



Southern New England Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Update and Forest Management Meeting

July 22, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/NESPBMeeting>

9:00 a.m. Welcome

9:05 a.m. Current Southern Pine Beetle Distribution, Activity and Management Response

- **Regional** - Kevin Dodds, Entomologist, US Forest Service Durham, NH
- **New York** - Jessica Cancelliere, NYSDEC, Division of Lands, Forests and Invasive Species - Forest Health Unit, Albany, NY
- **Connecticut** - Claire Rutledge, Entomologist, Department of Entomology, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
- **Rhode Island** - Alana Russell, Forest Health Program Coordinator RI DFE & Lisa Tewksbury, Director of URI Biocontrol Lab, URI
- **Massachusetts** - Nicole Keleher, Habitat Restoration and Program Manager, MassWildlife

9:55 a.m. Questions

10:05 a.m. BREAK

10:20 a.m. The Silver Linings of the SPB in the Pine Barrens - A Primer on Disturbance Ecology, Southern Pine Beetle Impact and the Need for Active Forest Management - Polly Weigand, Northeast Fire Projects Manager – North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange and Forest Stewards Guild, Hampton Bays, NY

10:40 a.m. Forest Management Options to Reduce SPB Impacts and Improve Stand Resilience in Pitch Pine - Kevin Dodds, Entomologist, US Forest Service Durham, Forest Health Program, Durham, NH

11:00 a.m. Remote Sensing Methodology to Map Presence of Pitch Pine within the Landscape, Justin Williams, Remote Sensing Program Manager, US Forest Service - Forest Health Program Durham, NH

11:20 a.m. Collaborative SPB Prevention, Forest Health Restoration and Wildfire Risk Reduction in New York, - Jessica Cancelliere, NYSDEC, Division of Lands, Forests and Invasive Species - Forest Health Unit) Albany, NY

- 11:40 a.m. **Response to SPB in Massachusetts and Pitch Pine Restoration Efforts.** Alex Entrup, Prescribed Fire Project Leader, and **Nicole Keleher, Habitat Restoration and Program Manager**, MassWildlife, Westborough, MA
- 12:00 p.m. **Questions and Wrap Up.**

Managing Pitch Pine Under the Threat of Southern Pine Beetle RESOURCES

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

SPB Natural History, Range Expansion and Impact

- [Southern Pine Beetle fact sheet](#)
- [Expansion of Southern Pine Beetle into Northeastern Forests: Management and Impact of a Primary Bark Beetle in a New Region](#)

SPB Hazard Rating and Forest Response:

- [Tree regeneration dynamics under a range of restoration treatments in Northeast pitch pine \(*Pinus rigida*\) barrens](#): Kathleen A. Stutzman, Anthony W. D'Amato, and Kevin J. Dodds
- [Southern Pine Beetle Hazard Rating for Pitch Pine Barrens](#)

Prevention (SPB & Wildfire Risk Reduction):

- [Beyond the Illusion of Preservation](#)
- [Southern Pine Beetle Infestations in Relation to Forest Stand Conditions, Previous Thinning, and Prescribed Burning: Evaluation of the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program](#)

Other Links:

- [North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange](#)
- [Joint Fire Science Program](#)
- [Forest Stewards Guild](#)

Many thanks to the Agencies and Organizations who made this meeting possible!



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