



## News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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### Out of state firewood banned from National Forest lands in Wisconsin

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wis. – August 25, 2006** – On August 24, 2006, Forest Supervisor Anne Archie signed a Firewood Restriction Order banning the use of out of state firewood on federal lands within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin. The order states that the possession, storage, or transport of out of state firewood is prohibited on any National Forest lands, roads and trails in Ashland, Bayfield, Price, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Oneida, Florence, Forest, Langlade and Oconto Counties. The ban takes effect immediately.

Non-native invasive pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth and the Asian Longhorned beetle are notoriously known for hitching a ride on firewood transported by humans. Once moved, they can cause death and destruction to many tree species. For example, the Emerald Ash Borer has already killed millions of ash trees in Michigan and has recently been discovered in communities near the Chicago area. An Emerald Ash Borer infestation could impact an estimated 717 million ash trees in Wisconsin.

According to Archie, “Moving firewood is known to spread the risk of Emerald Ash Borer. This firewood ban on the National Forest will help prevent the spread of Emerald Ash borer and other invasive pests in Wisconsin. We need the public to help us and protect our nation’s trees.”

It is possible that more restrictive closure orders will be issued in the future. People can keep abreast of the situation by continuing to monitor media sources. The Chequamegon-Nicolet website will also contain the most up to date information on firewood use restrictions. To learn more about these exotic pests, visit the Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf> .

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has similar firewood restrictions in place for State campgrounds. For more information, visit their web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/> .

