



Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases
October 27 – 28, 2009
At Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, CA

TO: October Meeting Dialogue Participants
FROM: Dialogue Workgroup Leads and RESOLVE Staff
SUBJECT: Update on Workgroup Progress Since November 2008 Dialogue Meeting

Below are updates on the work associated with the Continental Dialogue Workgroups over the past year:

- Workgroup #1 – Prevent Introduction of New Pests and Diseases
- Workgroup #2 – Limit the Spread of Pests and Diseases in the US
- Workgroup #3 – Engage Private Groups in Forest Protection
- Workgroup #4 – Authorize New Federal Action
- Workgroup #5 – Funding of Key Programs
- Workgroup #6 – Communicate and Market Key Ideas about Protecting Forests
- Don't Move Firewood.org Workgroup

Workgroup #1 – Prevent Introduction of New Pests and Diseases

The Group's focus has been on the APHIS Q-37 rulemaking¹ since the December 2006 Dialogue meeting. In 2007, the Group led negotiation of a set of Consensus Recommendations – posted on the Dialogue's website. After agreement on the recommendations, group members met several times with USDA officials and with other stakeholders to promote progress on the rulemaking itself and consideration of the recommendations.

In July 2009, APHIS published its formal proposal to create a new category in the regulations. This new category, "Not Authorized for Importation Pending Pest Risk Assessment," would provide APHIS with the flexibility to prohibit imports of a plant taxon or taxon/origin combination until procedures can be implemented to ensure the importation is safe. Public comments on the proposal were being received until 21 October, 2009.

Working Group 1 members agreed upon a set of points to make in comments on the proposal in September; these were sent to all Dialogue participants with the suggestion that they submit comments. On October 15, all Dialogue participants also received a shorter letter which they were invited to sign. [I will report orally to WG1 or the meeting Plenum how many organizations or individuals did sign the letter.]

As of 16 October, APHIS had received approximately 125 comments on the proposal. Of these, about 80 were brief statements in support of adopting the NAPPRA category in order to prevent introduction of invasive plants. (This is an aspect of the proposal on which the Dialogue has not engaged.) Of the remaining, more substantive, comments, most – again – addressed the issue of invasive plants. The following addressed the issue of pests entering *via* this pathway in more than a single sentence:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Virginia Native Plant Society

I expect comments to be submitted by such Dialogue participants as American Nursery and Landscape Association, Society of American Florists, National Plant Board, and National Association of State Foresters – and I hope others as well.

Submitted by Faith Campbell, chair

¹ The "Q-37" regulations govern imports of "plants for planting" – plants, cuttings, seeds, bulbs, corms, etc. intended to be planted and grown (as distinct from processed or consumed). Imports of plants and seeds are a major pathway for the introduction of plant pests, including those that attack trees.

Introduction Pathway – Gates Closing

Gypsy moths and related moths from temperate Asia (*Lymantria dispar asiatica* Vnukovskij; *Lymantria dispar japonica* Motschulsky; and *Lymantria mathura*) (AGM) are considered to pose a high risk to North American forests since

- the larvae feed on over 600 plant species – primarily hardwoods but also conifers
- they have a prolific reproductive capacity
- the female’s capability of long distance flight in excess 40 km.

In the early 1990s, AGM egg masses were detected on ships from Siberia. APHIS and its Canadian counterpart (Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CFIA) instituted regulations requiring shippers exporting goods from ports in Siberia to manage port lighting, monitor moth populations, and inspect ships for egg masses.

Detections have been made on ships and cargo from Japan since 1998; those from China and Korea more recently. In 2008, AGM egg masses were detected on 23 ships coming from those countries to North America (18 at U.S. ports, 5 at Canadian ports). Most of these ships were from Japan. In earlier years, much lower numbers were detected on ships – although AGM were found in traps in several U.S. mainland locations during this period. The 2008 spike might reflect both a “high” in moth population cycles and a 500% increase in US Customs and Border Protection ship inspection efforts beginning in 2007. So far in 2009, approximately 10 ships with egg masses have been detected in Canada, 6 in the U.S.

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) began negotiating a regional gypsy moth standard aimed at preventing transport of Asian gypsy moths to the U.S., Canada, or Mexico in 2006. After intense negotiations with officials from China, Japan, and Korea, NAPPO adopted the regional standard (RSPM #33) in August 2009. RSPM#33 provides several options for how the Asian countries could prevent transport of Asian gypsy moths to North America aboard ship superstructures or cargo containers leaving their ports:

- The national phytosanitary agency of these countries or an officially authorized party may inspect ships and remove egg masses prior to ship’s entry into the NAPPO region.
or
- Systems Approaches --The national phytosanitary agency or an officially authorized party may develop a systems approach utilizing surveillance and monitoring of insect populations combined with exclusionary tactics (e.g. tree removal in areas near ports, reduction or altering of port lighting, the use of areas of low pest prevalence, etc.) or
- Designation of areas of the country as free of gypsy moths – supported by monitoring, etc.
or
- Other measures acceptable to the NAPPO parties

The NAPPO countries (Mexico, USA, Canada) will coordinate implementation – which will be phased in with full compliance expected in March 2012.

Workgroup #2 – Limit the Spread of Pests and Diseases in the US

For a variety of reasons, the Workgroup took a hiatus in 2009. Efforts were made to track some of the related work being undertaken by individual Dialogue participants (e.g., NASF efforts to engage with APHIS on a regional federal/state regulatory framework for the interstate movement of firewood in the NE for the purpose of controlling the spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and other invasive species).

Ken Rauscher, Michigan Department of Agriculture and a Dialogue Steering Committee member, has recently agreed to take over the 'lead' tasks for this workgroup. There are a number of panels relevant to the workgroup at the October 2009 Dialogue meeting, including: Impacts of Firewood Movement and Efforts to Reduce Impact; Solid Wood Packaging as a Pathway - ISPM 15 as a Tool; and *P. ramorum* Movement to Distant States. In addition to the plenary sessions, the group will have two breakout sessions on day two where they will be able to reflect on what has been discussed in the panels, explore the key issues, and determine which ones the group is best positioned to work on in 2010, and then explore ideas for how the Dialogue and the Workgroup specifically can address the issues.

Workgroup #3 – Engage Private Groups in Forest Protection

Coming out of the November 2008 Dialogue meeting a subgroup of Workgroup members began to work on a proposal to develop, support, and/or enhance invasive forest pathogen and insect information and education, and to provide updates for the horticulture industry. The subgroup did develop an initial proposal and is working to expand upon in order to share it with the full Workgroup and initiate next steps, but this has not yet been completed.

At an overarching level, the subgroup recognizes the long term relationship between extension programs and the industry throughout the United States and intends to use this connection to facilitate the dissemination of invasive species issues and solutions relevant to the mission of the Dialogue.

At present, the initial outline envisions a collaborative assemblage of land grant institutions as well as possible 501c3's working to produce a comprehensive nursery industry invasive species (pathogens and insects) program which will help producers and sellers as well as landscape professionals address concerns surrounding the transportation or distribution of invasive species intentionally or unintentionally. The final product could be used by the nursery and landscape industry to reinforce their professional training programs. Ultimately, the Dialogue could provide high level direction and support to grant proposals from extension through, for example, existing IPM funding pathways, which would create effective industry course and guidance protocols and summaries which could be used across the United States at continuing education events as well as with state horticulture industry association (re)certification programs. The initial proposal envisions the materials to be developed to include but not be limited to current Best Management Practices, clean stock issues, early detection and rapid response protocols, and risk assessment tools as well as providing public service materials for nursery and landscapers to use in communications with their customers.

Workgroup #4 – Authorize New Federal Action

While the full Workgroup did not meet during 2009, a subgroup of Workgroup members did spend time trying to better understand the legal compensation mechanisms that exist or could potentially exist to assist in efforts to address financial liability potentially associated with the finding of a new pest. With the increase in global trade, new pests are being detected at markedly increased rates and swift action to eradicate a pest as soon as it has been found would be preferable to allowing time to elapse prior to reporting and eradication, because swift eradication would help to prevent further spread of a new pest. However, the financial liability potentially associated with the finding of a new pest, due to required destruction of a business' plant inventory, or a homeowner's property, actually serves as a *disincentive* to timely reporting and thus to prompt eradication of new pests.

While discussions are currently hampered by a lack of knowledge about the legal compensation mechanisms that exist or that could potentially exist, the subgroup has agreed on a scope of work to engage someone to develop a white paper on the topic. The subgroup, and subsequently the Dialogue Steering Committee and/or the full Workgroup, will then be able to engage in discussions around potential approaches that could be taken to help address this situation, either through lobbying, public education, or other means.

Workgroup #5 – Funding of Key Programs

Since its formation in 2006, WG5 has developed a common set of funding recommendations for the USDA APHIS Emerging Plant Pest program and the USDA Forest Service Forest Health Protection program. In more recent years, we have included the USFS Research program. We then sought endorsement of and active support for these funding recommendations from Dialogue participants.

In 2009, looking to the federal Fiscal Year 2010, WG5's recommendations for APHIS funding were endorsed by 21 Dialogue participants; those for the Forest Service were endorsed by 18 participants.

As of October 16, 2009, Congress is on the verge of enacting an appropriations bill for USDA APHIS. The enacted funding is compared to our "ask" in the table on the second page of this report. The House has passed the Conference bill.

At the time of writing, Congress is further behind on enacting an appropriations bill for the Forest Service (which is funded through the Interior Appropriations bill). On the third page of this report is a table showing the Dialogue's recommended funding level and the figures agreed to by the House and Senate.

WG5 members met with the Office of Management and Budget in September to present preliminary ideas for FY11. These were as will be discussed during the WG5 breakout on Wednesday. (These figures are not reported here because some participants in our meeting are not allowed to participate in discussions of appropriations matters.)

Submitted by Faith Campbell, chair

APHIS Appropriations for forest pests in FY10

Emerging Plant Pests
Total: House \$156,800,000
Senate: \$159,300,000
Conference: \$158,769,000

Forest pests receive nearly half of the total EPP account (\$78.8 million).

Pest	FY 09 funding level (Omnibus)	FY 10 funding levels recommended by Dialogue	House	Senate	Conference
Asian longhorned beetle	\$19,918,000 appropriated ~\$24 M emergency	\$35 M	\$35,021,000	\$30,021,000	\$33,021,000
Emerald ash borer	\$34,625,000	\$30 M	\$34,705,000	\$39,705,000	\$37,205,000
Sirex woodwasp	\$1,500,000	\$ 5 M	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Sudden oak death	\$5,305,000	\$10 M	\$5,347,000	\$5,347,000	\$5,347,000

As we had expected, the Conference split the difference between the House and Senate figures for ALB & EAB. The ALB figure nearly meets our “ask” but falls below the funding needed to maintain the current program in NY/NJ and MA.

Also: Congressionally directed spending for following projects

Asian Longhorned Beetles Technology to Combat in New York Forests \$500,000 – sponsored by Gillibrand; Schumer Arcuri; Higgins; Maffei; McHugh; Tonko

Emerald Ash Borer, OH \$550,000 – sponsored by Voinovich

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, University of Tennessee – Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, University of Tennessee \$500,000 – sponsored by Alexander

USFS Appropriations for Key Programs in FY10

The Dialogue participants’ joint letter sought increased funding – to a total of \$140 million - for State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection in order to deal more effectively with several named forest pests and the problem more widely. We asked that funding for USFS Research be increased by \$3 million – that increase to be allocated to named forest pests.

House

The House bill provides \$144 million for Forest Health (including forest health program funding under the national fire plan). The Report specifies that the increased funds are to go for the following:

- restoring urban areas and communities where ash have been killed by the emerald ash borer
- monitoring and developing technologies to address the emerald ash borer
- gypsy moth slow-the-spread
- (native) bark beetle suppression and eradication
- “expanded efforts” to address the hemlock woolly adelgid.

While the Dialogue had mentioned these pests, others that we advocated for did not receive mention in the report.

The House bill provides \$308.6 million for research; the report makes no mention of any of “our” forest pests.

Senate

The Senate bill provides \$130,035,000 for Forest Health (including forest health program funding under the national fire plan). The Report specifies that the increased funds are to go for the following:

- \$750,000 to restore funding for gypsy moth eradication and suppression activities
- \$1 million to increase cooperative programs to combat emerald ash borer infestation. The Committee urges the Service to use a portion of the increase to help the State of Wisconsin increase its capacity for emerald ash borer monitoring and control programs.

The Senate bill provides \$307,012,000 for forest and rangeland research programs; no specific reference to introduced forest pests.

Workgroup #6 – Communicate and Market Key Ideas about Protecting Forests

Messaging and Prioritization Subgroup

At the November 2008 Dialogue meeting, participants in the Workgroup #5 (Funding) breakout group identified a need for documented success stories in combating invasive insects. Dialogue members could share these stories with legislative representatives during lobbying meetings to demonstrate how funding for eradication efforts had achieved success. Following the Dialogue meeting, a subgroup of Workgroups #5 and #6 (Communication) was constituted to develop and produce the success stories. Subgroup members selected three case studies for initial development – plum pox virus, pink hibiscus mealybug, and hemlock woolly adelgid – and drafted text and designed a format for these examples. When the case studies were complete, the Subgroup solicited feedback from members of Workgroups #5 and #6. The Subgroup incorporated the comments received and decided to hire a graphic designer to design a template for the case studies. Using the plum pox virus case study, the graphic designer created a template that the Subgroup will use to format the other case studies, as well as any subsequent success stories developed by Dialogue members. The draft template was shared with the Dialogue Steering Committee at its June meeting for comments. Since that meeting, the Subgroup has made Steering Committee’s suggested changes and produced initial copies of the plum pox virus case study. Other case studies identified by Dialogue members can now be inserted into the master template and produced as success stories.

Outreach and Toolbox Subgroup

After the November 2008 Dialogue meeting, a subgroup of Workgroup #6 members began efforts to accomplish two tasks: 1) develop an “Outreach Guide” which would give guidance and examples to professionals in the field on how to conduct outreach campaigns; and 2) create a wiki-based ‘toolbox’ as a clearinghouse of information for both professionals who are dealing with an infestation (or might in the future) and for interested members of the public.

The subgroup focused mostly on the Outreach Guide and developed a detailed outline over the first six to eight months of 2009. The current objectives of the guide are to provide basic structure to respond to a pest emergency, and to be a resource for both planning and response. The outline currently includes: Introduction (e.g., what is at stake; allies; how to cultivate preparedness); Responding to a Pest Infestation (e.g., key elements to effective response; timing; questions to be prepared to answer); Spreading the Alarm (e.g., planning press releases and news conferences); Lobby Like a Pro ... or Hire One (e.g., 12 tips for better lobbying); and Share the Facts (e.g., link to the wiki toolbox). The efforts to develop a wiki toolbox included development of a beta site and some uploading of potential information resources. The subgroup is still in the process of sharing information and has not yet finalized these efforts for full Workgroup engagement.



2009 achievements, collaborations, and statistics

The Don't Move Firewood campaign has been recognized for excellence many in 2009- both for its high quality website, and for its great videos. Here are four highlights showing the successes we've had this year:

- *Advertising Age*, a highly influential trade publication, featured Don't Move Firewood as an example of a successful multi-faceted campaign in their "Good Works" section.
- The Don't Move Firewood campaign won a Silver ADDY® Award from The Advertising Club of Metropolitan Washington. With over 60,000 entries annually, the ADDY Awards are the world's largest and arguably toughest advertising competition.
- One of Don't Move Firewood's short films, "Introducing the Emerald Ash Borer," was recognized for excellence with a Merit Award for Creative Approach at the International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula, Montana.
- An upcoming HarperCollins book "Design for the Greater Good" is slated to include the Don't Move Firewood campaign

State agencies, private campgrounds, and federal partners all over the US have asked Don't Move Firewood to help them with their own firewood campaigns. In 2009 alone, we helped groups in MT, NH, NY, PA, and VT make their own customized materials- including postcards, billboards, posters, website pages, mailing slips, and more. Our partners also distributed thousands of Don't Move Firewood branded educational DVDs, stickers, and magnets at dozens of public events throughout the nation.

Since launching in July 2008, we've been steadily building our fan base and attracting web traffic. Here are a few statistics to help you get a feel for our online viewership;

- Don't Move Firewood .org has had over 180,000 viewers
- Our online videos have attracted just shy of 30,000 views
- On Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter, to date 2,675 people have signed up to be our "friends" or "followers"

Lastly, we've launched a new interactive game on Facebook, called Shred-a-pest. You can learn more about our new game by visiting us at Dontmovefirewood.org

Join the effort! Ask us what we can do for you! Contact LGreenwood@tnc.org