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# National Firewood Task Force

## Recommendations and Implementation Progress

Presented by Ann Gibbs  
October 6, 2010



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## 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





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# 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

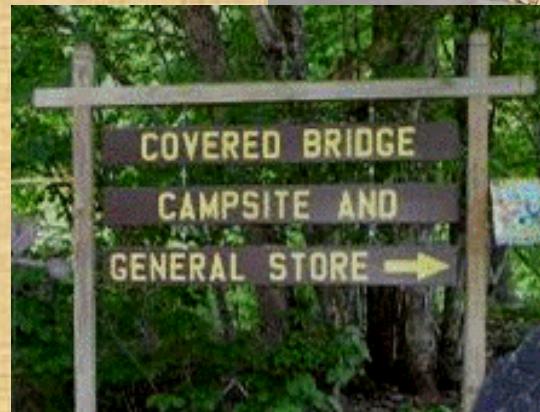
## OUTREACH STRATEGIES

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





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## 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



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## 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

A black rectangular planter sits on a dark surface in front of a red brick wall. Inside the planter is a small stack of cut firewood, with a small white sign on a stick in front of it that reads "SEASONED FIREWOOD RICK'S \$45".

## 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](mailto:firewood@aphis.usda.gov)



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These recommendations will contribute to healthy,  
sustainable forests