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# FOCI Newsletter

Firewood Outreach Coordinating Initiative

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## We skimmed and sorted, so you don't have to

The public comment period for the proposal to deregulate emerald ash borer closed on November 19th, 2018- and the comments by entities big and small are all available for reading on the federal register. At last count, there were 148 comments and it is often quite difficult to tell the “Jane Q Public” comments from the official “Jane Q Public, Officer of Your Important State Agency” comments in a quick scan of their submitted formats. To aid everyone in their quest to learn what state, tribal, county, or regional entities in their area provided official comment- and exactly what they said- the staff at Don't Move Firewood have sorted out the comments of common interest into clearly labeled groupings of direct links.

[View the pre-sorted groups of comments >>](#)  
[Visit the official federal docket >>](#)

## Well rounded professional education for all!

This fall's Emerald Ash Borer University webinar series covered a particularly diverse set of topics- from spotted lanternfly to Asian longhorned beetle, gypsy moth to research on potential resistant ash trees. All the webinars are free, clearly listed, and publicly accessible from the Emerald Ash Borer University page within the Emerald Ash Borer Information Network site.

[Emerald Ash Borer University Webinars >>](#)

## Spruce Bark Beetle killing native and non-native spruce trees

*Guest article by Charlene Johnson, Ecologist, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.* In Southcentral Alaska, the spruce bark beetle population has been increasing since 2015, and is now devastating stands of the native white spruce. This beetle species typically has a 2-year cycle in Alaska but is whittling its development down to just one year, as observed in many affected trees in 2018. Newly infected spruce trees, or even dying or newly dead trees may still harbor beetles. If infected trees are harvested in the fall and not burned by spring, the risk of spreading spruce bark beetle is extremely high. To prevent the movement of spruce bark beetle in harvested firewood, the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry advises that spruce firewood with indications of spruce bark beetle infestations only be harvested for firewood after trees have been dead more than one year. Firewood users should store only enough firewood for a single winter's use. Strip the bark from trees at the time of harvest and store in a dry, sunny place where the wood will quickly dry out and away from other living spruce on your property. Be sure to burn up spruce firewood before spring of the next year, when any remaining adult beetles might emerge.

[Find tips on the use of spruce as firewood in Alaska >>](#)  
[Read a recent article in Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson News >>](#)  
[Visit AlaskaSpruceBeetle.org >>](#)

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Photo of the month: Forest pests don't have to be invasive species to easily spread via firewood. The spruce bark beetle is just one of many North American bark beetles that can cause tremendous damage in native and introduced ranges- a phenomenon that seems to be increasing with the effects of climate change. This image is from <http://www.alaskasprucebeetle.org>

## Infestations and Regulations

### Map Quiz: Rapid 'ōhi'a Death

First identified in 2010, a fungal disease known as Rapid 'ōhi'a (oh-HEE-ah) Death has recently been killing the Hawaiian islands' most widespread and common native endemic tree, the 'ōhi'a (*Metrosideros polymorpha*). As scientists learned more about rapid 'ōhi'a death, they discovered that there are two different strains of the *Ceratocystis* fungus- one from southeastern Asia, and one from central America. The different strains of the fungal disease are now found on two islands. Your quiz of the month is this- what two islands in the Hawaiian archipelago have discovered an infestation of rapid 'ōhi'a death in their native forests?

[Read this blog to confirm the islands >>](#)

## Don't Move Firewood Campaign

### Christmas Tree Season is Here!

For many years now, the Don't Move Firewood campaign has capitalized on people's innate desire to ask us, "if I can't move firewood, should I also not move Christmas trees?" with messages about both buying and disposing of their Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands, and other decorations in the best way possible. We call it our Holiday Greenery page, and everyone is welcome to use and share the information!

[View all Holiday Greenery Information >>](#)  
[Just visit Disposing of Your Christmas Tree >>](#)

FORWARD THIS TO A  
COLLEAGUE »

### In the News

[Scary Pests on Firewood: No Thanks this Holiday Season](#)  
13 Nov 2018

[Spotted Lanternfly found last week in Dover was a hitchhiker \(DE\)](#)  
16 Oct 2018

[Can biotechnology save the American chestnut from extinction?](#)  
30 Sept 2018

[Thousand Cankers Disease: What does it mean for your woods?](#)  
13 Sept 2018

### Share firewood news tips

Input from our readers is vital to the success of this newsletter — and to the mission it serves. Have you heard (or done) something that you think we and other readers should hear about? Please tell us about it!

[Submit Your Story](#)

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