

## **Firewood Policy**

Effective: February 1, 2018

### **I. PURPOSE**

To help slow or prevent the spread of non-native invasive species by prohibiting the import of firewood at OC Parks campground facilities.

### **II. POLICY**

Non-native invasive species, including the Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) and Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB), pose a significant threat to the health of both native and non-native trees. This policy prohibits the import of non-certified firewood by park visitors into OC Parks campground facilities.

Firewood from any outside source must be commercially produced, kiln dried and heat treated, bundled, labeled and certified as “Pest Free” or “Safe to Move.” Shipping pallets, scrap lumber, wood purchased from tree trimming services, etc. are prohibited. Gathering of dead wood or other plant material within the park is not permitted.

Certified “pest-free” firewood will be made available for purchase at camping facilities, enabling customers to continue the use of campfires. Educational outreach efforts will assist with the compliance and enforcement of this policy.

### **III. REFERENCES**

- A. California Firewood Task Force website: [www.firewood.ca.gov](http://www.firewood.ca.gov)
- B. The Nature Conservancy website: [www.dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org)
- C. University of California Cooperative Extension website: [www.gsob.org](http://www.gsob.org)
- D. USDA National Agricultural Library website: [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov)

### **IV. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Invasive Species – Per the USDA National Agricultural Library: an “invasive species” is defined as a species that is:
  - 1. non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and
  - 2. whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
- B. Certified “Pest-Free” Firewood – Commercially-produced firewood that has been kiln-dried and heat treated to eliminate pests prior to distribution. Treatment methods should meet or exceed the National Firewood Task Force recommendations.

### **V. PROCEDURE**

- A. Implementation
  - 1. Maintain adequate supply of certified “pest-free” firewood at camping parks via the established standing contract.
  - 2. Sell only certified “pest-free” firewood per the established Fee Schedule.
  - 3. Inform campers of firewood prohibition prior to arrival:
    - a. Notification window included in the online reservation process.

- b. Staff verbally informs customers when assisting with over-the-phone reservations and group reservations. Script will be provided for staff (Attachment D).
- c. Include firewood prohibition clause in the group camping reservation document.
- 4. Staff informs campers of firewood prohibition upon arrival using a written script (Attachment D).
- 5. Provide covered/lockable refuse bin(s) at park entrance for campers who choose to dispose of non-certified imported firewood prior to entering the park.

#### B. Educational Outreach

- 1. On-site educational resources
  - a. Post sign at entrance of camping parks (Attachment A).
  - b. Post modified “Buy it where you burn it” flyers in camping parks (Attachment B).
  - c. Provide informational hand-out at camping park entry booths (Attachment C).
- 2. Off-site educational resources
  - a. OC Parks website
    - i. Post policy, background information and press release.
    - ii. Include hyperlinks to additional resources:
      - 1. [www.firewood.ca.gov](http://www.firewood.ca.gov)
      - 2. [www.dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org)
  - b. Social media
    - i. Post information on Facebook and Twitter.
- 3. Training and interpretive outreach
  - a. Provide training to park staff enabling them to answer questions received from park visitors.
  - b. Inform park visitors during interpretive programs.

#### C. Policy Enforcement

- 1. Use of progressive enforcement with noncompliant visitors:
  - a. Verbally advise on the park rule re: firewood and explain reason for implementation.
  - b. Issue written warning pursuant to O.C.C.O. 2-5-20(a)(1), (2) [violation of park rule].
  - c. Perform an eviction in accordance with O.C.C.O. 2-5-20(a)(4), (5).
  - d. Request assistance from additional resources if needed.

## VI. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Entrance Sign Design
- B. “Buy It Where You Burn It” Flyer
- C. Informational Hand-out
- D. Park Attendant Script

## A. Entrance Sign Design

Sandwich Boards:



Entrance Booth:



Campground Entrance:



## B. "Buy It Where You Burn It" Flyer

### HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE PESTS & DISEASES.

Our forests are threatened by nonnative insects and diseases that can kill large numbers of trees. Goldspotted oak borer, Sudden Oak Death, pitch canker, Emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle can be transported long distances in firewood. Once transported into new areas, these insects and diseases can become established and kill local trees.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Leave firewood at home - do not transport it to campgrounds or parks.
- Use firewood from local sources.
- Burn all firewood before leaving your campsite if leaving the local area.

# BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.



**DON'T MOVE  
FIREWOOD.org**

firewood.ca.gov



Produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, which is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.

## C. Informational Hand-out



# OC Parks Firewood Policy: Buy It Where You Burn It

There are known pests and pathogens that can be moved from place to place in firewood. The Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) and Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) are invasive pests contributing to on-going tree mortality in California. Campgrounds around the state are taking steps to limit the movement of firewood in an effort to slow the spread of tree pests. We all have a responsibility to conserve our trees, so OC Parks has implemented a firewood policy.

Firewood from any outside source must be commercially produced, kiln dried and heat treated, bundled, labeled and certified as "Pest Free" or "Safe to Move." Shipping pallets, scrap lumber, wood purchased from tree trimming services, etc. are prohibited. Gathering of dead wood or other plant material within the park is not permitted. Firewood bundles are available for purchase at the park office for a very reasonable price.

Thank you for doing your part to protect the campsites you love and conserve our natural resources. To find out more about the pests and firewood, please go to:

- California Firewood Task Force: [www.firewood.ca.gov](http://www.firewood.ca.gov)
- Don'tMoveFirewood.Org: [www.dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org)
- Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB): [ucanr.edu/sites/gsobinfo/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/gsobinfo/)
- Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB): [ucanr.edu/sites/pshb/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/pshb/)

#### **D. Park Attendant Script**

1. “Good morning/day/afternoon/evening, welcome to O’Neill/Caspers Park. Are you checking-in for camping?”

If Yes, move to #2.

If No, provide needed assistance.

2. “Have you heard of the new firewood policy?”

If Yes, “Would you like to purchase any firewood at this time?” If unsure or not interested, inform them that they can purchase firewood anytime during their stay, during office hours.

If No: Explain policy, provide informational flyer and firewood pricing. Then ask, “Would you like to purchase any firewood at this time?” If unsure or not interested, inform them that they can purchase wood during their stay during office hours.