

NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla National Forest

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2517 SW Hailey Avenue, Pendleton, Oregon, 97801

News Contacts: Joani Bosworth (541) 278-3722

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UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST FIREWOOD PERMITS AVAILABLE MAY 1

Pendleton, OR: Woodcutting season traditionally opens May 1, on the Umatilla National Forest. However, this year significant snow levels in the mountains will make it difficult to get to the firewood.

“This is a very unusual spring,” said Kevin Martin, Forest Supervisor. “Most of the firewood areas are still inaccessible and the few areas you can get to are saturated from winter melt off and recent rains,” said Martin. “We’re concerned about folks getting stuck in the snow or causing resource damage trying to get unstuck,” said Martin. Woodcutters should avoid driving off the road and onto wet, unstable ground to load their firewood to prevent getting stuck or leaving behind large, deep ruts.

It’s also a good idea to be prepared. Pack additional food, water, clothing and other emergency supplies before traveling to the mountains and let someone know your destination and timeline. “We’re asking woodcutters to contact the local Ranger District office, before they head out, to make sure the area they’re traveling to is accessible,” said Martin.

Firewood permits can be purchased for \$5.00 per cord with a minimum charge of \$20.00 for four cords. The maximum limit for personal-use firewood is 10-cords-per-household-per-year. Wood cutters will be able to purchase personal-use firewood permits at Umatilla National Forest offices in Pendleton, Ukiah, Heppner, Walla Walla, and Pomeroy. Permits will also be available at several local vendors.

Firewood cutting information and restrictions will be updated and posted on a recorded message at **1-877-958-9663**. For more information on firewood cutting, please call the Supervisor’s Office at (541) 278-3716 or your local Ranger District Office.

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(**EDITORS** - Please use businesses convenient to your area.)

Permits are available at all Umatilla National Forest Offices and at the following businesses:

OREGON:

Pendleton, OR
Southgate Mini-Mart
Dave's Chevron

Pilot Rock, OR
Mentzer & Elliott

Dale, OR
Dale Store

Hermiston, OR
Smitty's Ace Hardware

Heppner, OR
Heppner Shell
Green Feed - MCGG

Ukiah, OR
Rhode's Supply
Granny's Store

Milton-Freewater, OR
PGG

Athena, OR
PGG

Tollgate, OR
Tollgate Store

Elgin, OR
S&W Hardware

Spray, Oregon
Lazy Wolf Resort

WASHINGTON:

Pomeroy, WA
Pomeroy Foods
PF Express
Last Resort

Dayton, WA
Conoco General Store

Clarkston, WA
Schurman's True Value
Hell's Canyon NRA

Kennewick, WA
Farmer's Exchange

Pasco, WA
Columbia Grain & Feed

For additional information contact you local Forest Service office or visit the Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/.