

Briefing...



State & Private Forestry Firewood Grants and Agreements To the State of California

In support of the California Firewood Task Force the U.S. Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, has entered into partnership with three California State agencies to reduce the likelihood of introduction and spread of invasive forest insects and diseases through firewood movement.

Background

November 2010, the California Forest Pest Council established the California Firewood Task Force. The purpose of the multi-agency and partner task force is to coordinate and combine efforts to protect native and urban forests from the threat of invasive and exotic forest insects and diseases that are moved on firewood.

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

CDFA will conduct a statewide campaign to communicate the importance of using local sources of firewood to prevent the spread of invasive forest insects and diseases. The U.S. Forest Service has contributed \$100,000 to the agreement, which is matched by the State with \$34,000 of in-kind services. The campaign messages were developed initially through an Animal Plant Health Inspection Service grant to Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The California Firewood Task Force adopted the same basic messages and graphics because they have been tested and contributed to changes in behavior. It also provides continuity of messages in the west. This campaign plans to outreach to recreationists, commercial firewood sellers, and residential firewood users. One of the initial phases of this agreement has been to launch the website, firewood.ca.gov. Expect to see this campaign “heat” up in advance of the 2012 camping season.

California State Parks

A U.S. Forest Service grant for \$90,000, matched equally, was awarded to State Parks. This grant has the following goals: 1) Increase use of local sources of firewood at state parks, 2) Improve forest health of state park lands through vegetation treatments, 3) Prevent the introduction of exotic insect and diseases moved on firewood, and 4) Reduce garbage from firewood packaging. State Parks will survey its parks to determine campers firewood usage and purchasing habits, determine obstacles (laws, regulations, policies, logistics, cost etc.) that currently discourage use of local sources of firewood, it will pilot new delivery systems for making local sources of firewood available in the Santa Cruz and Lake Tahoe areas, and it will distribute interpretative materials to describe these programs and promote best management practices for firewood use.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)

Through its sub-grantees, Cal Fire is producing posters, fact sheets and promotional materials to raise awareness about the “Buy It Where You Burn It” campaign. Support for these activities is incorporated into their existing annual Forest Health Protection grant and an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant.