

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Management

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a non-native insect pest of eastern and Carolina hemlocks. HWA now occurs from southern Maine to Georgia and as far west as Tennessee. This area represents about one-half of the native range of hemlock in the eastern United States. The entire range of eastern hemlock may become infested within the next few decades. In Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, and portions of Pennsylvania, extensive tree mortality and decline are common. This insect is adversely affecting many wildlife species that occur in the important hemlock habitats.

Key Issues:

- HWA impacts are expected to intensify and spread throughout the range of eastern and Carolina hemlocks; HWA is rapidly spreading in the southern Appalachians.
- Hemlock is an ecologically important species in many habitats and irreplaceable for its biodiversity value and as an old growth species in the East.
- HWA threatens hemlock health and establishment of future hemlock stands in infested areas.
- There are few practical tools available to control HWA in forest areas.
- A HWA initiative is being implemented but additional management tools must be developed to reduce adverse effects and to slow HWA spread.
- State Foresters, State Plant Regulatory Officials, and the USDA Forest Service consider HWA a high priority forest health issue.

Accomplishments:

- Supported biological control efforts in 15 states in 2003 (CT, GA, MA, ME, MD, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, TN, WV, and VA);
- Provided suppression and eradication assistance in 2003 to state and federal land managers in seven states (MD, ME, NY, PA, TN, VA and WV);
- Continued to assess HWA impacts and to develop silvicultural and chemical control guidelines;
- Implemented a HWA initiative under guidance of a multi-agency steering committee;

Budget History:

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Management				
<i>(\$ Thousands)</i>				
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Total	\$1,534	\$1,079	\$2,009	\$2,600

Future Direction:

- Continue to implement the HWA management initiative
- Modify HWA initiative management structure to better facilitate input by the states.
- Seek funding for high priority research studies needed to support the HWA initiative.

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