

STATE OF AMERICA'S FOREST HEALTH:

Western Governors Association

The Movement of Forest Pests & Relevant
Federal Policy Issues

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WHAT WE DO

State foresters manage and protect state and private forests, which encompass nearly two-thirds of the nation's forests.

With support through the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry programs, state foresters promote forest health by:

- Delivering technical management assistance to forestland owners
- Delivering technical tree care assistance to communities
- Protecting state and private forests through wildland fire prevention and suppression
- Providing training and educational opportunities for private and state forestry field personnel and the public
- Conducting ground and aerial surveys to detect recurring and unanticipated forest health conditions



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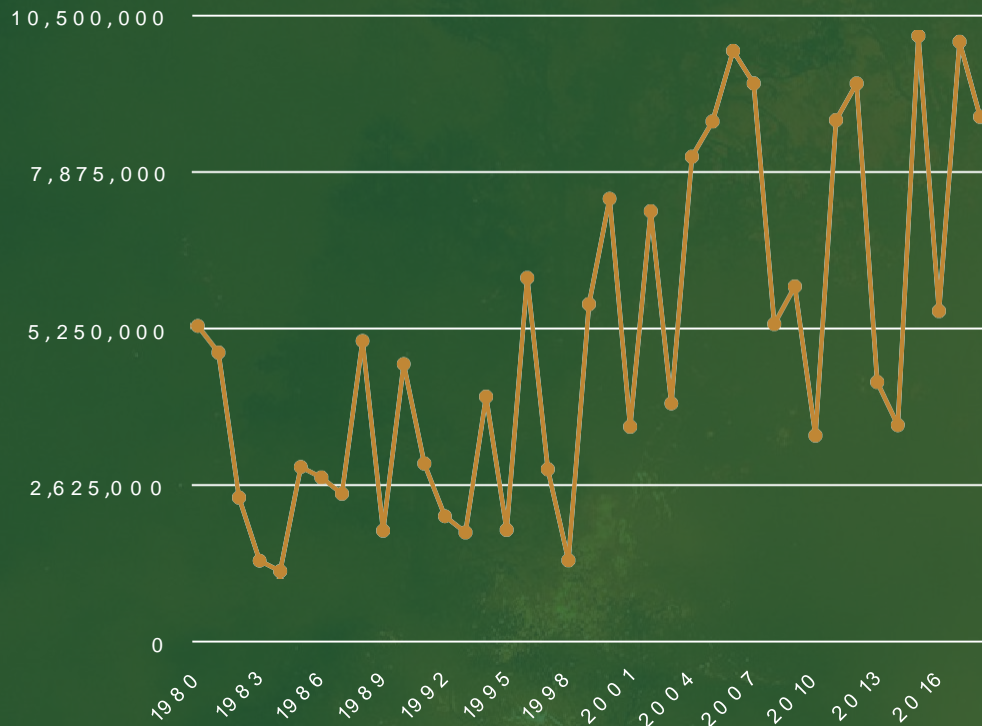
CURRENT DANGERS TO AMERICA'S FORESTS

Right now, more than 80 million forested acres in United States are at risk of damage from insects and disease. Without remediation, about 25% of trees greater than one inch in diameter will die by 2027.



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As the tally of dead and diseased trees grows, the risk of catastrophic wildfire grows too.



TOTAL
ACREAGE
BURNED
1980 - 2018

Data collected from the National Interagency Fire Center: https://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/fireInfo_statistics.html



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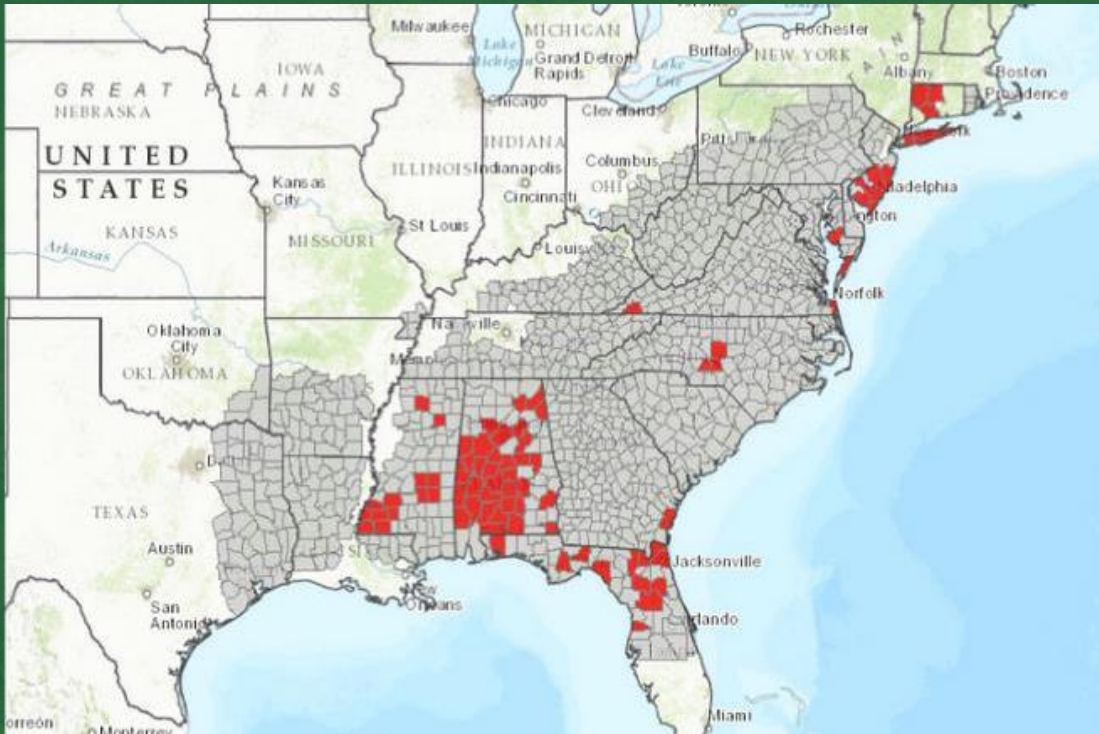
GYPSY MOTH



- Non-native insect introduced into Massachusetts in 1869
- Caterpillars defoliate oaks and many other hardwoods eventually causing tree mortality
- Forest Service, APHIS, and states work to suppress infestations in infested areas, eradicate infestations, and slow-the-spread along the 1,000 mile advancing front.



SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

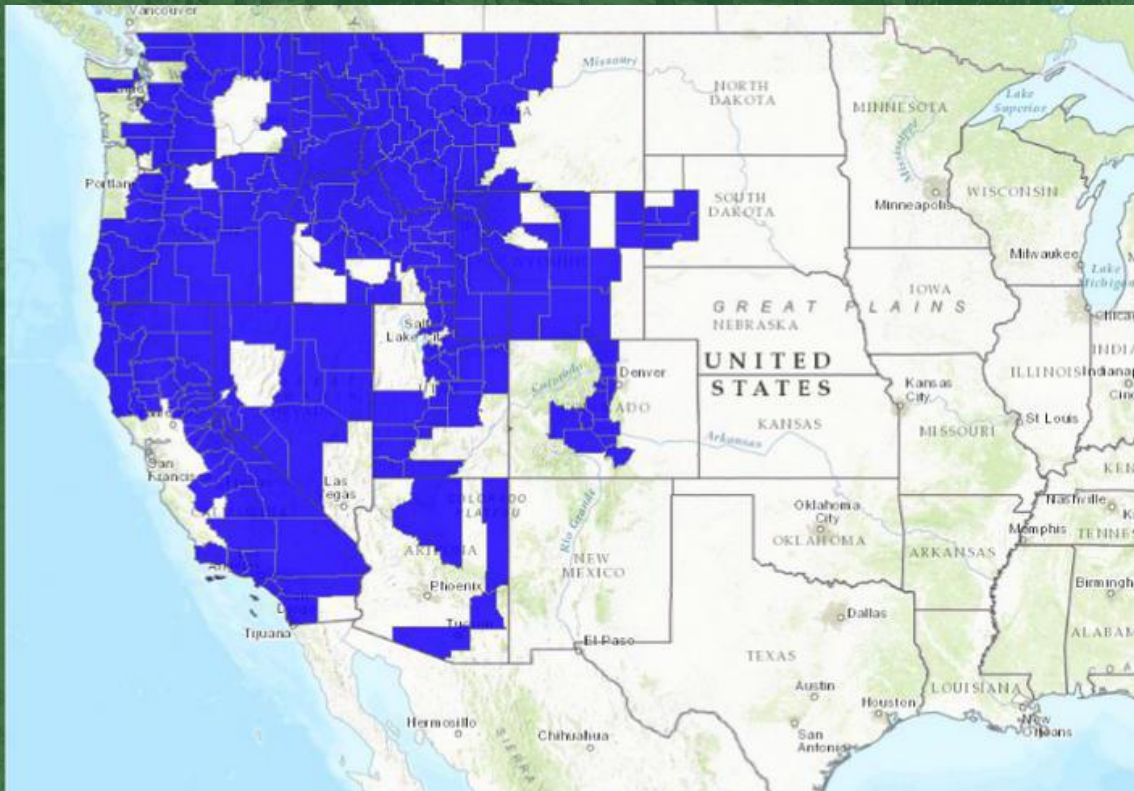


- Native insect, historically found from Maryland south to Texas and Florida
- Infestations have recently been found in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut
- Infestations quickly kill large areas of mature, dense pine forests
- Forest Service and state partners have preventatively thinned more than 1million acres to improve tree health and make forests more resistant to beetle attacks



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BARK BEETLES

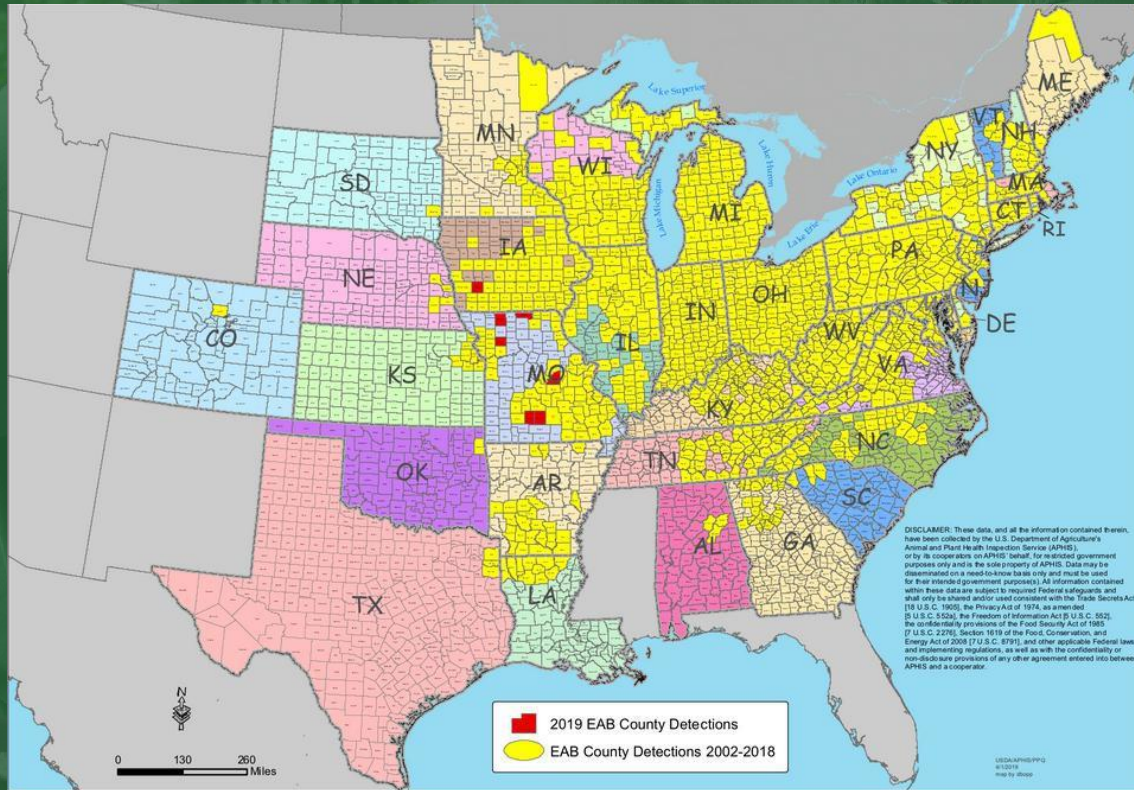


- There are several species of bark beetles in the West that impact forests: the mountain pine beetle, spruce beetle, and Douglas-fir beetle have had the most significant impact recently
- Infestations of these native beetles have killed nearly 50 million acres since 2000
- The Forest Service's strategy has focused on protecting human safety in areas with hazardous trees and reducing fire risk in high value areas



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EMERALD ASH BORER



- Non-native beetle from Asia, first found in Michigan in 2002
- It has quickly spread to 28 states, and killed tens of millions of trees
- The Forest Service has assisted APHIS and states in developing tools to help detect and manage infestations
- Perhaps the most challenging and damaging pest state forestry agencies are dealing with



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CRITICAL CHALLENGES: FOR ALL OF AMERICA'S FORESTS

- 1 Pests and disease. Over the next 50 years, there's a real risk of losing 20+ tree species.
- 2 Wildland fire trends. As the costs of wildfire suppression has become an increasingly larger portion of the USDA Forest Service's budget, funding for forest health programs on cooperative lands has declined.
- 3 Burdensome, and sometimes unnecessary, bureaucratic processes and restrictions.



CRITICAL POLICY ISSUES FOR AMERICA'S FORESTS

1

Forest Pests vs Capitol Hill:

A

Pests do not respect boundaries

B

Pests move faster than Congress

C

Pest outlast congressional terms.

D

Pests do not respect federal budgets.



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION

WWW.STATEFORESTERS.ORG



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