



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For release: June 1, 2010

Contact: Lisa A. DeBruyckere
Telephone: (503) 704-2884
Email: lisad@createstrat.com

PRESS RELEASE

FIREWOOD OUTREACH CAMPAIGN STRIVES TO PROTECT OREGON FROM BEETLE

SALEM, Oregon—Three states in the Pacific Northwest have launched a coordinated campaign to inform the public about the potential dangers of transporting firewood carrying diseases and live invasive insects, such as the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB).

“Buy Local, Burn Local” and “Don’t Move Firewood” are the key messages of this year-long campaign from the Oregon, Washington, and Idaho Invasive Species Councils.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council’s June 2010 Species of the Month features ALB, a key invasive pest that can be found in hardwood firewood. Maple, willows, elm, and horsechestnut are most commonly attacked by ALB, however, birch, poplar, silk tree, sycamore, ash, and mountain ash are also hosts.

“We do not want Asian longhorned beetles in the State of Oregon,” said Oregon Department of Agriculture Plant Division Administrator Dan Hilburn. “This species is on Oregon’s 100 Worst List of invasive species because of the tremendous damage it can do. Keeping this species out of Oregon will protect millions of acres of Oregon’s forests as well as the trees we value in our urban areas and backyards.”

Determined by US Department of Agriculture officials to have entered the United States inside solid wood packing material from China, the ALB was first discovered in August 1996 in Brooklyn, New York. Within weeks, another infestation was found in Amityville, New York. In 1998, an infestation was discovered in Chicago, and in 2002 and 2004, ALB was detected in New Jersey. The largest infestation to date in the United States was detected in Worcester, Massachusetts in 2008.

What’s so bad about this particular beetle? Asian longhorned beetles cause damage by tunneling within the trunks and branches of trees, disrupting the sap flow and weakening and eventually

killing the trees. Infested trees need to be removed and destroyed, and susceptible host trees may need treatment to prevent further infestations.

Adult ALB are large (about 3/4-1 1/4 inches long), black with white spots and very glossy. The antennae are longer than the beetle's body and are banded black-and-white. Adults may be crawling over the trunks and branches of host trees, or possibly flying.

Asian longhorned beetles also leave tell-tale signs of their presence. They include:

1. Large (about 3/8" diameter) ROUND emergence holes where adult ALB have emerged from the tree. A good quick-and-dirty way to tell whether holes are the right size is whether a pencil fits into a hole. If not, the hole is too small to have been caused by ALB.
2. Oval-to-round wounds or scars on the bark where female ALB have chewed out a place to lay eggs. The wounds are pale when fresh but darken with age. Sap flows and stains are often associated with oviposition scars. These oviposition scars are about 3/8" long and may occur in a row with about three to five inches between scars.
3. Piles of coarse "sawdust" (caused by adult beetles chewing their way out from inside the tree) around the base of trees or where branches meet the main stem.
4. Heavy sap flows running down trunks and branches, from egg-laying sites as the larvae feed inside the tree.
5. Wilting or browning leaves at branch tips or dead twigs/branches.

Does it take an entomologist to discover the presence of ALB? Absolutely not. In fact, most of the detections to date have been by people who have recognized one of the five signs noted above. Their prompt reports to local agriculture officials have resulted in rapid response to these early detections. If you believe you have seen an ALB or find trees with signs of damage, please:

- Note the date and location where you found the beetle or damaged tree.
- Capture the beetle and place it in a jar in the freezer to kill it and store the dead beetle. Don't use a plastic container, as beetles can chew their way out of them.
- Immediately report the information by calling the Oregon Department of Agriculture at: (503) 986-4636 or 1-866-INVADER. You may also report it online at www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org.

People can also play a role in preventing the spread of wood-boring insects and diseases, such as Sudden Oak Death, by obtaining or buying local firewood, and burning or leaving any unused firewood in the area where it was obtained.

###

The Oregon Invasive Species Council was established by the Oregon Legislature in 2002. Its mission is to conduct a coordinated and comprehensive effort to keep invasive species out of Oregon and to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species already established in Oregon. Current members of the council hail from the Oregon Marine Board, USDA Forest Service, USDA-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, The Nature Conservancy, Dow Agrosiences, DLF International, Wallowa Resources, Port of Portland, and SOLV. In addition, agency representatives include Portland State University, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Sea Grant, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.