



National Plant Board Firewood Working Group Overview

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*Webinar prepared for Firewood Outreach
Coordinating Initiative, February 2019*



Background:

EAB: NW Siegert, USFS



- Firewood is a recognized pathway for forest destroying pests.
- National Firewood Task Force formed.
- USDA's federal EAB quarantine is providing regulation of firewood pathway.
- USDA proposed de-regulation of EAB.
- States expressed concern that de-regulating EAB would limit opportunities to oversee interstate movement of firewood.



EGM: NW Siegert, USFS



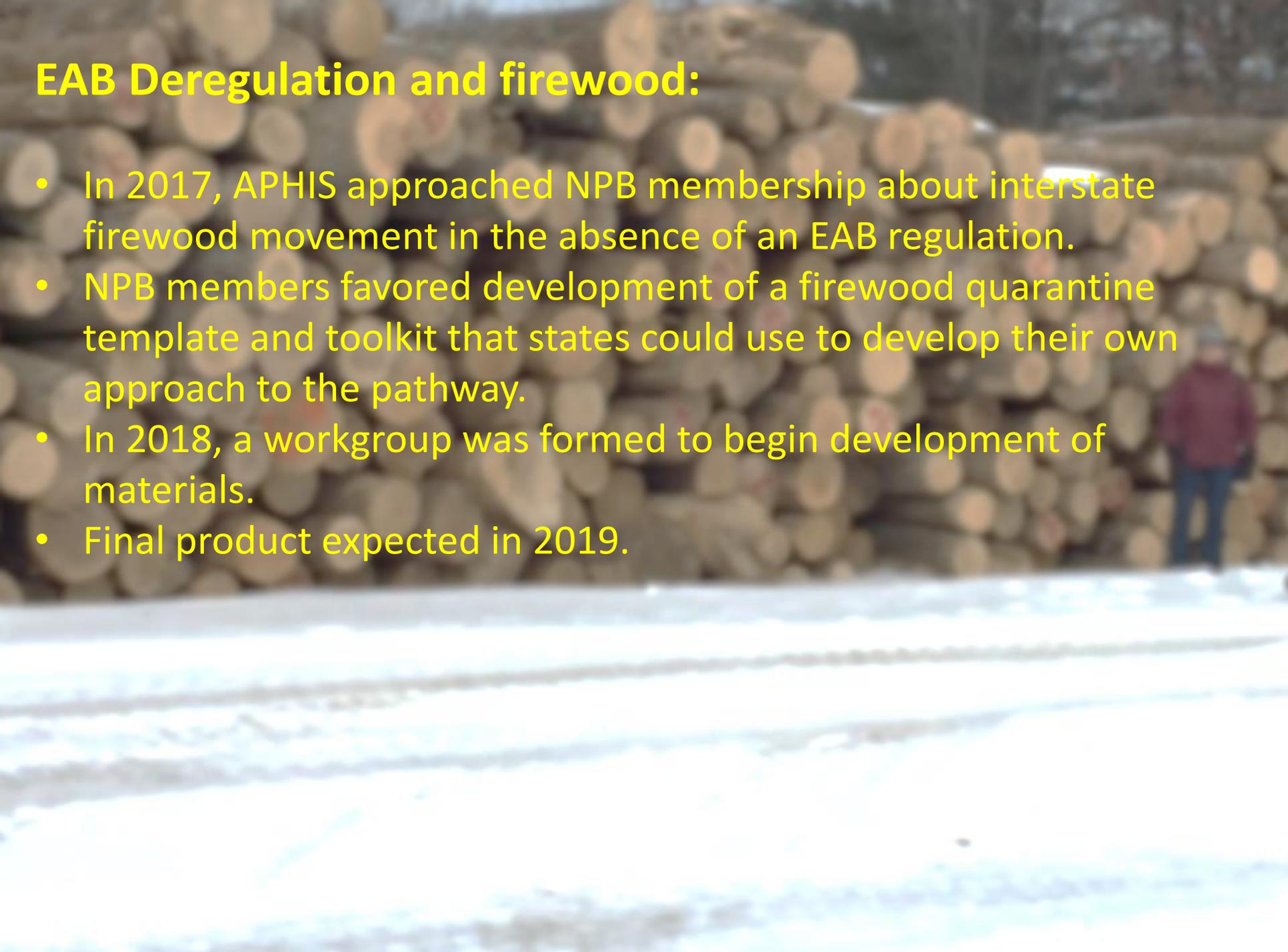
ALB: A Eitam, APHIS PPQ



Sirex noctilio: K Dodds, USFS, Bugwood.org

EAB Deregulation and firewood:

- In 2017, APHIS approached NPB membership about interstate firewood movement in the absence of an EAB regulation.
- NPB members favored development of a firewood quarantine template and toolkit that states could use to develop their own approach to the pathway.
- In 2018, a workgroup was formed to begin development of materials.
- Final product expected in 2019.





Firewood Challenges:

- States have varying authorities to implement firewood regulations.
- States have varying resources and enforcement capabilities.
- Firewood usage and availability varies among states.
- Firewood movement is not always best addressed through regulation.



Photos from Firewood Quarantine Enforcement events conducted by NH Forest Rangers



Firewood Working Group:

- Charged with developing a framework of activities for states to help prevent the movement of pests on firewood.
- Provide firewood resources to states.
- Suggest best practices for states in:
 - ❖ Regulation
 - ❖ Best management practices
 - ❖ Outreach strategies
- Make information available to states to **promote and enable**, but **not require**, a more unified approach to firewood pathway.

This effort will **NOT**:

- Require states to implement an exterior firewood quarantine.
- Dictate how a state regulates firewood, or doesn't.
- Supersede existing state or federal quarantines with a firewood component.
- Provide funding or resources for firewood-pathway activities.



Firewood Working Group Members:

Co-chairs: Ann Gibbs, Maine and Piera Siegert, New Hampshire

Support & Facilitation: Lora Katz, Steve Shearer, and Paula Henstridge, APHIS PPQ

Regulatory:

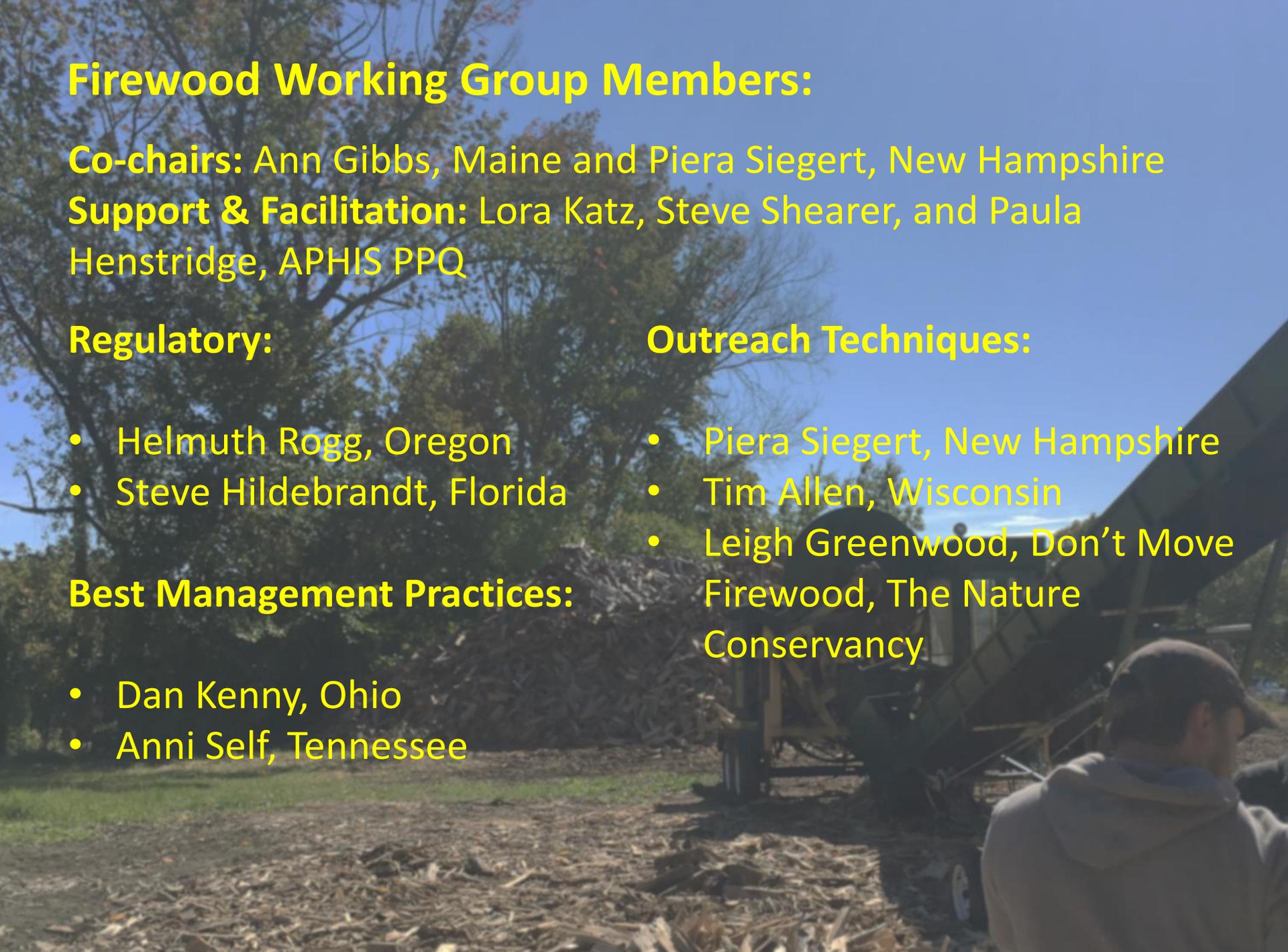
- Helmuth Rogg, Oregon
- Steve Hildebrandt, Florida

Best Management Practices:

- Dan Kenny, Ohio
- Anni Self, Tennessee

Outreach Techniques:

- Piera Siegert, New Hampshire
- Tim Allen, Wisconsin
- Leigh Greenwood, Don't Move Firewood, The Nature Conservancy



Regulatory:

Goal: Develop a state firewood regulation template.

Review current state regulations.
Use existing regulations to develop a template that states interested in drafting a firewood rule could use.

In process.



Photo: PY Siegert, NH DAMF

Heat-treatment of firewood:

- Certified heat-treated firewood is considered low risk for moving pests.
- There are three heat-treatment standards referenced for pests:
 - ❖ T314-a: 140 F for 60 min
 - ❖ T314-b: 133 F for 30 min
 - ❖ T314-c: 160 F for 75 min
- USDA PPQ certifies firewood kilns under authorities associated with EAB quarantine.

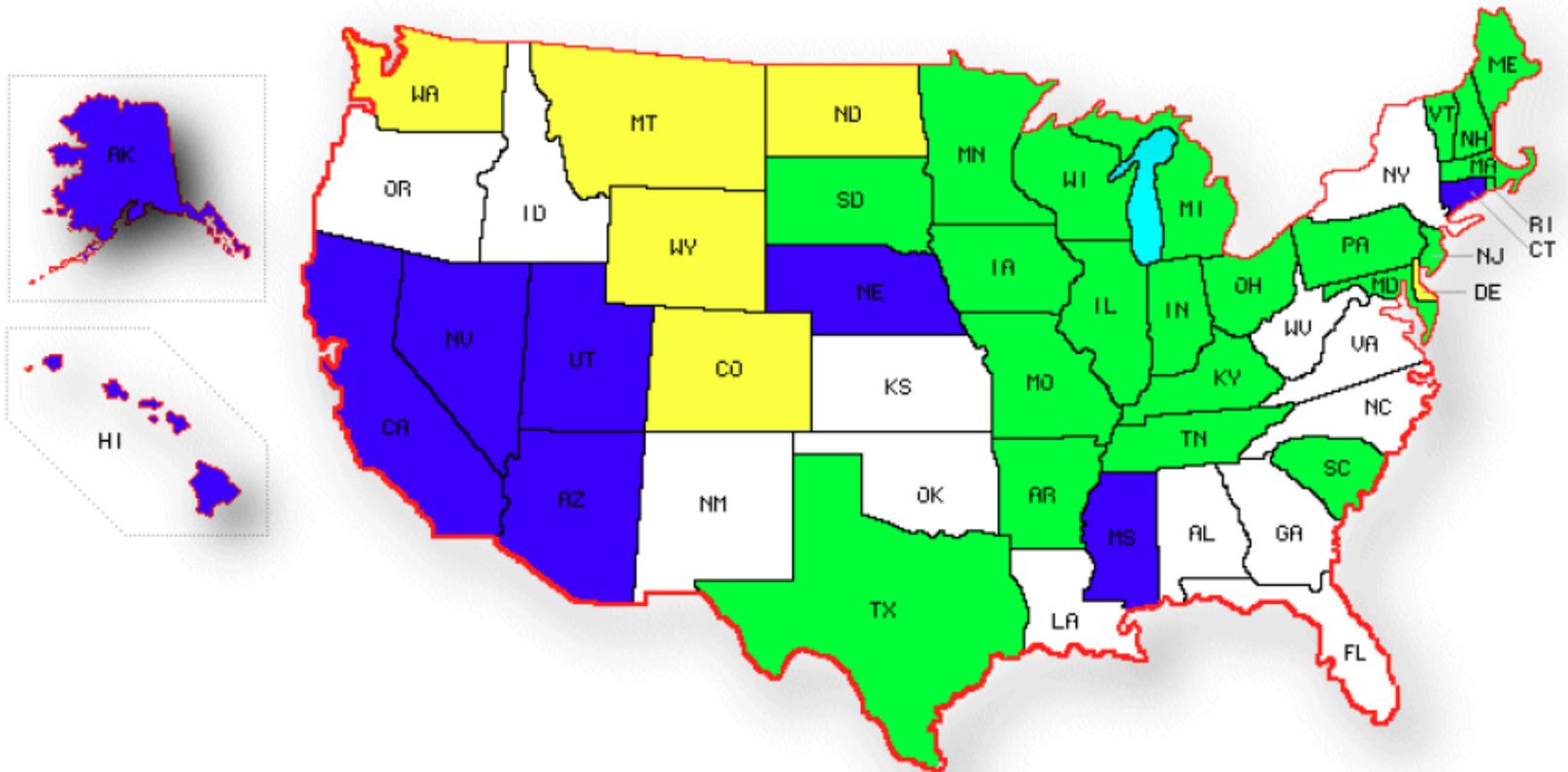
Conducted a survey of NPB members about heat-treatment of firewood. Information provided by 38 states.



Heat treatment of firewood appears regional:

Are firewood kilns used to heat treat firewood?

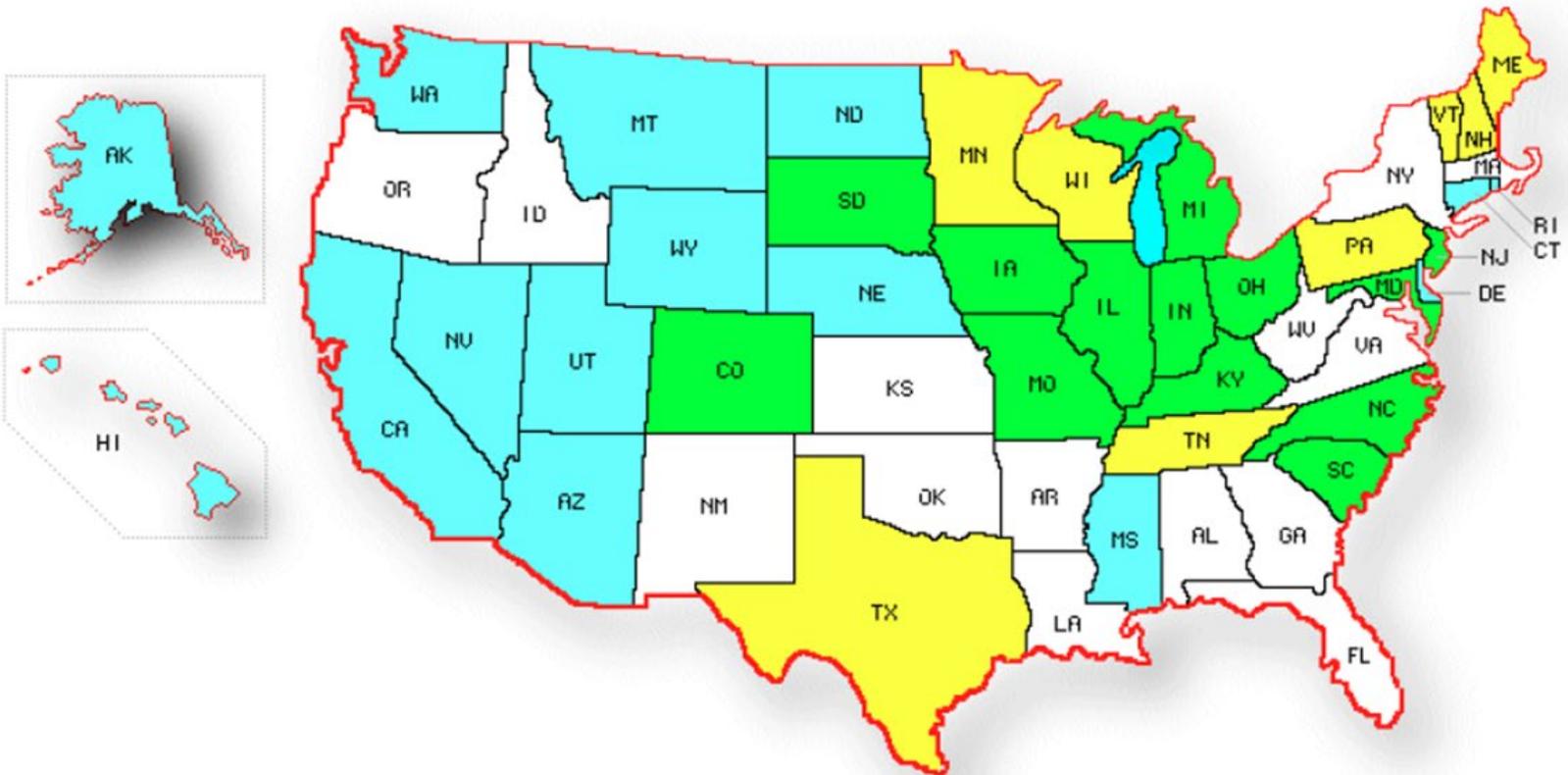
- - Yes
- - No
- - Don't know / NA

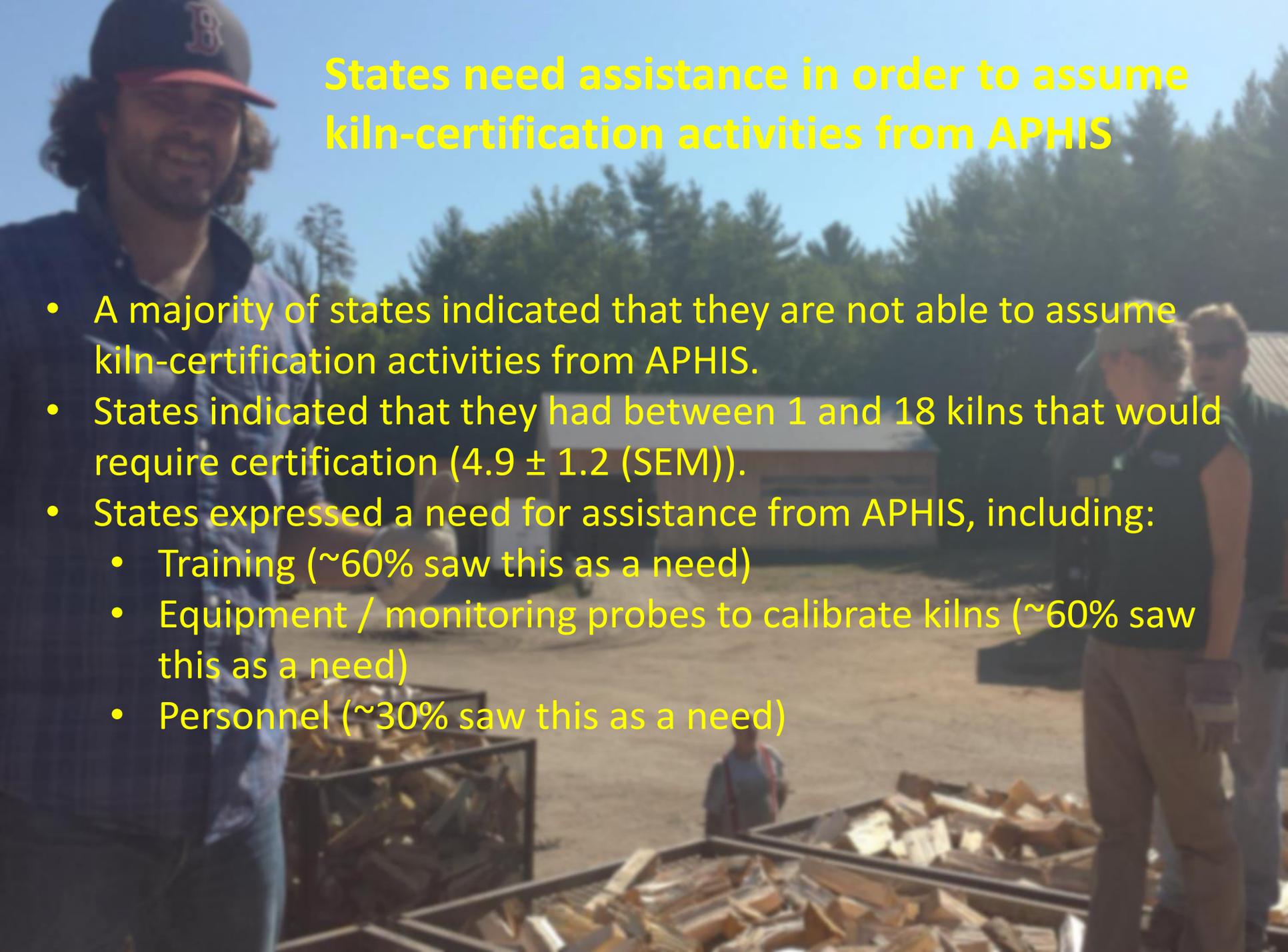


APHIS PPQ and APHIS PPQ in partnership with states are certifying kilns:

Who is certifying Firewood Kilns?

- - APHIS
- - APHIS & State Ag
- - Don't know / NA





States need assistance in order to assume kiln-certification activities from APHIS

- A majority of states indicated that they are not able to assume kiln-certification activities from APHIS.
- States indicated that they had between 1 and 18 kilns that would require certification (4.9 ± 1.2 (SEM)).
- States expressed a need for assistance from APHIS, including:
 - Training (~60% saw this as a need)
 - Equipment / monitoring probes to calibrate kilns (~60% saw this as a need)
 - Personnel (~30% saw this as a need)

Best Management Practices:

Goal: Recommend firewood best management practices that can be **used for commercial firewood** to reduce the risk of spreading pests.

Review, summarize, and compile best management practices from states, research, and Canada.

In process.



Photo: PY Siegert, NH DAMF

Outreach Techniques:

Goal: Change firewood transportation behaviors **by recreational firewood users** like campers and outdoor enthusiasts. Develop recommendations for states on effective outreach strategies.

Develop a toolkit that states can use to assist in outreach.

In process.

PY Siegert, NH Dept.



NH State Park: NH Parks and Recreation

Outreach Toolkit:

Step 1: Develop a core outreach statement.

Step 2: Incorporate relevant partnerships to reach consensus on the core outreach statement.

Step 3: Utilize core outreach statement on relevant webpages.

Step 4: Establish a firewood pathway webpage from an existing state website that utilizes core statement.

Step 5: Have partners link to webpage.

Step 6: Everything else!



Outreach Toolkit: Everything else guidance to...

- Target messaging for specific audiences.
- Determine how to best deploy limited outreach dollars.
- Use Don't Move Firewood-designed materials and expertise to encourage consistency of messaging between states.
- Develop and manage an on-line list of firewood vendors with a program like Firewood Scout.



**DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD.org**



Thank you!

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Questions?

