



# WASHINGTON

## Washington State Department of Natural Resources

It is estimated that local governments across the country spend an estimated \$1.7 billion each year to remove trees killed by non-native insect pests.<sup>1</sup> Climatic stressors, such as rising temperatures, drought, and shifting precipitation patterns are expected to increase both tree stress and pest vulnerabilities. Considering the many positive contributions that trees make to public health,<sup>2</sup> it is imperative that local governments be prepared to detect, report, and assist in the eradication of invasive insect pests. To this end, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Urban & Community Forestry Program formed a partnership with the Washington Invasive Species Council to launch the Urban Forest Pest Readiness Project (UFPRP).

The UFPRP kicked off in 2018 with funding from the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Office of Plant Protection and Quarantine. This first round of funding paid for a series of stakeholder workshops to shape the development of the Urban Forest Pest Readiness Playbook,<sup>3</sup> a scorecard-like tool that allows local governments to conduct self-assessments of pest readiness. The playbook also includes actions that local jurisdictions can take to address invasive pest threats. The purpose of the playbook is to close readiness and response gaps between municipalities and state and federal pest response agencies.

In 2019, the project received additional funding from the USDA Forest Service. These funds are being used to develop a statewide geodatabase to house municipal tree inventory data, to convert existing

tree inventory datasets for entry in the statewide database, and to create a mobile application for collecting new tree inventory data. Taken together, these data will allow project collaborators to assess pest vulnerabilities at local, regional, and statewide scales.

The UFPRP was fortunate to receive a third round of funding from the USDA Forest Service in 2020. These dollars were co-awarded to the states of Washington and Oregon to support additional tree inventory data collection on both sides of the border between the two states. Once data collection is complete, additional analyses will assess pest vulnerabilities within and between the two states, further strengthening awareness of pest threats and cohesion between local, state, and federal pest response agencies.

To date, the UFPRP has been extremely well-received by local, state, and federal stakeholders, thus validating the need for such a project. The team of project partners continues to implement the work described herein and seeks new opportunities to expand the project, thereby further protecting the health of forests, trees, and people.

For more information, visit the Urban Forest Pest Readiness project website.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0024587>

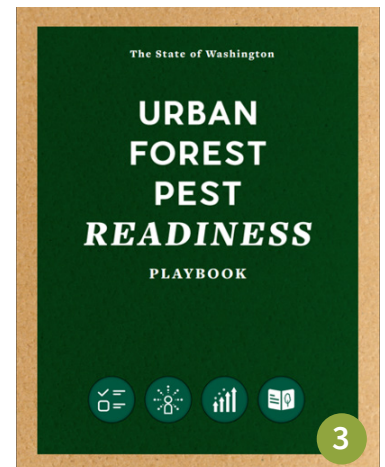
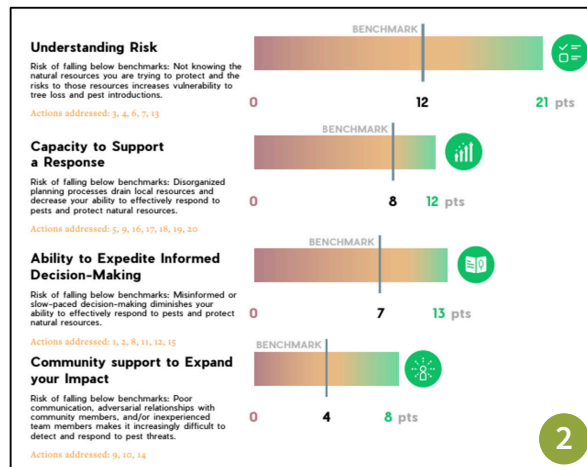
<sup>2</sup> <http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/UrbanForestPestReadinessPlaybook.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/projects/pest-ready/>



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1. An ash tree is inspected for evidence of Emerald Ash Borer, an exotic invasive insect pest. Photo Credit: Daria Gosztyla. 2. The playbook sets benchmarks to help public land managers assess invasive pest readiness. Photo Credit: WA DNR. 3. The playbook was developed through a partnership between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Invasive Species Council. Photo Credit: WA DNR.