

Invasive Species Rapid Detection and Response Pilot Project

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: The Northeastern Area's Forest Health Management program has a major role in the Invasive Species Rapid Detection and Response (RAPDET) pilot project. This project is developing a possible framework for a national, interagency detection, monitoring and response system for exotic, invasive forest insect and diseases. Public interest and professional concern about the adverse effects caused by recently introduced exotic tree pests, like Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, and sudden oak death, stresses the importance of and need for early detection and rapid response to exotic insect and disease pests.

Key Issues:

- Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle show that the cost of eradicating new pest introductions is very high if these introductions are not found early.
- Successful eradication of these pests can take many years of concerted effort and long term commitment of resources.
- Costs can be reduced and eradication success increased by early detection and rapid response
- Forest Service and APHIS 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.
- A rapid detection and response pilot project was developed in 2001 by a team of federal, state and university cooperators to develop and implement a national pilot project to evaluate exotic bark beetle and nun moth detection methods, address gaps in detection protocols and taxonomic resources, and set protocols and priorities.

Accomplishments:

- New exotic bark beetle finds have been recorded since 2001
- First detected near Erie, PA, *Hylurgops palliates* has since been found in NY and OH
- In 2003, banded elm bark beetle, *Scolytus schevyrewi*, a Siberian species previously unreported in North America was found in 10 western states. This species poses a risk to elm trees.

Budget History: RAPDET national pilot project was funded through the Washington Office, Forest Health Protection staff in FY 2001-2003. In FY 2004 the Northeastern Area was allocated \$51,000 to expand the bark beetle surveys around the Great Lakes.

Future Direction:

- Develop more taxonomy expertise for exotic forest pests likely to enter the U.S.
- Transition pilot project to an operational component within the Cooperative Forest Health Program.
- Examine compatibility of RAPDET with APHIS's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys.

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February 2, 2004--revised