

# EASTERN PLANT BOARD



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## 2007 Resolution No. 5

### National Strategy for Mitigation of Risks Associated with the Movement of Firewood

The introduction and movement of invasive and exotic forest pests is often accelerated and assisted by human activities. State and federal agencies have implemented regulatory strategies to address a number of known pest pathways such as commercial log movement, nursery stock, etc. Firewood, however, is a pathway that is outside of normal regulatory restrictions and is moved largely by private individuals with little or no knowledge about quarantine or regulatory restrictions. Firewood has great potential to introduce highly destructive forest and tree pests such as Gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, and Asian longhorned beetle into new uninfested susceptible locations. States which may be impacted by these introductions have little or no ability or authority to inform or interact with interstate travelers or tourists.

**Resolved**, by the Eastern Plant Board at its 82nd annual meeting in Jackson, NH, on April 5, 2007, that USDA APHIS and USDA Forest Service develop, in cooperation with the National Plant Board and the National Association of State Foresters, a national educational and outreach program that has a goal of informing interstate tourists and travelers that firewood has the potential to introduce dangerous and damaging plant pests and as such should not be carried for long distances.

**Be it further resolved**, that USDA APHIS and Forest Service working with state representatives from the National Plant Board develop a clear national message that is consistent and uniform across state lines.

**Be it further resolved**, that USDA develop and approve criteria/processes that would mitigate the movement of pests in firewood. Processes would include heat treatment methods for firewood along with other methods that could be adopted by the commercial firewood industry.

**Be it further resolved**, that USDA APHIS should immediately start the process to federally regulate the interstate movement of firewood.

#### Distribution:

Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA, APHIS  
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ  
Dr. Rob Mangold, Forest Service, Chief Forest Health  
Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, US Dept. of Interior  
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