



Montana Invasive Species Council

Firewood SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL

May 3 & 4, 2022

Missoula Public Library, Copper Room A/B and Virtual
Missoula, MT

Purpose: To evaluate opportunities for managing out-of-state transport of firewood into Montana as a pathway for invasive tree pests; to optimize the current external quarantine on ash material and understand enforcement or outreach options; to explore opportunities to promote in-state firewood production and commercial distribution while managing forest conditions; to optimize public outreach by pooling resources amongst diverse stakeholders.

Expected Panel Outcomes:

- Provide examples from other states that have used external quarantines to prevent the entry of pest-infested firewood.
- Determine whether our current restrictions on EAB-contaminated materials sufficiently protect Montana trees and forests.
- Identify opportunities to improve production and markets for locally produced firewood.
- Determine whether a firewood exchange program at interception points could be effective or feasible in Montana.
- Identify opportunities to increase efficiency and efficacy in outreach efforts amongst diverse agencies and stakeholders.

AGENDA

Firewood Science Advisory Panelist bios

Pat Doyle

Pat is the Marketing Manager with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Pat has been involved with tourism and the outdoor recreation industry in Montana for more than 15 years. He lives in Helena with his wife and two children enjoying the world class recreation opportunities right out their back door.

Kevin Kanduch

Kevin comes from a logging family and while attending the U of M spent his winter and summer breaks logging with his family to pay for a double major in marketing and management. He realized that he loved logging and loved business so when he graduated from the U of M in 2015 it was an easy decision to come back full time with the family. Kevin is a 4th generation logger and currently runs the business end of things as well as job procurement for his family's business. Kevin also has a small firewood company that works with his family's logging company in trying to market the deadwood that the logging produces. Kevin sits on the Montana Logging Association executive board of directors acting as the Secretary Treasurer. He is on the board of directors for the Intermountain Logging Conference, and holds a seat as a Granite County Conservation District Supervisor.

Megan Schultz

Megan is a Project Manager & Research Associate with the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research (ITRR). The Institute conducts tourism research for Montana that includes understanding where travelers are coming from and where they enter the state. The ITRR Lab collects data on recreation activities visitors participate in.

Jan Stoddard

Jan Stoddard is the Bureau Chief for the Office of Tourism, Brand MT at the Montana Department of Commerce. The Office of Tourism works with tourism organizations and businesses on marketing initiatives, grant programs, and distribution of responsible travel information to the 11 million+ non-resident visitors that come to Montana each year. Jan is the agency representative for the Department of Commerce on the Montana Invasive Species Council.

Joshua Vlach

Josh is an Entomologist and has been dealing with invasive woodborer issues, primarily through woodborer trap sample processing and sample identification, since 2004. The Oregon Department of Agriculture – Insect Pest Prevention and Management lab has conducted woodborer identifications for western states since around 1997 and for the entire US since 2019. In that time, they have seen many woodborers introduced by various pathways with

different results. He has helped develop woodborer surveys including determining which species to target and developing trapping methods. In Oregon alone, 26 woodborer species have been introduced since 2007. In addition, he participated in the development of Oregon's firewood rule created in 2012 and has been part of the enforcement of the rule. He has been involved in many woodborer interceptions in various wood products, including firewood, solid wood packing material, and raw lumber. "Invasive woodborers have been on my mind."

Jesse Webster

A native of East Tennessee, Jesse has worked within multiple resource management agencies including the TN Division of Forestry, Tennessee Valley Authority, and The Nature Conservancy. He now serves as a Park Forester for Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) in the Resource Management Division / Vegetation Branch. He leads the forest insects and disease monitoring and treatment program and helped to develop the park's current firewood policy. He regularly interacts with park staff, the visiting public, and multiple media on how everyone can have a positive impact in protecting healthy Smoky Mountain forests. His involvement with the parks' policy has included early coordination with interagency groups, pre and post surveys, public scoping, and assisting development of local / entrepreneurial opportunities in park concessions.

Question for Panelists:

What would be the most impactful use of funding and capacity to address firewood as a forest pest pathway?

Expected Panel Outcomes:

Provide examples from other states that have used external quarantines to prevent the entry of pest-infested firewood.

- Do other regulatory models exist that might better protect Montana?
- Are other states/entities enforcing external quarantines, and if so, in what contexts? What resources (funding, staff) do they use for enforcement and what prioritization decisions have they made?

Determine whether our current restrictions on EAB-contaminated materials sufficiently protect Montana trees and forests.

- Do we need (and how can we institute) a state-based external quarantine on all firewood entering Montana?
- Is it practical and warranted to apply heat treatment standards to all firewood entering Montana?
- What models have other states employed that might be useful to MT?

Identify opportunities to improve production and markets for locally produced firewood.

- Are government agencies maximizing by-products of forest management treatments, done for forest health or wildfire, that could be used to generate locally sourced firewood?
- What financial or logistical barriers limit local firewood production and distribution?
- How should we address adjacent markets such as Idaho, Wyoming, etc?
- Are there unrealized opportunities in the current firewood market?
- Can the "Grown in MT" marketing tool apply to firewood?

Determine whether a firewood exchange program at interception points could be effective or feasible in Montana.

- Is there a need to further limit firewood transport at Canada border crossings? What are management options for surrendered firewood at check stations, exchange sites, and international border crossings?
- Does Montana's existing AIS stop infrastructure have a role to play in firewood outreach and interception? How might this be considered in exchange program scoping?
- What case studies exist for firewood exchanges on both state borders and other scales?

Identify opportunities to increase efficiency and efficacy in outreach efforts amongst diverse agencies and stakeholders.

- Are there opportunities for improved coordination amongst agencies/organizations in messaging and outreach?

- How do the patterns of tourism and travel into and within MT impact the risks posed by firewood movement? And what is the most impactful way to disseminate information to the tourists most likely to import infested firewood?
- What motivates people to bring their own firewood into Montana?
- How do we address the varied risks associated with firewood originating from states in the Intermountain West versus states with identified pest outbreaks? Is it best to seek a unified message or should the messages be tailored by region?
- How do we address the possible contradiction of promoting “buy local” if/when concessionaires supply firewood labeled as from out-of-state?
- Is there an identified need and opportunity to directly reach out to visitors of high visitation tourist destinations such as national parks, reservoirs, and popular hunting districts?
- Are there other high risk firewood groups we haven’t identified and if so, how should we reach them?