



United States Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Allegheny National Forest

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Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/)



# News Release

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## Allegheny National Forest Proposes Emerald Ash Borer Project

**Bradford, Pa.** (December 29, 2015) – The Allegheny National Forest’s Bradford Ranger District is proposing a project to reduce the decline of white ash, eastern hemlock and American beech due to the emerald ash borer. Proposed activities on the 102,832 acre Bradford Emerald Ash Borer Remediation project include tree harvests, reforestation, changes and improvements to roads, and removal and control of noxious weeds. “This project comes in the nick of time and will help



maintain or improve ecological conditions in stands affected by the emerald ash borer,” said Bradford District Ranger Rich Hatfield. “If no action is taken, forest stocking levels may be reduced, which could convert forest understories to interfering vegetation, including thickets of beech. In some areas, few to no seed trees will remain.”

The emerald ash borer is a non-native beetle causing widespread ash mortality in the Northeast and Midwest. Millions of ash have already been killed or are heavily infested by this pest. Individual tree mortality occurs within four years of infection, and infested ash populations within forest settings have had a 99 percent mortality within six years. Stands selected for this project have a high percentage of ash trees and/or are susceptible to other forest pests, including the hemlock woolly adelgid and a scale insect responsible for beech

bark disease. A complete description of the proposed action and maps are available at:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48178>

The Forest Service is currently accepting scoping comments on the proposed action and treatments. Your comments are important, and may be used to modify or develop alternatives to the proposed action. Comments may be submitted by:

- **Mail:** Rich Hatfield, USDA Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest, Bradford Ranger District, 29 Forest Service Dr., Bradford, PA, 16701
- **Email:** [comments-eastern-allegheny-bradford@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-allegheny-bradford@fs.fed.us). Please enter the project name (Bradford Emerald Ash Borer Remediation project) on the subject line and include your name and physical mailing address with your comments.
- **Hand-delivered and verbal comments** will be accepted between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at the Bradford Ranger District or by calling 814.363.6000.

Comments will be most helpful if received by January 18, 2016. For more information about this project, please contact Joshua Hanson at 814.363.6076 or [jwhanson@fs.fed.us](mailto:jwhanson@fs.fed.us).

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The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region has 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie located throughout 20 Midwestern and Eastern states. We're spread from Maine to Minnesota and from Maryland to Missouri. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/R9](http://www.fs.usda.gov/R9).

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The public lands that the Forest Service manages, contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S. and includes 100 million acres that are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/).

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