

SUFC Call Notes
4/2/15

On the call: Becky, Deanne (AF intern), Brent, Peter, Gerry, Laura, Faith, Cara, Danielle, Gordon, Jen

1. Quick intro of the APHIS DEIS (Faith)

- Asian long horn beetle attacks important urban forest trees: Maple, Willow, Elm, Ash, Poplar...
- In some cities the trees it attacks make up 60% of the urban forests
- Detected in North America eight times in last 24 years or so
- Found in wood packing coming from China - just about everywhere receiving wood packing from China. It is only a matter of time before another introduction is detected.

2. Comments are Due April 27th

- Five alternatives:
 - no action (quarantine in the area)
 - removal of infested trees
 - full host removal – removal all known infested trees and trees within a half mile radius
 - insecticide treatment to the infected trees and those within a half mile radius
 - integrative program – remove infested trees and either removal or insecticide on surrounding trees
- Fifth alternative is the preferred alternative as it provides the most flexibility.
- Largest economic and environmental impacts would come from the no action alternative – impacts to property values and environment
- While the DEIS is on the right track favoring the integrative program, the DEIS and APHIS do not fully explain the impacts of an ALB outbreak. It is important for APHIS to document the true and wide spread impacts to build up the record for support of their programs.

3. Discussion led by Becky

- Are comments on a narrow topic something that SUFC wants to set as a precedent? Would it be better to create a statement about all invasive pests, in general, for APHIS, rather than provide comments for every individual pest? Where do we draw the line as to which agency actions we address: DEIS or limit ourselves to Rule Makings?
 - i. This is an ongoing discussion the Policy Committee needs to continue to have. While this is a Draft EIS (and there are many of these produced), it is a programmatic EIS versus an site specific action, and it addresses a pest that has a wider impact than even the Emerald Ash Borer – given the number of tree species it attacks.

- ii. We need to take into account the working group's capacity, where we can have the most impact, and where we can provide a desired service to the full coalition.
- Options for providing comments:
 - i. SUFC branded comments
 - 1. Requires $\frac{3}{4}$ sign-on from full coalition. There is not enough time or Policy Working Group capacity to perform this option.
 - ii. Create bullet points for individual organizations to incorporate into their own comments/letters
 - 1. Best bet moving forward. We can provide an array of bullets that groups can incorporate into their own comments.
 - 2. Produces more letters to the agencies which shows a larger representation of urban forest advocates.
 - i. Work with Faith and Coalition Against Forest Pests on comments and open it up for individual organizations and SUFC members to sign-on
 - 1. Comments will also include wildland forest issues, as well as urban forest issues.

Action Item: Faith, Becky, Gordon develop bullet points to be sent to coalition members in the next few weeks

Action Item: Brent, Cara, Laura to review bullet points

Action Item: Bullets and cover message sent to the coalition along with info on how to submit comments will go out at least a week

Action Item: Once bullets are created, conduct outreach to the Pacific coast members to be sure APHIS hears from areas where ALB is not prevalent.

Reminders:

- Next week there is a **joint call** with research working group to talk to Michael Rains, Northern Research Director
- All **in-kind hours** are getting tracked – even policy working group – though not for match to the federal grant. Links can be found on the SUFC website.
- **Organization dues** – form is through American Forests and links on SUFC website
- Budget conversation with Forest Service on **April 15, 3pm EST**
- Another Invasive species talk in April – experts from Harvard Forest and Cary Institute wrote a paper with policy recommendations for dealing with invasive species – they will be presenting and asking for feedback