

An aerial photograph of a forest with a large tree trunk in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

# *Craftsbury Ash Tree Inventory*

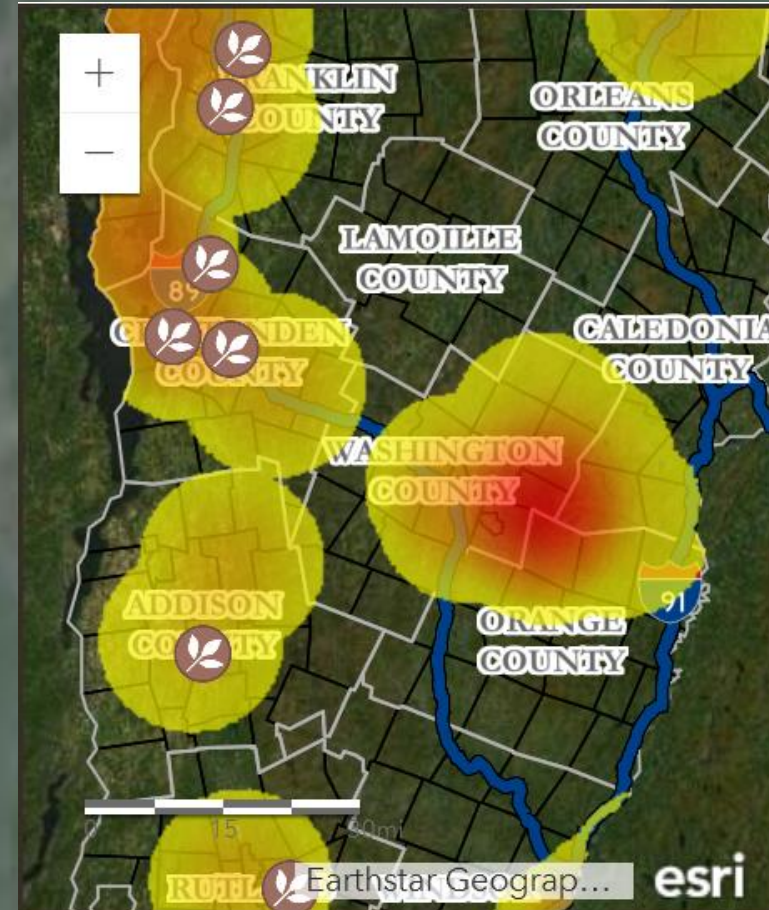
## Preliminary Plan

Rob Libby – Municipal Forest Committee

Brian Machesney – Conservation Commission

# Sudden Ash Decline Expected

- Emerald Ash Borer expected to kill many trees in Craftsbury
- Trees survive 2 – 5 years from first attack
- See: <https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>



# Prepare for Sudden Ash Decline

- Dead ash trees may threaten people and property
- Ash trees in public right-of-way may be a liability
- Goal: predict timing and scale of potential problems
- Recommendation: *ad hoc* town committee to survey and monitor ash tree inventory

# Initial Ash Tree Survey

- Train volunteers
- Photograph trees and threats
- Transfer photos to PC
- Transform data for assessments

# Train Volunteers

- Town right-of-way on individual routes
  - *Safety, safety, safety*
- Recognize ash trees
  - Early summer: late to leaf-out
  - Bark pattern
- Recognize threats
  - Lean, overspread
  - Roads, utility lines, etc.

# Photograph Trees and Threats

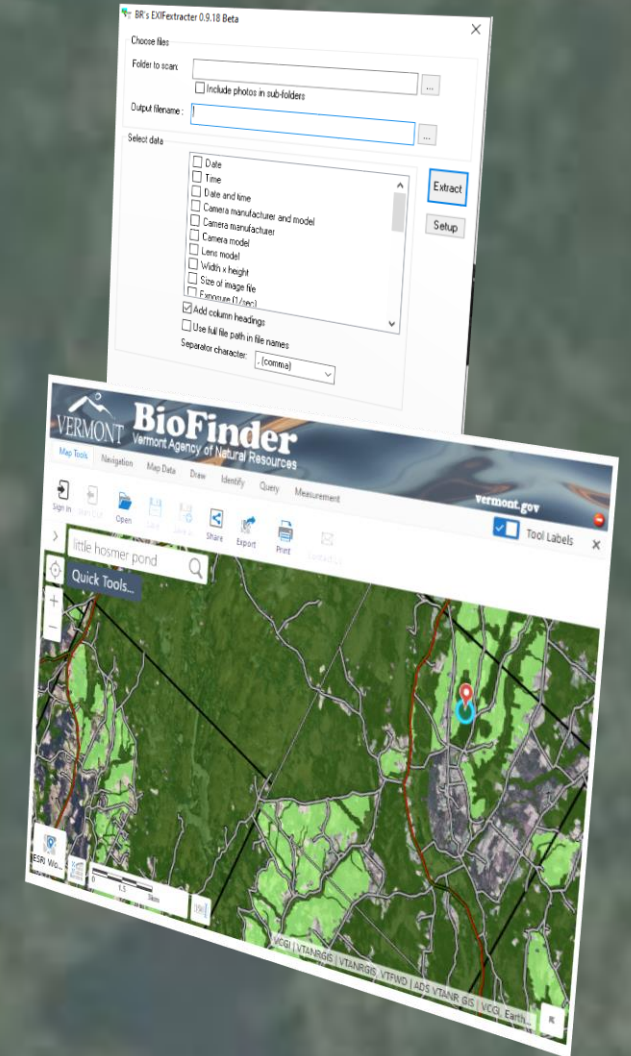
- GPS-enabled digital cameras and smartphones
- Photographic record allows rapid, expert analysis
  - Minimize misidentification
  - Assess threat severity for prioritization
  - Monitor trends

# Transfer photos to PC

- Memory stick, internet
- Maintain long-term inventory database
- Share with other entities

# Transform Data and Assess Results

- Free *Windows* app transforms photo data for upload
- Map the inventory with ANR's *BioFinder*
  - Map points link to respective photographs
- Analyze with spreadsheets, etc.
- Potential: tender RFPs for removal estimates





# Annual Monitoring

- Should require much less time than first pass
- Track changes by locale
- Focus remediation efforts
- Optimize expenditures