

AN INTEGRATED EAB DATA MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK: A PIECE OF THE PUZZLE?

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ABSTRACT

The Slow the Spread of the Gypsy Moth Project (STS) is a USDA strategy that seeks to mitigate the effects of the European gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar* L.) in the United States. The STS project has developed a proven infrastructure to meet the operational monitoring, data management, risk assessment, and management needs of this national pest mitigation effort over the last 15 years. With an ever increasing threat of invasive species due to globalization, there is a need for greater emphasis on the development of data life cycle (collection, quality control, management) and risk assessment/management (decision support system) strategies during the early stages of emergency program development and deployment. The implementation of a well thought out data life cycle and decision support framework will allow quality data to feed the decisionmaking and planning processes of an emergency program increasing its effectiveness.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*) has rapidly become one of the most important invasive forest pests since it was first identified in the U.S. in 2002. To date, survey methods for EAB have varied substantially among cooperating states and agencies. Methods may include regulatory trace-backs of infested ash trees or logs, visual surveys for symptomatic trees, and girdled trap trees. Even in states where trap trees are the primary survey tool, implementation methods differ and data collected from the trap trees are not consistent. If EAB is to be effectively managed, survey methods and data management must advance. Delays in developing and implementing a proven data management strategy will only hinder the effective management of EAB. This will be particularly important given the potential for increased trap efficacy and greater systematic trapping. The STS framework encompasses a range of applications that not only could be applied to additional managed pest surveys (e.g., EAB and *Sirex* woodwasp), but also could strengthen future detection surveys.