

Early Detection and Rapid Response for Exotic Forest Pests

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

Catching Invasive Problems Early



Description: Early detection and rapid response to new introductions of exotic forest and tree insects and pathogens is a significant component of the NA Forest Service Forest Health Management Program. The Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) pilot project was initiated in FY 2001. This project is developing a framework for a national, interagency detection, monitoring and response system for exotic forest pests. It will be an important component of the *Early Warning System* for forest health concerns described in Title VI of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Public interest and professional concern about the adverse effects caused by recently introduced exotic tree pests, like Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, sudden oak death, *Sirex noctilio*, an introduced European woodwasp species, stresses the importance of and need for early detection and rapid response in order to contain and eradicate these pests before they become established and adversely affect our forests and trees across our urban landscapes.

Key Issues:

- Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle exemplify the sustained effort needed and high cost of eradicating new pest introductions if they are not discovered early.
- Eradication of these pests will take many years of concerted effort that will require a long-term commitment of future resources. These resources will not be available for other needs.
- Costs can be reduced and eradication success increased by early detection and rapid response.
- The Forest Service and the Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service signed a 2001 Memorandum of Understanding outlining agency invasive species responsibilities and areas of coordination, and pledged to work cooperatively to find and respond to new insect and disease plant pests.
- The early detection and rapid response (EDRR) pilot project initiated in 2001 has moved forward to promote cooperation between federal and state partners in a national program.

Accomplishments:

- EDRR discovered several exotic bark and ambrosia beetles in the Northeastern Area since 2001. A European bark beetle, *Hylurgops palliatus*, was first caught at Erie, PA, in 2001. The banded elm bark beetle, *Scolytus schevyrewi*, a Siberian species threatens elm trees. It first found in western states in 2003 and later in Detroit, MI, and Carteret, NJ, in 2004. A Japanese ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus seriatus*, was first detected in central MA in 2005.
- EDRR initiative was implemented in MA and PA in 2005. with plans to add ME and WV in 2006.

Budget History:

Early Detection and Rapid Response				
(\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Totals	\$90	\$105	\$105	\$105

Future Direction:

- Develop more taxonomic expertise for exotic forest pests likely to enter the U.S.
- Add ME and WV to the EDRR initiative in 2006.
- Examine compatibility of EDRR with APHIS's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys.

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