

## Getting Prepared for the Emerald Ash Borer

### The Challenge

The emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is a non-native insect responsible for the death of 15 million ash trees. The insect is currently infesting large areas of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and smaller areas in Ontario, Ohio, and Indiana.

Since the discovery of EAB, much has been learned both about the biology of the beetle as well as how best to prepare for it. It is now known that EAB can spread over great distances when infested firewood is transported to an uninfested area. In response to this concern, Midwestern states and tribal governments are working to prepare for the possible introduction of EAB.

### The Solution

A grant from the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area resulted in the creation of a website, <http://emeraldashborer.info>, which is hosted by Michigan State University, and provides information and resources for a nationwide audience.

The Northeastern Area and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) funded the production of a thirty minute public television program titled "The Green Menace" that was broadcast in several states, and broadly distributed in DVD and VHS format. In addition, the Northeastern Area produced a variety of communications products to include EAB identification cards and "Don't Move Firewood" posters.

Recently, the Northeastern Area developed a workshop focused on EAB and tribal concerns at the College of the Menominee Nation. A unique concern to tribes is the black ash resource used to create traditional basketry. This workshop provided a forum to identify concerns and



*The College of the Menominee Nation hosted the Invasive Species and Emerald Ash Borer Workshop, Keshena, Wisconsin.*

the steps necessary to protect the black ash resource.

On the state level, readiness plans are being created that enable states to act quickly if the emerald ash borer is detected in their state. In Wisconsin and Illinois, state forestry and agriculture agencies along with USDA APHIS and the Northeastern Area have held a number of workshops to coordinate efforts among industry representatives, local government, tribes, land managers, state and federal regulatory agencies, and the National Forest System.

### Resulting Benefits

By participating in public outreach efforts and convening EAB readiness meetings, the Forest Service is helping to ensure that roles and responsibilities are in place prior to arrival of the beetle. These workshops offer valuable opportunities for building critical relationships, information sharing, and strengthening interagency partnerships. Ultimately, this advanced preparation will result in a faster response time as well as cost efficiencies for newly infested states.

### Sharing Success

Additional workshops and communications products are being planned to further aid uninfested states to prepare for possible EAB infestation. State EAB preparedness documents are also being shared among states to further share ideas and approaches.

*Many of the workshops and other EAB preparedness efforts have been featured on the Emerald Ash Borer website: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>, a cooperative effort of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana designed to share information on current infestations and events related to this invasive insect.*



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