

FOR IMMEDIATE NEWS RELEASE



NDSU-NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE

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TAXPAYERS “PLANT AND PROTECT TREES” BY CONTRIBUTING TO TRUST FUND

Bottineau - Taxpayers have the ability to play an important role in the overall health and well-being of our State’s forest resources by making a donation to the **Trees for North Dakota Trust Fund** on their individual income tax returns. The North Dakota Forest Service distributes these funds as grants to communities to help diversify their forest resources by planting a variety of trees adapted to North Dakota’s climate. A variety of trees also reduces the impacts of invasive insects, such as the emerald ash borer (EAB), which attacks and kills all species of ash trees and is as close as Minnesota.

Ash is the most common tree planted in communities, reaching 60 percent of the tree population in some towns. Ash also represents a large percentage of the state’s 55,000 miles of field and farmstead windbreaks. There are also an estimated 78 million ash trees within North Dakota’s forests and woodlands. The cost of removing, disposing and replacing trees lost to EAB, coupled with the economic benefits associated with trees lost, such as reduced energy costs and ecosystem services, could far exceed \$1 billion dollars!

Our collective efforts can make a difference. Please enter your voluntary contribution on the 2014 North Dakota Individual Income Tax Return. On the ND-1, look for Line 31 on the *Refund Return*, and Line 35 on the *Tax Due Return*. On the ND-EZ, use Line 5 on the *Refund Return*, or Line 8 on the *Tax Due Return*. The North Dakota Forest Service welcomes your financial support. For more information, contact: Thomas.Claeys@ndsu.edu or call (701) 328-9945.

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