

Firewood Cutting

Your Firewood Permit

To cut firewood for personal use on National Forest and BLM lands in Montana and Idaho, you must have a Personal Use Firewood Permit. At \$5.00 per cord, you can purchase a permit for no less than four cords (\$20) for each purchase and no more than 12 cords (\$60) (total for year). A permit is good for gathering firewood from the time of purchase through March 31. Permits are available at all Forest Service and BLM offices.

Keep your permit on the dashboard of your vehicle where it is visible through the windshield. Fill out the bottom portion of the permit at the cutting site before you haul each load. Travel together when hauling wood in more than one vehicle for the same permit. To cut firewood for someone else (third party), authorization must be approved when purchasing the permit. A lost or stolen permit cannot be replaced or the fee refunded.

Where Can I Cut

Check with your nearest Forest Service office to find out if there are areas specifically designated for firewood.

Private Property: Privately owned lands within the National Forests are often marked by signs and fences. Refer to your Forest map to be sure you are not cutting on private land.

Active Timber Sale: Timber sales are usually marked with a sign or painted trees. Please don't cut anything in these areas.

What Can I Cut

Only dead or down trees can be cut for firewood. Before you cut a tree, be sure it is dead. Check to see there are no green needles left. You can cut any dead standing or down tree for firewood with the exception of cedar. Cedar is marketable timber for fences and shakes but is not suitable for firewood.

Wildlife trees: Standing and down dead trees (snags) provide a source of food, nests, perches, and protective cover for many birds and mammals in the forest. Please don't cut trees with paint marks or signs, broken tops, trunk holes or visible nests.

Please help us protect water quality and fish habitat. Avoid cutting, piling, or gathering firewood near any stream, pond, lake, marshy or wet area. Check your wood cutting permit for guidance on specific distances.

Measuring and Hauling Firewood

Firewood is commonly measured in cords. A standard cord is the amount of tightly piled wood in a stack 4 feet wide and 4 feet high by 8 feet long. Hauling firewood in lengths greater than 6 feet must be approved first in writing at a Forest Service office.

Chainsaw and Fire Safety

As a chainsaw operator, you must have a serviceable fire extinguisher (8 oz. liquid chemical or 1 lb. dry chemical) and shovel available at all times. 1. Your saw must be equipped with an approved spark arrestor. 2. You can avoid starting a fire with your chainsaw by following these common sense rules:

Keep the saw well away from cigarettes or open flame when adjusting or fueling the saw. Let your saw cool for at least 5 minutes before refueling. Carry your gas in a metal safety can equipped with a spout. Use a funnel to avoid spilling gasoline on the ground. Before starting your saw, move it from the place where it was fueled and away from gasoline vapors. Also, remove oil and sawdust from all metal parts.

3. You must carry a shovel and a bucket when traveling through or on National Forest lands during fire season. Contact your nearest Forest Service office for information concerning local fire danger and chainsaw use restrictions. 4. Be aware of the dangers when cutting near or along roads.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please leave your wood cutting area clean. Scatter debris away from roads, culverts and ditches. Pack your garbage out with you.