

DRAFT Forest Resource Management Guide
November 24, 2014
Division of Forestry
Indiana State Forests
Ash Reduction/Ash Salvage

Arriving in Indiana prior to 2004, but detected in April 2004 in Steuben County, Emerald Ash Borer is the most recent exotic invasive species to impact and threaten the forest resources of Indiana and the U.S. Primarily attacking ash trees, the 147 million ash trees across the forests of Indiana and the 1.5 million ash trees in the urban environment are at risk to Emerald Ash Borer. (FOREST HEALTH PROBLEMS IMPACTING INDIANA FOREST RESOURCES, Philip T. Marshall)

Fast forward 10 years to 2014, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been detected in Indiana State Forests and is killing ash trees. Discovered within Salamonie River State Forest summer 2009 and Jackson-Washington State Forest summer 2014, numerous trees are dying and more are showing signs of EAB infestation. EAB is also found on Yellowwood State Forest and Martin State Forest. EAB has also been identified near and likely to exist on Ferdinand State Forest, Morgan Monroe State Forest, Harrison Crawford State Forest and Clark State Forest.

When an infected ash tree dies, the wood quickly starts to breakdown and decay; by the second year following death, the wood is too far degraded to be utilized for commercial wood products. As EAB is discovered in an area, salvage operations, where a sufficient quantity of ash exists, need to be implemented quickly to remove the trees before they die or slightly after, and to reduce the food source for EAB.

The purpose of ash salvage is to reduce the availability of the host food source for EAB, thereby potentially slowing the spread of the insect and also utilizing ash trees before they decay. Ash salvage operations focus on removing affected ash trees as well as those in adjacent areas. Following these measures, where applicable, should help reduce or slow the rate of spread of EAB.

All ash salvage operations will be in compliance with current Indiana Emerald Ash Borer quarantines.

Salvage operations on State Forests will concentrate on areas with significant Ash components. Salvage operations will assess the EAB status at the time of salvage .

Salvage will not remove all Ash, but will significantly reduce Ash populations in and around the targeted areas. Residual ash will be monitored in subsequent years for 'lingering ash' (ash exposed to EAB that survived and may have tolerance or resistance to EAB).

Other forest tracts may be assessed for Ash, EAB and the potential to use the tract for introduction of EAB parasites.

Water quality and soil conservation BMPs, cultural resource protection measures and Natural Heritage data will be utilized during planning and implementation of salvage harvests to conserve these resources.

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