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## **Perspective**

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Greetings from the Ohio Division of Forestry.

Quite a bit of forestry-related activity has been going on in Ohio over the past few months. Following are a few updates that I'd like to share with you.

### **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**

In January, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry announced the discovery of a hemlock-killing pest in southeast Ohio. Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a small, aphid-like insect native to Asia that threatens the health and sustainability of eastern hemlock and Carolina hemlock in the eastern United States. This was the first time HWA had been detected in a naturally occurring stand of hemlock in Ohio. The relatively small infestation was discovered at Shade River State Forest in Meigs County as part of the division's ongoing forest health survey program. Eight trees out of approximately 500 hemlock trees surveyed were infested. HWA is primarily transmitted by wind and birds. Officials believe the finding in Ohio is the result of natural spread from nearby areas in West Virginia where the pest is established.

The potential impact of HWA on naturally occurring hemlock stands found in areas of Ohio such as Hocking State Forest, Mohican-Memorial State Forest, and numerous private lands would be devastating, as this pest has the ability to destroy these graceful conifers. With this in mind, state and federal officials determined and carried out an appropriate course of eradication for this particular infestation – dropping the infested trees and burning them. With the assistance of ODA inspectors, our foresters will continue to closely monitor hemlock in Shade River State Forest as well as other state forests and private woodlands throughout Ohio.

### **Fire Season**

We are nearing the end of this season's state-wide outdoor burning ban for unincorporated areas. March, April, and May (and October and November) are Ohio's high-risk wildfire months. Ohio law states outdoor debris burning is prohibited in unincorporated areas from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during these months. Burning is limited in the spring due to the abundance of dry fuel on the ground before small, grassy fuels green up with moisture. Winds can rapidly turn a seemingly safe fire into a damaging fire, causing hazardous conditions. On average, Ohio has about 500 spring wildfires reported that burn approximately 3,000 acres of land.

**Emerald Ash Borer**

Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) reviewed the emerald ash borer (EAB) regulatory program to ensure resources are focused on the most effective strategies to mitigate the human-assisted spread of EAB. As a result, contiguous quarantined areas that cross state borders will now be treated as a single quarantined area. In other words, the new policy will permit unrestricted movement of regulated articles within this contiguous quarantined area. The conditions for movement of regulated articles out of an EAB-quarantine area remain unchanged. Please visit the following APHIS web link for more information and to see an updated map of which areas of Ohio's border are quarantined contiguous with neighboring states and which are not:

<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/USDAAPHIS-306e2f?reqfrom=share#.T1TQvFoG2U0.email>

**Asian Longhorned Beetle:**

In late February, a tornado touched down and affected an area near the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infestation quarantine area in Clermont County. An ODNR forester assisted ODA and the local community with clean-up, carefully handling and monitoring debris to prevent further spread of ALB.