

	<b>Flathead National Forest</b>	<b>Media Release</b>
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## **Cutting of Live Western Larch Prohibited to Personal Woodcutting Permits**

Gathering and cutting firewood on the Flathead National Forest requires a personal woodcutting permit. A permit may be obtained at any Flathead National Forest office or from several vendors in the area.

The personal use wood permit allows the removal of downed timber or the cutting of standing dead trees under most conditions on the forest. A permit is available for a minimum of four cords of wood for \$20. An individual may purchase a maximum of 12 cords per year. A cord measures 4' wide by 4' high in an 8' long stack; or 128 cubic feet. Firewood obtained under these permits may not be used for commercial resale.

Woodcutters are reminded that cutting live western larch is prohibited from November through May on the Flathead National Forest. During this time, live larch trees have lost needles and appear dead. Dead standing western larch, with loose dry bark, may be cut. Hungry Horse District Ranger Jimmy DeHerrera said, "It is important to pay attention when looking at western larch for firewood purposes, as it is easy this time of year to confuse the live western larch with the standing dead."

The Brush Creek Wildland Fire area on the Tally Lake Ranger District, located west of Whitefish, is not available for wood gathering or cutting. It's important to check with local Forest Service Offices about any special restrictions or requirements.

Woodcutters must have their permit with them while harvesting wood. Woodcutters also need to have an approved and maintained spark arrester on chainsaws and splitters, and must have a shovel and fire extinguisher (8 oz. liquid or 1 lb dry chemical type) handy in the event of a wildfire.

Personal wood permits are also available from several vendors across the Flathead Valley. For more information on vendors or about wood cutting and gathering on the Flathead National Forest, please contact a local forest service office, or call 758-5208.

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