



Arbor Day Focus: Protecting Idaho's forests against invasive insects

April 27, 2018

Today is Arbor Day, a celebration of trees and all the benefits they provide. We are also celebrating our forest health experts, who are hitting the road right now to set up traps across Idaho to detect new infestations of invasive, tree-killing insects. Their important work is helping to protect Idaho forests.

Invasive insects are a major threat to Idaho's forests. Our native trees may not possess natural defenses against exotic pests that come from other parts of the world. If these insects become established in Idaho, they are capable of causing significant damage to healthy forests that offer many benefits to people and the environment – clean water, clean air, recreation, jobs, and wood products.

New infestations of invasive forest insects often are caused by accidental transportation of infested wood materials. Wood products such as pallets, crates, and other materials made of untreated wood may be infested, and could reach Idaho through foreign shipments.

Inaction is not an option. The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), U.S. Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other partners are working together on a **trapping program to detect invasive forest pests as they enter Idaho.** The Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) program helps agencies **respond quickly to new infestations of invasive bark beetles, wood borers, and ambrosia beetles in order to protect healthy forests.**

The EDRR program increases the likelihood that localized invasive populations will be found, contained, and eradicated before they become widely established. It can slow expansion and avoid the need for costly long-term control efforts.

Several IDL forest health experts are hitting the road this spring and summer to set up beetle traps across the state. At each site, several traps are set up, baited with a blend of liquids that lure the insects, and monitored every two weeks for 12 weeks.

The IDL is positioning trapping sites in the following cities. The locations are at high risk for importing, storing, or recycling potentially infested solid wood packing material, crates, pallets or other untreated wood items.

1. Eastport
2. Naples
3. Coeur d'Alene (two trap sites)
4. St. Maries
5. Moscow
6. Lewiston
7. Orofino
8. Kamiah
9. McCall
10. Boise
11. Idaho Falls

The quiet but important work of these forest health professionals is giving Idaho's valuable and sustainable forestlands a fighting chance against destructive insects.

For more information on the EDRR program, visit <https://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/earlydetection.shtml>



IDL forest health experts setting up invasive pest traps near the Canada border.

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