

Continental Dialogue 2019

<https://continentalforestdialogue.org/continental-dialogue-meeting-november-2019/>

### **Farm Bill FY21 Forest Pest and Pathogen Pathway Discussion Breakout Group**

11/19/2019, notes by P. Spaine and B. Kopper

The FY21 Farm Bill includes a section requiring an analysis of the current forest pest management activities by the federal government. During this breakout session we hoped to gather ideas from attendees on import pathways that may introduce invasive exotic pests.

Points discussed:

- Faith Campbell – Asked about the accounting of 30 bark beetles and 8 Cerambycidae that have entered the United States in the last 25-30 years. What is done about exotic insects that are identified, is there follow up?
- Robert Haack's 2009 paper was brought up on the major pathways he found for intercepted wood pests were wood packaging and woody plant imports.

Pathways for analysis as suggested by the attendees:

- Woody plants
- Solid wood packaging and pallets
- Wooden furniture
- Wooden handicrafts

In the past NAPPO looked at the CBP database and wood packing material. Spotted lanternfly was associated with marble imported from Italy.

Another attendee mentioned a study by Garcia 5 to 10 years ago looking at 3 different commodities and which ports import them.

### **Attendees' suggestions for improving the detection and exclusion of Exotic Forest Pests –**

- One of the biggest suggestions of the breakout session was the suggestion of better integration with citizen science groups' e.g., volunteers to look at trees using people who have a lot of contact and knowledge of trees. Question was asked if there was a way for APHIS to harness these types of volunteers. Examples given of citizens reporting initial ALB sightings. Employ use of EDDMapS
- Tree Host lists would be instructive for citizen survey to be aware of our most import forest hosts for observation of pests.
- Urban Forestry often uses youth groups to check trees, Dallas has a survey of national parks. Listed on EDDMapS- fifteen pests of major concern to guide them.
- A list of information where importers could source sustainable pallets
- Need more information on how stakeholders can make better choices, such as on pallet sources and dunnage coming in.
- Need more information and participation by stakeholders. Survey of nurseries in areas where disease has been reported e.g., Beech Leaf Disease, Hemlock scale.

- Canada has a list of people who have treatment facilities.
- What could be done to tighten up the use of certified treatment marks on pallets? Better detection of fake stamps. One attendee reported seeing the certified mark being sold on eBay to be used on wood pallets. Is ISPM15 working? Someone stated that 97% of insect interceptions from SWPM was stamped.
- Pallet recycling- According to the US Forest Service from 2011 that 43 or every 100 pallets is recycled. Could a new board with stamp be placed on new pallets?
- EAB got here on solid wood packaging, can we measure the percent moisture in wood. Someone pointed out that this would require ISPM15 be amended.
- What is the data of interceptions on woody plants? APHIS and CBP databases AQAS and now ARM are collecting this data at the ports.
- Determine how other countries are handling this problem. Perhaps we can gain some insights on how to improve our safeguarding efforts.

**Major Points reported out to the group meeting after the breakout session:**

- Citizen Science – developing this tool with more coordination. Having federal agencies such as APHIS, Forest Service, etc.
- Having APHIS provide more information to stakeholders on making good choices on wood packaging pallets and plants for planting imports.
- Look at ISPM15 and the branding and recycling of pallets used for importation
- Re-examination of interception data from different woody commodities