

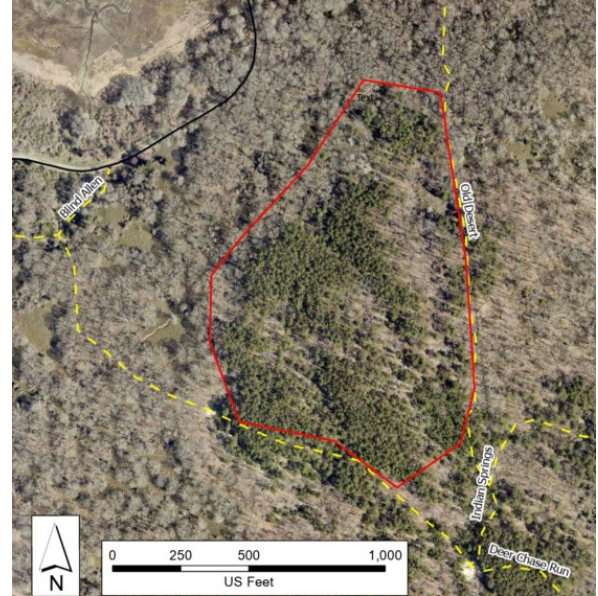


Notice: Southern Pine Beetle treatments

Sawyers felling trees in the 'Desert'

September 9 & 10

Southern Pine Beetles (SPB) are attacking pitch pine trees in the 'Desert'. If SPB attacks become too great, they will kill significant portions of a pitch pine forest. To minimize the risk, NBNERR is working with RIDEM Forest Fire Program to fell select pitch pine trees where SPB are evident.



Red outline shows the approximate area of work during the September 9 & 10 sawyer operations.

Please keep a safe distance (300 feet or more) from sawyers at all times.

NBNERR staff, in collaboration with RIDEM and US Forest Service staff, have been continuing to monitor and respond to the expanding presence of SPB into Rhode Island's pine forests, particularly the pine barrens and oak-pine forests on Prudence Island.

As the threat and impact of SPB infestations in northeastern United States is relatively new, we are working with the best available science and information from recently affected areas in our region, such as Long Island and Martha's Vineyard. Our goal is to maintain a healthy forest that is able to survive minor attacks of SPB and, through careful management, does not have large infestations.

Like many changes in the environment, the presence of SPB and the impact on our forests is something we will need to continue to manage indefinitely, which includes felling select trees, thinning pitch pine forests, and prescribed burns.

For more information, contact Jon Mitchell, NBNERR Stewardship Coordinator

Jonathan.mitchell@dem.ri.gov