

Serving American Indian Communities

Addressing Tribal Concerns about Emerald Ash Borer

The Challenge

The emerald ash borer (EAB) and other invasive species pose a major threat to American Indian communities and their forest products industries. American Indians have had cultural and economic ties to the land and its resources for thousands of years. However, this long-term relationship between American Indian communities and forests is threatened by invasive species. American Indian forest and land managers need information about EAB and other invasives that addresses their concerns about the economic stability of their communities. Responses to these threats need to be understood and coordinated among tribes to reduce the impacts of invasive species on both American Indian forest product industries and Tribal communities.

The Solution

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Wood Education and Resource Center provided funding to the College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute and its Center for First Americans Forestlands Initiative. These funds were used to provide educational materials about invasive species, including EAB, and improve outreach efforts to American Indian communities.

Current information that is readily accessible and centrally located is now available to American Indian communities, Tribal forest products industries, and other interested stakeholders. Up-to-date educational materials focus on new utilization options and stewardship opportunities that address Tribal-specific concerns. This information also includes how Tribal forest products industries can promote sustainable use and management of ash resources. Understanding the impact of invasive species on the culture and economic viability of Tribal communities will foster cooperation and improve the coordination of Tribal responses to these threats.

American Indian communities respond to cultural and economic challenges posed by invasive species such as the emerald ash borer.



American Indian forest products industries face economic threats from the emerald ash borer and other invasive species.

Resulting Benefits

- Raises public awareness about the EAB and other invasive species
- Provides Tribes with information about invasive species that is current, centrally located, and readily available
- Provides marketing information and business opportunities for ash products to American Indian forest products industries
- Encourages dialogue between Tribes that have not yet been impacted by the EAB

Sharing Success

- Hosted three workshops to promote awareness of invasive species
- Organized and held an EAB education week that focused on conserving ash trees on Tribal lands
- Produced and distributed a brochure about the cultural and economic impacts of the EAB on American Indian communities, which is located at: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/EABImpactsOnAmericanIndianCommunities.pdf>
- Produced and distributed educational pod casts and short Web-based video segments that can be found at: <http://www.sustainabledevelopmentinstitute.org/InvasiveSpeciesMovie.asp>



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