

NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla National Forest

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FIREWOOD PERMITS AVAILABLE MAY 1, ON THE UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

Pendleton, OR: Personal-use firewood cutting on the Umatilla National Forest will open May 1, according to Kevin Martin, Forest Supervisor. Woodcutters will be able to purchase firewood permits beginning May 1, at Umatilla National Forest offices in Pendleton, Ukiah, Heppner, Walla Walla, and Pomeroy. Permits will also be available at several local vendors. **(Editors: see attached list of vendors for your area.)**

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.

Some firewood areas are still inaccessible due to snow levels and those areas that are accessible are saturated from winter melt off and recent rains. "We are asking woodcutters to avoid driving off the road and onto wet, unstable ground to load their firewood. This will help prevent them from getting stuck or leaving behind large, deep ruts," said Martin.

Late spring and early fall are the best times to cut firewood. In mid-summer, as things dry out and temperatures heat up, restrictions may be imposed due to severe fire danger. It's not uncommon for Forest managers to restrict woodcutting for periods of time in late July through early September. It is the permittee's responsibility to find out if restrictions are in effect. Restrictions will be updated and posted on a recorded message at **1-877-958-9663**.

Firewood areas have varying closing dates. All areas will close by November 30, 2007. 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

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/.