

Reducing the risk of invasive species introduction on firewood: regulation and certification.

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Firewood as vector for invasive wood infesting pests & diseases



- ❖ Quarantines effective with organized industries but not with firewood.
- ❖ Many invasives moving on firewood, some quarantined, some not.



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Development of WI strategy

- ❖ Multi agency task group organized to develop plan to address management of threat of invasive introduction on firewood.
 - Regulatory & Trade – DATCP, APHIS
 - Forest Health – DNR, USDA FS
 - Tourism, Parks, RC&D, Tribes, UW Extension
- ❖ Many viewpoints lead to development of a multi pronged approach.

Management of firewood as a vector

- ❖ Treat wood as a common vector for many pests and diseases, quarantined or not.
- ❖ Goal is significant risk reduction, not elimination of risk.
- ❖ Not suitable for a quarantine situation but seeks to reduce risk from a range of invasives moving on firewood.

Reduce risk from firewood

- ❖ Foster development of a treated firewood industry.
 - State certification
 - Provide a market for certified wood by exempting it from regulations on state lands
- ❖ Assist in organization of firewood industry.
- ❖ Reduce firewood movement by public.
 - Regulation of wood allowed on state lands.
 - Education campaign linked to state lands regulation
 - Regulation of wood within quarantined areas, NR40
 - Monitor public awareness and behavior

State Certification of Firewood Vendors

- ❖ Only for commercial vendors
- ❖ Inexpensive, \$50/year
- ❖ Wood from certified vendors may enter any state lands and move freely within WI, even out of quarantined areas.
- ❖ WI open to reciprocal certification.



State Certification of Firewood Vendors

- ❖ Treatments
 - Heat treatment to EAB standards
 - Debarking
 - Aging for 2 years
- ❖ records vital for verification



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Establishing a market for certified wood

- ❖ Regulating wood allowed onto state campgrounds provides several benefits.
 - Wood from state certified vendors is allowed onto any state land regardless of origin, establishing a stable market.
 - State lands regulation provides a model for other governmental lands and private recreational lands.

Assist in organization of firewood industry.

- ❖ Compared with timber, pulpwood and nursery industries, the firewood industry is still poorly organized.
- ❖ Firewood no longer a localized product.
- ❖ Poor organization hinders education and regulation efforts to prevent spread of infestations.
- ❖ DATCP and RC&D are assisting large and small vendors in forming an association.

Reduce firewood movement by public: the state lands component.



- ❖ Regulation of wood entering state campgrounds.
 - An attention getting device applied when people are thinking about campfires.
 - Provides a recourse in cases of willful disregard.

Reduce firewood movement by public: the state lands component con't

❖ Awareness

- Regulation mentioned in reservation process.
- Repeated in message confirming reservation
- Asked again at check in.
- Don't move firewood message sent out with licenses for hunting, fishing recreational vehicles.

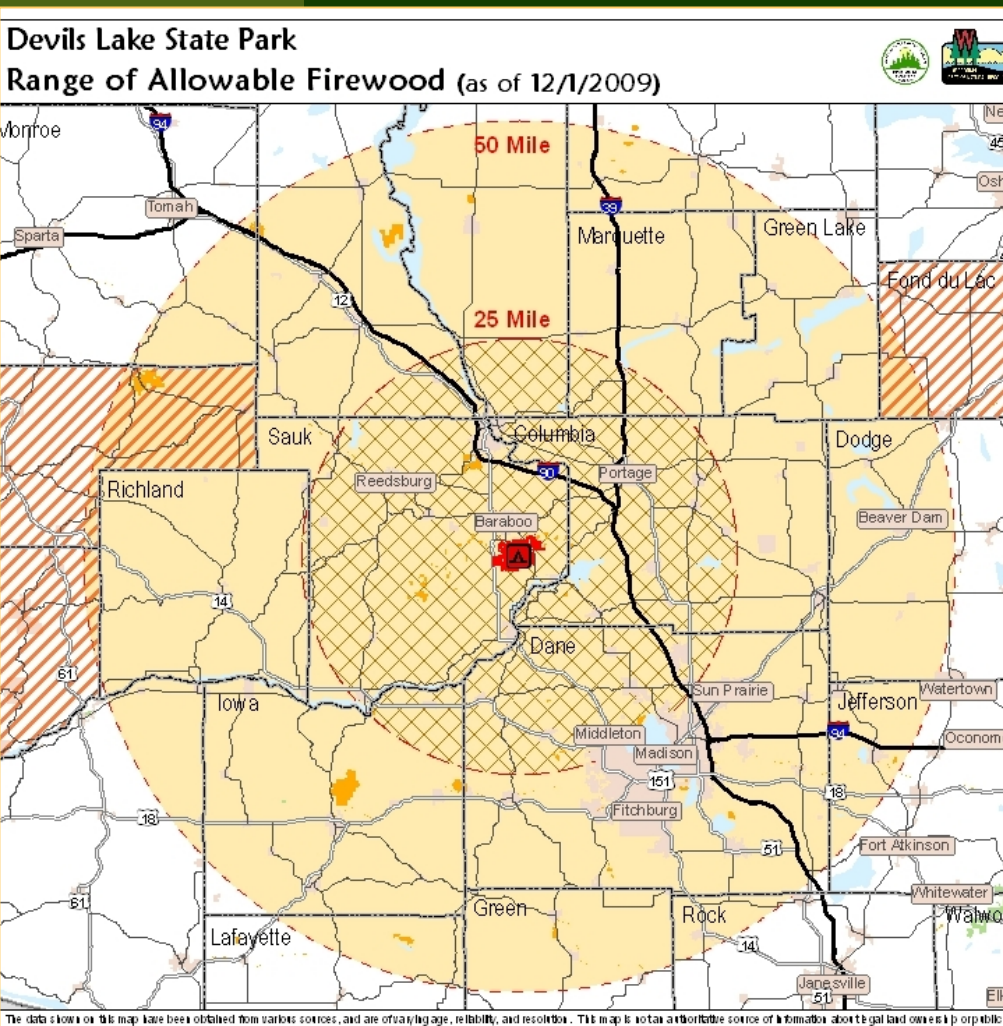
Reduce firewood movement by public: the state lands component can't

❖ Education

- By a trusted source: Parks staff.
- Use “teachable moment” when public is thinking about firewood and has been sensitized by the regulation.

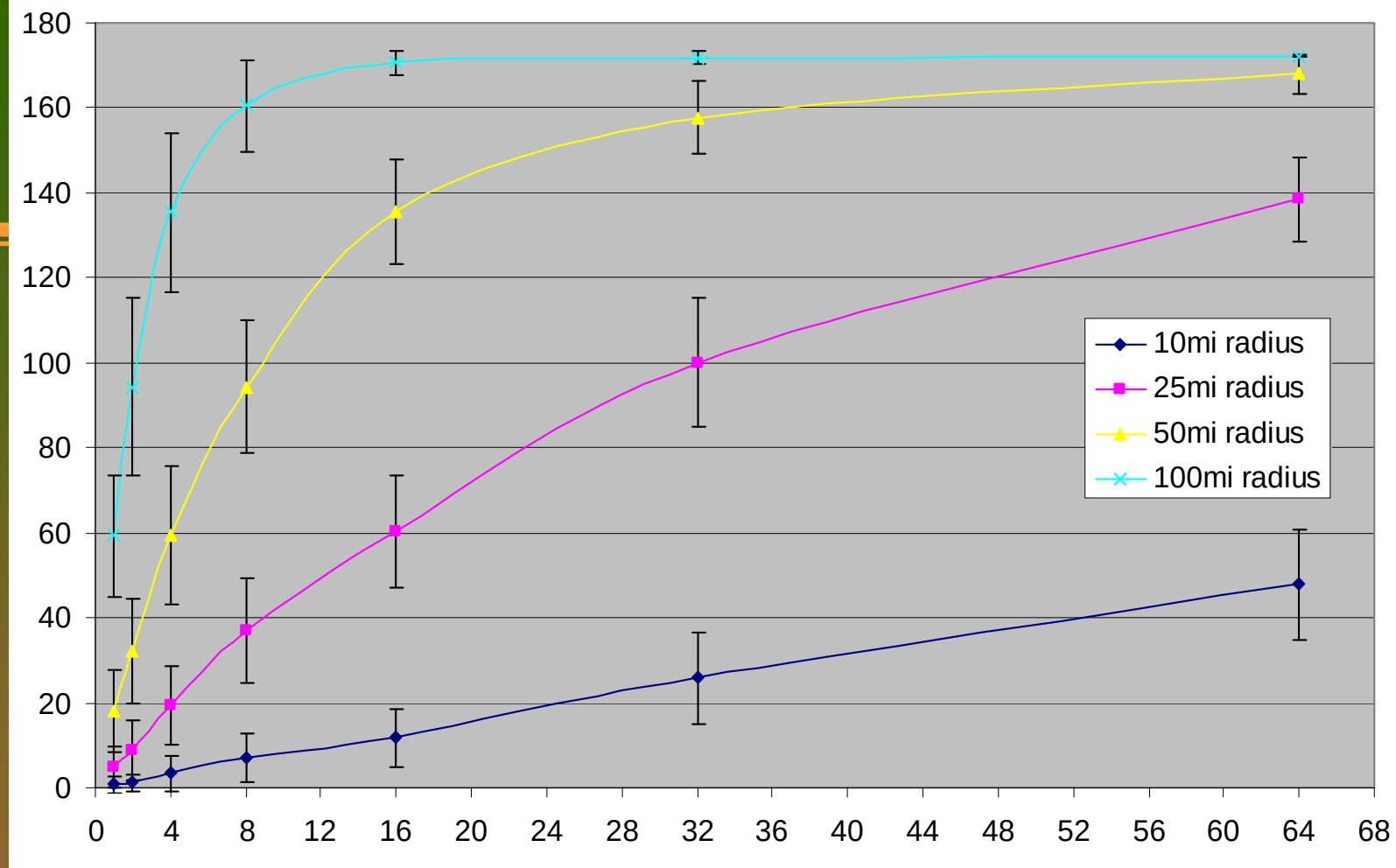


Choosing a distance for allowable firewood



- ❖ Initially 50 miles: typical distance small firewood dealers harvested and sold within.
- ❖ Recently reduced to 25 miles based on model of risk of introduction.
- ❖ Limited by ability to supply wood, but as that improves, distance may be further reduced.

of WI state campgrounds at risk



populations invasive X

% of state campgrounds
at risk of introduction of X
with distance from which
firewood originates

#pops	10mi	25mi	50mi	100mi
4	2%	11%	34%	78%
8	4%	21.5%	55%	93%
16	6.7%	35%	79%	99%

NR 40: regulation of vectors of identified invasives.

- ❖ Similar to a state quarantine but more flexible.
- ❖ Invasive species regulated are identified and may not be federally quarantined.
- ❖ Allows DNR wardens to cite individuals for transporting invasive infested material. Before, quarantine enforcement was effectively limited to businesses.
- ❖ Snag is in how to define infested areas.

Monitoring progress

- ❖ Camper survey 2006-2008, see poster
 - ~ 600 respondents each year
 - 30%+ increase in awareness of issue
 - 4x more felt stopping long distance movement of firewood important
 - reduction in reported movement of firewood
 - plan to repeat survey in 2010

Monitoring progress con't

Peninsula Park, Wood confiscations, bags



- ❖ Confiscations at state campgrounds decreasing.
- ❖ Other public & private properties following example.





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