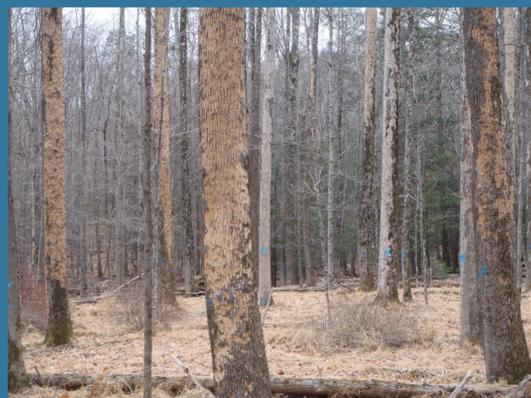


Forest Conservation Area

Bushkill Forest Management Project (#5060)



The mature mixed hardwood forests that regenerated on these lands following acquisition by NYC for the reservoir include a high percentage of ash trees. This photo shows that much of this 100+ year old forest is already in decline due to age and the rapidly spreading invasive exotic pest, the emerald ash borer (EAB).



Once the woodpeckers begin stripping the bark, EAB has been present for about three years. These trees are severely infested and cannot be expected to live another year.



Seedlings originating from the remaining overstory trees, like these large white pine and tulip poplar trees, will regenerate in the gaps of sunlight resulting from the salvage harvest of the infested ash trees.

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) oversees and coordinates the use and protection of New York City-owned water supply lands. The forest management project in progress here is consistent with the City's Forest Management Plan which is designed to promote a diverse, healthy and vigorous forest that continues to produce high quality water into the future. The primary objective of this project is to mitigate damage by the invasive exotic pest, the emerald ash borer, reducing potential hazard trees and salvaging timber that is valuable to the local forest product industry in the watershed area.

The emerald ash borer (EAB), a native pest of eastern Asia, became established in the Midwest U.S. in 1994 and was first found near Detroit in 2002. Since then, it has killed tens of millions of ash trees and caused billions of dollars of damage in the U.S. EAB appears to have been first established in Ulster County in 2002, near Ruby. Ash trees become severely infested and are usually lost to damage from the pest within three years from the initial infestation. As a result, DEP has planned this forest management project as part of a strategy to help mitigate the impact of this pest in the reservoir area. Salvage of the trees will reduce costly cleanup work needed along DEP's forest access roads and help avoid debris jams that could cause re-routing, erosion and siltation in streams tributary to the Ashokan Reservoir.

This forest management project is being completed by professional timber harvesters employed by Tri-State Hardwoods Ltd. and Stone Ridge Excavation and Logging. Stone Ridge Logging has been a NYS Cooperating Timber Harvester and a NY Certified Trained Logger operating in the Catskill region for more than 25 years. Tri-State is a local forest products company specializing in high quality North American hardwoods. Their sawtimber and veneer is shipped throughout the U.S. and abroad, including important international markets in France, Portugal, Japan, China and Vietnam.

The volume of timber salvaged in this sustainable forest management project could build nearly 50 houses and provide approximately 30 jobs. Forest products produced from trees harvested here include fine veneers and lumber for cabinetry, furniture, flooring, baseball bats, skateboards, and tool handles. Lower grade logs will likely be milled for shoring timbers, structural building products, fencing, pallets, ties, and provide hundreds of cords of fuelwood to heat local homes.

Providing sustainably produced wood products to local forest-based businesses and watershed communities is critical for maintenance of high quality water. Forest management on City lands demonstrates sustainable forest management principles while encouraging forest industry infrastructure and helping to preserve long term forest land use in the region.