A State’s Perspective on Deregulation of Emerald Ash Borer

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• EAB rate of detection has increased dramatically in recent years
Federal Known EAB infestations, 2013 & 2017
• EAB rate of detection has increased dramatically since 2002
• Large portions of country with ash resources already in regulated area
Current regulated area and ash distribution

Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Project
Approximate range of ash species in the Contiguous U.S. with EAB positives and Federal quarantines

Map Key:
- Approximate range of ash
- Potential urban ash locations
- Ash distribution
- Federal EAB quarantine boundaries
- Initial county EAB detection

Map facts:
- Approximate area of CONUS ash range: 468,700 sq. kilometers
- Area of U.S. Federal quarantine: 193,191 sq. kilometers
- Total area of counties where EAB is present: 133,356 sq. kilometers

Ash species distribution map source:
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET).

Link to FHTET species distribution maps:
http://foresthealth.fs.fed.us/reader/
• EAB rate of detection has increased dramatically since 2002
• Large portions of country with ash resources already in regulated area
• Personnel and resources for regulatory program have not kept pace
• Capacity to run effective regulatory program on a national level is compromised by funding constraints
• Is EAB regulatory effort best utilization of funding?
NH agencies have partnered with PPQ for:
- Survey
- Biocontrol
- Certification of regulated articles
- Firewood kiln certification
- Regulatory enforcement
NH & EAB in a Snapshot

- NH has significant forest resources
- Forests contribute to the state’s economy
- Industries, sensitive areas, and cultural resources, impacted by EAB both in and out of state
- Exterior firewood quarantine 2011
- EAB interior quarantine 2013
- EAB multi-agency response
- Firewood for home heating & tourism
- Firewood transportation concerns beyond EAB
De-regulation of EAB in NH fast approaching...

- Half of NH counties are quarantined (37% land mass; 51% of towns)
- Highest density of ash not yet in EAB regulated area
- Half of the state’s mills are in the EAB regulated area (47%)
- All exporters to Canada or EU already need to meet EAB requirements
- Next NH new county detection of EAB will likely dramatically change the regulatory status in the state

Preparing for de-regulation: outreach, survey, BMPs, coping with firewood
EAB response beyond regulation: NHBugs

- Existed as a collaborative effort prior to EAB detection
- All EAB information in the state provided at this site, heavily promoted
- Will continue to provide information on treatment, identification, known populations, etc.
- Has a partner NHBugs Facebook page
Developed recommendations for moving material within the EAB regulated area
Will continue to promote and develop BMPs for industry
Industry buy-in for use of BMPs
EAB response beyond regulation: Firewood

- Variety of formats: signs, billboards, posters, articles, ads, social media
- Emphasis on personal responsibility to protect NH forests
- Emphasis on finding locally-sourced firewood using Firewood Scout
NH Firewood Risk: Cooperative Project

• Provide NH-specific information about risk, & develop BMPs for ash firewood based on timing of harvest and seasoning
• Partnership between private industry, USFS, DAMF, & DNCR
• Harvest 10 trees each from infested location: May, July, September, November, 2016
• Process using standard techniques & equipment in NH
• Approx. 10,000 pieces of firewood included in study
• Sampled 60% immediately, at harvest
• 5% caged / reared out
• Seasoned 35% to sample later: May / June, July, September / October, 2017
• Data entry & analysis in progress
In Short...

- EAB populations have continued to spread nationally, and locally in NH
- Natural spread and non-commercial transportation of EAB infested materials are not well addressed through regulation
- Limited resource availability dictates the scope of EAB response
- It is reasonable to assess, at both the federal and state level, the focus and direction of the EAB program, however...

All Things Considered...

- EAB will continue to require a response at the federal and state levels even in the absence of a regulatory program
- Special consideration should be given to the inter-state movement of firewood given the role of firewood transportation in the spread of EAB & other invasive pests
• Assistance with state-based survey by supplying traps and lures
• Developing & supplying biocontrol agents
• Continued efforts with outreach
• Continued certification of firewood kilns for inter-state transportation of firewood
• Efforts / leadership on inter-state firewood transportation requirements
THANK YOU!