

# July 22, 2025 SPB Meeting Chat

09:06:37 From Eric Evenson, NAFSE to Everyone:

<https://www.firesciencenorthatlantic.org/working-groups>

10:02:52 From Eric Evenson, NAFSE to Everyone:

What are the predators to SPB?

10:03:10 From Alex Entrup to Everyone:

Are parasitoids being monitored along with the predators?

10:04:39 From Wolf Mueller to Everyone:

Is there a risk to white pine if the beetle runs out of hard pine species to feed on?

10:04:54 From Caren Caljouw to Everyone:

are we seeing any pitch pine regeneration in areas heavily infested

10:06:08 From Danielle O'Dell to Everyone:

Replying to "are we seeing any pitch pine regeneration in areas...":

we are seeing regeneration on Nantucket of pitch pine but drought conditions impacting those seedlings

10:06:55 From Jake McCumber to Everyone:

Replying to "are we seeing any pitch pine regeneration in areas...":

In past years places to our south were reporting basically no regeneration and so we had many discussions about ways to facilitate and encourage pitch pine regeneration. That led to this excellent work by Kathleen Stutzman.

<https://necasc.umass.edu/news/management-approaches-facilitating-desirable-tree-regeneration-pitch-pine-barrens-across>

10:07:11 From Bill Edwards to Everyone:

Replying to "are we seeing any pitch pine regeneration in areas...":

I think Sheriffs Meadow is seeing some at Phillips Preserve

10:08:31 From Troy Gipps to Everyone:

Are wind currents (blowing the beetles over long distances) the primary means of SPB dispersal from one geographic location to the next in the Northeast?

10:08:56 From Becky Sibner to Everyone:

Replying to "are we seeing any pitch pine regeneration in areas...":

We are seeing some regen in suppression cuts in eastern Long Island where the soil is more exposed already. But also seeming to be affected by drought

10:42:23 From Shlomiya Lightfoot to Everyone:

Is there discussion of burning during an active infestation to potentially suppress beetles through the action of fire?

10:47:34 From Douglas Gutierrez to Everyone:

What about cutting and burning?

10:50:18 From Shlomiya Lightfoot to Everyone:

Replying to "What about cutting and burning?":

I was wondering that too

10:52:49 From Caren Caljouw to Everyone:

Replying to "What about cutting and burning?":

some infested stands may be too dense to burn safely and require an active program of thinning and prescribed fire

10:52:55 From Eric Evenson, NAFSE to Everyone:

Joint Fire Science Program -

[https://www.firescience.gov/ords/prd/jf\\_jfsp/jf\\_jfsp/r/jfspublic/home](https://www.firescience.gov/ords/prd/jf_jfsp/jf_jfsp/r/jfspublic/home)

10:53:50 From Kevin Dodds to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there discussion of burning during an active in...":

At times in the SE, trees cut during suppression have been piled and burned but I think the logistics and timing of that is tough. We have not discussed that route in the NE just mostly due to logistical issues with timing fire in with suppression.

10:54:24 From Eric Evenson, NAFSE to Everyone:

Forest Stewards Guild - <https://foreststewardsguild.org/>

10:54:32 From Shlomiya Lightfoot to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there discussion of burning during an active in...":

Thank you!

10:55:05 From Eric Evenson, NAFSE to Everyone:

NAFSE website - <https://www.firesciencenorthatlantic.org/>

10:55:49 From Eric Evenson, NAFSE to Everyone:

NAFSE SPB Working Group -  
<https://www.firesciencenorthatlantic.org/working-groups>

10:57:22 From David Crary to Everyone:

Has there been a comparison of SPB infestations inside and outside the perimeter of the Sunrise fire(s) in ~1995?

10:57:56 From Kevin Dodds to Everyone:

Replying to "What about cutting and burning?":

I agree with what Caren wrote. Most of these stands have gone unmanaged for a long time and there is a large influx of fuels with any treatments. I'm not a fire person, but i think you'd need a multiple year approach to this, getting fuels down and restoring the understory. Others may have input on this.

10:59:14 From Jessica Cancelliere to Everyone:

Replying to "What about cutting and burning?":

I'll be talking a little bit about our fuels management. We do understory treatments with forestry mowers to reduce scrub oak (which has become overgrown, it's older, very woody scrub oak) and pile burning to reduce fuels prior to fire

11:01:22 From Kevin Dodds to Everyone:

Replying to "Has there been a comparison of SPB infestations in...":

Hi Dave. Great to see you here. Kathy Schwager has some areas on BNL that fall within that footprint, I believe. BNL was hammered by SPB over the last 4-5 yrs and she has "restored" pitch pine areas as well as areas impacted by the Sunrise Fire. For the most part, the treated/disturbed areas have had minimal SPB impacts. If Kathy is on here, she would be able to provide specifics.

11:22:55 From Polly Weigand to Everyone:

Replying to "Has there been a comparison of SPB infestations in...":

SPB has been moving into the Sunrise Fire foot print - Speonk Riverhead Road highly impacted, spreading along the road corridors, and getting closer to the dwarf pine stands.

11:24:23 From Polly Weigand to Everyone:

Replying to "Has there been a comparison of SPB infestations in...":

I believe Kathy's work has focused on SPB response in the Crescent Bow fire rather than Sunrise firefoot print

11:36:38 From Shea Fee to Everyone:

Any evidence of birds like whip-poor-wills or chucks-wills-widows utilizing managed pitch pine stands (<70 basal area)?

11:37:47 From Jessica Cancelliere to Everyone:

Replying to "Any evidence of birds like whip-poor-wills or chuc...":

In New York we have not monitored that yet, but plan on doing so. We are currently monitoring native pollinator response, and will eventually expand monitoring to birds.

11:38:01 From Polly Weigand to Everyone:

Albany Pine Bush has been actively monitoring for those night jar species with their reduction of basal areas - and I believe have had a positive response.

11:38:19 From Jake McCumber to Everyone:

Replying to "Any evidence of birds like whip-poor-wills or chuc...":

They respond very positively to the forestry in these opened stands. The ground level vegetation responds very quickly so all nesting and foraging conditions are much improved by the forestry.

11:38:35 From Maggie Craig to Everyone:

Replying to "Any evidence of birds like whip-poor-wills or chuc...":

Is girdling effective vs active infestation or as prevention?

11:39:58 From Kevin Dodds to Everyone:

Replying to "Has there been a comparison of SPB infestations in...":

Thanks Polly. I was wondering if it was one of the other fires!

11:47:23 From Bill Edwards to Everyone:

Thank you everyone. Great presentations! Have to run!

11:48:02 From Kevin Dodds to Everyone:

Replying to "Any evidence of birds like whip-poor-wills or chuc...":

@Maggie Craig, if you mean to kill beetles in a girdled tree, then no, that would not be effective. We didn't really go into SPB biology, but attacking beetles effectively girdle the tree by creating galleries in the phloem. I think girdling could be part of prevention in terms of maybe creating wildlife trees or something like that, but in most stands being treated more than 1/2 the trees are removed and that would be a lot of work.

11:50:50 From Danielle O'Dell to Everyone:

Replying to "Any evidence of birds like whip-poor-wills or chuc...":

We were wondering about girdling as well as a stop gap measure during northern long eared maternity roost season when we can't cut. is girdling a worthwhile option during that time, better than doing nothing? or would it have no real impact on SPB? We have about 6 infested trees at the moment at the outbreak site on Nantucket but can't cut now

11:55:42 From Kevin Dodds to Everyone:

Replying to "Any evidence of birds like whip-poor-wills or chuc...":

Hi Danielle. I can't see it mattering much, unfortunately. Sometimes those smaller infestations just die off on their own so maybe you will get lucky. It's a tough situation when you have a need to get trees down but cannot do it. I imagine debarking the bole would also be out due to bat behavior, but that would kill beetles. But, if you just have the six trees and you see no fresh attacks near them, then you might not need to get the trees down.

11:56:36 From Danielle O'Dell to Everyone:

Replying to "Any evidence of birds like whip-poor-wills or chuc...":

Thanks! helpful!

12:13:21 From Maggie Craig to Everyone:

Who was that researching air burner emissions? Thanks

12:18:15 From Jessica Cancelliere to Everyone:

Replying to "Who was that researching air burner emissions? Tha...":

Andy Vanderyacht - Fire and Forest Ecology Lab

12:19:38 From Nicholas Anzuoni to Everyone:

Thank you! Great presentations.

12:19:47 From Becky Sibner to Everyone:

Does anyone have thoughts about how fire history may vary between areas like the Central Pine Barrens vs coastal areas like the southern fork of LI or Martha's Vineyard?

12:19:55 From Shea Fee to Everyone:

Thanks all!

12:20:29 From Caren Caljouw to Everyone:

Thank you - great updates

12:20:54 From Lisa Tewksbury to Everyone:

Thanks everyone!

12:22:16 From Becky Sibner to Everyone:

Thanks!

12:22:52 From Charles LaBash to Everyone:

Thanks for organizing the meeting and for the great presentations!

12:23:19 From Justin Williams to Everyone:

Thank you!

12:23:26 From Maggie Craig to Everyone:

Thank you!

12:23:27 From David Crary to Everyone:

Tx

12:24:42 From Claire Rutledge to Everyone:

Bye, thanks Polly for organizing!!!