

# Reflections from Landowners Grappling with the Threat of EAB

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Leland (Lee) Peterman and  
Shirley Joliff, Bogwood

## **An 80-acre former woodlot near Scio, OR has transformed into a model for sustainable tree farming and is preparing for possible functional ash extinction as Emerald Ash Borer migrate.**

Recently, we attended a mini-symposium titled: Emerald Ash Borer in our natural areas: Preparing for the functional extinction of *Fraxinus Latifolia*: Science, options and actions on the imminent arrival of the dreaded Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) - it was a sobering eye-opener, (note the term 'functional extinction'.) Only 98% of the news was bad. The rest was hopeful. The think-tank symposium was a follow-up

to one held last year in Portland and of the six guest speakers this time, three noted that our Oregon Ash was most susceptible of all North American species at a nearly 96% mortality rate in test stands. They suggested that Watershed Councils and foresters should not continue planting thousands of *Fraxinus latifolia*, as those stands will become both a source of food as well as a highway for the infestation to travel and spread even more quickly. The clear and oft-repeated theme from nearly all the speakers was: greater diversity in riparian areas and forested land -- mono-cultures like Ash forests and even-aged Doug-fir plantations will be doomed either through infestation or the warming climate. Trees such

as native Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), willows (*Salix*) and Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) as well as Oregon White oak (*Quercus garryana*) even the Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) can fill in the gaps, but not wholly replace the Ash in boggy or riparian areas when the catastrophic EAB infestation arrives.

Another theme expressed by all the guest speakers, experts in their fields, was that there is unambiguous evidence that climate change is causing both floral as well as faunal species to relocate in a northerly drift; species of trees from northern California and southern Oregon are poised to fill niches soon to be vacated by Willamette valley natives as they die-off or head north towards



*Lee Peterman and dog, Trina, work in the meadow at Bogwood.*

Washington and BC. One specific tree already well known in the Medford, OR, area is the Hinds Walnut (*Juglans hindsii*) which has adapted to and can be found in similar habitat as the Oregon Ash. In essence, Urban Foresters, Watershed council project managers as well as private landowners should seek such adapted and adaptable species to use in future reforestation areas.

Which leads us to today's Word of the Moment:

Adaptability  
a-dapt-a-bil-i-ty  
NOUN

Definition: the quality of being able to adjust to new conditions.

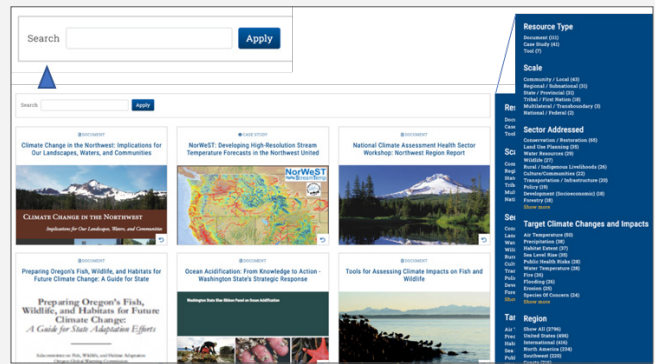
Now, more than ever, we as small woodland owners and managers need to be adaptable to the speed with which

new data and the evidence of observable climatic changes are coming at us. Diversity of species is to be sought out and embraced, species which are both adapted to and are unperturbed by those climatic changes. The take-away I got from the EAB symposium and hope to leave you with is that some change is inevitable; the Emerald Ash Borer is on its way, nothing short of running out of Ash trees, literally, will stop it. The climate is changing, the empirical evidence is overwhelming. The challenge we face collectively is how we as private landowners and managers can be adaptable to these threats and make the necessary changes for us, our land and those who follow. Perhaps we can learn from the W. Valley Ponderosa pine; it can live in the foothills, as well as the valley floor -- it can withstand drought periods, as well as, having its roots underwater. I think this tree can teach us a bit about adaptability.

For additional info on the W. valley sub-species of P. pine and the Willamette Valley Ponderosa Pine Conservation Association, visit <https://westernforestry.org/wvppca/>

A parting thought:

*"Perhaps the time has come to cease calling it the 'environmentalist' view, as though it were a lobbying effort outside the mainstream of human activity, and to start calling it the real-world view." – Edward O. Wilson*



## Online Resource: How to use Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE)

### Jessica Hitt, EcoAdapt

The Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) was launched in July 2010 and is managed by EcoAdapt. CAKE is a knowledge sharing platform featuring high-quality climate change adaptation case studies, tools, and resources spanning all phases of the adaptation process (assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring).

CAKE is a platform where managers, planners, and the broader community can take more informed action through resources collected and submitted by their peers and reviewed and approved by experts.

**Search for resources** by filtering content using our keywords. You can filter by impact of concern, phase of adaptation, type of resource here or see image below.

Through on-the-ground case studies and other resources created by and for the adaptation community, CAKE users have the opportunity to share their own experiences as well as learn from others in the field. **Sign up**, help grow the field, and submit your own resources to the CAKE database!

If you need any additional technical support you can watch our [tutorial videos](#) or be in touch with us directly at [info@cakex.org](mailto:info@cakex.org).