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HOPE FOR THE HEMLOCKS: HWA MANAGEMENT APPROACHES ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Thom Green, Hemlock Restoration Initiative

natural
areas
ASSOCIATION

Title: Hope for the Hemlocks: HWA Management Approaches on Public and Private Lands in North Carolina

Presentation Abstract: The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a tiny invasive insect killing millions of hemlock trees and threatening water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest health in eastern North America. Recent advances in research and developments in HWA management options give natural areas managers and private landowners new tools they can use to protect their hemlock forests. This presentation will focus on the management strategies being implemented in North Carolina by the Hemlock Restoration Initiative (HRI) and its partners. A North Carolina-based non-profit program, HRI is entering into its eighth year of restoring hemlock populations and mitigating damage from HWA. The mission of HRI is to work with a variety of partners and existing programs to restore hemlocks to long-term health via multiple integrated pest management strategies and educational outreach. I will discuss HRI's cross-boundary collaboration and partnerships in active HWA management, including projects with land trusts and private communities as well as work with state and federal agencies. These efforts have built on previous work to chemically protect hemlocks and integrate biological controls of HWA on public and private lands and have improved the outlook for the future of hemlocks in North Carolina and beyond.



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Thom Green is the outreach manager for North Carolina's Hemlock Restoration Initiative. After working for several years as an environmental educator in his native Oregon, Thom moved to North Carolina in 2014 to earn an MS in biology with a focus in forest ecology from Western Carolina University. Thom has been with HRI since 2017 managing HWA in North Carolina's remaining hemlock stands and educating landowners and the general public about what they can do for hemlocks.