



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Allegheny National Forest

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News Release

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Volunteers Needed for Ash Seed Collection

Warren, Pa. (August 28, 2015) – The Allegheny National Forest (ANF) is looking for volunteers to assist in the collection of ash seed throughout the forest. An ash seed collection workshop is being held on Saturday, September 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Buckaloons Campground, located near the intersection of State Route 6 and State Route 62, east of Irvine, PA. At the workshop, hosted by the U.S. Forest Service and the Mid-Atlantic Seed Bank, participants will learn about the different species of ash, various methods of seed collection and the importance of collecting seed from multiple ecoregions.

Ash trees are threatened by the emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic wood boring beetle native to Asia that attacks all species of North American ash trees. Since 2002, the EAB has caused the mortality of an estimated 50 million ash trees in the United States and Canada. With no effective landscape scale treatment options for EAB, a near total loss of ash trees across the ANF is anticipated.

Seed collection for long-term storage is one way to ensure the future restoration of the ash tree. As the trees decline it is going to become harder to collect viable seed. Ash seed is currently in abundance across the Forest; let's take advantage of this opportunity to preserve the ash species!

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region has 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie located throughout 20 Midwestern and Eastern states. We're spread from Maine to Minnesota and from Maryland to Missouri. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/R9.

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The public lands that the Forest Service manages, contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in

stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S. and includes 100 million acres that are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/.

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