The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Asian Longhorn Beetle Funding Request

The Nature Conservancy requests $30 million in FY2009 for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Emerging Plant Pest program to eradicate the Asian Longhorned Beetle. The Administration has requested $18 million for this activity.

Where did the Asian longhorned beetle come from and how did it get here?

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) is a wood-boring insect native to China and Korea. It has invaded New York, northern New Jersey, Chicago, and Toronto. It almost certainly entered the United States inside infested wooden crates and pallets.

Ecological Threat from the Asian longhorned beetle

The Asian Longhorned Beetle kills a wide variety of hardwood trees. At greatest risk is the sugar maple - symbol of the Northeast and the backbone of the maple syrup and fall foliage tourism industries. The Asian Longhorned Beetle threatens to devastate forests covering approximately 48 million acres reaching from New England to beyond the Great Lakes. These forests protect public drinking water quality and many rare species and natural communities.

Asian Longhorned Beetle. © Ken R. Law

Damage caused by the Asian Longhorned Beetle

Economic Consequences of Asian Longhorned Beetle

- Tree removal and replacement in rural urban and suburban communities -- Infested street trees must be removed before they fall - at great expense to affected communities. The severe impacts in New York, Chicago, and New Jersey will be duplicated in other communities if we fail to eradicate the beetle. A study by the USDA Forest Service determined that if the Asian Longhorned Beetle became established across the country, it would probably kill 30% of all urban trees - at a compensatory value of $669 billion.
- Devastate the Northeast timber industry - In some parts of the Northeast such as New York and Vermont, the most common sawtimber is the highly vulnerable sugar maple.
- Curtail the maple syrup industry -- In 2003, maple syrup production was valued at $35.6 million. Nearly all U.S. production occurs near the current outbreaks.
- Affect Tourism -- Tourism based on fall foliage displays is a vital economic activity across New England and New York; sugar maples are the dominant attraction. One million tourists intent on viewing autumn foliage annually generate $1 billion in revenue in New England.

What is being done to protect our forest and yard trees from the Asian Longhorned Beetle?

Since 1996, federal, state, and local officials have carried out a successful program aimed at eradicating this highly damaging forest pest. No infested trees have been found in Chicago or Jersey City since 2003. The outbreak found

in the Carteret area of New Jersey in 2004 has been tackled successfully, reducing the number of infested trees from the original 435 to none in 2007. In New York, the program suffered a setback when infestations were discovered on Staten Island and nearby Prall's Island in 2007. Several more years of determined efforts - with a focus on New York - are essential to complete the eradication effort.

Canada reports that some infested trees were detected and cut in Toronto in 2007, but authorities remain confident that the insect can be eradicated there.

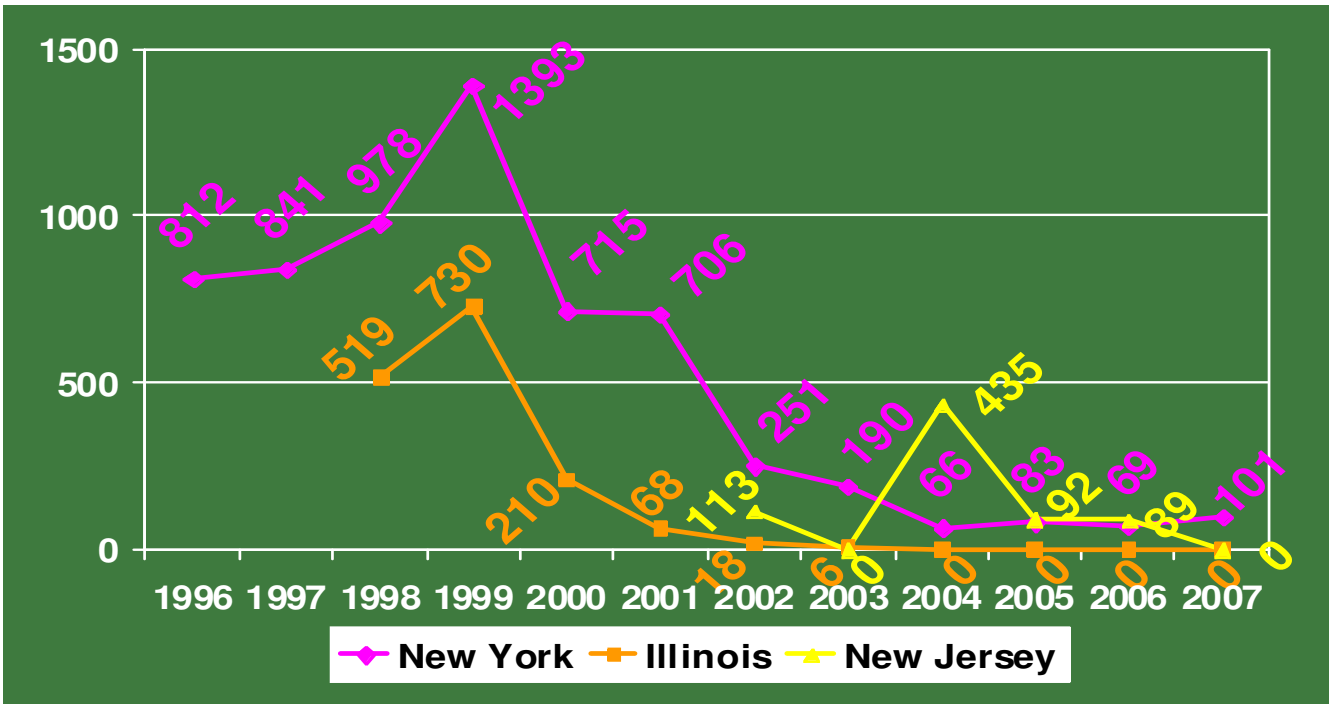
Benefits of Significantly Increased Funding

Increased funding is necessary to eradicate this pest in the near future. There is an opportunity to replicate the success of Chicago in New York and New Jersey. Already, inadequate funding has resulted in postponement of the predicted eradication date for the Asian Longhorned Beetle from 2009 to 2032 or later. The repercussions of delaying eradication by more than 20 years include the beetle's spread into additional neighborhoods and increased risk that the beetle will escape containment efforts and spread to the Adirondacks, Poconos, Catskills, and New England. Completing eradication in 2014 instead of 2020 would save APHIS $63 million, and allow New York City and New York State to avoid nearly $48 million in future costs.

	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09 Budget
ALB Appropriated Funds	$28,933,000	$19,859,000	$19,904,000	$19,867,000	$17,986,000

Funding History

Decline in numbers of trees infested by Asian Longhorned Beetle: a record of success



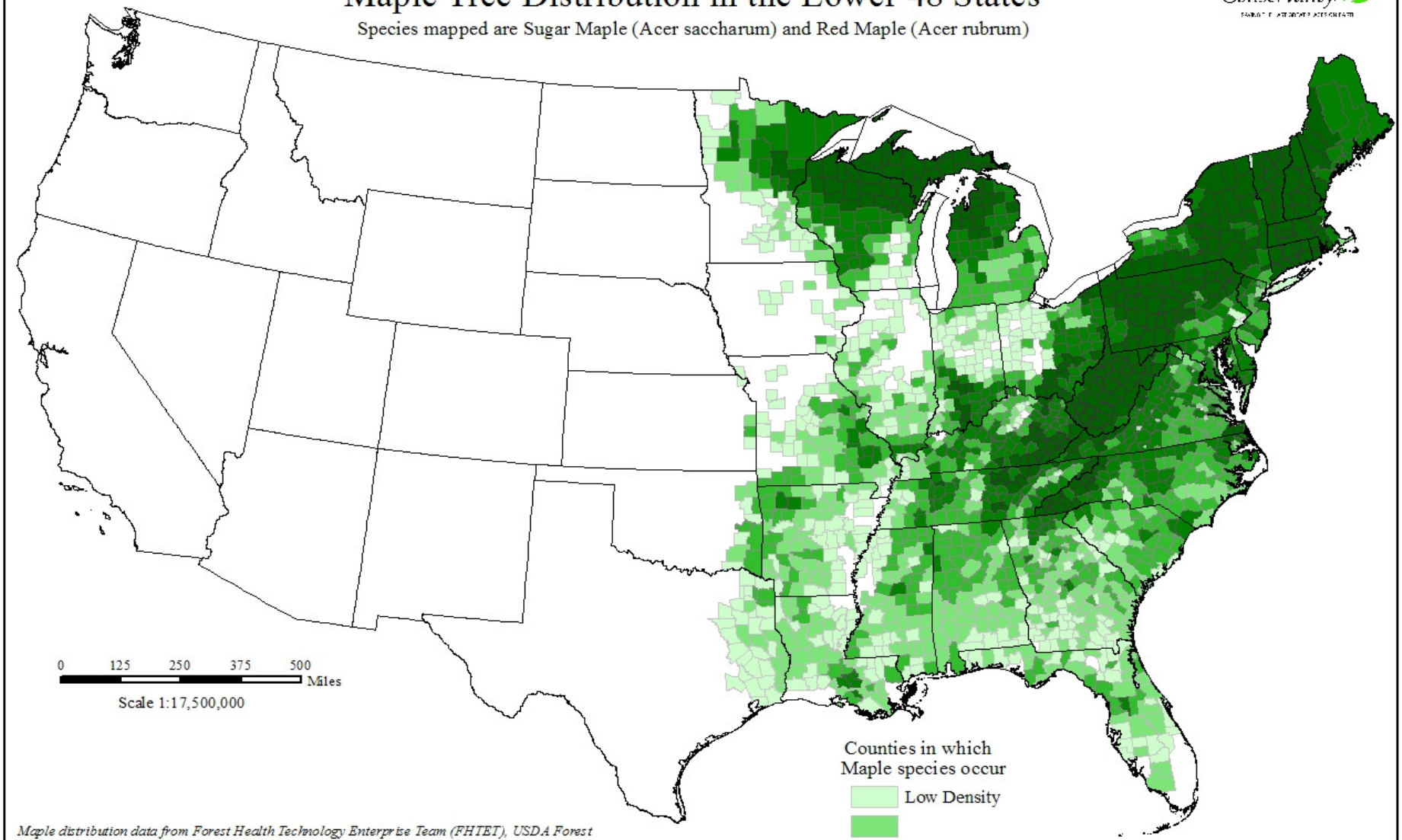
The Nature Conservancy
Worldwide Office

Tom Cassidy
Director of Federal Programs
703/841-4527
tcassidy@tnc.org

Faith Campbell, Ph.D
Senior Policy Representative
703/841-4881
fcampbell@tnc.org

Maple Tree Distribution in the Lower 48 States

Species mapped are Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum) and Red Maple (Acer rubrum)



Maple distribution data from Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team (FHTET), USDA Forest Service, Fort Collins, Colorado; 2006
Distribution data derived from Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plots (USDA-FS)-- basal area measurements were interpolated to cells in a 1000 meter grid. Information was summarized by county, and distribution classes were defined based on area-weighted basal area sums

Map produced by ECS-ERO, 2/07

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