

	<b>Flathead National Forest</b>	<b>Media Release</b>
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### **Personal Woodcutting Permits Available on Flathead National Forest**

Wood permits that allow individuals to cut and remove firewood from the Flathead National Forest, and other national forests in Montana, Northern Idaho and portions of North and South Dakota, and some Bureau of Land Management lands in the state, go on sale April 1.

This year's permit will be 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. The permit is valid for one year, through March 31, 2008.

Firewood obtained under these permits may not be used for commercial resale.

The personal use wood permit allows the removal of downed timber or the cutting of standing dead trees under most conditions. The Flathead National Forest prohibits the cutting of Western Larch November 1 through May 31. During this time, live larch trees have lost the needles and appear dead. 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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