



News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

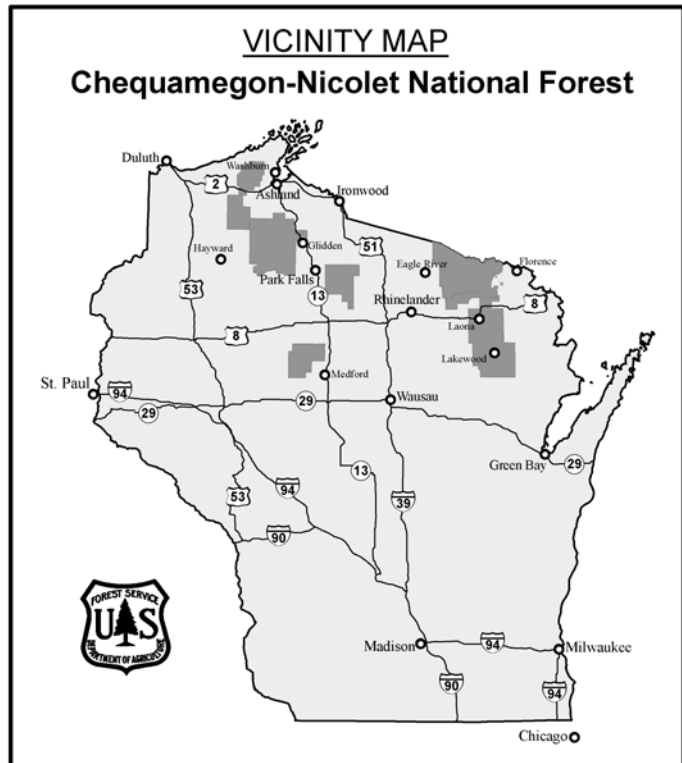
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DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD IS THE MESSAGE FROM THE FOREST SERVICE

Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wis. – April 23, 2007. The onset of the 2007 camping season has people who work on the Chequamegon-Nicolet NF in Wisconsin worried. Very worried. You can help ease those worries by not moving firewood.

Why? For the past several years, an insect known as the Emerald Ash Borer, or EAB, has been making a slow and deadly migration throughout the Midwest. Millions of ash trees have been destroyed in areas as close as Michigan, and, most recently, the EAB is showing up in suburbs around the Chicago area. That's kind of scary when you realize that a lot of visitors to campgrounds on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest hail from outside the area, and many of them bring their own camp firewood.



The campfire - that old camping ritual that evokes happy summer memories. Whether snuggling by the fire, or roasting marshmallows, everyone who has camped will remember the crackling, cozy fire. And, with over 1,100 campsites located in 54 campgrounds throughout the 1.5 million acre National Forest in Northern Wisconsin, we're talking about a lot of crackling, cozy fires.

Unfortunately, firewood is the preferred vehicle of the EAB. Unable to travel more than two miles on its own, the EAB needs to hitch a ride to get around. At the present time, most experts believe it has made its way through the Midwest by people who transport infested firewood to other parts of the state or even the country. And, since it has no natural predators like birds, other insects, or snakes, it's virtually indestructible.

To bring the situation under control so that more trees aren't killed by these pests, moving firewood out of state is currently banned by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and lower Michigan. A ban means it is illegal to transport wood out of state, and can bring with it substantial fines or jail time if an individual knowingly moves wood out of quarantined areas.

What's being done in Wisconsin

With an estimated 717 million ash trees in the Badger state, federal and state officials know it's just a matter of when, not if, the EAB will show up here. Last year, the Chequamegon-Nicolet, following the lead set by the Wisconsin DNR, issued an official order that prohibits out of state firewood anywhere in the forest. Since then, the Wisconsin DNR has developed a permanent rule that prohibits visitors from bringing firewood into Wisconsin State Parks and onto other state-managed lands from locations further than 50 miles away.

Wisconsin has also been at the forefront in getting the word out about this little green pest that can sit comfortably with room to spare on the surface of a penny. An extensive radio campaign conveying the message "Don't move firewood – it bugs me" was aired throughout last year's tourist season. Posters warning people of the dangers to our trees from the transport of firewood can be found at recreational sites and visitor centers across the state. The Chequamegon-Nicolet and the Wisconsin DNR also have a wealth of information at their respective web sites that include links to more information all over the country.

The take home message that Wisconsin wants to get across to anyone who visits us is **KEEP YOUR FIREWOOD AT HOME!** There are many, many vendors located in your favorite neck of the woods that sell firewood guaranteed to keep the Cozy in your Campfire, and keep the pests out.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer and other forest pests, visit:

<http://ncrs.fs.fed.us/4501/eab/>

For information on Wisconsin's National Forest, visit:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cmf/>

For information on Wisconsin's state forests and parks, visit:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/>