

Developing Recommendations for a National Firewood Strategy: The National Firewood Task Force

California Forest Pest Council Annual Meeting

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Background

- Current situation:
 - Several States with new firewood regulations and/or policies
 - Federal Order in place requiring heat treatment of imported Canadian firewood
 - No Federal commodity based regulation for interstate firewood movement, but it is a regulated article under some pest specific quarantines
- State-Federal recognition that a National Strategy is needed
 - NPB, NASF, USFS, and APHIS began current discussion in winter 2008
 - August 2009 National Plant Board meeting: Recommendation made that a Firewood Task Force be convened to develop recommendations for a national firewood strategy

National Firewood Task Force (NFTF)

- First convened in October
- 17 Members
 - 7 State (NPB: FL, IN, ME, OR; NASF: MI, VA, WY)
 - 1 USFS
 - 1 NPS
 - 7 APHIS
 - 1 Facilitator
- Goal: To develop recommendations outlining the key elements of a National strategy to prevent the movement of invasive forest pests in firewood.
 - Recommendations will address three main areas:
 - Regulatory: The potential for Federal and/or State treatment requirements
 - Voluntary: Industry led efforts to develop a “gold standard” or similar
 - Outreach: Develop messages for producer, distributor and user groups and identify how to communicate them

NFTF Timeline

- Fall 2009
 - Task Force Formed
 - Subgroups on Regulatory, Outreach and Voluntary measures identify opportunities for Partner/Stakeholder input
 - Subgroups develop preliminary recommendations and dialog with Partners and Stakeholders on what the key elements of a national strategy should look like
- January-February 2010
 - Subgroups refine recommendations
 - Task Force meets to combine subgroup recommendations into a master document
 - Master document finalized in late winter
- March-April 2010
 - Final document shared with NASDA, NPB, NASF and posted online.

Current Activities

- Subgroups meeting weekly to develop recommendations
- Task Force expected to meet in mid-January to begin merging the three subgroup white papers.

For more information:

- Email: firewood@aphis.usda.gov
 - Checked daily
 - Best way to submit ideas or ask questions

APHIS PPQ Forest Pest Program: Leadership and Organizational Structure

- Dr. Scott Pfister: Director of Forest Pest Programs
 - New Position in PPQ, Emergency and Domestic Programs
 - Scott was previously Forest Resource Protection Chief for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
 - Oversees Forest Pest Programs for ALB, EAB, SOD, Gypsy Moth, Pine Shoot Beetle and European Larch Canker
 - EAB National Program Manager: Paul Chaloux (Also working on firewood and domestic wood packing materials issues)
 - ALB National Program Coordinator: Julie Twardowski
 - *P. ramorum* National Program Manager: Dr. Prakash Hebbar
 - Gypsy Moth, Pine Shoot Beetle, European Larch Canker Program Manager: Weyman Fussell
 - *Sirex noctilio* National Program Manager: Robyn Rose

PPQ EDP, Forest Pest Program

