Policy actions by the Coalition Against Forest Pests

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Appropriations for APHIS

Ask:

- maintain the FY15 funding levels for two “lines”:
  - $54 million for “Tree and Wood Pests”
  - $156 million for “Specialty Crops”

16 Signatories:

- American Forest and Paper Association
- American Forests
- AmericanHort
- American Public Gardens Association
- California Forest Pest Council
- Center for Invasive Species Prevention
- Davey Institute
- Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Network of Forest Practitioners
- National Woodland Owners Association
- Society of American Florists
- Society of American Foresters
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tree Care Industry Association
- Vermont Woodlands Association
Appropriations for USFS

Ask:

• Forest Health Management - $111 million
  ( $63 M for Federal Lands, $48 M for Cooperative Lands )

• Forest & Rangeland Research program - $303 million

15 Signatories:

• American Forest Foundation
• American Forests
• American Public Gardens Association
• California Forest Pest Council
• Center for Invasive Species Prevention
• National Alliance of Forest Owners
• National Association of Conservation Districts
• National Association of State Foresters
• National Network of Forest Practitioners
• National Wild Turkey Federation
• National Woodland Owners Association
• Society of American Foresters
• The Nature Conservancy ·
• Tree Care Industry Association
• Vermont Woodlands Association
Comments on APHIS programmatic EIS for ALB program

Major points:
• Support program goal
• Environmental downsides of program localized compared to ALB risk
• Strengthen descriptions of resources at risk, esp. wider geographies, specific cities, & permanence of damage
• Strengthen emphasis on firewood
• Likelihood of continuing introductions via wood packaging

Signatories:
• American Forest Foundation
• American Forests
• Center for Invasive Species Prevention
• The Nature Conservancy
US-Canada wood packaging: attempt to meet with USDA & OMB

2010 letter signed by 29 Dialogue participants (largest number ever!)

Signatories of 2015 letter (9):

- American Forests
- AmericanHort
- California Forest Pest Council
- Center for Invasive Species Prevention
- The Davey Institute
- National Christmas Tree Association
- Society of American Florists
- Tree Care Industry Association
- Vermont Woodlands Association
Dialogue Policy Work: Options

premises:
1) agencies’ actions are hindered by inadequate funding
2) APHIS is key to prevention & slowing pest spread
3) reasons APHIS disappoints us arise primarily from lack of support at Secretarial, Congressional, and media levels, not from APHIS leadership
Essential Work
(won’t change fundamentals)

• Lobby Congress, USDA, and OMB to increase appropriations for APHIS & USFS Forest Health Management & Research programs

• Lobby USDA leadership to change the current policy re: 5 non-penalized detections of non-compliant SWPM per year

• Lobby USDA leadership and OMB to complete several key USDA rulemakings
  – Firewood certification program (AMS, not APHIS)
  – Q-37 – finalize regulations revamping approach;
  – Finalize NAPPRA Round 2; publish subsequent rounds promptly
  – US-Canada wood packaging

• improve data collection & make data easily accessible to independent analysts for assessment of programs’ efficacy
Bold / paradigm changing

- CBP incorporate the wood packaging requirements into C-TPAT
- APHIS re-consider requiring importers to switch to packaging made from materials other than wooden boards.
- Amend the Plant Protection Act to give phytosanitary protection & natural-area pests higher priority. Several options:
  - Amend section (3) of the Plant Protection Act
  - In Farm Bill, raise priority for management of natural-area plant pests & weeds
  - Give Congressional committees with jurisdiction over natural resources joint oversight of APHIS programs
- Explore which agencies can respond when a state where a pest is located chooses not to regulate
- Explore mandating that APHIS consider individual states’ internal level of protection when conducting national level risk assessments and adopting management plans.