

THE NEED FOR SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE CONTROL

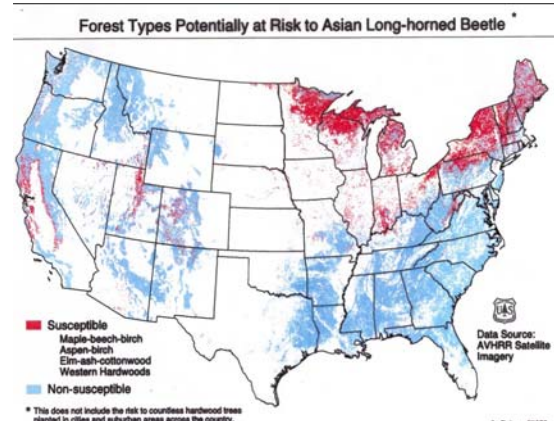
Request

Fund APHIS' program to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle in FY 05 with \$31 million. Don't throw away 7 years of eradication efforts and funding -- continue the control of the beetle by supporting this earmark in FY 2005.

Rationale

The Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) is a wood-boring insect native to China and Korea that has invaded the New York, Chicago, and Toronto metropolitan areas via shipping containers. If the Asian longhorned beetle is not eradicated, it will spread to forests and street trees in much of the Northeast and Midwest, causing immense ecological and economic damage.

Control programs are proving effective, and numbers of infested trees are declining. Dramatically cutting back on these programs would jeopardize all public investment to date in the control effort. This would represent poor public policy and entail substantial risks to both urban and rural areas of the Northeast. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Forest Service are working with officials in New York, New Jersey, and Illinois to eradicate the beetle before it spreads. Canadian officials have begun similar work in Toronto. The funding requested is essential to complete the effort.



Impacts

The introduced Asian longhorned beetle kills a wide variety of hardwood trees. The beetle shows a strong preference for sugar maple, the most characteristic species of the forests of the Northeast and the backbone of the maple syrup and fall foliage tourism industries. The beetle threatens to devastate forests covering approximately 48 million acres reaching from New England to the Great Lakes – including forests in the Catskills, Adirondacks, and Berkshires (see USFS map above).

These areas are critical to protecting public drinking water quality; streams and rivers flowing from these areas; and many rare species and natural communities found within the forests. The Nature Conservancy and its partners have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the conservation of these and other significant forests of the region.

Economic Consequences of Asian Longhorned Beetle

- **Tree removal and replacement in rural urban and suburban communities** -- Because the beetle weakens trunks and limbs, infested street trees must be removed for public safety. Consequently, the Asian longhorned beetle has already had severe impacts in New York and Chicago. Failure to eradicate the beetle will result in rapid escalation of the devastation and costs in Chicago, New York, and other communities. A study by the USDA Forest Service determined that if the Asian longhorned beetle became established across the country, it would probably kill 30% of all urban trees – at a compensatory value of \$669 billion (1).
- **Devastate the Northeast timber industry** -- If the beetle is not stopped it will affect the timber industry. More sawtimber in New York and Vermont is sugar maple than any other species (2).
- **Curtail the maple syrup industry** -- In 2002, maple syrup production was valued at \$38.4 million. Nearly 3/4 of all U.S. production occurs near New York City, in the states of Vermont, New York, Maine, and New Hampshire. Nearly all the rest is produced near Chicago, in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan (3).
- **Affect Tourism** -- Tourism based on fall foliage displays is of high value throughout New England and New York; sugar maples provide the dominant attraction. One million tourists intent on viewing autumn foliage generate \$1 billion in revenue in New England each year (4).
- **Total economic impact estimated at annual losses of \$1.1 billion** from decline of the maple syrup industry, lost timber value, lost tourism value, and lost hardwood nursery stock and sales (3,5). Costs of street tree removal and forest replanting in watershed areas to maintain drinking water quality would add tens to hundreds of millions to these cost estimates.



Asian longhorned beetle. Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, www.invasive.org

Funding

This year (FY 04), USDA APHIS is spending \$39.581 million on control efforts. The one-year cutback in FY 2003, when funding was cut to \$23 million, set back APHIS's estimated date for eradication of the Asian longhorned beetle from New York by 9 years, from 2009 to 2018. Complete eradication of this pest can be achieved by this later date only if funding is not cut further.

Sources

- (1) Nowak, D.J., J.E. Pasek, R.A. Sequeira, D.E. Crane, V.C. Mastro. 2001. Potential Effect of *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Coleoptera: Cermabycidae) on Urban Trees in the United States. *Forest Entomology*. February 2001.
- (2) USFS FIA analyses. fs.fed.us/ne/fia/states/main.html
- (3) United States Department of Agriculture, National Ag. Statistics Service 2004 Crop Values 2003 Summary February 2004
- (4) United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service 1998. Solid Wood Packing Material from China Initial Pest Risk Assessment on Certain Wood Boring Beetles Known To Be Associated With Cargo Shipments: Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), *Ceresium*, *Monochamus* and *Hesperophanes*. August 31, 1998
- (5) United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service 1998. Solid Wood Packing Material from China; Interim Rule Federal Register September 18, 1998 (Volume 63, Number 181)
- (6) United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Forest Service 2000. Pest Risk Assessment for Importation of Solid Wood Packing Materials into the United States. USDA APHIS and USFS . August 2000.

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