



NPB Firewood Initiative

Progress of NPB Firewood Working Group

Continental Dialogue Meeting, Cleveland OH

By Ann Gibbs ME & Piera Siegert NH

EAB Deregulation and firewood

- In 2017, APHIS approached NPB membership about interstate firewood movement in the absence of an EAB regulation.
- NPB members favored development of a firewood quarantine template and toolkit that states could use to develop their own approach to the pathway.
- In 2018, a workgroup was formed to begin development of materials.
- Final recommendations expected January 2020



Firewood Working Group



- Charged with developing a framework of activities for states to help prevent the movement of pests on firewood.
- Provide firewood references to states.
- Suggest best practices for states in:
 - Regulation
 - Best management practices
 - Outreach strategies
- Make information available to states to **promote and enable**, but **not require**, a more unified approach to firewood pathway.

Firewood Working Group Members:

Co-chairs: Ann Gibbs, Maine and Piera Siegert, New Hampshire

Support & Facilitation: Lora Katz, Steve Shearer, and Paula Henstridge, APHIS PPQ

Regulatory:

- Helmuth Rogg, Oregon
- Steve Hildebrandt, Florida

Best Management Practices:

- Dan Kenny, Ohio
- Anni Self, Tennessee
- Jonathan Shields, Ohio
- Mary Beute Glover, Tennessee

Outreach Techniques:

- Piera Siegert, New Hampshire
- Tim Allen, Wisconsin
- Leigh Greenwood, Don't Move Firewood, The Nature Conservancy

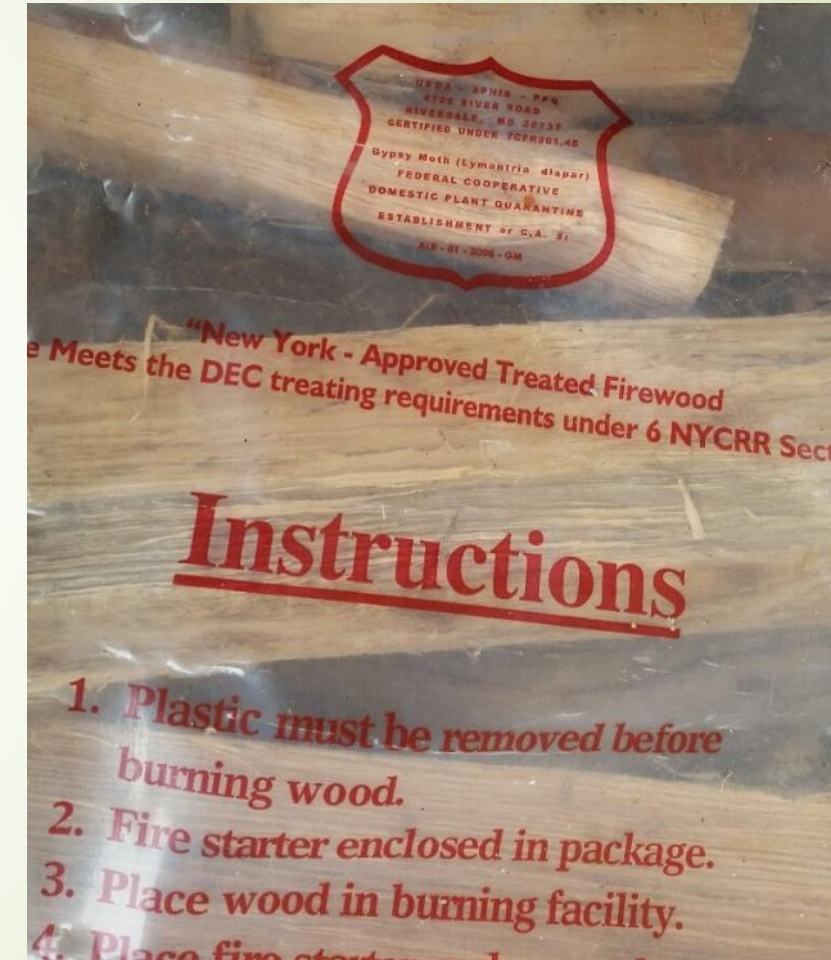
This effort will **NOT**:

- Require states to implement an exterior firewood quarantine.
- Dictate how a state regulates firewood, or doesn't.
- Supersede existing state or federal quarantines with a firewood component.
- Provide funding or resources for firewood-pathway activities.



Regulatory

- Provides references for states contemplating developing a firewood regulation or looking at revising existing regulations
- Covers all aspects from stakeholder engagement to suggested regulation verbiage
- The documents include a quarantine template and further guidance documents on specific aspects of regulating firewood:
 - Definitions
 - Compliance agreements
 - Heat treatment standards
 - Certification programs
 - Labelling



Best Management Practices

- Focus on firewood consumers, producers and individuals cutting wood used for heating structures (homes and cabins)
- Implementing BMPs will reduce, but not eliminate, the risk from the pathway
- A guidance document has been produced describing suggested audiences and how to promote BMPs
- Specific BMPs have been developed for:
 - Commercial producers of firewood
 - Cutting firewood for personal use
 - Consumers of firewood



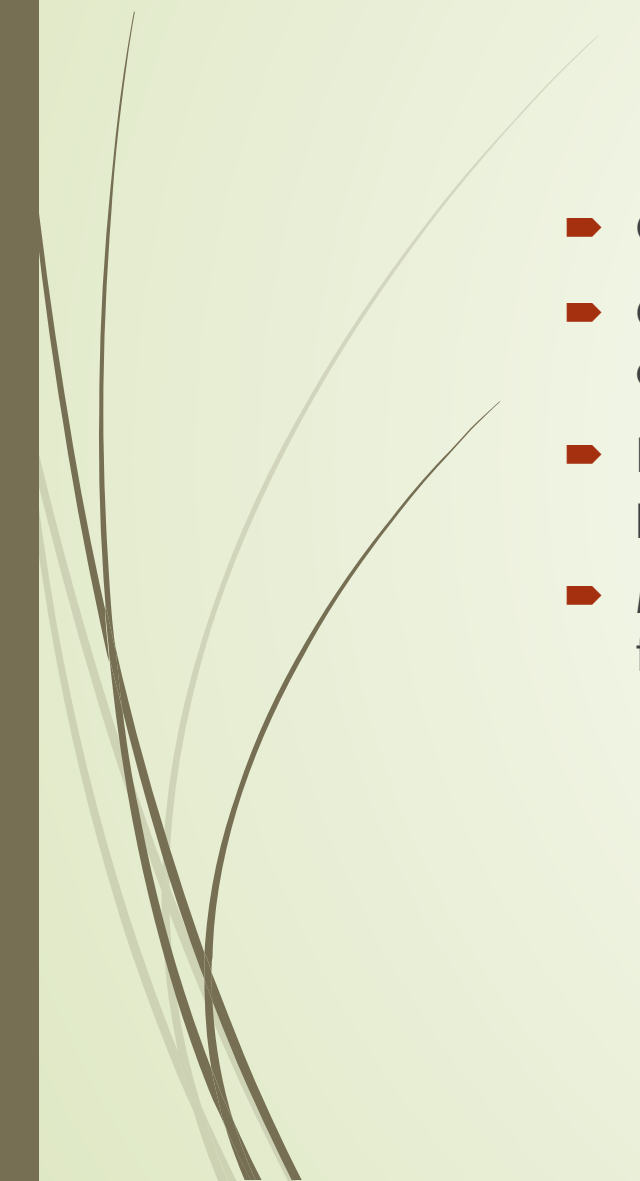
Outreach Strategies

- Target recreational users of firewood (campers etc.) to change behavior
- Recommendations include:
 - Developing a firewood pathway webpage
 - Focusing on outcomes
 - Working with campgrounds
 - Managing a firewood directory through Firewood Scout
 - Utilizing Don't Move Firewood
 - Audience outreach list





Reviewing the guidelines

- Guidance document underwent internal review process.
 - Guidance document received review by 5 selected SPRO or designee external reviewers.
 - Reviewers selected from a range of states and experiences with firewood pathway.
 - Meet during Continental Dialogue meeting to identify areas needing further development & to finalize document.
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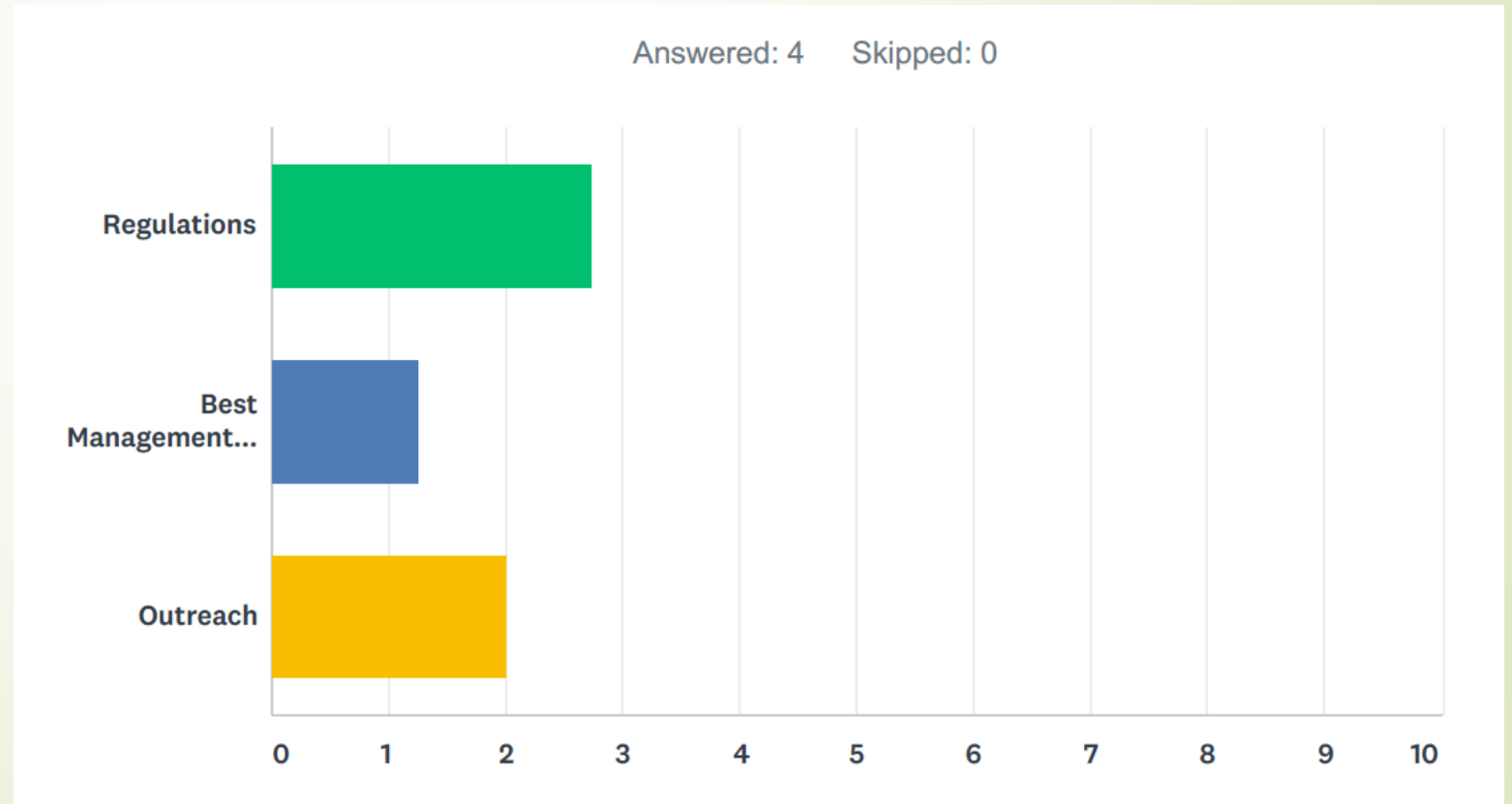
External Review Highlights



- 5 SPRO or designee reviewers provided external reviews of the guidelines.
- At least 1 reviewer from each of the regional plant boards.
- Reviewers asked to focus on content and if guidelines met their expectations.
- 4 reviewers completed review using a Survey Monkey questionnaire.
- Survey Monkey tool had 23 questions relating to content, suitability, and implementation of the recommendations.
 - Ranking questions
 - Open ended responses

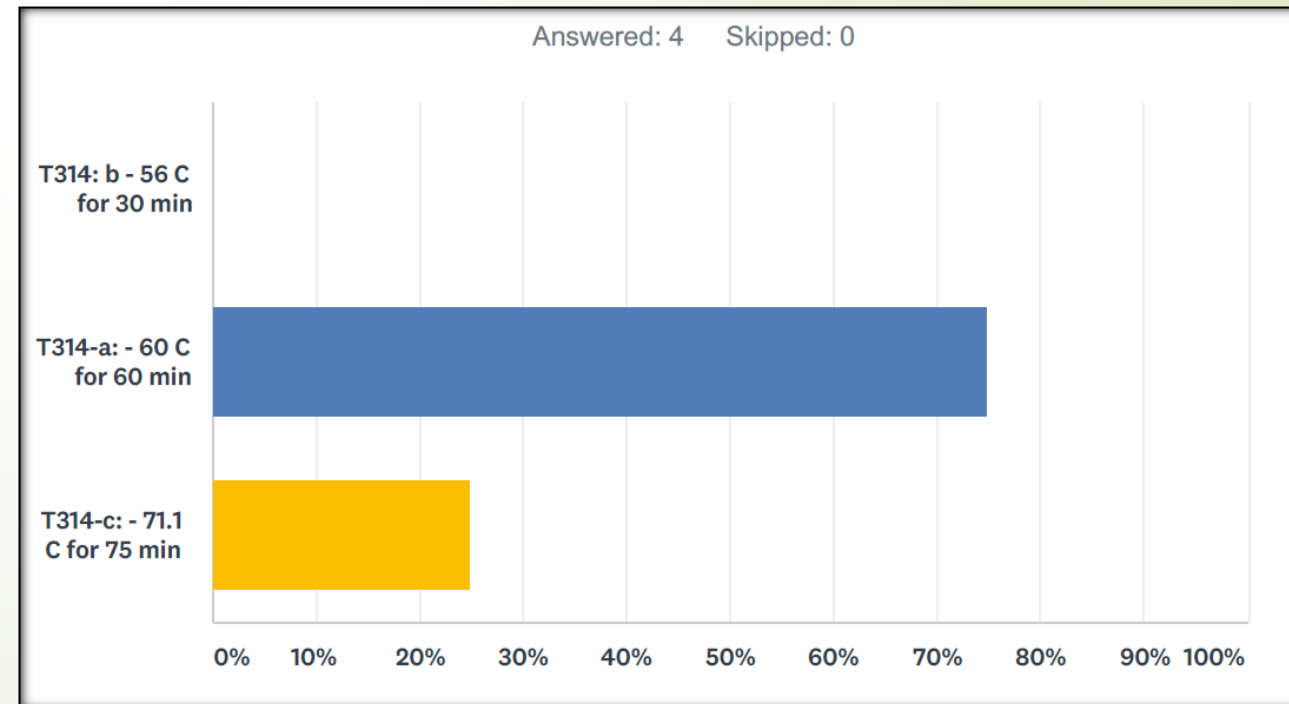
Suitability of Content

- In general, reviewers “Somewhat Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that content was organized, clear, and suitable.
- Reviewers were asked to rank the importance of the firewood risk reduction strategies.



Heat-treated firewood

- All reviewers would exempt certified heat-treated firewood from external firewood regulations.
- All reviewers would accept state-managed heat-treatment certification programs.
- Variation in which heat-treatment standard would be required.
- Chose standard because:
 - Supported by partner agencies(75%)
 - Standard addresses pest risks (50%)
 - Consistency within the region (25%)
 - Concerns that standards do not reflect treatment conditions (25%)





Certification Programs

- Reviewers felt supplemental information about heat-treatment of firewood should be included.
- Reviewers felt that the supplemental information provided adequate references to help them determine a heat-treatment standard.
- All reviewers “somewhat agreed” that they would consider establishing a heat-treatment certification program dependent on funding and availability of labor.
- Most reviewers “somewhat agreed” that they would consider certification programs for processes other than heat treatment (debarking, seasoning, fumigation, etc.), dependent on funding and availability of labor.

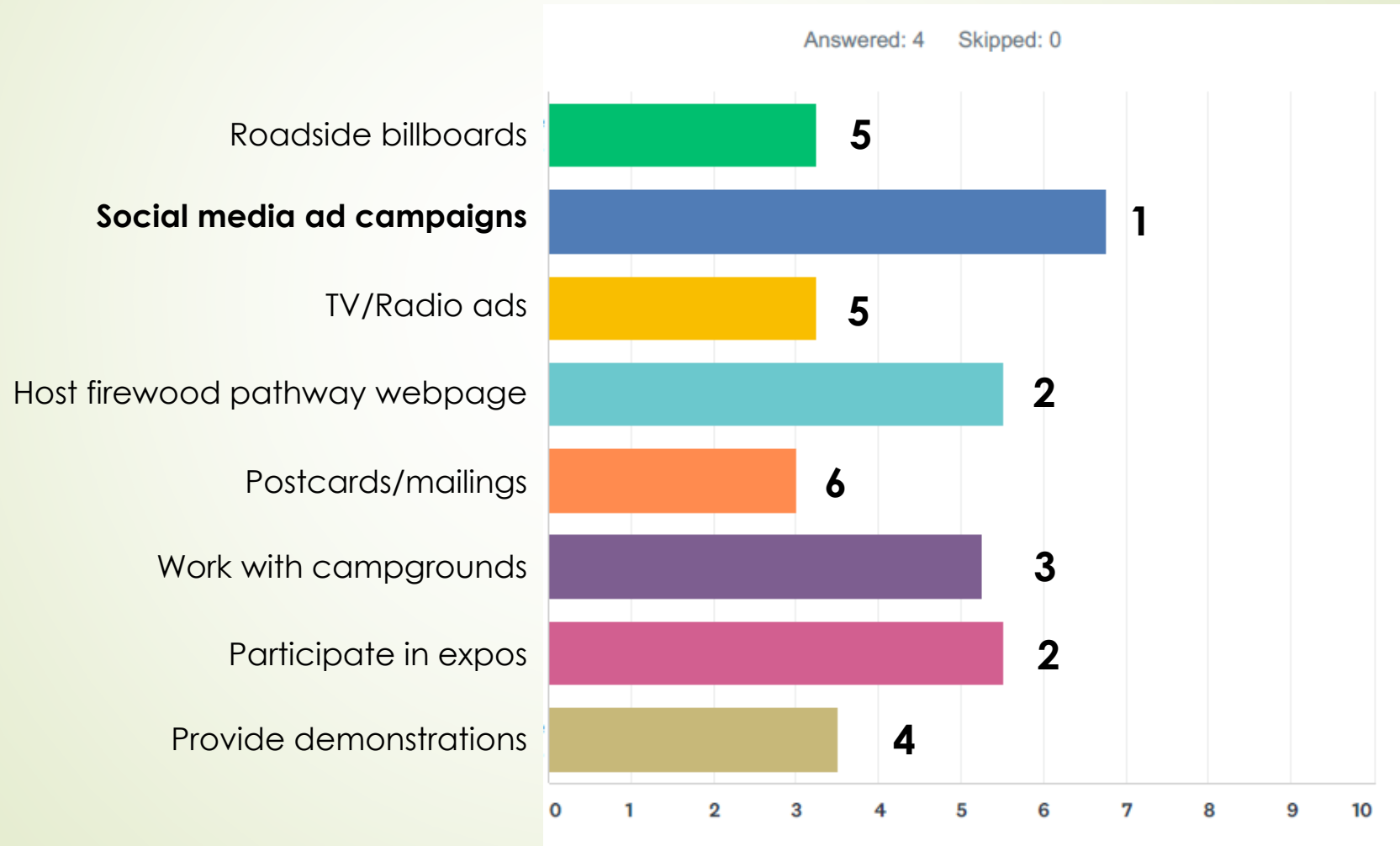


Outreach

- In general, reviewers “somewhat agreed” or “strongly agreed” that outreach materials in the guidelines would:
 - Help them draft a core outreach statement
 - Ensure consistent messaging with partners within the state
 - Figure out where to start with outreach
 - Identify how to use outreach effectively
- Web-based recommendations were somewhat less supported. This may be because of internal state restrictions by administrations. Reviewers were slightly more ambivalent about:
 - Creating a state-specific firewood pathway webpage
 - Participation in Firewood Scout
 - Use of materials on the Don’t Move Firewood webpage

Interest in Outreach

States were asked to rank their interest in outreach activities:





Next Steps

- Finalize content
- Determine final product(s) *request PPQ assistance*
- Publicize availability of guidelines
- Work with states about interest in state-led firewood certification programs & explore avenues for support *request PPQ assistance*
- Work with states interested in a firewood directory, like Firewood Scout & explore avenues for support *request PPQ assistance*



Questions now or later?

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