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# THE FIREWOOD PATHWAY: A DEEP DIVE

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# THE FIREWOOD PATHWAY

Two broad categories, each with their own challenges.

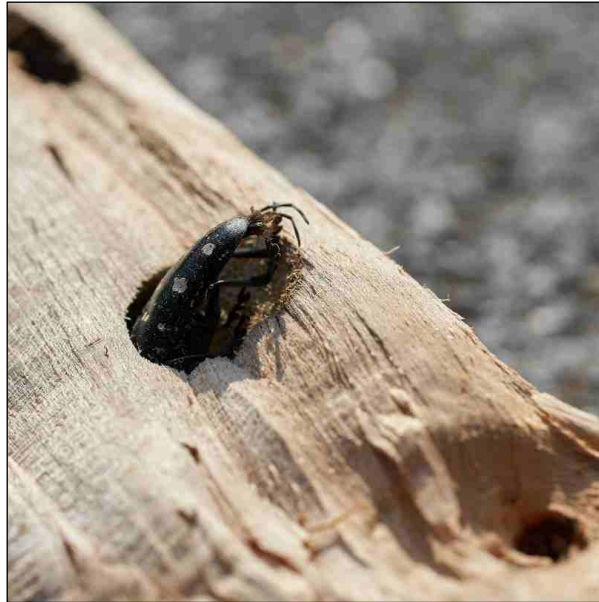
- commercial
- individual (personal) movement





# THE FIREWOOD PATHWAY

- Firewood is a broad pathway for invasive forest insects and diseases. Forest pests can and do move on firewood!
- Wood borers; phloem feeders; heartwood fungi
- Egg and pupae contaminants
- Refuge and crevice contaminants
- Soil and soil contact (e.g., fire ants)



Borers, phloem feeders, fungi, OH MY!

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# COMMERCIAL

Firewood not a high profit margin product.

Business challenges due to frequent changes in wood supply, transport costs, labor costs, and high competition.

Compliance agreement terms (heat-treatment standards) vary by state.  
Certification not universally available.

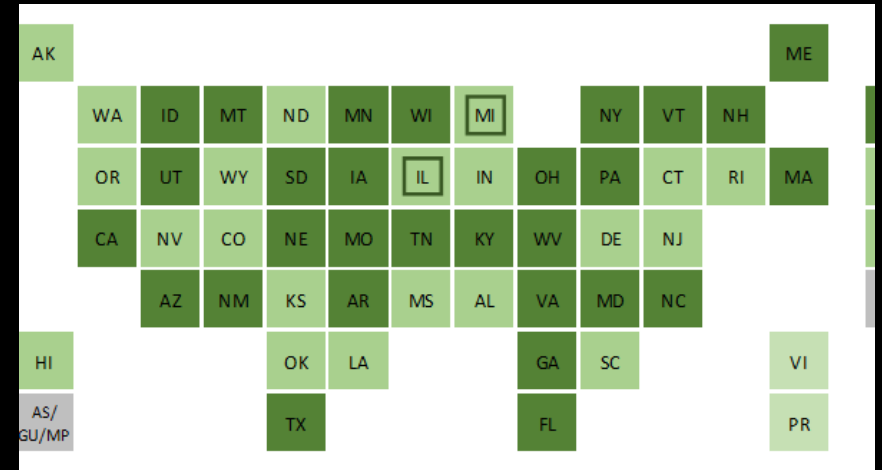
Firewood industry not represented by any industry specific group or association.

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# HEAT-TREATMENT CERTIFICATION

- Certification standards vary for different regulated pests.
- Not all states have the ability to certify the heat-treatment of firewood in accordance with other states' regulations.
- USDA will provide certification in areas with domestic federal pest regulation (e.g., spongy moth); but standard may be lower than required for most external quarantines



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# PERSONAL

Most people in US either use firewood recreationally or for fuel (home/cabin heating)



As much as HALF the firewood using public still unaware of the firewood pathway for invasive species spread.

Firewood regulations and choices vary geographically.

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# REGULATIONS

- Vary by quarantine types
  - Wood species/type come into play
  - Enforcement varies
  - The more widely known about and understood, the more effective
  - *Regulations are not at all comprehensive nor consistent across North America*
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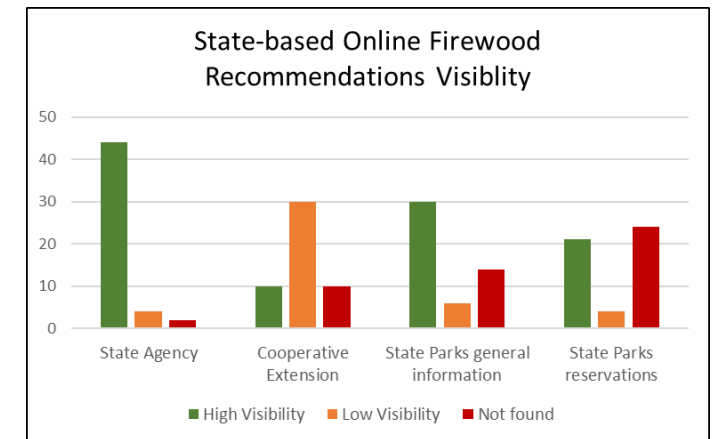
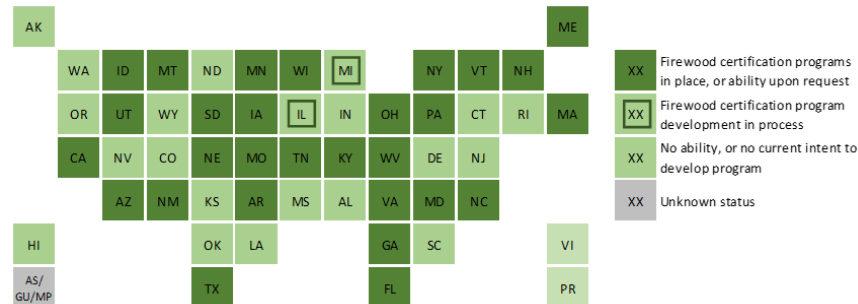
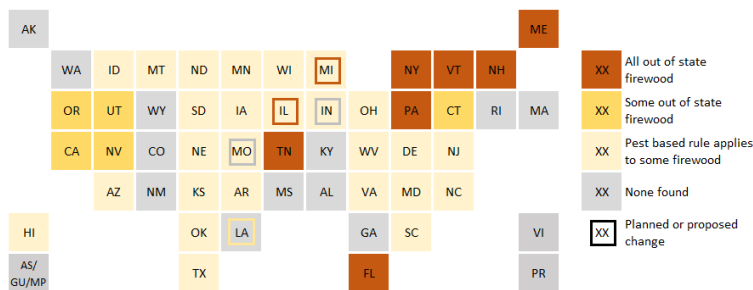
**RULES MUST BE  
WIDELY KNOWN,  
UNDERSTOOD, AND  
PRACTICAL TO BE  
EFFECTIVE**

This is pathway mitigation!



# RESEARCH SYNTHESIS: FIREWOOD COMPARISON REPORT

- A snapshot of firewood-relevant regulations, certifications, and recommendations across the USA
- Updated regularly – latest available version April 2023
- Big take-away: all around need for more consistency!



# THANK YOU!

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## STRATEGIES

### Overall Strategy

Establish strong regional and national alignment of state-based regulatory and certification programs

Support best practices for risk reduction in firewood businesses, markets and industry norms

Communicate in a consistent manner, existing rules, regulations, norms, and environmental repercussions

Enable firewood using public to make better choices through the availability of safer varieties of firewood

### Strategy Results

State-based regulatory and certification programs are broadly simplified, increasing market access and easing the burden of compliance

Firewood businesses, markets and industry norms collectively and consistently follow practices that reduce forest pest presence

Existing rules, regulations, recommendations are understood, enabling the public to know how to follow them when acting in good faith

The public can make low pest risk firewood choices more easily, increasing compliance and reducing poor choices borne out of frustration

## OUTCOMES

The movement of forest pests on commercial firewood is reduced to a lower level of risk

The movement of forest pests on personal firewood is reduced to a lower level of risk

## IMPACTS

Reduced rate of spread by established pests results in lower forest pest impact over time