





Emerald Ash Borer:

A Threat to our Forests
2026 update

Oregon Department of Forestry
Urban & Community Forestry Assistance Program

Matt Mills | EAB Support Specialist

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Agrilus planipennis









Invasive and highly destructive woodboring beetle that kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.).

Larvae feed beneath bark, eventually girdling and killing the tree

100+ million trees killed since 1990s, highest cost forest pest in the Americas

United States Detections

- 2002: Detroit, MI
- 2012: 16 states with known infestations
- 2013: Colorado
- 2022: Oregon

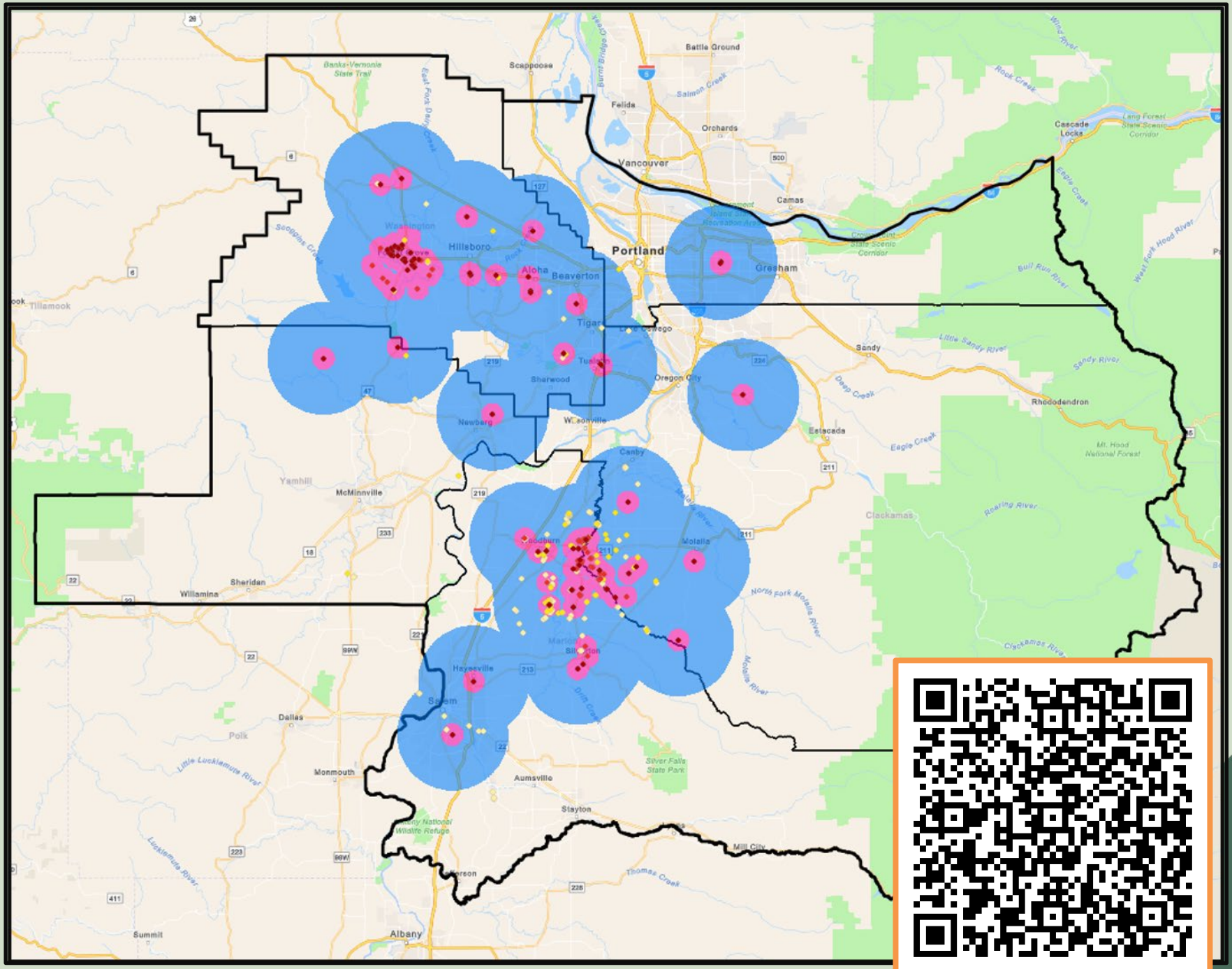


EAB in Oregon

- 5 infested counties
  - Washington
  - Yamhill
  - Clackamas
  - Marion
  - Multnomah

- 2026 – new detections
  - King City, Tualatin, Beaverton, Newberg, Silverton, Salem, Cedar Mill

- Expansion and merging of the separate infestations



Ash in Riparian Corridors

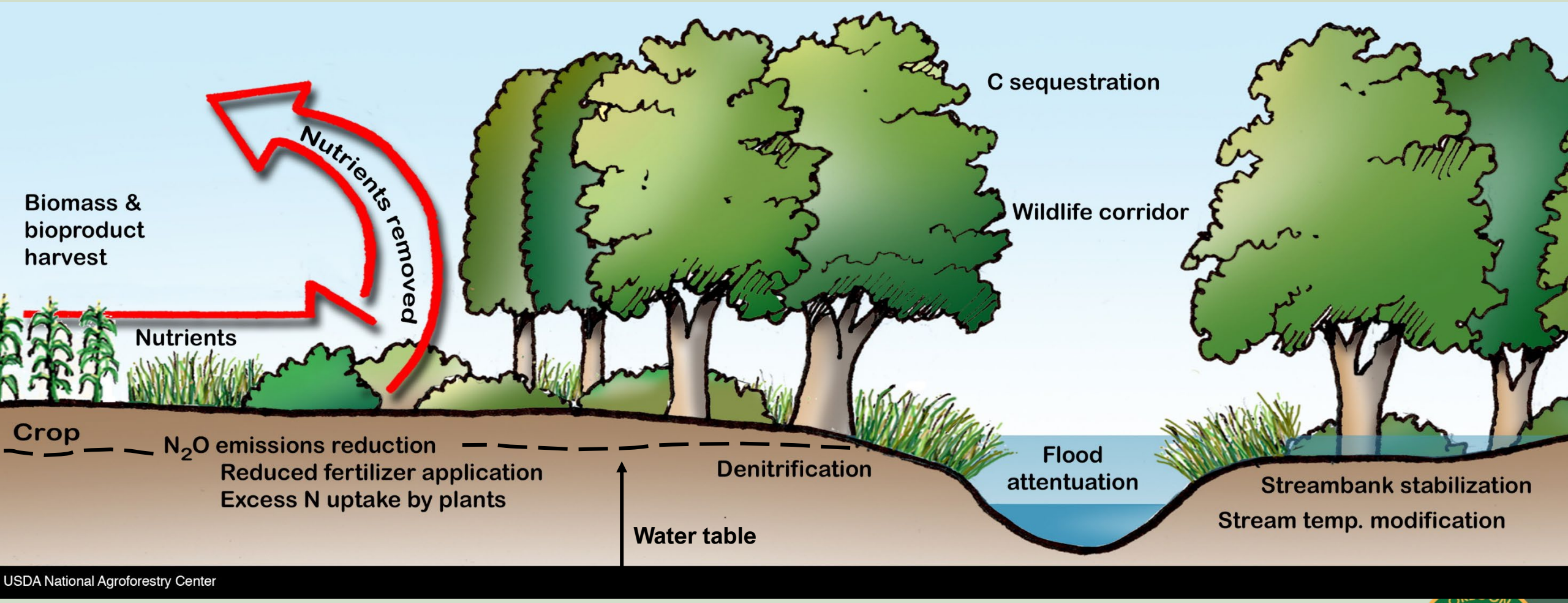


<u>Oregon Ash</u> *(Fraxinus latifolia):*
Oregon's only native ash tree

- Important riparian and wetland tree
- Fragmented and altered landscape
- Critical habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Important cultural resource to Indigenous peoples



Ecosystem of Riparian Areas



USDA National Agroforestry Center

Ash in Oregon: Landscape Areas

Popular landscape ash species:

- Green ash
- White ash
- Narrowleaf ash ‘Raywood’
- European ash ‘Golden Desert’

All are susceptible to EAB



Golden Desert Ash
(*F. excelsior ‘Golden Desert’*)



Green Ash (*F. pennsylvanica*)



White Ash (*F. americana*)



‘Raywood’ Narrowleaf Ash
(*F. angustifolia ‘Raywood’*)

Ash in Oregon: Landscaped Areas

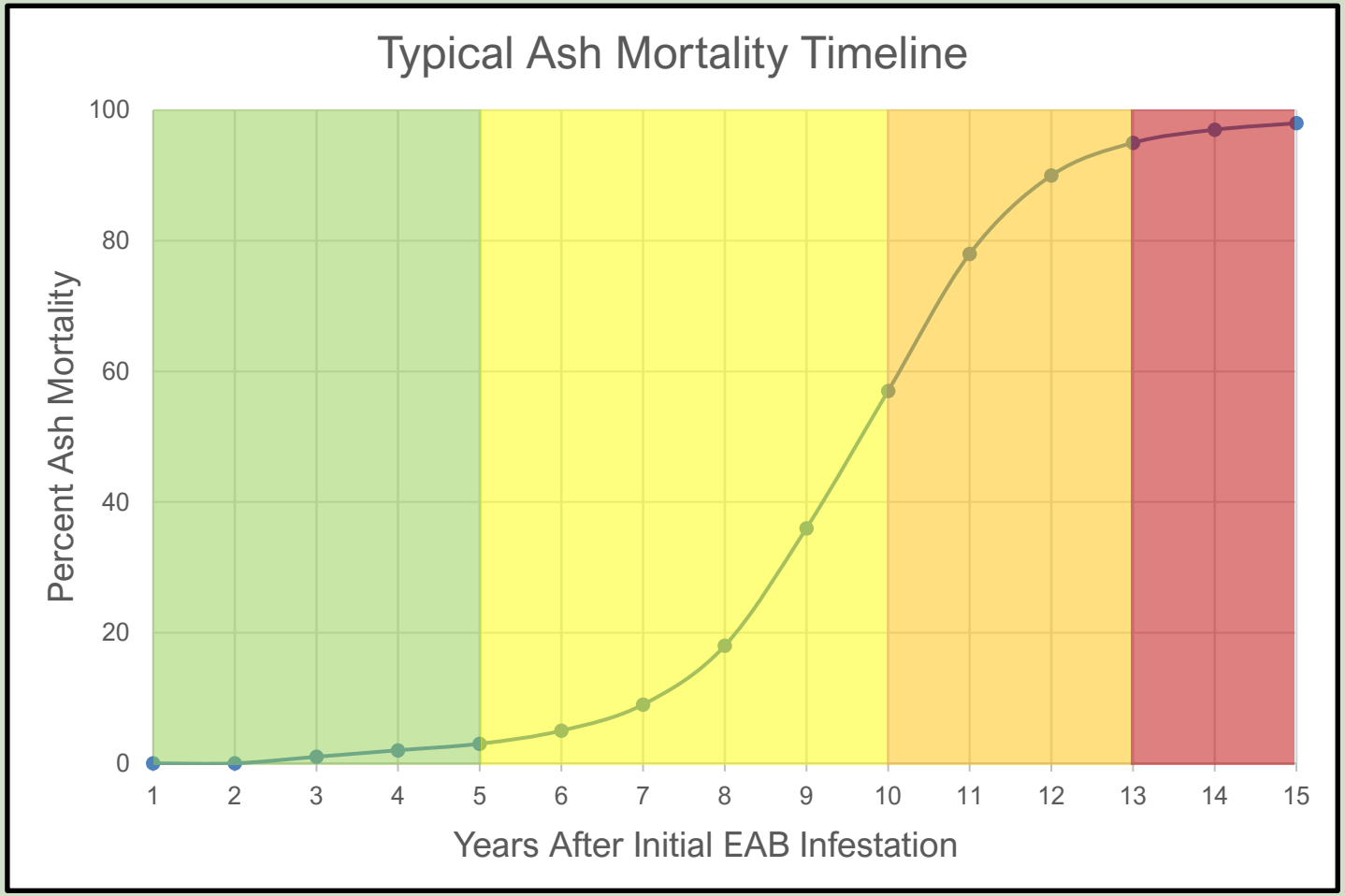
Commonly planted along streets, in parks, and on private property

Essential **green infrastructure** that provides many ecologic and economic benefits

- Stormwater retention
- Air pollution removal
- Canopy/Shade reduces urban heat
- Safety/Health benefits
- Equity impacts

Infestation Timeline – Community Scale

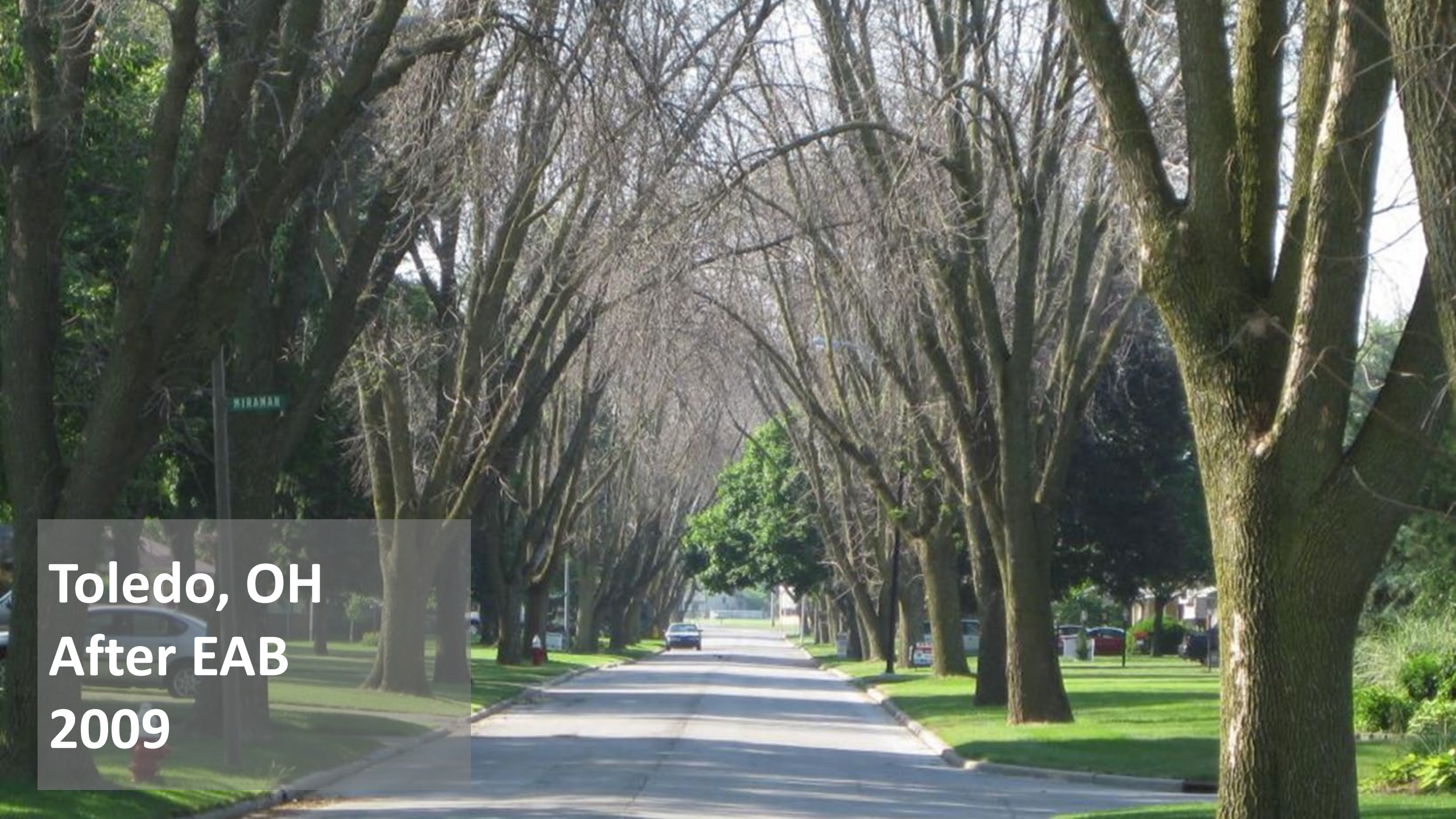
The rate of ash mortality may outpace a community's ability to deal with dead/dying trees.








Toledo, OH
Before EAB
2006



Toledo, OH
After EAB
2009


Toledo, OH
15 Years After EAB
2026

EAB Infestation: What it could look like



Wyatt Williams, ODF



EAB infestation: What it could look like



Wyatt Williams, ODF



EAB Infestation: What it could look like







Ash Dash, ODA| Matt Mills, ODF

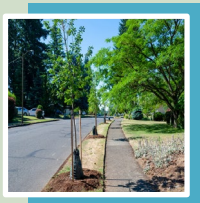






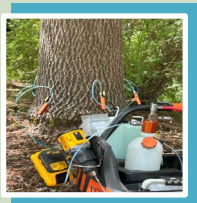
Anacosta Watershed Society

Management Plan



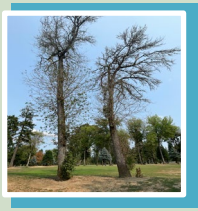
Remove & Replace

- ❑ Begin as soon as possible
- ❑ Increased demand for landscaped and natural plant species
- ❑ Replace small and lower quality trees



Treatment

- ❑ Begin when EAB is within 10-15 miles
- ❑ Licensed pesticide applicator
- ❑ Application window and timing (2-3 years)



Do nothing

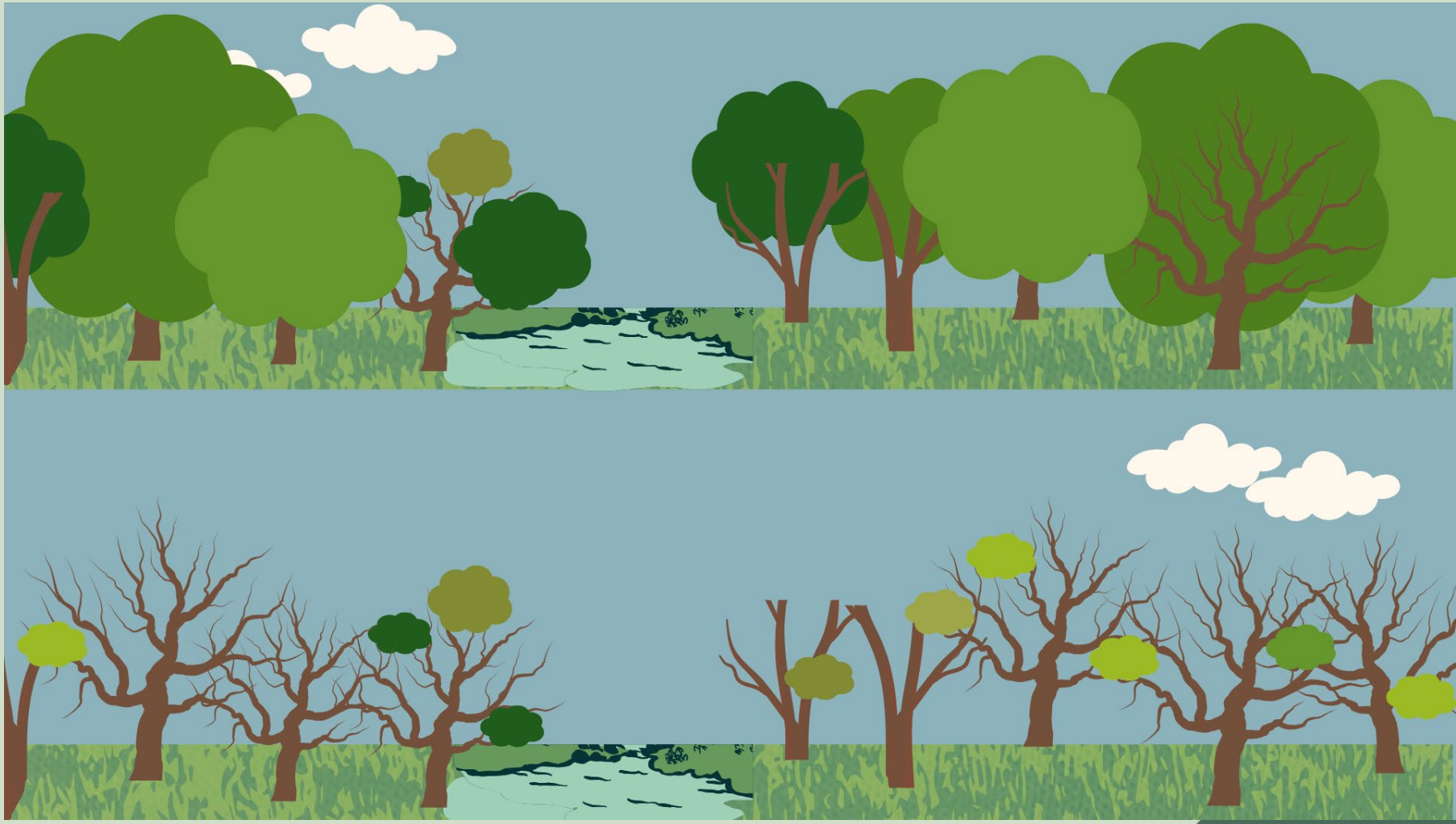
- ❑ Long term, this will have the highest cost
- ❑ In natural areas: heat and invasives increase
- ❑ Anticipate water impacts

Management Plan

Use a combination of all three methods to maintain ecosystem and community benefits of a healthy ecosystem

Worst Case Example:

- Full canopy loss
- Invasives increase
- Working in area becomes risky due to standing dead trees
- Water quality impacts experienced
  - Habitat loss
  - Heat increases
  - Decreased fish fecundity
  - Streambank erosion

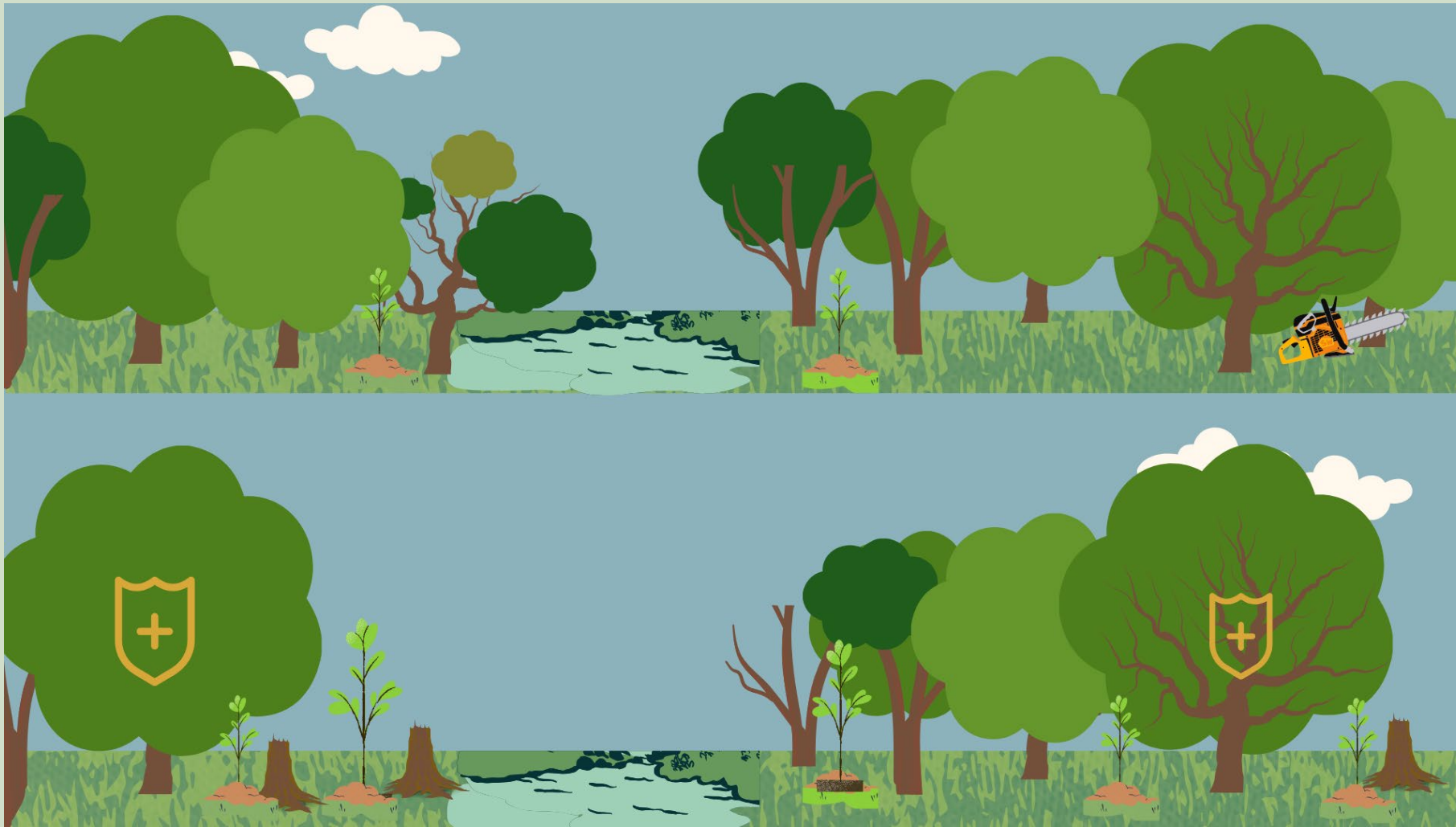


Management Plan

Use a combination of all three methods to maintain ecosystem and community benefits of a healthy ecosystem

Pre-emptive example:

- Staggered canopy loss
- Can still work in area since high-risk trees were removed
- Water quality impacts reduced
    - Habitat created with snags
- Underplanting with diverse species
    - Climate prepared
    - Streambank stabilized
    - Future shade created



EAB Resources: OregonEAB.com

The ‘one-stop shop’ for all things EAB in Oregon

Check out the updated **Oregon EAB Map**, where you can track nearest EAB populations

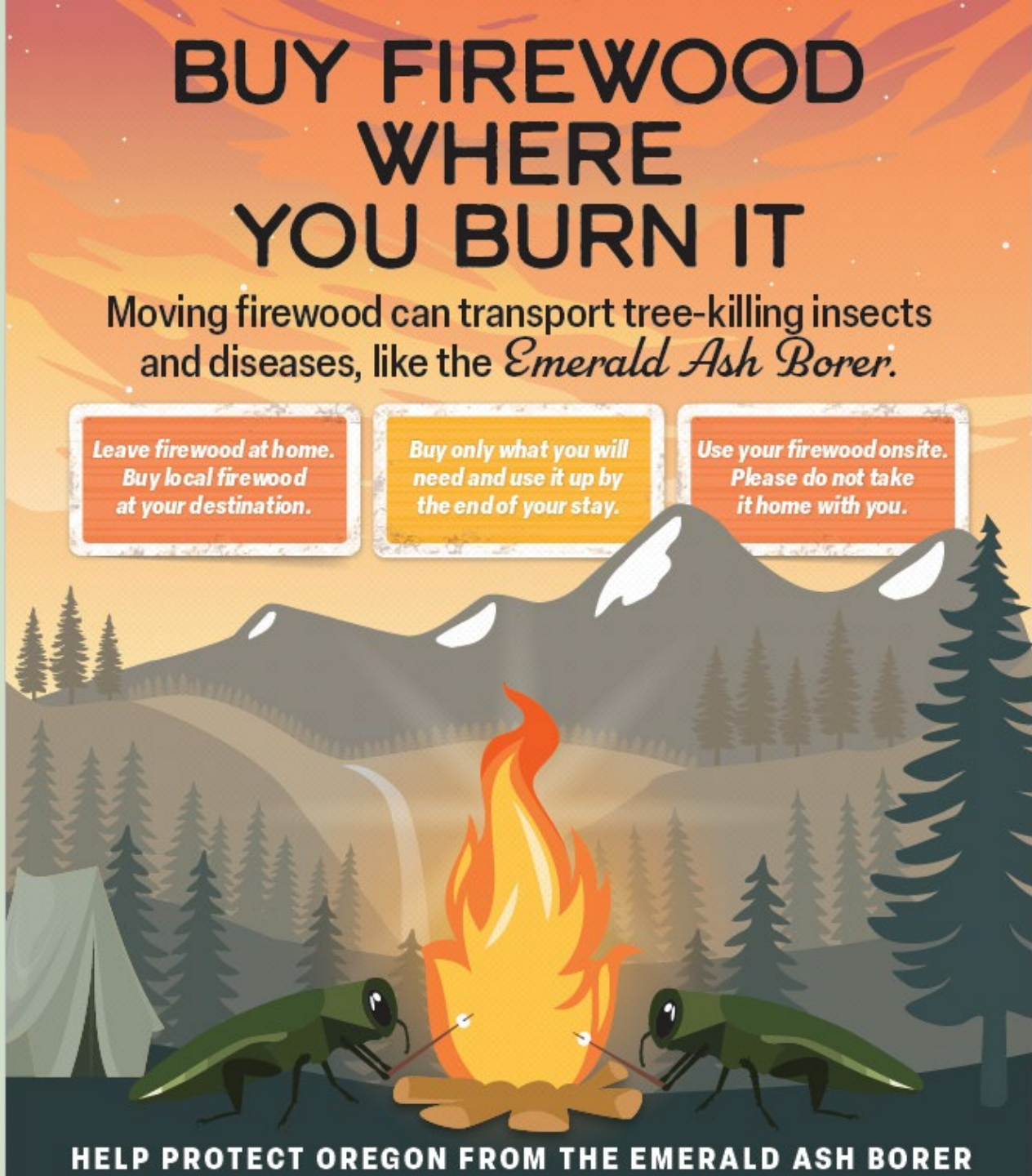
Managed by ODF’s Urban & Community Forestry Program



Link: https://www.OregonEAB.com

3 Takeaways from Today

1. The best way to help our forests is **Don't Move Firewood**
2. Keep an eye out for signs & symptoms
3. Report EAB if you find any!





Thanks!

Kat Bethea *and* **Matt Mills**

InvasivePests@odf.oregon.gov
OregonEAB.com

Oregon Department of Forestry
Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program