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Remediation of post-EAB infested black ash stands in Wisconsin

Dustin R. Bronson^{1*}, Laura Reuling¹, Robert A. Slesak², Anthony W. D'Amato³

¹ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

² Minnesota Forest Resources Council

³ University of Vermont

The Wisconsin DNR is working on a new study with a focus on remediating black ash stands after emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation. We will simulate EAB infestation by administering clear cuts at three stands whose basal area is greater than ninety percent. We hypothesize that with the loss of black ash, the stands will experience a rising water table, with future vegetation dominated by alder and sedge species, thereby making it hard to establish future tree species. After our simulated post-EAB conditions have been created, we plan to test treatments which include: 1) Feecon Mowing, 2) one application of Oust Herbicide, 3) Feecon Mowing followed by one application of Oust Herbicide, 4) two annual applications of Oust Herbicide. A split plot design will allow for the testing of natural regeneration versus artificial regeneration. Species to be planted in the artificial regeneration treatments include: swamp white oak, resistant elm, non-resistant elm, tamarack, white pine and paper birch. Overall, we hope our results provide options to foresters for potential remediation treatments and the associated costs with the treatments.

Presenting Author: dustin.bronson@wi.gov

Science & Management of Ash Forests after Emerald Ash Borer

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