

MINNESOTA FIREWOOD DEALER

JANUARY 2007 INFORMAL QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY REPORT



Tina Seeland, Invasive Species Unit
Plant Protection Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection Division, is the lead agency for keeping new plant pests out of Minnesota, and focuses on the prevention, early detection and rapid response for these pests that may harm Minnesota's agricultural economy or environmental resources. Firewood movement has been shown to be an important vector of new and emerging forest plant pests.

In January 2007, the Plant Protection Division contacted firewood dealers by mail and asked them to respond to a questionnaire survey about regulations for the firewood industry. The intent of the survey was to help the MDA formulate strategies on possible regulatory options affecting firewood movement.

The objective of this survey was twofold: 1) to collect opinions about possible regulation options for firewood, including wood sold and used for heating and recreational purposes, from the people in the firewood industry, and 2) to notify the industry of the many proposed firewood regulations, in hopes of increasing their input. Firewood dealers are largely independent producers with no statewide organization.

Survey response was low overall, with only 23% of the surveys returned. However, many respondents indicated an interest in attending a stakeholders meeting, which MDA plans to arrange for late April 2007. We hope that this will be a beginning for involving the industry in developing reasonable and effective approaches for reducing risk.

Generally, survey respondents appeared to accept proposed regulations on firewood coming from outside the state, but not on firewood that originated from inside the state. Although this view may be seen as protectionist, the point was made, through comments, that the worst invasive species threats are coming from outside of the state.

More specifically, regulatory approaches such as labeling firewood with the county and state of its harvest origin would help consumers and MDA know if the wood was from a local source, and more likely to be free of wood-inhabiting invasive species. However, the response trend appeared to be against requiring firewood sold in Minnesota to be labeled with its origin. When asked about an exterior quarantine that would ban all firewood from outside Minnesota, slightly more than half responded favorably. Kiln drying and storage/seasoning are treatment options for firewood that reduce its ability to harbor pests. When asked about requiring these treatments, a large majority of survey participants were against any requirements for Minnesota firewood retailers. If the firewood originated outside of Minnesota, they were more likely to be in favor of seasoning/storage, but were still against kiln drying. Kiln drying can be an expensive process and might not be cost effective for retailers. The company licensing question received a strong negative response.

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection Division, is the front line for stopping new and emerging plant pests from entering Minnesota. Many of these pests are invasive and pose serious threats to Minnesota's natural and agricultural resources. Several of these are invasive pests of trees and spend part of their life cycle in wood. These tree pests can be moved long distances in green lumber, logs, stumps, nursery stock and firewood.

In January 2007, the Plant Protection Division contacted firewood dealers by mail and asked them to respond to a questionnaire survey about regulations for the firewood industry. See Appendix A for the survey instrument. The intent of the survey was to help the MDA formulate strategies on possible regulatory options affecting the firewood movement. This survey targets the firewood pathway and was designed to explore ways that the firewood industry can help us exclude invasive species of trees from Minnesota.

Currently there are five states (Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Maryland) under quarantine for emerald ash borer. Emerald ash borer feeds on and kills ash trees, and has ravaged the ash population in these states. Gypsy moth is established in 20 states, including Wisconsin. Gypsy moth feeds on over 300 species of trees and shrubs and is defoliating over 880,000 acres annually in the United States. Other new invasive pests not yet in Minnesota that live in wood and could be transported in firewood are Asian longhorned beetle, siren woodwasp, exotic bark beetles and a pathogen that causes a disease called sudden oak death, among many others

The objective of the questionnaire survey was twofold: 1) to collect opinions about possible regulations for firewood, including wood sold and used for heating and recreational purposes, from the people in the firewood industry, and 2) to notify the industry of the many proposed firewood regulations, in hopes of increasing their input. Firewood dealers are largely independent producers with no statewide organization that would represent them on such matters. Surveys are often an effective way to engage such groups in discussion.

Responses to these questions will help us develop and implement proactive strategies to exclude invasive species that can be moved through firewood. The survey covers four areas: labeling, firewood treatments, company licensing, and an exterior quarantine.

LABELING. Most states already require some level of labeling for firewood, primarily from a weights and measures consumer protection standpoint. Adding information regarding the origin of harvest of the wood would be helpful for agencies charged with excluding quarantine articles, or back tracing new infestations. In addition, consumers would have additional information with which to make their buying decisions.

FIREWOOD TREATMENTS. Firewood that has been kiln dried would be free of pests. Firewood that has been stored for one to two years is less likely to contain live pests. Regulations on specific storage/seasoning practices or kiln drying are a way to control the spread of an invasive species.

LICENSING. Licensing is another tool to ensure that individuals and organizations handling firewood have been advised about harmful pests that can be transported in firewood. With a licensing system in place, firewood retailers would be easy to contact with updates on specific pest threats, or plant health emergencies.

EXTERIOR QUARANTINE. In an effort to slow the spread of insects or pathogens that are not established in Minnesota, transport of firewood from another state into Minnesota could be restricted by an exterior quarantine. Most quarantines are "interior" quarantines that regulate the movement of certain articles within the state. An "exterior" quarantine restricts any article that is regulated from coming into the state. Even when an exterior quarantine is put in place, regulated articles can move across the border but only under certain conditions that reduce or minimize movement of plant pests.

Most invasive insects and pathogens have a limited range for dispersal which naturally slows their rate of spread. But humans can move these pests across the country almost overnight by transporting them in their natural habitats, like firewood.

It is known that firewood harbors invasive pests of trees, and transporting infested firewood is a way to disperse these pests over long distances. Documented cases of firewood movement harboring live emerald ash borer larvae have occurred from Detroit to northwestern Ohio, and infested areas of Ohio to Wisconsin. Many campgrounds that were monitored and found to be free of EAB for years suddenly showed new infestations, including the Brimley State Park find in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In addition, the first Illinois detection was attributed to a homeowner who regularly hauled firewood from EAB quarantine areas in Michigan. By catching these incidents early, the spread of EAB into these areas was stopped. The initial spread of EAB in 2003 has been attributed to nursery stock movement, but heavy regulation of that industry has currently reduced these types of incidents to nearly none. In 2006, EAB detections continued around campgrounds.

We had hoped to garner opinions about addressing pest introduction risks associated with firewood transport and raise awareness of this issue in the firewood industry. Our objectives were only partially met. Response rate to the survey was only 23% so we did not get a large enough return to statistically validate the responses we received. We collected some opinions and those opinions can help open up further discussion on this topic. Many dealers indicated they would be interested in a stakeholder meeting. The information learned from this survey can be used for

making policy decisions that affect the transportation of firewood and allow us to pursue our goal of invasive species exclusion.

METHODOLOGY

A survey was sent to 721 firewood dealers in the state of Minnesota. The survey went out on January 4, 2007 with a due date of January 31, 2007. Due to a low number of responses, the survey due date was extended until February 23, 2007. The number of surveys returned was 165, a response rate of 23%. The survey can be found in Appendix A.

Responses were tabulated for all surveys returned and by the category the respondents identified with. Those categories were firewood dealer only, firewood dealer and logger, logger only and other. A few respondents did not specify a category and were included under the heading of no designation.

The low response rate to this survey makes it difficult to discern the opinions of the firewood industry as a whole. While the survey results can not be viewed as statistically significant, they can be considered the first step in developing a dialogue that will lead to a larger exchange of opinions in the future. A stakeholders meeting in April 2007 will be our next step.

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY RESULTS

Firewood retailers were surveyed for their opinions on strategies to regulate the firewood industry to protect the state's forests and urban trees from invasive species. Of the total surveys sent out (721) of the responses fell into these categories:

Category	# of Responses	% of Total Responses
Firewood dealer only	16	9.7%
Firewood dealer and logger	69	41.8%
Logger only	49	29.7%
Other	26	15.8%
No category chosen	5	3.0%
TOTAL	165	100%

The survey results have been tabulated by total responses and by category and are presented here in report format.

1. Labeling firewood with the county and state of its origin would help consumers and MDA know if the wood was from a local source. Do you think that it is a good idea to require that all firewood sold in the state be labeled with its origin?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 60 . . 36% No 96 . . 58% No Response . . . 9 . . 5% <hr/> Total 165</p>	<p>Overall most of the responses were against labeling firewood with its origin. The exception was in the firewood dealer only category. Firewood dealers were in favor of labeling firewood with its origin.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	8...50%	Yes	26...38%	Yes	19...39%	Yes	7...27%	Yes	0...0%
No	7...44%	No	42...61%	No	27...55%	No	16...62%	No	4...80%
No Resp.	1... 6%	No Resp.	1... 1%	No Resp.	3... 6%	No Resp.	3...12%	No Resp.	1...20%
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	69	TOTAL	49	TOTAL	26	TOTAL	5

2. For firewood sold in the state that originates outside Minnesota, do you support regulations requiring kiln drying, for a specified time and temperature?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 69 . . 42% No 87 . . 53% No Response . . . 9 . . 5% <hr/> Total 165</p>	<p>Kiln drying is not supported by a narrow margin for firewood that originates outside Minnesota.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	8...50%	Yes	29...42%	Yes	24...49%	Yes	8...31%	Yes	0...0%
No	6...38%	No	38...55%	No	22...45%	No	17...65%	No	4...80%
No Resp.	2...13%	No Resp.	2... 3%	No Resp.	3... 6%	No Resp.	1... 4%	No Resp.	1...20%
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	69	TOTAL	49	TOTAL	26	TOTAL	5

3. For firewood sold in the state that originates outside Minnesota, do you support regulations requiring specific storage/seasoning conditions and time?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 88 . . 53% No 65 . . 39% No Response . . 12 . . 7% <hr/> Total 165</p>	<p>For firewood that originates outside of Minnesota, total responses were against kiln drying but in favor of a storage/seasoning requirement. In the breakdown by category, firewood dealers only and loggers only were in favor of both types of treatments. The firewood dealer and logger category was split. They favored a specific storage/seasoning regulation but did not support a kiln drying regulation. Respondents who replied under the categories of other and no designation were not in favor of either treatment</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	11...69%	Yes	36...52%	Yes	31...63%	Yes	9...35%	Yes	1...20%
No	3...19%	No	30...43%	No	15...31%	No	14...54%	No	3...60%
No Resp.	2...13%	No Resp.	3... 4%	No Resp.	3... 6%	No Resp.	3...12%	No Resp.	1...20%
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	69	TOTAL	49	TOTAL	26	TOTAL	5

4. For firewood that originates within Minnesota, do you support regulations requiring kiln drying, for a specified time and temperature?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 3 ..2% No 157 ..95% No Response . . 5 ..3% <hr/> Total 165</p>	<p>The majority of responses are against kiln drying for firewood that originates within Minnesota. Kiln drying is an expensive process and might not be viewed as cost effective.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	2...13%	Yes	0...0%	Yes	1... 2%	Yes	0... 0%	Yes	0... 0%
No	13...80%	No	67...97%	No	47...96%	No	26...100%	No	4...80%
No Resp.	1... 7%	No Resp.	2... 3%	No Resp.	1... 2%	No Resp.	0	No Resp.	1...20%
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	69	TOTAL	49	TOTAL	26	TOTAL	5

5. For firewood that originates within Minnesota, do you support regulations requiring specific storage/seasoning conditions and time?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 14 ..8% No 146 ..88% No Response . . 5 ..3% <hr/> Total 165</p>	<p>Response to questions regulating treatment of firewood that originates in Minnesota was resoundingly negative. This negative response spanned both the total responses and individual categories</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	5...31%	Yes	2... 3%	Yes	4... 8%	Yes	2... 8%	Yes	1...20%
No	10...63%	No	66...96%	No	44...90%	No	23...88%	No	3...60%
No Resp.	1... 6%	No Resp.	1... 1%	No Resp.	1... 2%	No Resp.	1... 4%	No Resp.	1...20%
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	69	TOTAL	49	TOTAL	26	TOTAL	5

6. Do you think firewood dealers should be licensed by the State of Minnesota? A firm licensed in Minnesota is required to provide acceptable evidence of compliance with the Workers' Compensation Insurance Law.

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 33 ..20% No 127 ..77% No Response . . 5 .. 3% <hr/> Total 165</p>	<p>Respondents are overwhelmingly against being licensed to sell firewood. This is across all categories.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	4...27%	Yes	12...17%	Yes	13...27%	Yes	4...15%	Yes	0... 0%
No	11...67%	No	56...81%	No	35...71%	No	21...81%	No	4...80%
No Resp.	1... 7%	No Resp.	1... 1%	No Resp.	1... 2%	No Resp.	1... 4%	No Resp.	1...20%
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	69	TOTAL	49	TOTAL	26	TOTAL	5

At this point, anyone who answered yes to question 6 continues answering all questions remaining on the survey. If the respondent answered no to question 6, they were to continue with question 13. Some respondents answered no to question 6 but answered the following questions anyway; these responses were not tallied.

7. If firewood dealer licensing does move forward, how long should the license last?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: One year 11...7% Two years. 19...12% Other. 3...2% No Response . . . 0 <hr/> Total 33</p>	<p>The people who responded yes to licensing favor a two year license. The logger only category was almost evenly split between one year and two year with one year winning out.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
One year	1... 7%	One year	2... 3%	One year	7...14%	One year	1... 4%	One year	0
Two year	3...20%	Two year	7...10%	Two year	6...12%	Two year	3...12%	Two year	0
Other	0... 0%	Other	3... 4%	Other	0... 0%	Other	0... 0%	Other	0
No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0
TOTAL	4	TOTAL	12	TOTAL	13	TOTAL	4	TOTAL	0

8. Should a state law licensing firewood dealers preempt, or not allow, any other local unit of government (cities, counties, etc.) to issue their own license for firewood dealers?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 29 ..16% No 8 ..5% No Response . . 0... <hr/> Total 33</p>	<p>All categories responded yes to state licensing preempting other local government licensing.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	3...27%	Yes	9...13%	Yes	10...20%	Yes	3...12%	Yes	0
No	1... 7%	No	3... 4%	No	3... 6%	No	1... 4%	No	0
No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0
TOTAL	4	TOTAL	12	TOTAL	13	TOTAL	4	TOTAL	0

9. Should current proof of financial responsibility (liability insurance; performance or surety bond; or net asset statement) be required for firewood dealers?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 23 ..14% No 10 ..7% No Response . . 0... <hr/> Total 33</p>	<p>Most respondents in favor of licensing are in favor of proof of financial responsibility.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	3...20%	Yes	7...10%	Yes	10...20%	Yes	3...12%	Yes	0
No	1...13%	No	5... 7%	No	3... 6%	No	1... 4%	No	0
No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0
TOTAL	4	TOTAL	12	TOTAL	13	TOTAL	4	TOTAL	0

10. How much license fee is appropriate?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: \$50/yr 16 .. 10% \$150/yr 16 .. 10% \$400/yr 1... 1% <hr/> Total 33</p>	<p>Total responses are split fairly evenly between requiring a \$50.00 fee or a \$150.00 fee. The individual categories follow this trend with the exception of Other. Respondents classified as Other favor a \$150.00 fee.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
\$ 50/yr	2...13%	\$ 50/yr	6...9%	\$ 50/yr	7...14%	\$ 50/yr	1...4%	\$ 50/yr	0
\$ 150/yr	1...13%	\$ 150/yr	6...9%	\$ 150/yr	6...12%	\$ 150/yr	3...12%	\$ 150/yr	0
\$ 400/yr	1... 7%	\$ 400/yr	0...0%	\$ 400/yr	0... 0%	\$ 400/yr.	0... 0%	\$ 400/yr	0
TOTAL	4	TOTAL	12	TOTAL	13	TOTAL	4	TOTAL	0

11. Fees above may be adjusted if graduated by size of company, with larger companies paying a larger fee. Do you think this is a good idea?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 11 .. 7% No 21 .. 13% No Response . . 1... <hr/> Total 33</p>	<p>Firewood Dealer Only and Firewood Dealer and Logger categories carry this no vote. Logger only and Other are split between yes and no responses.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	1... 7%	Yes	1... 1%	Yes	7...14%	Yes	2...8%	Yes	0
No	3...27%	No	11...16%	No	5...10%	No	2...8%	No	0
No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	1... 2%	No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	0
TOTAL	4	TOTAL	12	TOTAL	13	TOTAL	4	TOTAL	0

12. If yes, company size should be measured by:

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Gross Sales . . . 10 .. 8% Other 1 .. 1% <hr/> Total 11</p>	<p>Respondents were in favor of gross sales being the measurement for company size when determining license fees.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Gross Sale	0...0%	Gross Sale	1...3%	Gross Sale	7...18%	Yes	2...8%	Yes	0
Other	0...0%	Other	0...0%	Other	0...0%	Other	0...0%	Other	0
No Resp.	1...7%	No Resp.	0...0%	No Resp.	0...0%	No Resp.	0...0%	No Resp.	0
TOTAL	1	TOTAL	1	TOTAL	7	TOTAL	2	TOTAL	0

13. Do you think that an exterior quarantine prohibiting all firewood from entering Minnesota is a good idea? *This type of quarantine would ban all firewood originating from outside Minnesota.*

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 87 .. 53% No 65 .. 39% No Response . 13 .. 8% <hr/> Total 165</p>	<p>Firewood Dealer and Logger and Logger Only may be supportive of prohibiting all exterior firewood from entering Minnesota. The respondents in the remaining categories did not favor an exterior quarantine.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	6...38%	Yes	41...59%	Yes	29...59%	Yes	11...42%	Yes	0... 0%
No	10...63%	No	22...32%	No	18...37%	No	13...50%	No	2...40%
No Resp.	0... 0%	No Resp.	6... 9%	No Resp.	2... 4%	No Resp.	2... 8%	No Resp.	3...60%
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	69	TOTAL	49	TOTAL	26	TOTAL	5

14. If we were to hold a stakeholder meeting, what month would you prefer:

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Any Mon.
6	6	7	44	8	5	3	1	0	0	1	3	6

Would you be interested in attending such a meeting?

<p>TOTAL RESPONSES: Yes 44 .. 27% No 54 .. 33% No Response . 67 .. 41% <hr/> Total 165</p>	<p>Respondents appeared to be interested in a meeting in April and 44 individuals indicated they would be interested in attending. Firewood Dealer Only and Firewood Dealer and Logger showed the most interest in the meeting.</p>
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RESPONSE BY CATEGORY:

Firewood Dealer only		Firewood Dealer & Logger		Logger only		Other		No designation	
Yes	9...56%	Yes	19...28%	Yes	11...22%	Yes	5...19%	Yes	0... 0%
No	2...13%	No	19...28%	No	18...37%	No	12...46%	No	3...60%
No Resp.	5...31%	No Resp.	31...45%	No Resp.	20...41%	No Resp.	9...35%	No Resp.	2...40%
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	69	TOTAL	49	TOTAL	26	TOTAL	5

CONCLUSIONS

The spread of invasive pests by firewood is a regional issue and is becoming a national concern. Addressing that pathway is already being done in some states through regulation and education. In an effort to protect the natural resources in Minnesota, MDA is considering a number of approaches that could be employed to minimize the risk of plant pest introduction from firewood movement. MDA's primary intent is to develop strategies, which may include regulation, that effectively and efficiently address both the concerns of moving pests and the interests of the industry.

Historically, the firewood industry has not been regulated with the exception of a weights and measures labeling requirement under the Department of Commerce, and a sales tax imposed on the sale of firewood for recreational use. In general, many alternative fuels (including firewood) for home heating are lightly regulated because of the social benefit. Therefore, MDA felt it was important to gauge the reaction of firewood dealers to possible regulations, while at the same time informing the dealers of the types of regulation that have been suggested.

Firewood retailers responded positively to both an exterior quarantine on firewood and requiring firewood from outside the state to be seasoned, indicating they understand there is an invasive species threat from outside of the state. It may be construed that reducing the competition from out of state vendors would benefit the Minnesota-based dealers; however, comments indicated that they clearly felt the threat was from outside of the state rather than inside of the state. This is true at this time and therefore a well made point. In this light, a possible marketing approach such as Minnesota Grown may be helpful and applicable.

There appears to be a level of complacency regarding the possibility of an invasive species threat from within our own borders. This is suggested by extremely low return numbers for our survey and negative responses to questions about origin labeling and treatments for firewood produced in Minnesota. These results suggest a need for MDA to further educate the industry about invasive species currently establishing themselves in Minnesota, such as gypsy moth, as well as the role humans can play in transporting invasive species. This complacency may also diminish once quarantines are established on Minnesota counties for plant pests such as gypsy moth or others.

Although we did not get the response rate needed to statistically represent the opinions of the firewood industry, the information collected in this survey will be helpful in the discussion about strategies and approaches to slow the spread of invasive species in Minnesota. In addition, the industry has some idea of the realm of regulation possibilities under discussion.

APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY INSTRUMENT

SURVEY Firewood Regulations



Dear Firewood Dealer and other interested parties,

We need your help in protecting our state's forest and urban trees against damage by invasive species. Invasive species are organisms (insects, fungi, plants, etc.) that are not native to Minnesota and are causing economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. One of the most common ways that invasive tree pest species are introduced to new areas is through the movement of infested firewood. Gypsy moth, emerald ash borer (EAB), Asian longhorned beetle, siren woodwasp and the pathogens that cause Dutch elm disease and oak wilt can all be moved in firewood.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection Division is charged with the responsibility of stopping new pests from entering and establishing in Minnesota. We are working on several fronts to this end, including educating the public about the risks associated with moving firewood. We are also considering various strategies and regulations for the firewood industry, and would like your input.

The survey below requests your thoughts on several firewood industry issues. By "firewood dealer" we mean any person or organization that sells retail or wholesale or distributes firewood. Please check the answers you feel are most appropriate and add other information or ideas that you would like us to consider. Please return the survey in the enclosed envelope by January 31, 2007. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Kromroy at 651-201-6343.

1. Labeling firewood with the county and state of its origin would help consumers and MDA know if the wood was from a local source. **Do you think that it is a good idea to require that all firewood sold in the state be labeled with its origin?**
a. Yes b. No
2. **For firewood sold in the state that originates outside Minnesota, do you support regulations requiring kiln drying, for a specified time and temperature?**
a. Yes b. No
3. **For firewood sold in the state that originates outside Minnesota, do you support regulations requiring specific storage/seasoning conditions and time?**
a. Yes b. No
4. **For firewood that originates within Minnesota, do you support regulations requiring kiln drying, for a specified time and temperature?**
a. Yes b. No
5. **For firewood that originates within Minnesota, do you support regulations requiring specific storage/seasoning conditions and time?**
a. Yes b. No
6. **Do you think firewood dealers should be licensed by the State of Minnesota?** A firm licensed in Minnesota is required to provide acceptable evidence of compliance with the Workers' Compensation Insurance Law.
a. Yes *Continue with Question 7*
b. No *Continue with Question 13*
7. **If firewood dealer licensing does move forward, how long should the license last?**
a. One year
b. Two years
c. Other
8. **Should a state law licensing firewood dealers preempt, or not allow, any other local unit of government (cities, counties, etc.) to issue their own license for firewood dealers?**
a. Yes b. No
9. **Should current proof of financial responsibility (liability insurance; performance or surety bond; or net asset statement) be required for firewood dealers?**
a. Yes b. No

10. **How much license fee is appropriate?**
a. \$50 a year:
Minimum required to process a license
b. \$150 a year:
License processing, check for financial responsibility and insurance
c. \$400 a year:
License processing, check for financial responsibility and insurance, program for addressing consumer complaints
11. **Fees above may be adjusted if graduated by size of company, with larger companies paying a larger fee. Do you think this is a good idea?**
a. Yes b. No
12. **If yes, company size should be measured by:**
a. Gross sales
b. Other _____
13. **Do you think that an exterior quarantine prohibiting all firewood from entering Minnesota is a good idea?** This type of quarantine would ban all firewood originating from outside Minnesota.
a. Yes b. No
14. **If we were to hold a stakeholder meeting, what month would you prefer:** _____
Would you be interested in attending such a meeting?
a. Yes b. No
15. **Are you:**
a. A Firewood dealer only
b. A firewood dealer and a logger
c. A logger only
d. Other
16. Do you have any comments or other suggestions for how firewood handlers can reduce the risks of invasive species spread in firewood?

PLEASE RETURN IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE BY JAN. 31, 2007.