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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NON-NATIVE INSECTS SPELL TROUBLE FOR THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST

PLEASE DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD ONTO THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST!

The hitchhikers are coming! The hitchhikers are coming! Are you one of those campers that plans so well for your camping trip that you even throw firewood into the back of your vehicle so that you have dry firewood to start a fire at camp? **If so, you may have unwittingly created a dangerous situation for the forests we all love.**

Dangerous insects are hitching rides inside firewood to new forests as people travel from their home to their recreation area and back. Firewood left unburned at a campsite then becomes a place for the insects to safely emerge from under the bark and fly off to infest the forest. Forests in the four states surrounding Pennsylvania are infested with dangerous NON-NATIVE insects being moved by campers. Non-native means these insects are from other countries, such as China. These insects are killing parts of the forests in New York, Ohio, New Jersey and West Virginia. An example of one of these dangerous insects is the Emerald Ash Borer, an import from China.

The Emerald Ash Borer, a small, bright green beetle, infects ash trees only. The Emerald Ash Borer lives under the bark of ash trees as white larvae (worm-like) until they finish growing and emerge from the ash tree through "D" shaped holes in June or July as beetles and fly off to infect and kill other ash trees. Emerald Ash Borers are small and easily fit on a dime with room to spare. Emerald Ash Borers are weak flyers. The only activity that has been shown to slow the spread of the beetle is to cut down all the ash within a ½ mile circle of the infested trees. "Land managers in Pennsylvania don't want to get into this intensive and costly treatment if we can avoid it by not moving firewood," said Steve Miller, Public Affairs Officer of the Allegheny National Forest. "These beetles are weak flyers, so just stopping the movement of firewood onto the forest will significantly help slow their spread."

No one in Pennsylvania wants these infestations to reach the beautiful and valuable forests people here enjoy, and that provide habitat for wildlife.

**LEAVE YOUR FIREWOOD AT HOME.
COLLECT OR BUY FIREWOOD ONCE YOU GET TO THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST.**

You may collect firewood for personal use while at your campsite in the Allegheny National Forest. If you want to collect additional firewood for your personal use at your home you need to purchase a Firewood Permit for \$20 from the Bradford (State Route 59 at Marshburg) or Marienville (State Route 66 at Marienville) Ranger District Offices.



What kind of other insects are of concern?

The *Sirex* Woodwasp, recently discovered to be in New York, infects pines. The larvae tunnel through the wood feeding on fungus as they grow. During July through September, the larvae finish growing and emerge from the tree as a wasp. Unlike native wood wasps, the *Sirex* wasps are attracted to live pine trees under some type of stress, such as from drought or wind damage. The females then lay eggs into the weakened pine trees and the cycle starts over. The *Sirex* woodwasp has the potential to kill or seriously hurt 80% of the red pine, white pine, and Scotch pine in Pennsylvania.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle prefers maple trees as a host tree, but will also infect other hardwoods, such as horsechestnut, black locust, elms, birches, willows, poplars and green ash. These beetles arrived from China in wood packing material. These striking, inch-long, black and white beetles with long antenna and bright blue feet live as larvae inside the tree for almost a year. The larvae finish growing and emerge as beetles through dime-sized holes between May and October. The adult beetles are extremely weak flyers and are only capable of re-infecting nearby trees. Red maple is by far the most abundant tree species in the Commonwealth. Therefore, the Asian Longhorned Beetle is a serious threat to Pennsylvania’s maples and fall colors.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is already here in Pennsylvania, and infesting hemlocks, causing decline and mortality. This insect is small, less than a 1/16 of an inch, and similar to aphids in appearance. It lives and feeds on the needles of hemlock. The adelgid protects its eggs from drying out by covering them with a wool-like wax threads, hence the name “woolly” adelgid. Hemlocks, the state tree for Pennsylvania, provide shade and cooling effects to many of the Commonwealth’s trout streams, as well as winter thermal and hiding cover for wildlife. “The loss of the hemlock to keep our trout streams cold, as well as providing wildlife habitat, will have devastating ecological effects,” said Steve Miller.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is initiating a “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign this year to try and stop the spread of these insects and other unknown pests. **Managers on the Allegheny National Forest are also asking all forest users to leave their firewood at home.**

Where can I get firewood for my campsite if I don’t bring it from home?

The following table lists the recreation areas on the Allegheny NF where firewood can either be purchased for a fee from the concessionaire, or is available in the woods near a camping area.

Firewood Available from Concessionaire	Firewood available in woods near site
<u>Allegheny Reservoir Campgrounds</u>	<u>Other Forest Service Campgrounds</u>
Dewdrop Recreation Area	Bear Creek Camping Site
Kiasutha Recreation Area	Red Mill Camping Site
Red Bridge Recreation Area	Kelly Pines Camping Site
Willow Bay Recreation Area	Minister Creek Campground
Handsome Lake Campground	Tionesta Lake Boat Access
Hooks Brooks Campground	
Hopewell Campground	
Morrison Campground	
Pine Grove Campground	



<u>Other Forest Service Campgrounds</u>	
Tracy Ridge Recreation Area	
Hearts Content Recreation Area	
Beaver Meadows Recreation Area	
Loleta Recreation Area	
Buckaloons Recreation Area	
Twin Lakes Recreation Area	
Beaver Meadows Campground	

Firewood is also available for sale at the following locations:

Northern part of the forest

Howe's True Value, U.S. 6 east out of Warren (Warren County)

Private seller on U.S. 6 across from Howe's True Value in Warren (Warren County)

Private seller on U.S. 62 near Tidioute (Warren County)

Some Sheetz and Red Apple/Kwik-Fill gas stations

Southern part of the forest

Haller's General Store in Tionesta (Forest County)

Private seller in Gilfoyle on State Route 66 south of Marienville (Forest County)

Private seller on State Route 36 two miles north of Sigel (Jefferson County)

Concessionaire operators at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Tionesta Lake (Forest County)

The Forest Service does not imply support or preference for these firewood suppliers over other suppliers; we are merely supplying a list of firewood providers.

Additional information is available from the Allegheny National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny/>.