



News Release

KICK OFF YOUR SUMMER CAMPING PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S TREES

Date: May 23, 2013

**Contact: Katie Palmieri
Public Information Officer
(510) 847-5482**

SACRAMENTO—Memorial Day weekend marks the traditional kick off for California's camping season. This year you can commit to helping protect California's trees as you vacation from place to place by buying and burning wood for campfires from local sources and leaving any unused wood behind for the next person to enjoy.

“Most people think of campfires when they think of camping. Sitting around a campfire with friends and family can be a relaxing way to wind down a day spent outdoors enjoying nature. What people don't realize though if they transport firewood is that they may also be unknowingly moving harmful insects and diseases, putting the trees and forests they love at risk. Those hitchhiking pests can establish in new areas and have devastating impacts to trees, our natural resources, and local communities,” said Don Owen, California Firewood Task Force chairman.

Invasive insects and diseases such as Sudden Oak Death (in northern and central coastal California) and the goldspotted oak borer (in San Diego and Riverside Counties) are already impacting millions of acres and trees in California. Infested firewood is a principle vehicle for the spread of these and other devastating forest pests, such as the emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle. Not moving firewood is one way we can all do our part to protect our forests. So, as you are planning your next camping trip, remember to “Buy It Where You Burn It.”

For more information on the risks of moving firewood or the California Firewood Task Force,* go to <http://www.firewood.ca.gov> or contact Katie Palmieri at (510) 847-5482.

#####

* The California Firewood Task Force is a non-profit subcommittee of the California Forest Pest Council. It is a coalition of agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders working to protect the State's urban and wildland forests as well as natural environment from invasive pests that can be moved on firewood.