

Board of Directors Work Session
LUMP Committee/Emerald Ash Borer Beetle Task Force Presentation
November 20, 2023 7 pm

(Subject to approval by the Board at the December, 2023 Board meeting)

Zoom remote online and live streamed on YouTube

YouTube recording link: <https://youtu.be/CoYzm2AN9dw>.

Board Directors present: John Alexander, Anthony “AJ” Jackson, (President), Sandra Bauer, George Braddock, Paxton Hoag, Kevin Levy, Lisa Parker, on Steinhart, and Sue Theolass. Board members absent: Teresa Vaughn, Thomas Horn, Arna Shaw(Vice President). Board officers present: Hilary Anthony (Treasurer), and Stephen Diercouff (Secretary). Staff present: Kirsten Bolton (Executive Director), Vanessa Roy (Marketing Manager) and Anna DiBenedetto (Board Scribe). LUMP Committee members present: Anna Scott, Glenn Johnson, Kevin Hillery.

Announcements

AJ: This Friday is what might be the last “Civil War” football game so it will be a busy day in Eugene, so come out and support Oregon athletics.

Membership Comments

Lisa Takilma: Is this an open meeting? She is just a Fair goer.

Threat = Link to Rosanna's maps on Path Planning.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/812d77d0d1b54692a4a47bd3910d6b>
56

<https://botanish.com/why-are-there-so-many-dying-trees-what-emeraldash-borer-damage-looks-like-and-what-we-learn-from-it/>

LUMP Committee/Emerald Ash Borer Beetle Task Force Presentation

Anna Scott: LUMP Chair & Work Session Facilitator

EAB= Emerald Ash Borer. LUMP (Land Use Management planning) Committee members will be presenting today. Purpose of the work session – Awareness and education for the Board of Directors about the need to coordinate their fiscal and oversight responsibility with the Fair’s operations and management, in order to implement a timely, pro-active response to the threat of EAB, including funding and policy starting this budget cycle and continuing into the future. Paxton and John Alexander are on the committee with Glenn Johnson. Kevin Hillery is also Ad Hoc committee member and the Fair arborist.

Glenn Johnson: Ecological context of the Fair Site- What’s at Stake? OCF site is 500 acres. Floodplain Forest and Wetland. Ecological, oak savanna, riparian, floodplain. Long Tom River is not confined to a channel- allowed to engage floodplain. Mix of forest and wet meadows which dry out in summer. Forest comprised mostly of Oregon Ash but also Oregon White Oak and

Maple. Uplands have some Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir (Alice's). You can see Ash trees nearly anywhere you are at Fair.

Paxton: LUMP Board liaison. LUMP was established in 1991, when he was a new Board member and served on the Committee. 9 zones were developed in 1998 to focus on different types of management. Plans with details are on the .net site. LUMP manual with maps and zones is updated/upgraded all the time. LUMP manual:

<https://lump.oregoncountryfair.org/Documents/Handbooks/LumpManualCurrent.html> .

Anna: Oregon Ash has unique qualities, shade, invasive species suppression, super dank.

Glenn: Native Americans used to burn forest understory more to open things up for camas (purple flowers we see at Fair). Oregon Ash creates most of the shaded forest cover (canopy) in these areas.

Threats:

EAB is beetle native to Asia. It infects cambium layer of Ash trees. Tree can't send resources to top of tree and crown dies off, due to phloem being harmed. It has decimated forests in Eastern United States. It has been detected in Forest Grove. State of Oregon has mounted a vigorous quarantine. EAB is moving its infection areas mostly from humans moving wood around. Since we have so much Ash, we are very susceptible to this beetle. First sign for non-entomologists is crown die back, not just brown leaves, which is a normal stress response to drought. EAB can kill an Ash forest in 10 years. Cambium will have S shaped trails under bark, which girdles the tree and prevents transition of sugars down to the roots. We are not sure how many years it will take before it shows up in the Southern Willamette Valley. It could be a few years or up to 10 years. Once it arrives, we probably won't detect it for a year or 2, unless it shows up in our traps. We would notice crown die back first. Then we'd have to cut down trees. Cutting any part of the tree when it's infected makes it harder to cut down, even if the bottom is healthy.

Paxton: Last year we posted a guideline to minimize and educate people about what kind of wood to prohibit bringing to Fair. He followed a load of wood into Fair, and the greeters didn't know what to do with it. We are looking at reinforcing guidelines to eliminate bringing any wood with bark onto the site. If wood is milled and finished, it's not problematic. Live edge is problematic unless it's been dried in a kiln, but we are asking that no wood with bark be brought onto the site. This makes it clear that we need to manage our own firewood consumption on site.

Glenn: Slow Ash Mortality (SLAM)) is an approach. We haven't thought about this until recently. Our shade trees might begin to shed huge limbs. We are not just managing the forest, we are also trying to keep it nice for people to gather under.

Glenn Gregorio: Vegmanics Crew- idea of no brush cutting is barely being given lip service at Fair. We are going to need to reinvigorate seriousness of no brush cutting message. They are killing baby trees and may or may not notice it. We moved into south woods and crews need to have a unified vision and walk their talk. We are a threat too!

Dean: Why is it difficult to bring trees down after they've died off?

Kevin Hillery: If a tree dies from EAB, it's different than dying from natural causes. EABs are very successful at killing trees very quickly, including a fungus. An Ash infected more than 30% is no longer safe to climb. YouTube video link Kevin's talks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWG43gTU5Lk>

AJ: How long have EABs been in US? First detected Detroit in 2002. Are there treatments that are being used to protect the affected trees?

Kevin Hillery: It arrived before 2002, probably in the 90s. When you see the effect of it, it's too late. Are there things we can do right now, with limited budget? There is an injection that is quite successful, but it's very expensive. You have to do it every 3 years for the life of the tree. EAB is here and won't go away. Success rate for injections is very high. SLAM is other approach- if we are hygienic. There is a parasitic wasp they are trying to introduce to the environment (in Forest Grove), but this only slows the spread. *We are going to lose the Ash Forest.* Will it be 5 years or 10, or hopefully more?

Dani Derrick: Concerned camper. Do we need to take Ash trees out now? Budget concern. Under canopy needs to be kept and we need to ensure we don't damage other species, so we maintain shade.

George Braddock: Does EAB infect other trees? Just Ash trees, if it infects non-Ash, it's not as successful. Mountain Ash is not affected but it's not a true Ash. EAB also can kill olive trees.

Jonathan Pincus: Echo concern about understory for reasons already mentioned but also if we have to remove a lot of Ash, we'll be losing a lot of capacity to retain water in the soil, so the understory is the other major confluent of the forest that keeps water on our property. If we remove a lot of trees, we'll need to protect understory to retain water.

Example Strategies

Glenn: Education, Wood management, grow the next generation of shade/forest, protect existing non-ash trees, all ages, on site nursery. Coordinate crews' efforts. Strategic Planning process.

Paxton: Firewood program and existing policy. People need wood and we can provide it if we have a good policy. Firewood can fund itself.

AJ: Were trap trees removed? Kevin Hillery: Oregon Dept of Forestry put trap trees in our parking lots and then they collected them. They were big purple sticky traps that attract the beetles. 150 trap trees set up around Forest Grove around stressed area. We will try to get more trap trees set up every year. Maybe we should expand efforts to City of Veneta and surrounding campgrounds around Fair site.

Education: Has LUMP or anyone else tapped into university or college programs to see if this could be an educational moment or all hands on deck approach?

Kevin Hillery: Outreach and Education go hand in hand. In 2002 they met at the Fair site with OSU Forestry and Department of Agriculture, who heads up EAB efforts. Lane County and Lane Community College- not yet, but Eugene yes. There have been EAB conferences and OCF has been mentioned at both about proactive planning.

AJ: Don't forget Lane Community College.

Anna: 3-5 years is a long time to get things together. LUMP loves the work they do, and they need the BoD to help steward plans forward.

John Alexander: Facing the Emerald Ash Borer threat 2.0. He has camped in South woods for 30 years. Structured decision making and open standard for the practice of conservation. Fair

now protects birds nests. His day job has to do with conservation planning and birds. We have lost billions of birds in recent times.

Project/program planning, management, and monitoring to provide a framework for testing our assumptions, learning and adapting. Interested Parties: crews, crafters, volunteers, committees, BoD, operations/staff, ticket holders, Neighbors, State/PNW/National, natural resource managers, experts.

1. Identify targets + assess target viability.
2. Identify threats and stressors.
3. Rank threats (direct & indirect) and/or ecological stressors.
4. Brainstorm strategies.
5. Outline how strategies will reduce the threat and/or stressors to target.
6. Outline intermediate outcomes, measures of success and put a cost to it.

Understand current or potential state of what you want to conserve.

Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. Shared conservation goals and objectives, demonstrate clear logic between strategies and targets, show progress over time (outputs and outcomes).

Strategic Action Plan to address effects of EAB: Theory of Change model. Encourage natural regeneration, impacts on understory, hardwood cover, ash mortality.

Short term outputs: Mark and protect 10,000 saplings (3 years). Identify 50 understory off-limits area (3 years). Long-term outcomes: hardwood understory develops to mitigate loss of ash cover (20 years).

Enabling Strategies: Educate (Fair Family, neighbors, etc), Partner (expertise, funding (increase capacity)), Study/monitor (Indicators, current and desired condition, compare alternative strategies), Collaborate (engage affected parties, prioritize structured decision making).

Implementation strategies: No action, Slow ash mortality (SLAM), propagate and plant, natural regeneration, patch cut, selective thinning.

Meeting Evaluation

Last round for the good of the peach

AJ: Thank everyone involved in these educational efforts. Coordination and communication might be the biggest challenge. How can we create a situation where we have a point person, like a site manager.

Anna: The LUMP committee has always included the site manager. Alexis said in November meeting that Kirsten was already discussing this issue with them. John Alexander: has been talking to Kirsten about strategic planning action process through Operations. We want a point person too. Maybe it's too much for the Site Manager, we need enable strategies to possibly get another staff person to help.

Jon Steinhart: supports having a coordinating committee body under Kirsten or someone similar. We might need to stabilize riverbanks. We need site coordination committee. This is a horrible thing, but it might also be an opportunity to draw up scenario maps of what would happen if they were gone and we didn't replant. How might we reorganize the Fair with new open spaces? Main Stage could use to be bigger. This is third or fourth time he's seen the

presentation. Maybe there could be a Newcomers section vs new information, so people don't glaze over.

Jonathan Pincus: Have we not had any movement to up our game in terms of growing new trees? We have a new nursery, but the capacity is too small for what we will need... Is anybody moving to increase our capacity to grow starts for replanting?

Glenn G: we have a lot of plants to get in the ground. The Nursery has a bottleneck. We need to figure out where the trees are getting planted so we can get someone to tend to them. Would suggest site manager, but it's going to be a lot. They have trees ready to be planted but needs some direction on where and who will tend.

Glenn Johnson: nursery itself is an example of what John Alexander has been talking about. Should we go all in for the nursery trees or trees that are on site, maybe we move some of them?

Jon Pincus: Expectation is that we'll need both, so is anybody moving to increase the capacity

Anna: Yes, but short-term capacity is low, so we need strategic plan to ramp it up.

Jon P: Finances- City of Eugene is taking an active approach. What other funding strategies do we have?

Anna: Soil and Water, Conservation council, City of Veneta, etc. Building capacity for funding partnerships. Kirsten plans to contact City of Eugene.

Sue: Thank everyone who had input for this meeting. It's a huge threat so she's glad we're organizing rather than screaming down the eight.

Paxton: Very good meeting, we are moving forward. If we truly want to honor the Kalapuya, we would turn the land back into an oak savanna with camas underneath.

Foxy Vixen: Had a lot of questions going in, but they were answered by presenters, thank you.

Upcoming Board Meeting — December 4, 7 pm via Zoom

President's Peace

Gratitude to presenters and those who asked questions. Teamwork makes the dream work. Collaboration happens when we are open to other ideas.