

# Policy on Forest Management Plans and Amendments for Land Enrolled in Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA) Related to Emerald Ash Borer

September 16, 2011 (modified October 3, 2011)

Emerald ash borer (EAB) poses a significant threat to Vermont's ash trees. When it becomes established in the state, it is expected to kill ash trees, resulting in economic losses and detrimental, lasting impacts on forest ecosystems and urban and community treescapes. EAB has not been detected in Vermont to date.

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR) has received questions regarding salvage cutting of ash on enrolled UVA properties and some forest management plans and amendments have been submitted that address the threat of EAB.

FPR will approve plans and plan amendments that treat ash in response to EAB as long as they adhere to the UVA program's "Minimum Standards for Forest Management and Regeneration" and the UVA program's "Minimum Standards for Forest Management Plans" as described in the most current version of the UVA manual. As always, prescriptions must include a description of what is to be harvested as well as the long-range silvicultural objectives, including species favored for retention and regeneration and residual stocking objectives for the stand.

FPR will not approve UVA plans or plan amendments that prescribe non-silvicultural salvage of ash trees or salvage prescriptions that identify the threat of EAB as the sole justification for harvesting ash. It may be appropriate to moderately adjust management of a stand's ash component based on the long term threat of EAB in conjunction with other sound silvicultural considerations. Long-term silvicultural objectives and prescriptions that set stand objectives of reducing the percent of basal area composition for ash or propose a decrease in diameter objectives for ash will be accepted as long as they follow appropriate silvicultural guides and meet minimum standards for management, regeneration, and plans. As always, plans and plan amendments must be reviewed and approved by a county forester before beginning any harvesting activity not already described in an approved UVA plan.

This policy is subject to change and will be updated as new information emerges and/or when EAB is discovered in Vermont.