

**Prohibition of the Importation of all Firewood
on Commission-owned Wildlife Management Areas**

Committee: Regulations

Date: December 18, 2014

Explanation:

The spread of exotic pathogens, diseases and insects to the forests of state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) endangers the wildlife resources of the state and their habitat. Due in part to the recent findings of Emerald Ash Borers within our state's boundaries, the imminent peril they pose, and the fact that the most prevalent mode of transportation of these insects is the distribution of firewood, an emergency exists for which it is necessary to retard further infestations by severely limiting the movement of firewood statewide.

An Emergency Minute Order and associated new regulation (Code 20.26) banning firewood importation onto Commission-owned WMAs was previously adopted by the Commission as an "emergency" regulation on September 18, 2014. WMD will be requesting this regulation be permanently adopted by approval of a Minute Order at this Commission Meeting.

Prepared by: Martin Blaney, Habitat Coordinator

20.26 FIREWOOD IMPORTATION PROHIBITED ON COMMISSION-OWNED WMAs

12-14 It is unlawful to import, transport, or carry firewood into a Commission-owned WMA by any means, or to cause to be imported, receive, or to assist in any manner in the importation of firewood into a Commission-owned WMA. "Firewood" means all wood of any species, cut or not cut, split or not split, regardless of length, which is (a) in a form and size appropriate for use as a fuel or (b) destined for use as fuel.

PENALTY: Class 1

Current Fiscal Year: \$0.00

Next Fiscal Year: \$0.00

Financial Benefit to Agency: Greater protection for forest health and sustainability.

6. Do alternative means exist for accomplishing the objectives of the rules that might be less burdensome to small business? Yes: No:

Why were such alternatives not proposed: N/A

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts: Other state agencies and federal partners are considering further control of the movement of firewood onto their properties.

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
Little Rock, Arkansas

MINUTE ORDER NO: 14-099 SUBJECT: Ratify the Prohibition on Importing
DATE PASSED: December 18, 2014 Firewood on Commission WMAs
PAGE 1 of 5 PAGES LOCATION: Statewide

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its staff proposed and approved the attached regulation as an emergency regulation on September 18, 2014; **and**

WHEREAS, the attached regulation (AGFC Code 20.26) has been communicated through a variety of media avenues to sportsmen and the general public throughout the state for review and comment for more than 30 days; **and**

WHEREAS, after carefully considering the recommendations of Commission staff and the Regulations Committee, as well as comments received from the public, the Commission has determined that the attached regulation promotes sound wildlife conservation and management and is consistent with Amendment 35 of the Arkansas Constitution and that this regulation should now be approved for application statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED this 18th day of December 2014, that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hereby approves and adopts permanently the attached regulation (AGFC Code 20.26), which shall become effective immediately upon public filing or as soon thereafter as possible.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission staff is authorized to proceed with legally certifying and filing the attached regulation with the Secretary of State, State Library, and Bureau of Legislative Research and incorporating them into the Commission Code Book and Addendum.

	<u>STAFF APPROVAL</u>	<u>COMMISSION APPROVAL</u>
Submitted by:	<u>Brad Carner</u> Brad Carner	<u>Ron Duncan</u> Ron Duncan Chairman
Division:	<u>Wildlife Management</u>	<u>Ford Overton</u> Ford Overton Commissioner
Approved:	<u>Mike Woodard</u> Director	<u>Emon Mahony</u> Emon Mahony Vice Chairman
Approved:	<u>A.F. Woodhart</u> Legal	<u>Fred Brown</u> Fred Brown Commissioner
Approved:	<u>Steve Cook</u> Fiscal	<u>Andrew Parker</u> Andrew Parker Commissioner