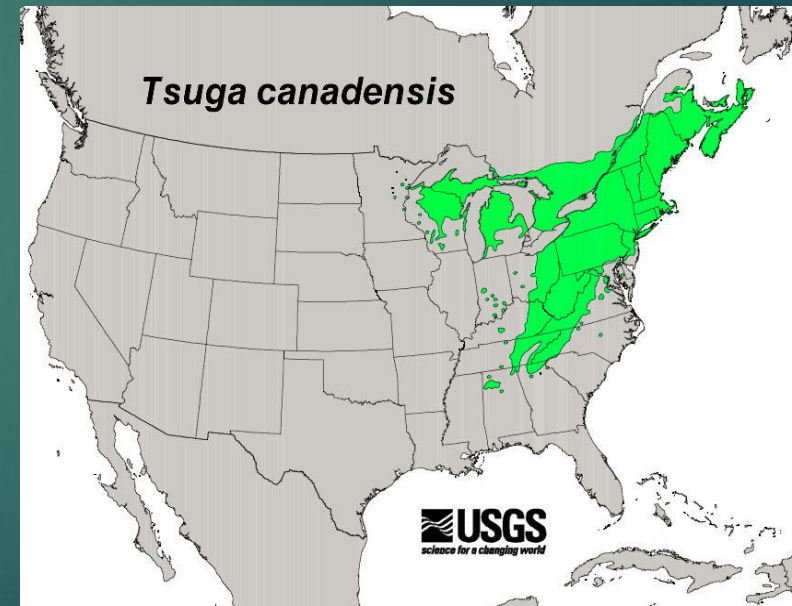




**Buncombe County
Hemlock Preservation Project**

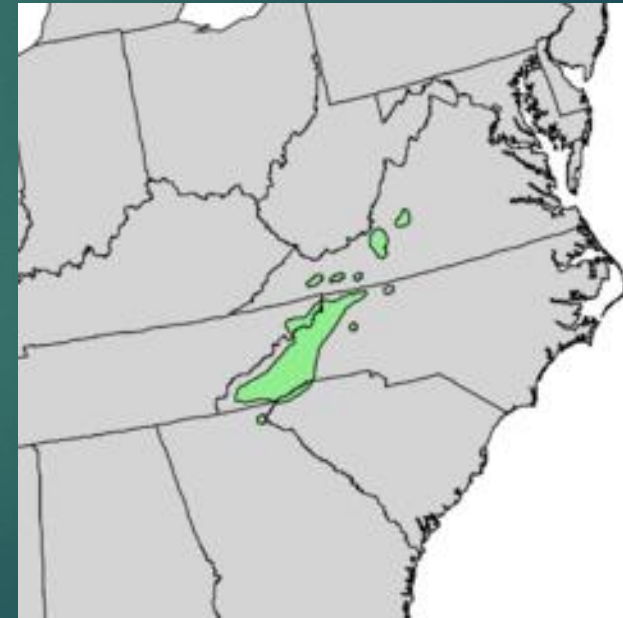
Appalachian Mountains are home to two native hemlocks



Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*)

Carolina Hemlock (*Tsuga carolinia*)

Lives only in western North Carolina and a few counties in neighboring states.



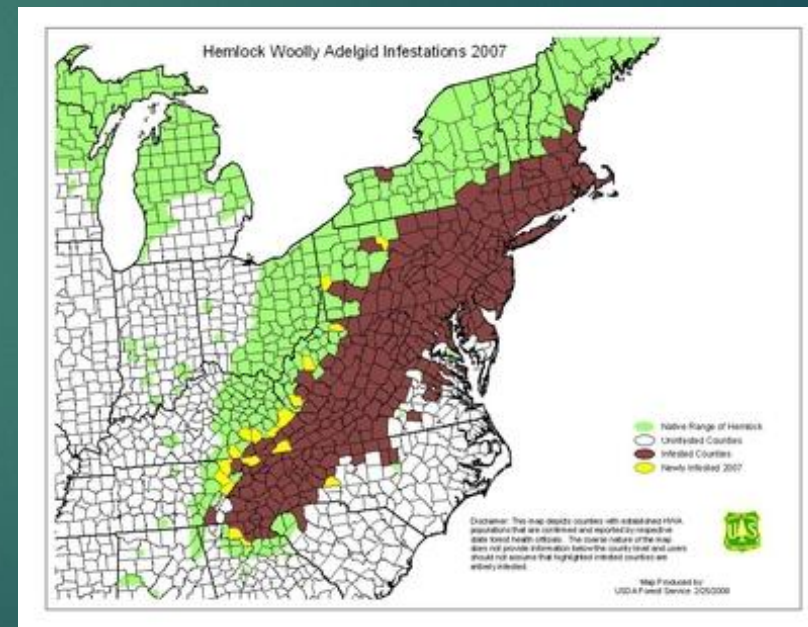
Problem: Invasion of non-native Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
Millions of hemlocks have already died.



- _ Most remaining will die in next two decades if adelgid left unchecked.
- _ Carolina Hemlock faces extinction due to small population.



Hemlock adelgid first detected in northern Virginia. Has now spread north to Maine and south to Georgia.





Solution: Restore ecological balance

Laricobius nigrinus “Lari” beetle. Discovered in hemlock groves of Pacific Northwest USA. Feeds only on adelgids.

Buncombe County's Role:

Save hemlocks on local public lands (county, municipal and schools).

Primary Strategy: Build up populations of Lari beetles to reduce adelgid populations to a level that hemlocks can survive.

- ▶ Will require a multi-year effort.
- ▶ Preserving endangered Carolina hemlocks and “wilderness” habitats is a priority.
- ▶ Protecting hemlocks in rural, suburban and urban areas is important, too.



Goals for 2015:

- ▶ Secure 5,000 Lari beetles from Pacific Northwest USA.
- ▶ Release Lari beetles to save best remaining population of native hemlocks.
- ▶ Prioritize saving our last remaining old growth Carolina hemlock groves.
- ▶ Budget = \$25,000 for 5,000 Lari beetles, transferred from Pacific region to Buncombe sites.
- ▶ Program Administration by WNC Communities.
- ▶ Volunteer support from Mountain True.



Hemlocks in Montreat community park

How citizens can help

- ▶ Help identify hemlocks that need to be preserved on parks, schools and other local public lands.
- ▶ Volunteer and participate in hemlock protection field work.
- ▶ Make a financial contribution so we can expand and accelerate hemlock preservation efforts in Buncombe County.
- ▶ **Protect hemlocks on your land!**
- ▶ Contact:
forestkeeper@mountaintrue.org
- ▶ call 828-258-8737 or go to
www.mountaintrue.org.



Time to act is now



Carolina Hemlock



American Chestnut