Action C3- Deliverable - Summary of annual 2015-2016 felling

The third season for destruction procedure started in September 2015 when the most intense period of elm disease inventory was completed.

3991 DED infected trees, 1378 risk trees (risk tree=contagion through roots), and about 10 500 thin stems (<10 cm Ø) was found during summer inventory 2015 on 442 properties (Action C2). All these trees, have been felled and destroyed before July 2016 when third season ended.

The method for felling was done as 2013-2015 (first and second season). Trees thicker than 10 cm was felled down with saw chains and the thinner trees even with brush saws. The Elm wood was transported to a roadside with a forwarder from the place where the trees were felled.

Methods for chipping and transporting, have also been the same as second season: An entrepreneur with a forwarder have been transported the Elmwood to the roadside. Another entrepreneur with a truck equipped with a crane, chipper and container now takes care of the wood. With the crane, the machine operator lift the Elm wood to the wood chipper. The chips are blown down into the container. When the container is full of chips, the machine operator drive the truck with the whole combination of equipment, from roadside to a storage area where the Boiler is. The chips can easily be lifted in to the Boiler where it will be burned and deliver heat to the remote heating network in Visby. There was about 700 m³ of the Elm wood which was too thick and therefore could not be chipped by this combined machine. The wood was first cracked to smaller pieces by another machine before it could be chipped with the combined machine. Third season, 2015-2016, the Elm wood generated about 5578 m³'s chips (biofuel). SFA: s temporary staff was felling the trees and burning the Elm wood on site when necessary (when soil conditions have prevented forwarders transporting elm wood to the roadside for chipping).
The staff worked in teams, normally with 2-4 people together/team and 2-7 teams at the time. They travel in company cars (normally one team/car) to the sites. They have work shelters near the places where they work (they are warmed with gasoline) and there they eat food, take off workwear and keep equipment.

SFA officer had the responsibility to lead the work and keep in contact with landowners and contractors transporting the elm wood (they who drive forwarders and trucks). The people working with felling, got maps on each property with GPS-points for the trees. When the work is finished, after felling and forwarders transporting elm wood to the roadside at each site, the workers leave the map back to SFA officer which means that the work was finished at that place.

There have been a few places were the DED infected trees was placed near houses and the felling could not be done in the normally way with chainsaws. In these cases, SFA used a Skylift to reach the trees.

Map from season three (2015-2016) showing GPS points for the DED trees on property Dalhem Dune 2:1.