Protocol for cutting and labeling your girdled ash

Cut your tree down as close to the day of peeling as possible. If the tree is fresh, it is **much** easier to peel.

Labelling: Write your name or some other identifier in felt pen on the cut end of **each 3-foot section**. If you have girdled more than one tree on your property, be sure that each tree is labeled differently. If we find EAB in a section, we need to know where it came from.

Measure the diameter at breast height (dbh) and write it down. We will need to know this. You will want to collect **as many 3-foot sections as there are inches dbh PLUS ONE** (7 inch dbh = 8 sections to be debarked).

This year we are changing how we choose the 3-foot sections:

One 3-foot section should be cut from the main trunk just **below** the base of the crown. **The rest of the sections should come from the main stem or stems in the crown.** From the base of the crown, work your way upward, cutting 3-foot sections from the thickest branches. The sections need to be at least 4 inches in diameter. If a branch is twisted or bent and might be difficult to peel, feel free to skip that area and choose a straighter section further up. If you are unable to collect the required number of fairly straight sections at least 4 inches thick in the crown (if the main branches become too thin), start working your way down the trunk below the crown. I have attached a picture showing how one might choose 3-foot sections on a hypothetical tree.
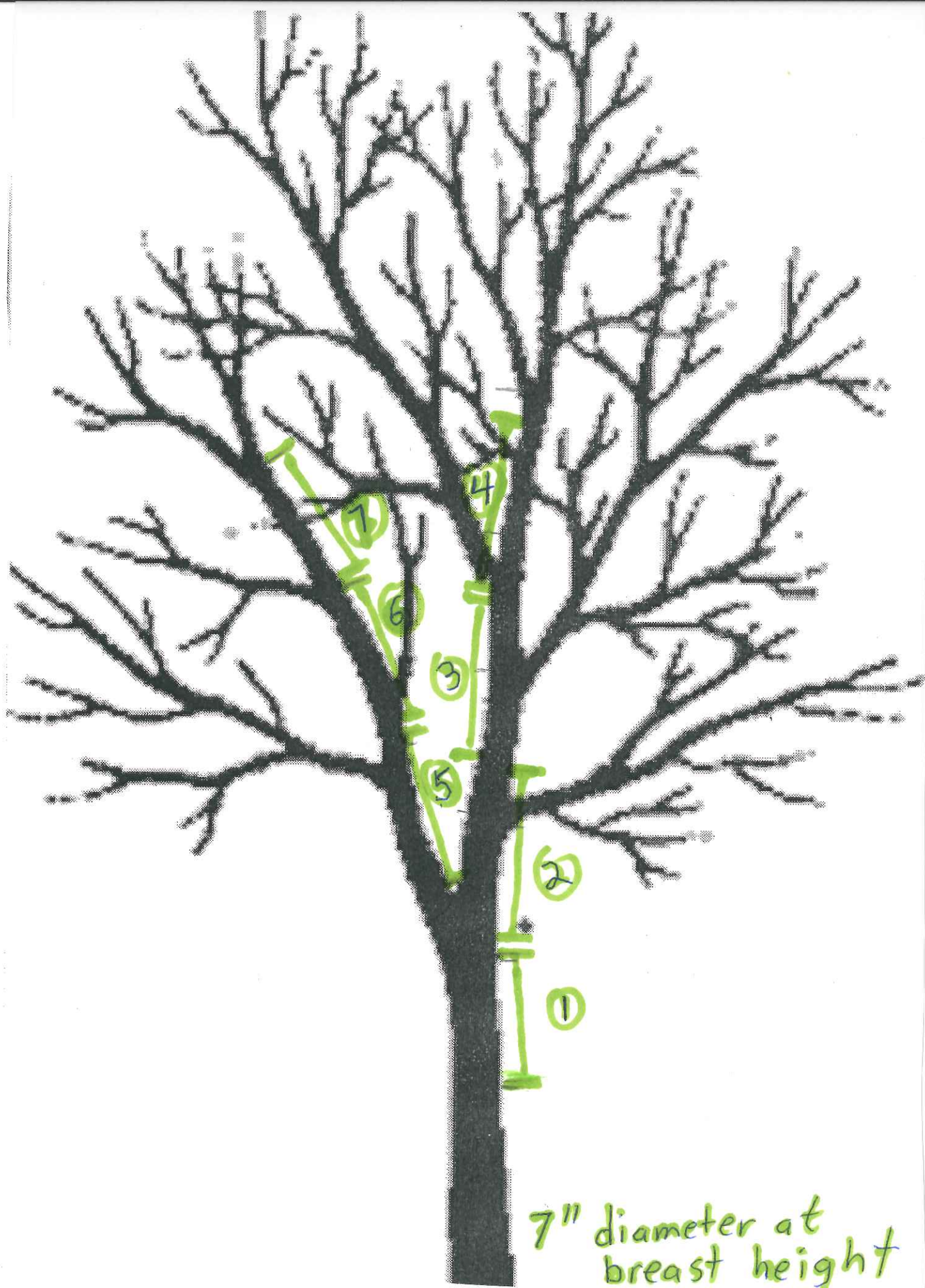
Trim off branches flush with the rest of the bolt to make peeling easier.

I know this is a little more complicated than what we have done in the past, but it will increase our chances of detecting low levels of EAB. Please call me if anything is unclear. Thank you so much for your help!

If you have any questions or are unable to bring your bolts to one of the workshops, please contact Colleen Teerling (207 287-3096, colleen.teerling@maine.gov) or Patti Roberts (207 287-2431, patti.roberts@maine.gov) .

Thank you very much for your help.

Colleen

7" diameter at breast height