



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Prince William Forest Park

18100 Park Headquarters Road
Triangle, Virginia 22172- 1644

703 221- 2366 phone
703 221- 4322 fax

Prince William Forest Park News Release

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For Immediate Release
Paul Petersen, Biologist

Parkwide Firewood Restriction Aims to Prevent Spread of Destructive Beetle

TRIANGLE, VA - On August 26, 2008, biologists at Prince William Forest Park, a unit of the National Park Service located in Triangle, VA, instituted a temporary restriction on bringing outside firewood into the park for camping. Firewood not collected in the park may contain non- native insects such as Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle which carry with them diseases that threaten park resources and the health of our forests. Wood that is dead and downed, and less than 6 inches in diameter can be collected inside designated park areas for use by individuals camping in the park.

Management of trees infected with these pests involves drastic measures – the complete removal of all trees (infested and otherwise) in the immediate and surrounding areas. Both beetles can be easily spread in firewood, which may look normal, but still be infested with the immature stage of these insects. The ash borer infects mostly species of ash trees. The longhorned beetle attacks maple, elm, horse chestnut and other hardwoods. There are specific quarantines that restrict the removal of wood products from Prince William County, Fairfax County, Fauquier County, Loudoun County, Alexandria City, Falls Church, Manassas, and the states of Maryland, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and parts of New York and New Jersey. The park is the public's cooperation to help keep these harmful insects out of the 15,000 acre Prince William Forest Park.

For more about this quarantine please visit: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/index.shtml. For more information about the Prince William Forest Park firewood restrictions, contact Biologist Paul Petersen at 703- 221- 3329.

Prince William Forest Park is one of 391 units administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The park visitor center is located ¼ mile west of Interstate 95 off of exit 150B, Joplin Road. Correspondence should be addressed to: Superintendent, Prince William Forest Park, 18100 Park Headquarters Rd., Triangle, VA 22172- 1644. General information can be obtained by calling the visitor center at (703) 221- 7181 or by visiting our website at www.nps.gov/prwi.

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