fact sheets on the pests of interest are distributed to a broader audience via the list-serve.

Each year, participants evaluate the workshop for content and format and the suggested improvements are incorporated into subsequent workshops.

Currently this workshop is focused on the Midwest States, however, there is potential for this concept to be implemented throughout the Northeastern Area and in other Forest Service Regions.



USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

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