



# STATE OF IDAHO



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR  
CELIA R. GOULD  
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pamm Juker  
208-332-8671

July 16, 2010

## Tri-state campaign works to prevent the spread of invasive species in forests

Boise, ID—Three states in the Pacific Northwest have teamed up to spread the word about the dangers of transporting firewood with grant funding from the 2010 Farm Bill.

The Idaho Invasive Species Council (IISC) is working with the Oregon Invasive Species Council and the Washington Invasive Species Council to carry out an outreach and education campaign to inform the public about non-native insects and diseases that can be spread to forests by moving firewood.

The tri-state campaign is coordinated by the Oregon, Washington, and Idaho Invasive Species Councils, and is being carried out by private and public entities involved in the management of campgrounds in the three states. The Pacific Northwest states are working together to develop education programs, communication objectives, shared key messages and strategies. The project focuses on increasing public awareness and understanding about the threat that moving firewood places on agriculture, forestry, the economy, and the environment in the Pacific Northwest.

"Prevention is the most important element in an effective invasive species program," said IISC Chair Celia Gould. "We are working closely with the other Pacific Northwest states to encourage people to buy and burn their firewood locally."

Native insect pests and diseases play important disturbance roles and are indicators of the health of Northwest agriculture, forestry, and the environment. Invasive insects and diseases are a direct threat and often have no natural checks and balances because their natural predators do not exist in places where they are introduced. Both native and non-native insect pests and diseases are being transported throughout the United States in firewood. Examples of non-native threats include the Emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, Sirex wasp, gypsy moths, sudden oak death, oak wilt, and pitch canker; all can survive in fresh firewood.

People move firewood to camp sites and homes without recognizing the threat firewood poses as a pathway for the unintentional spread of invasive species. It is well-established that firewood is an important pathway for the spread of these forest pests in the United States. A national website, <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/>, provides excellent information on not moving firewood.

(Continued)

“We are working to prevent the spread of these species to the West. When people plan their next trip to the Pacific Northwest, we hope that they will leave their firewood behind. We want people to buy and burn local firewood,” said Gould. “These species do not respect state lines, and working regionally can make a difference.”

###