

RESOLUTION Number 2013-6

ORIGIN OF RESOLUTION:

Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters
NASF Forest Science and Health Committee

ISSUE OF CONCERN: The impacts of invasive forest insects, diseases, and plant species on our nation's forests have become an increasing concern for the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), especially as federal and state investments to address these impacts are in the decline. For example, a recent study found that wood boring insects such as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB) are having a significant economic impact resulting in approximately \$1.7 billion in local government expenditures and \$830 million in lost residential property values each year. Once invasive species become established, their impacts can easily transcend state and regional boundaries. EAB is now known to be found in 20 states, creating and necessitating cooperative management strategies among states and willing partners. EAB's rapid spread and impacts demonstrate how important detection and eradication efforts for ALB are, before this pest spreads into other areas. Decreasing federal budgets for forest invasive pests, especially for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), have necessitated making choices about program priorities. Joint and collaborative priority setting between and among federal and state agencies in this reduced budget climate are critical.

BACKGROUND: NASF's programs and stewardship actions are on the front lines of eradicating, slowing the spread, and addressing the enormous collateral damage of invasive species. In 2012, the NASF membership endorsed a wide ranging *Forest Invasive Species Management and Policy Statement*, with the intent of aligning key roles and responsibilities of NASF and its partners, serving both as a reference and platform for future activities. Federal agencies with leading roles in preventing the spread of EAB out of infested areas to un-infested areas are housed in the United States Department of Agriculture and include APHIS and the USDA Forest Service. As an agency with primary regulatory responsibilities, APHIS establishes and enforces federal quarantines, conducts outreach and public awareness activities and campaigns, sponsors and engages in research and methods development aimed at better tools to detect, contain the spread, and mitigate damages caused by EAB. Funding reductions for APHIS' EAB-related activities in recent fiscal years have necessitated making choices about program priorities and input from key program partners and stakeholders has been solicited. Because there is a range of conditions in degree of pest infestations, states have different perspectives and priorities, which can complicate relationships with federal partners. A clear statement of priorities as well as capabilities is needed to develop joint and collaborative priority setting between and among federal and state agencies.

RESOLUTION: Therefore be it resolved that NASF:

- urges APHIS and its partners to complete efforts to eradicate Asian Long-horned Beetle in New York;

- acknowledges APHIS for reaching out to stakeholders in its recent Emerald Ash Borer Working Group;
- views APHIS' regulatory and survey activities as critical to addressing and mitigating EAB's impacts in the United States;
- encourages continuing work on improved survey tools, recognizing that investments in research and methods development have provided important advancements in technologies, tools, and strategies available to the EAB program and its partners; and
- endorses the priority APHIS places on the development of a biological control program for EAB

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NASF urges APHIS to:

- restore an overall priority for invasive forest pests;
- continue a high level focus on its eradication program of ALB throughout the nation; and
- implement the recommendations of the 2010 National Firewood Task Force

The statement will be posted on the NASF website and sent to Chief of the USDA Forest Service, Director of the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, and President of the National Plant Board.

NASF ACTION:

Approved

Disapproved

Tabled

DATE OF ACTION: 9/26/2013