

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE QUARTERLY UPDATE JANUARY–MARCH 2019



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Crews from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Lands and Forests (DLF) and partner agencies continue to monitor for and battle the southern pine beetle (SPB) to help save pine trees on Long Island.

For background information on SPB, please visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99331.html>.

SPB infestations mapped during aerial surveys

- DEC DLF staff Brent Kinal, John Wernet, Nathan Hudson, and James Rittenhouse completed aerial surveys on January 15, 16, and 17 over Suffolk County.
 - They surveyed 571,493 acres, and
 - Mapped more than 3,808 acres of damaged pitch pine.
- The next aerial surveys will be in May, June, and August.



Photos of the forest before (top photo) and after (bottom photo) it was thinned. Thinning reduces competition between trees, which makes the forest healthier and more resistant to SPB attack.

Restorative management began at David A. Sarnoff Preserve

- Restorative management includes thinning trees, monitoring plant regeneration, conducting prescribed burns, and replanting native species as needed, to restore the function and resiliency of the pine barrens ecosystem.
- DEC DLF staff marked a total of 63 acres for thinning and cut trees on 11 of those acres. Staff mulched trees in place to reduce the fire hazard. Thinning will continue until the remaining acres are cut.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health Division of Lands and Forests

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233
P: (866) 640-0652 | foresthealth@dec.ny.gov
www.dec.ny.gov



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

For more information, or to sign up for email updates from NYSDEC, visit our website:

www.dec.ny.gov