

Hello PATC Trail Managers and Overseers,

A new treatment to protect eastern hemlocks from the slow death of woolly adelgid infestation is now available to SNP's forest health staff. The treatment involves ground injection of a control agent around the base of the hemlock which will provide pest protection for two years or longer. The park's forest health staff is looking for relatively healthy hemlock stands to use this treatment.

It is likely that pockets of relatively healthy hemlocks stands maybe found along the west side of the Blue Ridge. The protocol for treating hemlocks by ground injection is that hemlock should display 50% or more crown health and be at least 40 feet from water.

It is my guess that PATC's blue blaze trail overseers and avid hikers who explore the backcountry maybe aware of some isolated stands of healthy hemlocks.

Would you share this information with your trail overseers? PATC overseers who are aware of healthy hemlocks or locate any this summer can communicate the stand location to me or go direct with the forest health crew leader Dale Meyerhoeffer at dale_meyerhoeffer@nps.gov

We will need a detailed description of how to find the site and a brief description of what is at the site, for example: "10 hemlocks: 2 with 10" - 14" diameters and 8 small hemlocks with 2" - 4" diameters."

Thanks for your help in the search for healthy hemlocks. Don't we all wish that this treatment was available 15 years ago.

Shawn
Park Trails Coordinator
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