

2008 Firewood Forum

Responsibilities, Regulations, and Risks

Haggerty Education Center

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Whippany, NJ



Presented by:

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USDA-APHIS-PPQ-EAB



Emerald Ash Borer

Agrilus planipennis Fairmaire

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 - Forest Service
- States
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Department of Agriculture
- Universities
- Canada
 - Canadian Food Inspection Agency



2008 Firewood Forum

Roles, Responsibilities, and Regulations

○ Federal

- Quarantine
- Regulatory
 - Interstate Movement of Host Materials
- Outreach
- Survey
- Program Oversight

○ State Regulatory Agencies

- Quarantine
- Regulatory
 - Intrastate Movement of Host Material
- Outreach
- Survey

○ Other Cooperators (Park Mgrs., etc.)

- Restoration
- Wood Utilization
- Outreach

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Forest Service

Michigan Department of Agriculture
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
MI, IN, OH State Police

Center for Plant Health Science and
Technology

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Virginia Department of Agriculture

Local Police Departments

Park Managers

Municipalities

Loggers, Sawmills, Firewood Dealers, etc...

State Departments of Transportation

General Public

Michigan State University

University of Michigan

Michigan Tech University

Ohio State University

Purdue University

Penn State University

Tennessee State University

Other Universities

Tree Care Companies

Nature Conservancy

Trade Associations

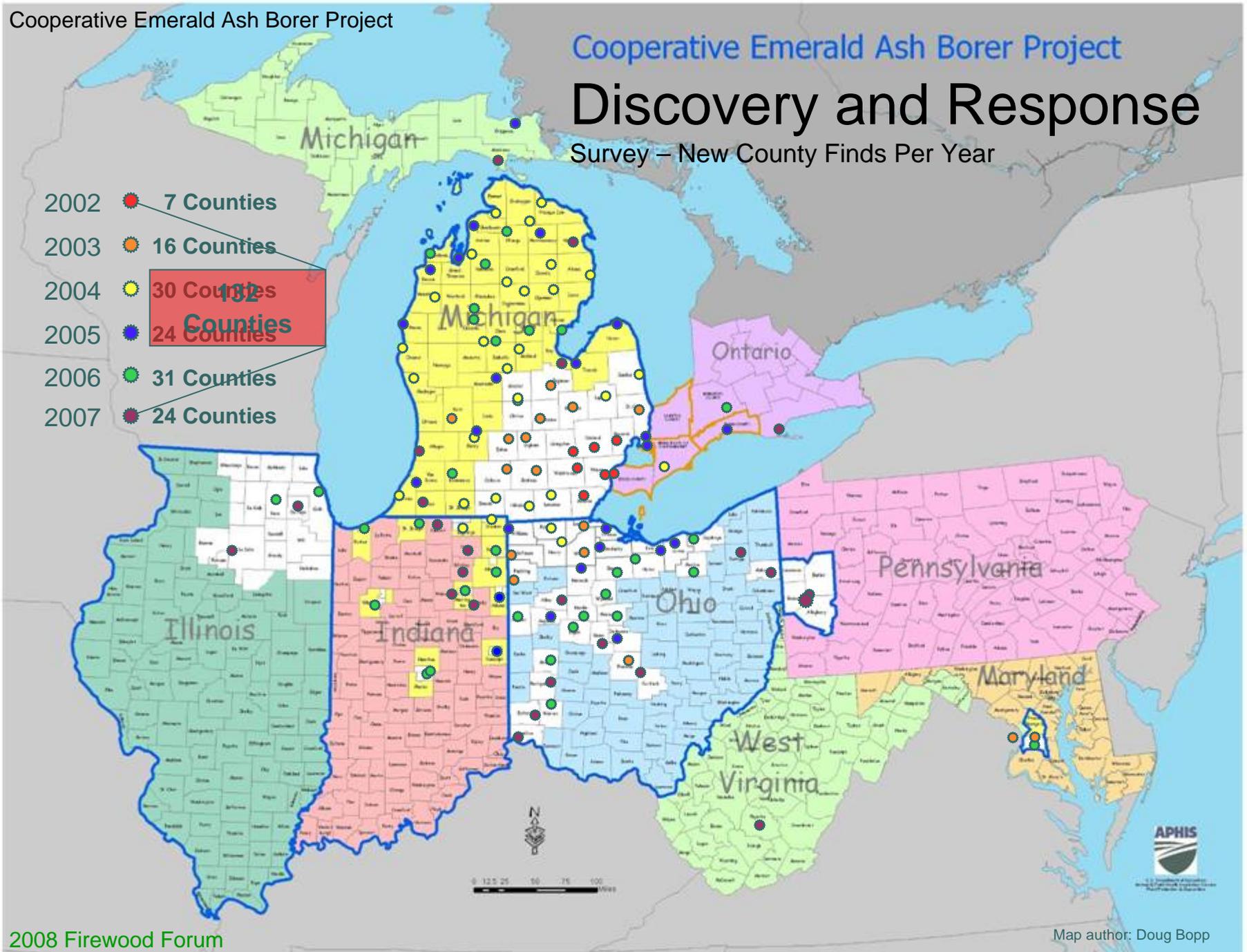
Others

Discovery and Response

Survey – New County Finds Per Year

- 2002 ● 7 Counties
- 2003 ● 16 Counties
- 2004 ● 30 Counties
- 2005 ● 24 Counties
- 2006 ● 31 Counties
- 2007 ● 24 Counties

182 Counties



Discovery and Response...

Survey – Original Delimited Infested Area

From this...

2003 Infested Area

< 3,000 mi²



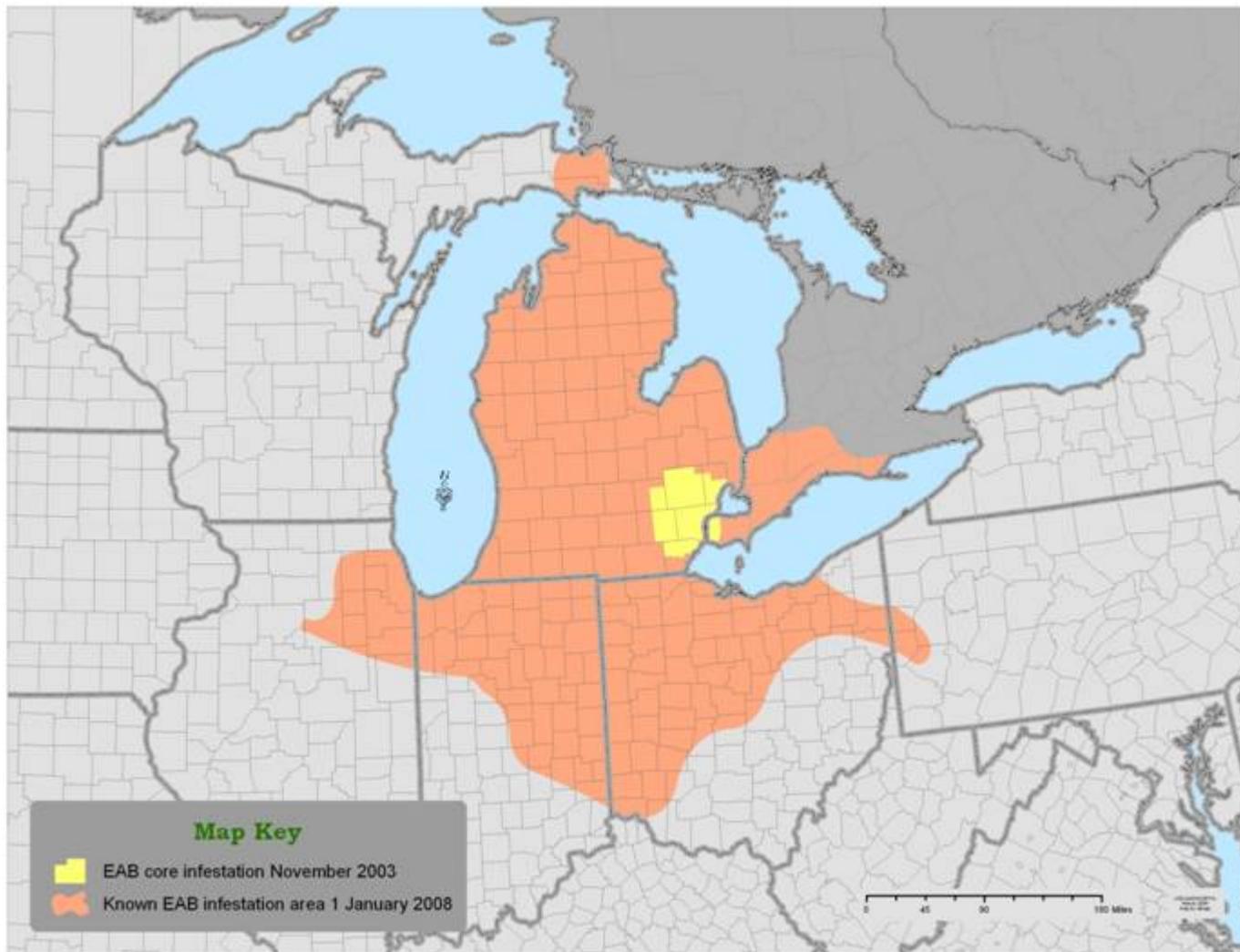
Emerald Ash Borer

Survey – Current Generally Infested Area

To this 5 years later.

Generally Infested
Area

>92,000 mi²



What's Regulated?

- The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*)
- Entire ash (*Fraxinus spp.*) trees
- Ash logs
- Untreated ash lumber with bark attached
- Ash limbs and branches
- Firewood of all hardwood (non-coniferous) species
- Uncomposted ash chips and uncomposted ash bark chips larger than 1 inch in diameter in 2 dimensions.
- Any article determined to present a risk of spreading EAB



Are you at risk?

You are at risk if your state has:

- parks or campgrounds
- out-of-state sportsmen
- convenience stores or major retail outlets that sell bundled firewood
- homeowners that burn firewood
- major events that draw out of state visitors (i.e., NASCAR circuit races, balloon festivals, pow-wows, etc.)



What risk do homeowners create?

Wood is an alternative fuel source for wood heating:

- With escalating prices of fuel oil and gas, wood use in secondary and primary home heating is on the rise.
- In the northern Midwest it takes 13-23 cords (128 ft³/cord) of wood to heat an average size house through the winter.
- Most home owners purchase this wood from a provider within 1 to 2 hours of their home.
- Local dealers generally get their wood from an area within 1 to 2 hours of their business establishment.
- *Sales of firewood to homeowners for heating creates a potential spread of EAB of up to 150 to 200 miles. What about other pests?*



What is the risk at parks and campgrounds?

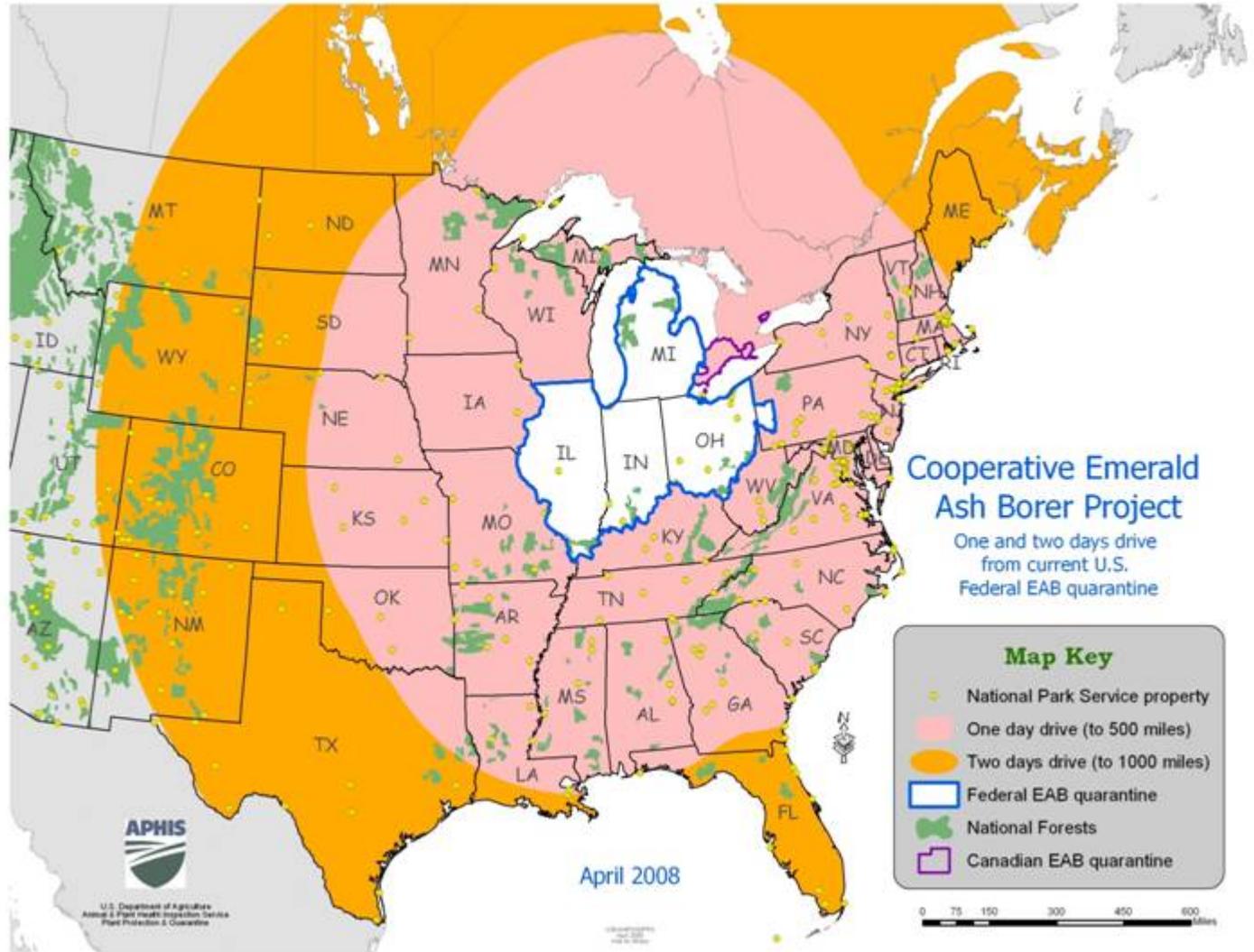
Historically...

- over a dozen isolated EAB infestations occurred in parks such as:

- Brimley State Park in Michigan's Upper Peninsula
- Tawas Point State Park in Michigan's Lower Peninsula
- Wild Wing Campground (private) in Ottawa County, Ohio
- Yogi Bear Campground (private) in Steuben County, Indiana
- Ace Adventure Center Campground (private) in Fayette County, West Virginia

What is the risk at parks and campgrounds?

One and two day drives from EAB quarantine



Do people really move firewood with them?

Yes they do!

- On 25th of March, campers at the Michigan state park outside specified area were not alerted and firewood they purchased from a local store in the park. Of that state in 2004, 65% brought firewood to the park, one man hauling it from his back yard in Kent after Michigan.



Cooperative Emerald Ash Borer Project

Number of 2004 campsite visits to South Dakota State Parks from EAB infested areas of Indiana, Michigan and Ohio



Source of camp visit data: South Dakota Department of Agriculture

APHIS
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Forest Health Protection Center
P.O. Box 246, Columbia, SC 29202



Map Key
South Dakota State Park camping visits



South Dakota



0 15 30 60 90 120 Miles



EAB is devastating but is not the only risk associated with firewood.

Firewood can spread a number of forest pests and diseases:

- ALB
- Beech bark disease
- Dutch elm disease
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Gypsy moth
- Hemlock woolly adelgid
- Oak wilt
- Sudden oak death



What is the cost of invasive species that can be spread by firewood?

Immeasurable..., but we do know;

- It is costing the city of Ann Arbor, Michigan over 4.3 million dollars to remove dead and dying ash trees and restore their greenscape.
- That Michigan has lost over 15 million of its ash trees.
- The cost of setting 67,000 survey panel traps this year will cost over \$4 million.
- We do know the control costs for Canada's ash-free zone, cutting 70,000 trees in a 116 sq. mile area, was almost \$9 million in US dollars.
- It is projected to cost Chicago, IL \$1.2 **billion** to remove dead and dying ash trees and restore their greenscape.

Do you know where your firewood comes from?

- Firewood can be collected by individuals on private land or public land via firewood permits.
- It can be purchased:
 - from a dealer
 - at a farm auction
 - over the internet
 - bought at a store
 - contracted from a broker
 - dropped off by your brother who lives 5 counties away

Auction

We have been operating one of the largest firewood auctions of its kind in PA! Hay, Straw, Grains
<http://www.auctionzip.com/PA>



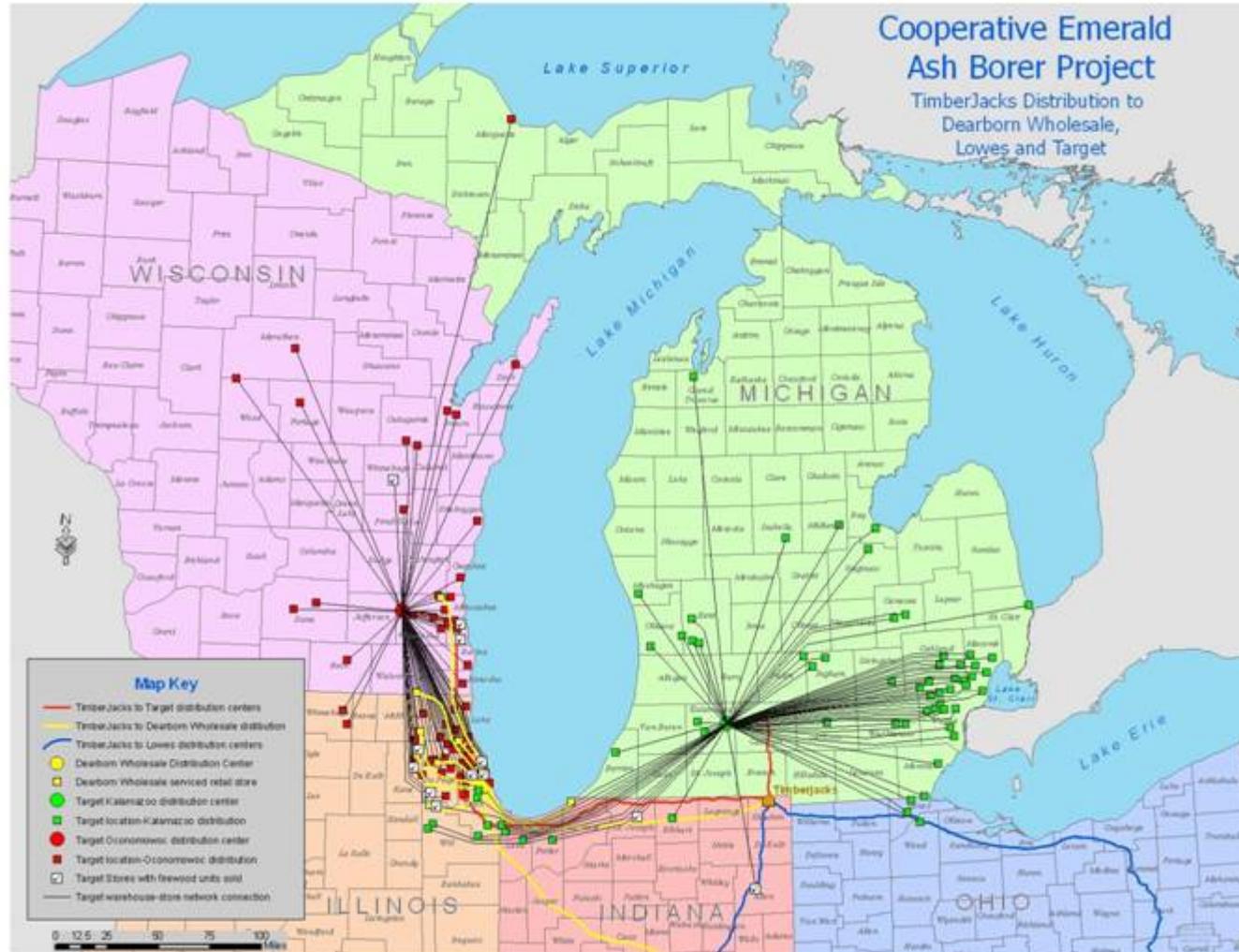
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...ning and successful auctions of its
Every Monday, ...

[Review This Site]

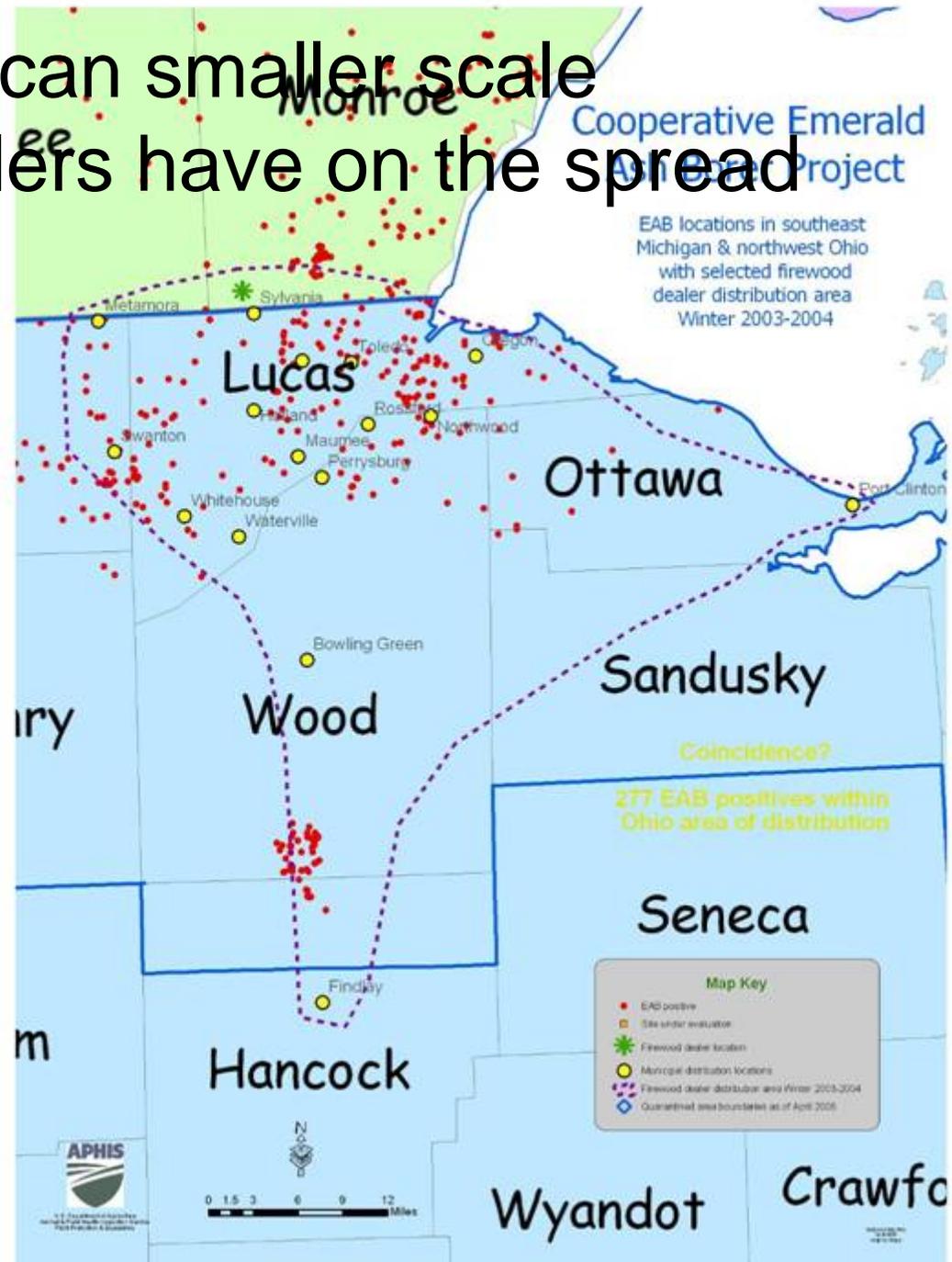
Do you know where your firewood comes from?

• In a large scale recall effort the EAB program and cooperating states recovered firewood that was packaged in Indiana's quarantined area, brokered by a firm in California (labeling shows a California address) and distributed to 6 states including 4 major retail chains



What impact can smaller scale firewood dealers have on the spread of EAB?

- This map showing known sales area of a firewood dealer handling wood out of the infested area and subsequent EAB survey positives – is there a correlation?



How traceable are firewood sales?

- Sales venues run the gamut from seasonal Mom and Pop operations where you leave cash in a can and help yourself to a bundle to large scale brokers moving wood from multiple sources across the nation and internationally. Look at this excerpt from the 'firewoodcenter.com website' that connects buyers and sellers of firewood.

Topic: Slab Firewood
Posted by: Bill Schmell
Date/Time: 3/28/2006 1:51:42 AM
I have a new stove insert that easily loads 16" firewood front to back for a full firebox. There are local lumber yards in a nearby Amish settlement that offer slab firewood for sale at a bargain. I can cut and split it to size. Is this a good option for me, assuming it is hard wood and seasoned well? Will slab wood hold a fire as long as split wood if stove is loaded to capacity?

- This item contains several regulatory hot spots: slab wood, Amish settlements, bargain prices.

Besides education and outreach how do we deter non-commercial movement of firewood?

- Due to the high level of risk associated individual's moving firewood the EAB program, in cooperation with IES, has developed a table of penalties for non-commercial violations of domestic quarantines. Since this development over 100 stipulations of \$250 and up have been issued for non-commercial firewood violations.





Emerald Ash Borer – Info...

www.emeraldashborer.info

www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/

<http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab/>

EAB Information/Hot Line - Dial Toll Free: (866) 322-4512



Thank You...

EAB photographs

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Brian Sullivan, USDA/APHIS

David Cappaert, MSU

John Bedford - MDA

Maps

Doug Bopp, Geographer USDA/APHIS