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National Firewood Task Force

Recommendations and Implementation Progress

**Presented by Ann Gibbs
October 6, 2010**

THE PROBLEM

- Forests are under attack by non-native invasive species
- Threatens ecosystems, products and services
- Many infestations located in or near campgrounds
- Quickly became apparent that a variety of pests could move with firewood



TASK FORCE

- Multi-agency group:
 - National Plant Board
 - National Association of State Foresters
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - USDA APHIS
- Goal: Recommendations to mitigate risks from people moving firewood
- Worked in three groups



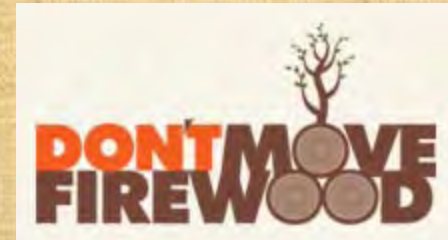
NATIONAL STRATEGY

- Three integrated parts:
 - Outreach
 - Voluntary
 - Regulatory
- Multiple parties need to be involved in implementation



OUTREACH STRATEGIES

- Communications Steering Committee
- Online hub
- Prioritize activities
- Diverse methods & consistent messages
- Support voluntary and regulatory strategies



VOLUNTARY STRATEGIES

- Large-scale producers & retailers adopt BMPs
- National producers and retailers adopt industry-run certification program
- Campgrounds make local and treated firewood available
- Consumers and small-scale producers adopt BMPs



REGULATORY STRATEGIES

- APHIS regulation: labeling, recordkeeping & treatment (interstate)
- State regulations: labeling, recordkeeping & treatment as needed (intrastate)
- Park, forest & campground policies for use of local firewood



Key Milestones

2010 Adopt recommendations, form steering committee and begin planning

Outreach

2010—2013 Continue work begun on getting messages out

Voluntary

2010 Begin adoption of BMPs

2010 National industry adopt certification program

2010 Campgrounds begin to make local/treated firewood available

Regulatory

2011 APHIS proposed rule

2012 APHIS final rule

2013 Federal reg and most needed state regs in place

2010

2011

2012

2013

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS



- Developing a labeling and recordkeeping regulation
- Establishing an outreach steering committee
- Online “Hub” of outreach materials
- Corporate outreach



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**For More Information or to
Submit Comments:**

**[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/
hot_issues/invasive_species&firewood/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/invasive_species&firewood/)**

or

firewood@aphis.usda.gov

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These recommendations will contribute to healthy,
sustainable forests