

The Bradford Era

Smethport company to treat trees at Flight 93 Memorial

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MARVINDALE — A Smethport area company will play a key role in eradicating invasive insect hemlock woolly adelgid at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset.

Heather McKean, owner of the four-year old Marvindale-based McKean Environmental Solutions LLC, that specializes in forest health services, invasive species identification and treatment, mosquito control and pest control services, told The Era, “There are about 14 forested acres at the crash site dominantly covered with hemlocks. Some of the forested area was damaged from the crash, and the National Park Service wishes to preserve the remaining hemlocks and several newly planted hemlock saplings to maintain the aesthetic and ecological value of the area.”

The Flight 93 National Memorial is located at the site of the crash of United Airlines Flight 93, which was the fourth airliner hijacked on September 11, 2001, in the worst terrorist attacks on American soil. It honors the passengers and crew who stopped the hijackers from reaching their intended target — presumably the Capitol in Washington, D.C. — by confronting and fighting the terrorists.

The plane crashed in Stoneycreek Township, Somerset County, approximately two miles north of Shanksville, killing all 44 aboard.

In his book, *Fall and Rise — The Story of 9/11*, Mitchell Zuckoff writes: “Flight 93 struck the ground at a 40-degree angle, nearly upside down, its nose and right wing hitting first.

“Its fuel-filled wings detonated on impact, sending up the fireball and plume of smoke.

“The cockpit and front section blasted forward into hemlocks.”

It is the health and vitality of those hemlocks that McKean was hired to protect.

McKean Environmental Solutions LLC won the contract through a competitive bidding procedure of the National Park Service that required references and experience.

“This is the same type of work I conduct each year at Cook Forest State Park and a project in 2019 near Benezette in Elk County and Hick’s Run in Cameron County,” McKean noted.

The company is also licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

This is a three-year contract that begins in the spring of 2021.

Source: http://www.bradfordera.com/news/local/smethport-company-to-treat-trees-at-flight-93-memorial/article_a67ba120-b19a-5f8b-b8d7-86ee86d78425.html