

Emerald Ash Borer and Woodlot Management Strategies

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Assumptions

- Strategies are for private woodlands.
- Owners work with a forester.
- Focus today is on established woodlands.
- EAB may or may not arrive.
- If EAB arrives in your woodlot, your options change dramatically.
- Management guidelines are not based on ash-specific research.



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Suggested Course of Action

(Nyland, 2009. ForestConnect Fact Sheet)

1. Review and revise management plan.
 - Owner objectives
 - Inventory
2. If appropriate, identify areas (stands) for potential harvest.
3. Develop steps and thresholds for prompt action.
4. Anticipate rehabilitation actions.
5. Monitor changes in insect status.
6. When appropriate, act promptly.



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Who Should Not Harvest Ash

- Default Option - do not commercially harvest
- Revenue considerations are minor (or)
- Limited quantity of ash (or)
- High value alternative species (or)
- Recent timber harvest, low stocking (or)
- If ash prices fall



Who Should Harvest Ash

- Revenue is a priority ownership objective (and)
- Approximately **20 - 30 MBF** of ash (and)
- Approximately **20 sq. ft.** basal area per acre of ash saw timber (and)
- Stands fully stocked with desirable alternative species (and)
- Access to competent contractors and good markets (and)
- Ability to avoid "*while we're here*" cutting of other timber species



Generic Harvesting Outcomes

- Actions complement ownership objectives.
- Increase vigor and resilience of residual stems.
- Maintain adequate stocking and improve spatial distribution.
- Retain desired species.
- Retain desired stems.
- Reduce abundance of undesirable species and stems.



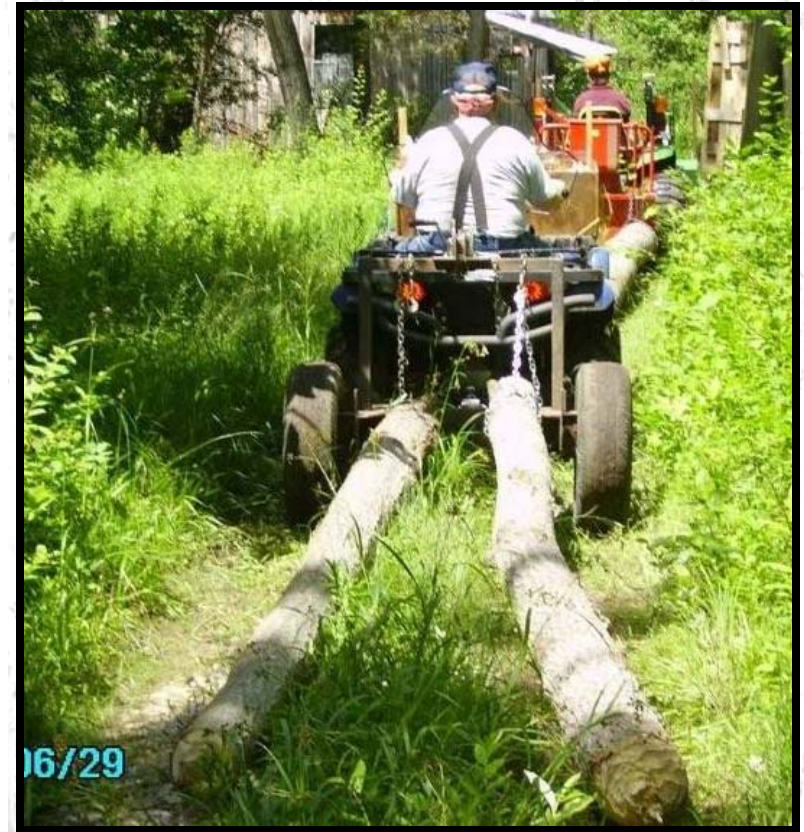
EAB - Cutting Prescription

- Emphasize harvest in areas with highest density of large diameter ash.
 - Reduce EAB breeding potential of the stand (SLAM)
 - Recover maximum value
 - Concentrate harvest impacts
- Avoid soil rutting and damage to residual root systems, especially of ash.
- If possible, annually remove and process newly dead ash.
- In areas near EAB, relax thresholds for ash abundance and cut more aggressively. Process stems immediately.



Woodland Practitioners (aka - weekend loggers)

- Personal safety is priority
- Select against ash
 - Firewood
 - Custom sawmilling
- Thin woods to improve vigor of alternative species
- Promptly remove and process dead or low vigor ash
- Use the correct
 - Techniques
 - Tools
 - Equipment



EAB Woodlot Management Summary

- Owners need a management plan that includes current objectives and accurate inventory
- Most owners should not commercially harvest
- Harvests should favor (i.e., retain) desirable alternative species
- Avoid "*while we're here*" cutting

