

Account: South Carolina State Parks

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South Carolina State Parks

at 16:30:02 on 7/01/2020 UTC

SC State Parks Advise Campers to Leave Firewood at Home, Purchase Local - Invasive insects can damage forests and landscapes

Gearing up for a busy holiday weekend, State Parks in South Carolina are asking visitors and campers to mitigate the spread of invasive insects by purchasing firewood locally near parks.

The recent discovery in Charleston County of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), a borer that can damage the heart of a tree and kill it, prompted Park officials to amplify its policy of using local firewood when visiting parks. The Park Service recommends purchasing wood preferably within 10 miles of the park but no further away than 50 miles.

Invasive insect pests and disease can easily travel in firewood as campers move across the state.

Unfortunately, this makes favorite campgrounds and parks high-risk areas for invasive species introduction. Many invasive insect species can cause damage to park trees and forests which diminishes their aesthetic value, upsets the natural balance of the ecosystem and costs large sums of money to control.

South Carolina already has several damaging invasive pests including the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) and the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*).

For more information on using firewood please visit www.DontMoveFirewood.org or

<https://www.state.sc.us/forest/dontmovefirewood.htm>



Peter Bendal Kear I live in SC. I camp in SC. I am passed by logging trucks on the interstate in SC. How is it that me bringing firewood harvested in SC to a state park campground within SC is a problem? Oh I get it you want me to pay \$7 for just enough wood for a campfire that is likely not cured enough to make a good fire (outrageous pricing) but I'm not buying how transporting wood within state lines (or even just across them) is really preventing the spread of a beetle with wings that also can hitch a ride on a load of logs or remain on the truck heading to the next site.

at 16:58:54 on 7/01/2020 UTC

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Justus Downey Peter Bendal Kear do you really want the answer? That wood is checked before moving. A lot of science is involved in logging. Even machinery is cleaned before every move. If you want more info here is some.

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/treecare/forest_health/timberInvasiveBrochure_web.pdf

at 17:14:29 on 7/01/2020 UTC



John Cartrette Preach brother. State parks just want your money. And now they want more since they decided to open back up after the flu virus that was going around.

at 17:17:27 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Justus Downey and yet I live about 30 min from Santee State Park or even Colleton State Park and if I wanted to camp there I am not supposed to bring firewood? Oh and what is supposed to be done is not always done. Log truck drivers are paid by the number of loads hauled just like dump truck drivers. They turn and burn as fast as possible while the logging company gets paid by how much wood they can get to the mill. The whole process is about cutting as many corners as possible to turn and burn loads. With a paycheck on the line I imagine the precautions you say are taking place in reality are tossed out in lieu of profit in all but the largest operations and likely even then.

at 17:19:25 on 7/01/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: edited



Justus Downey Peter Bendal Kear you can buy approved wood for a lot cheaper if you don't want to support the state park.

at 17:22:03 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Hannah Farr Vinson David Vinson

at 17:23:49 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Justus Downey and I can load up a few armloads off my woodpile even cheaper. In fact aside from labor it was free.

at 17:25:27 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Mitchell Nelson We purchase fire wood from a local guy just for camping. It is all hard wood and we keep it stored and covered. The bundles of wood that are available to purchase at the parks are a little over priced in my opinion, especially for what you get. As soon as the fire get going the wood is gone. Now granted the park we camp at is 7 miles from our home, and the wood is within the same area I don't feel this should be an issue.

at 17:26:45 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Peter Bendal Kear then stay home and have a nice fire in your own yard. Some people

at 17:33:55 on 7/01/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



Kyle Bivens Wait people are actually buying wood? We've always just collected what we find in the park to use for firewood

at 17:49:14 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Kyle Bivens Ron Turner



at 17:50:25 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Kyle Bivens yes. Totally support the parks and what they do. Imagine a world without them. We could just camp in Walmart parking lots. The same reason when I backpack in parks I end up bringing out OTHER peoples trash. Because people don't see the value in what they have.

at 17:53:00 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner If you don't like or want to follow the rules... don't go. It's really that simple. Go to a KOA or other private campground/trailer park and burn the wood you want.

at 17:58:14 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Ron Turner why do you think I have a pile of firewood in the first place? It really does not get cold enough to warrant heating your house with wood around here as a viable option. That being said I support the state parks plenty and in truth they are just asking people to leave firewood at home and purchase bundles at the park or nearby for an inflated price. Most people only use firewood when they camp so they naturally do that. Me I might just have a fire tonight out by my pond (not really with the chance of rain and how hot it is) so I have locally sourced firewood on hand. I'm just not in agreement how my locally sourced wood has to be left at home to prevent a beetle from spreading to locally sourced wood that

just may have come from within a mile or two of where mine did. You do understand that the wood you get from the state parks and locations near them come from tree cutting operations not logging and may just have been hauled from miles away right?

at 18:08:07 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Peter Bendal Kear it's like bringing your own bottle of wine to a restaurant. Sure the same bottle at the grocery store is cheaper... but it's their rule and it's inappropriate.

at 18:11:43 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Ron Turner but it is not the same and you well know it. Going camping requires you bring your own stuff with you and take it back out when you leave. Aside from that it is not a rule. In fact since the state parks are part of the state government they truthfully cannot force you to purchase anything from them other than "renting" your site or getting a day use pass for the length of stay. About all they could do is ban campfires at all.

at 18:16:28 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Well when they do, I will know who to thank.

at 18:19:02 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Ron Turner please feel free to thank me and others for that if it happens just like the change in the forestry service fire ban rules a while back. Oh wait that was not me it was some backpacker.

at 18:21:42 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Alf O'Mayga Hey, that's fine...happy to help out...BUT...every time I buy "local firewood", including firewood from the camp store at the park, it's always wet wood that hasn't been seasoned for a year and WILL NOT BURN! The last time I camped at MBSP they told me they were sold out of firewood, but they were expecting a delivery. I asked, "Fresh cut wood?", and she said, "Yes, the trees were just cut down." I had to walk away.

at 18:27:22 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Kyle Bivens Ron Turner I mean brining in wood shouldn't be a problem the rangers won't know. Besides there are plenty of woods you can camp for free instead of a walmart parking lot if we didn't have state parks. Plus I'm sure I support our park even more than you and do so much for each park that I have been to. I'm at 16 out of 47

at 18:36:33 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Kyle Bivens hardly. Um-k

at 18:38:14 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Kyle Bivens so you are talking 16 this year.... or. You are welcome to dig into my Facebook page and rethink.

at 18:40:18 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Holly Tichenor You don't have to buy wood from the camp store. If you read the article, they are asking that the wood be purchased preferably less than 10 miles away but no further than 50 miles. These people are trained to protect and maintain our parks, for which I am very thankful. I am happy to do my part to keep these parks as beautiful as they are. Thanks, South Carolina State Parks!

at 18:42:13 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Kyle Bivens 47 out of 47 here and we camp at some of them frequently. We get a passport every year and I have been involved in volunteer programs at one of them multiple times. Somehow that translates into "I don't support the state parks because I refuse to buy overpriced wood and bring my own." BTW there is something to be said for the organized state park campground experience but boating in to an island on the lake and being alone (or with whomever came with you) is nice as well. I imagine backpacking would be the same however with my knee that is impossible.

at 18:42:44 on 7/01/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: edited



Ron Turner This is a classic case of what's wrong with America today. People totally consumed with what's in it for you instead of the greater good. Ask not what your state park can do for you but what you can do for your state park. But hey. We could just defund the

park rangers. Right?!
at 18:45:45 on 7/01/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



Peter Bendal Kear I like the insurance of having wood with me. BTW I don't buy it and have been known to leave any I did not use for the next camper. Some state parks it is hard to find any downed wood.

at 18:46:22 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Ron Turner yeah I'm concerned about my bottom line which is why I choose a state park over a commercial campground that charges twice as much. Heck if it were not about saving money while enjoying the outdoors there are plenty of hotels around or I could even rent a cabin. Thing is buying wood versus bringing it in (the suggestion is leave it at home) is pretty ridiculous when for a lot of us the stack at home is as local or even more so than the bundles you purchase not to mention burns a heck of a lot better.

at 18:50:34 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Peter Bendal Kear if 7 dollars breaks you... you shouldn't be camping.

at 18:52:18 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Kyle Bivens Ron Turner 16 since 2019

at 18:52:44 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Your comments are extremely self serving. Get past yourself.

at 18:53:10 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Kyle Bivens Peter Bendal Kear Id love to back pack but just don't have the time with my job but one day I will

at 18:53:40 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Kyle Bivens I'm in the mountains and other areas every weekend. Sorry buddy.

at 18:53:52 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Kyle Bivens Ron Turner nah I'm good don't need to stalk anyone I have no interest in getting to know

at 18:54:15 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Kyle Bivens I even winter camp... so yeah.

at 18:54:16 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Ron Turner honestly at this point you sound like you sell firewood to the state parks. It's not really about the \$7 but it is about the fact that same \$7 would get me twice as much seasoned wood elsewhere versus the fresh cut green wood bundles I have encountered at the state parks.

at 18:56:12 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Ron Turner Peter Bendal Kear yes. You are correct. I am a wood salesman. My hidden agenda

at 18:57:35 on 7/01/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: edited



Ron Turner Tell you what. Give me the next date you are camping and I will Venmo you the \$7 to keep your crappy firewood out of the park

at 18:58:24 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Peter Bendal Kear Ron Turner one question what is Venmo? Cash I understand. Either way I would take that and not spend it on wood while still bringing mine in. I think you are missing the real point(s) behind what I am saying. 1. I bring my wood from home which is closer to the state park than the location a lot of the wood brought in in bundles is coming from. How exactly is this any worse for the problem considering if the bugs are in my wood pile they are in the wood pile of the seller or already at the park because they can fly. It's not exactly a cross country trip but several miles at best. 2. The bundles of wood available at the state

parks is actually the crappy wood and does not burn well if at all. Heck you have someone down below talking about how they were out of wood at a state park but expecting a shipment of fresh cut wood from fresh cut trees in. Fresh cut wood does not burn without having a hot fire made from seasoned wood (or judicious use of an accelerant which is worse for the environment). If the wood at the state parks would burn well making it more convenient than bringing wood from home for the price I would consider purchasing it in place instead of bringing mine from home. That would require that the state parks only purchase seasoned wood or stack it to season before selling it which they do not do. The whole to prevent the spread of bugs already in the state that will naturally spread is a marketing ploy to sell more crappy wood that frustrates campers and creates a negative experience especially for the first time or occasional camper.

at 19:11:11 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Justus Downey We all agree state park wood sucks.

at 20:08:38 on 7/01/2020 UTC



Becky Abraham I've got a better idea- don't burn wood in the parks, burn propane if you really want a fire to sit by. No smell to neighbors, no sparks to trees, no mess to clean up. And no imported insects, of course. Just saying. 🤔

at 0:09:12 on 7/02/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



James Pruitt Becky Abraham no wood campfire? No smell? Well that's just not camping lol.

at 2:25:49 on 7/02/2020 UTC



James Pruitt Peter Bendal Kear I know firewood sits until use, but in theory wouldn't the inserts burn up in the fire anyways?

at 2:27:26 on 7/02/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



Jill Lownes Peter Bendal Kear the "camp hosts" collect it and stock pile it at their site when left behind. We've watched... walls and walls back at their site

at 2:31:33 on 7/02/2020 UTC



Jill Lownes Mitchell Nelson right? \$7 for a couple pieces that burn in minutes

at 2:32:27 on 7/02/2020 UTC



Kay Baker John Cartrette then don't go there! Geez

at 2:57:33 on 7/02/2020 UTC



Kay Baker Thank you SC State Parks for all you do to make our State Parks enjoyable. Our SCSP are all great.

at 3:03:40 on 7/02/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



Anne Collins Darnell Jill Lownes , they usually have programs for the campground and build fires for this. As hard as the host work as volunteers, they really shou li d have a campfire for free.

at 5:22:51 on 7/02/2020 UTC



James DeVere Harsey Becky Abraham



at 9:42:00 on 7/02/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



Jill Lownes Anne Collins Darnell I'm at MBSP 3 if 4 weekends a month and they've never had a community campfire. I never said they shouldn't do it, but he specifically said he leaves it for the next person at the site and I felt he should know that isn't most likely happening. Ps they don't work for free they get free camping

at 12:08:41 on 7/02/2020 UTC



Angela Tennant Adams If you don't like the smell of a campfire, go to an RV park. Not a state park CAMPGROUND.

at 12:20:33 on 7/02/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: deleted, edited



Peter Bendal Kear Jill Lownes I guess not all parks are the same. I have been invited by campground hosts to come by in the evening and enjoy a campfire and smores with others. I also know most of them clean the bathrooms (and other things) for their stay. I actually would not mind if they did indeed collect the wood I leave behind however in the parks we stay at I have never seen them do so. Then again MBSP is not one we prefer to go to for multiple reasons.

at 12:51:16 on 7/02/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: deleted, edited



Jill Lownes Peter Bendal Kear glad to hear :) isn't out fav either (beach is, but not that park) but with increased RV sales and so many unemployed it's been the only place we've gotten into, even during the wk. Thankfully we had some preexisting reservations at Huntington, edisto and hunting island coming up in the next 45 days :)

at 12:53:13 on 7/02/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



Donna Keel Dooley Jill Lownes so true. They should leave for other campers to use.

at 1:20:23 on 7/03/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: deleted, edited



Misty Casper Jill Lownes these are probably the maintenance hosts. Different parks have different policies, but I do believe that their job is to CLEAN the site for the next camper to come in.... That means to clear everything left behind off the site. Hope that clears up the confusion.

at 1:39:21 on 7/03/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: deleted, edited



Jill Lownes Misty Casper nope. These as camp hosts. They "work" at the campground in exchange for free camping. They "clean it from a campsite right to their personal woodpile at their campsite" 😊

at 1:41:44 on 7/03/2020 UTC



Misty Casper Peter Bendal Kear did you read the article or just decide to post your opinion. Because that is all it is. Your opinion. We all have one. That being said... They did not say you couldn't bring in wood. They just ask that it be within a 50 mile radius of the park. There are a lot on the way in to the park.

at 1:45:18 on 7/03/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



Misty Casper Jill Lownes I work at the park. What you have seen are volunteers that spend their time cleaning up after people that leave the sites dirty. Leave no trace is the policy in every park in SC. I have friends that have been camp hosts for years. I look at it like this... They don't get paid... Now they don't have to buy wood either.

at 2:01:16 on 7/03/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: deleted, edited



Jill Lownes Welp I definitely can't speak for everyone, only the ones here I've personally witnessed doing it multiple times but in this instance I see it as hoarding literal WALLS of firewood instead of leaving it for the next camper that most likely could put it to better use. Have an amazing evening.

at 2:22:11 on 7/03/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: deleted, edited



John Perry Anne Collins Darnell agreed! ¹⁰⁰. Without host the state parks would not be the same . Prices to camp would also go up to help pay for the extra labor to maintain the campsites

at 19:52:21 on 7/03/2020 UTC

Tags: deleted



Anne Collins Darnell Misty Casper thank you. I served as a volunteer for over 8 years and loved it. I learned a lot about campers. Some good some not. The good out weighed the bad always. The sites were cleared and cleaned, as the procedure manual instructed. Thanks to those who serve as stewards of the forest

at 19:58:50 on 7/03/2020 UTC

Version: Current

Tags: deleted, edited



Anne Collins Darnell John Perry you know the story of the work that goes into making sure campers have a great time and things run smoothly. I wonder if anyone ever thought about who unloaded, stocked all the sales points with a smiling face and sweat burning their eyes. Thanks for your service.

at 20:04:34 on 7/03/2020 UTC



Kyle Bivens Wait people are actually buying wood? We've always just collected what we find in the park to use for firewood

at 21:15:51 on 7/03/2020 UTC



Ian Jones Becky Abraham
Not to mention the poor air quality from burning wood. It's worse than almost any other type of air pollution.

at 11:53:58 on 7/04/2020 UTC