

# PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FOREST INVASIVES!

## TRIBAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HARVESTING FIREWOOD IN THE CEDED TERRITORIES OF 1836, 1837, AND 1842

Our Elders often teach us how all the inhabitants of mother earth depend on each other for their survival and well-being. It takes many kinds of plants, along with bacteria, fungi, insects, snails, spiders, birds, deer, bears, squirrels, wolves and lots of other creatures to make a healthy, thriving forest. Healthy forests depend on the relationships between all these forest beings that have formed over many centuries.

Unfortunately this long-established web is being torn apart by invasive species. Through ignorance and carelessness, people have accidentally or intentionally brought insects, earthworms, and plant diseases to Turtle Island from overseas. These creatures are an important part of the habitat where they came from. But with their new hosts not adapted to them and their natural enemies left behind, they can explode in numbers and wreak havoc in their new environment.

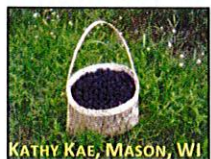
### WHAT'S AT STAKE



**Sugar maple** (*ininaatig*) is a dominant tree (especially on moist, fertile soils) across much of the ceded territories. Iskigamizigan (sugarbush camp) was a major event that marked the end of the long hard winter. The spring sugarbush is a tradition still practiced by many people across the northwoods.



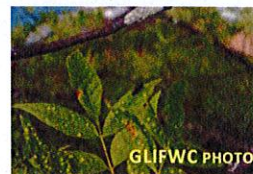
The **Asian longhorned beetle (ALB)** first became established in North America in 1996. It attacks and kills a number of trees including elm and birch, but its favorite food is maple. This beetle has been eradicated in several sites including Chicago and New York, but persists in southern Ohio, Massachusetts and a Toronto suburb.



**Black ash** (*aagimaak*) has long been used to make woven makuks (baskets). The durable wood of *baapaagimaak* (white ash) and *emikwaansaak* (green ash) are used to make lacrosse sticks, snowshoe frames, traditional *dikinaagan* (cradle boards), spoons, knife handles, drumsticks, and for cross braces on the *wiigwaasi-jiimaan* (birch bark canoe).



The **emerald ash borer (EAB)** may be most destructive forest invasive to arrive on Turtle Island. The EAB has killed millions of ash trees in the eastern and central US. First discovered in Detroit in 2002, the EAB has spread to 25 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Both the EAB and the ALB arrived in solid wood packing material (crates, pallets, shipping dunnage etc.) from Asia.



**Oak wilt (OW)** is caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. Red and black oaks are highly susceptible, often dying within a few months to a few years. White oaks are much more resistant but can still get oak wilt. Spread through root grafts between oaks of the same species leads to expanding stands of dead trees.

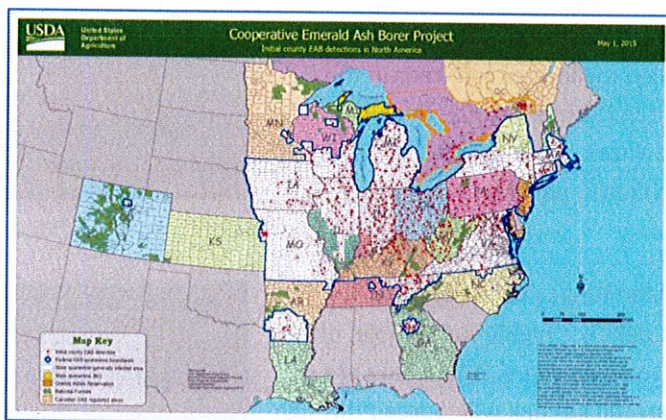




**Help us save trees! Following these rules will help to slow the spread of destructive forest-killing invasives.**

- Avoid moving hardwood firewood from Michigan's Lower Peninsula across the Mackinac Bridge to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Not transporting firewood from the Lower Peninsula to the Upper Peninsula may prevent transport of forest pests already established in eastern North America to the UP and beyond.
- Avoid transporting uncertified firewood to the Great Lakes islands within the ceded territory. This includes the Beaver Island Archipelago in Lake Michigan, North and South Manitou Islands in Lake Michigan, Big Charity and Little Charity Islands in Lake Huron, and Isle Royal in Lake Superior. Under an agreement between GLIFWC member tribes and the National Park Service, bringing firewood into the mainland portion or any of the islands of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is not allowed.
- Avoid bringing hardwood firewood into National Forests, National Park Service lands, State Forests and Parks, or other off-reservation public lands that was harvested from more than 25 miles away. Firewood collected within the same property where it's used should be safe at this time.
- Avoid transporting hardwood firewood from a USDA-APHIS or state-quarantined county or area to an unquarantined county or area.
- Avoid cutting, trimming or otherwise injuring oak trees from April 1 through July 31, except for ceremonial harvest. The beetles that can carry oak wilt spores to injured, uninfested trees are most active during this time.

**When it comes to moving firewood for long distances, the best advice is DON'T DO IT! Harvest or buy firewood close to where you use it.**



Known emerald ash borer distribution as of May 1, 2015.  
Download the latest monthly map from  
[http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/multistate\\_eabpos.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/multistate_eabpos.pdf).

**Before heading out to exercise your treaty rights please remember to:**

- Obtain any required permits. (Your tribe may simply require that you carry a tribal ID card)
- Familiarize yourself with the regulations
- Know who manages the property where you want to gather. If the land is public, know whether or not it is open to tribal gathering.
- If you are unsure of the land ownership or specific rules and regulations, contact your tribe or GLIFWC.

Finally, report wood with signs of EAB, ALB or oak wilt to your tribal Natural Resource Department, GLIFWC or the USDA!

[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

or contact:

Steve Garske

ANA Forest Pest Project Coordinator

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife