



Three areas (highlighted green) have been removed from the quarantine area for the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

William H. Harsha Lake & the Asian Longhorned Beetle

POC: Samantha Ferrarelli, samantha.k.ferrarelli@usace.army.mil

In 2011, the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), a large invasive species of beetle from eastern China, Japan, and Korea, was found in Bethel, Ohio, just a few miles from William H. Harsha Lake (aka East Fork State Park). The beetle was first found in the U.S. in the mid-90s in New York after it stowed away on wooden packing materials coming into port. Stowing away in wooden packing material is also how the beetle made its way to Bethel, making Ohio the fifth state to have a confirmed infestation of this pest.

These beetles are of particular concern because their host trees include many hardwood, deciduous trees, with maples being the preferred host. Unfortunately for Ohio, the dominant canopy species for the majority of the state are maple species. Uncontrolled, the beetle could impact the over \$200 billion timber industry in the state.

After confirming the beetle in June of 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) began surveys to document the extent of the infestation. In May 2013, an infestation on USACE-owned land that was leased to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) was found. USACE worked with ODNR, USDA-APHIS, and the ODA to have the area clearcut and infested trees removed. Another location of infestation would arise in 2015. This area was cleared in a similar fashion to the previous infestation. Both areas were thought to have been infested by the illegal movement of firewood into those areas.

A MOU was signed between USDA-APHIS and USACE during this time to allow for inspectors and removal teams to work on USACE property as needed to manage and inspect for infestations. This MOU also allowed for USACE and USDA-APHIS to establish a training area on USACE operation land where climbers and inspectors from all levels of government and government contractors can train to learn the signs of beetle infestation.

Because these beetles are large and slow moving, infestations spread slowly and can be contained by removing infected trees and mulching the wood. Cautionary clear cutting is now only done for heavily infested areas. The rapid response of the agencies to this infestation and the continued effort to survey and inspect areas has led to removal from the quarantine list for three different areas, including a large portion of the northern half of William H. Harsha Lake. Though the infestation is being actively monitored and controlled now, the partnership formed between USACE and USDA-APHIS when the beetle was first found is still going strong. The MOU was renewed and a new training location established this year to continue the partnership.