



# Leave Firewood At Home



**A single piece of firewood can DESTROY millions of trees. Transporting firewood spreads non-native insects and disease to our forests. If you are transporting firewood you should burn it as soon as possible.**

A variety of destructive insect pests lay eggs or stowaway in firewood. These insects from Asia and Europe have the potential to devastate over 30 species of hardwood trees native to the Great Smoky Mountains. Buy firewood at campgrounds, collect dead and down wood on-site, or purchase USDA Certified Firewood in nearby communities to prevent the spread of these pests.

Three kinds of destructive non-native insects may be hiding in firewood that campers bring from outside Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle are from Asia and have been introduced to North America. The gypsy moth is native to Europe.

If you live in an area known to harbor transportable insect pests, please check your camper and other outdoor equipment before leaving for a trip. Gypsy moths are especially notorious for hitching rides on RVs, boats, and other equipment.

**Emerald Ash Borer** • The emerald ash borer was detected in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 2012 and could kill most ash trees. Because of rugged terrain and lack of access, only forests in limited areas of the park can be treated with chemicals. Some biological controls have been proposed, but they are new and have not been established in the Smokies. The park shelters some of the finest white and green ash trees in North America, with individuals reaching 140' tall and more than 5' in diameter.

**Asian Longhorned Beetle** • The Asian longhorned beetle feeds on 29 species of trees that are native to the Smokies. While it is not known to be here yet, it is confirmed in Ohio, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey. Biologists are convinced that the spread of the longhorned beetle to southern Appalachian forests would be catastrophic.

**The Gypsy Moth** • This infamous moth prefers oaks, but can feed on many hardwood trees in the eastern forest. It has already spread as far south as Virginia and North Carolina. Gypsy moth eggs and larvae can easily be transported in firewood or nursery plants.

GSMNP has hundreds of thousands of trees that are vulnerable to these non-native insects. An infestation would cost millions of dollars and devastate trees, plant life, and wildlife. To prevent this, firewood **should not** be brought into the park from quarantined areas. Firewood is available at some campgrounds and USDA Certified Firewood may be purchased at some local stores. Regulations allow the collection of dead and down wood in the national park for your campfires.

More information about these destructive non-native insects is available from the U. S. Forest Service website.

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[www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/firewood-alert.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/firewood-alert.htm)