



File Code: 3400

Date: November 19, 2008

Route To:

Subject: Firewood and Invasive Pests

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

The movement of firewood can be a source of introduction and dissemination of invasive forest insects and diseases into and around the United States. The dissemination of pests such as the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle are prime examples of cases where new infestations have been tied, in part, to the movement of firewood. Both of these pests, along with other invasives and native pests, have caused widespread tree mortality and are significant threats to our nation's forests.

At this time we are not proposing a national policy on the movement of firewood on to, or off of, National Forest Systems (NFS) lands. We are however, encouraging Regions to stay current and aware of the issue and implement local guidelines and policies as necessary and commensurate with threats from major forest insect and disease invasive pests. Regions should also coordinate and consult with State regulatory agencies and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), who have primary responsibility for regulating the movement of items that may harbor pests, such as firewood.

In some Regions, several national forests have recognized a specific threat and have taken steps to manage the movement and use of firewood. On other national forests, depending on the significance of the threat, no specific action may be warranted. In this regard, Forest Health Protection staffs can help assess and provide advice on minimizing the risks of spreading forest invasive species.

Please contact Robert Mangold, Director of Forest Health Protection, if you have questions about restricting the movement of firewood to reduce the risk of spreading invasive forest insects and diseases.

/s/ James E. Hubbard
JAMES E. HUBBARD
Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

/s/ Charles L. Myers (for)
JOEL D. HOLTROP
Deputy Chief for National Forest System

cc: Larry Yarger
Gary Man
Lawrence Turner





File Code: 2300/3400

Date: June 1, 2011

Route To:

Subject: National Firewood Movement Policy in Forest Service Facilities

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

REPLY DUE JUNE 30, 2011

Firewood provides recreationists at our facilities with warmth, heat for cooking, and a traditional camping experience. Unfortunately, the movement of firewood can also be a pathway to spread undesired forest insects and diseases. In order to help mitigate firewood as the vector for the possible spread of insects and diseases, Forest Health Protection (FHP) and Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources staffs are working together on a National Firewood Movement Policy. To make progress on this firewood policy, please take action on two items:

1. Each developed campground and day-use facility (levels 3-5), where fires are permitted, shall post signs describing the potential danger of moving insects and disease in firewood. The poster should suggest that campers use firewood from local sources. Posters should also instruct campers to burn all of their transported firewood before leaving, and include suggestions on where local firewood can be obtained (either free or purchased). A generic poster is available in large quantities (copy enclosed) at no cost. If regions would like copies of the generic poster, please contact Gary Man, (703-605-5339 or gman@fs.fed.us) or your regional FHP office. Also, various FHP offices have produced regional firewood posters and may have copies available for distribution. Posters should be displayed at facilities no later than July 29, 2011.
2. Because many regions and areas already have awareness programs or firewood restrictions in place, we request that each region and area nominate one person to help further develop a national firewood movement policy that will focus on education and awareness, restrictions of firewood transport, and firewood related issues. Most, if not all, of the work of this group will be accomplished through conference calls. Please submit names of nominees to Chris Hartman (chartman01@fs.fed.us) by June 30, 2011.

Thank you for your cooperation.

/s/ Joel D. Holtrop
JOEL D. HOLTROP
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

/s/ James E. Hubbard
JAMES E. HUBBARD
Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

Enclosure

