

# NEWS

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## Southwest Idaho National Forests

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Firewood Permits Available on May 15 for Most Southwest Idaho National Forests**

McCall, Boise, Twin Falls, ID – Firewood permits (or personal forest product permits) for the Payette and Boise National Forests will go on sale beginning May 15. Permits for the Sawtooth National Forest, Minidoka and Fairfield Ranger Districts, will be issued beginning May 22.

Permits are \$12.50 per cord with a 2-cord minimum and a 10-cord maximum per household. Permits will be available at USDA - Forest Service Ranger District offices, the Interagency Visitor Center at 1387 S. Vinnell Way in Boise, and several private vendors in Southwest Idaho.

Some firewood cutting areas may not be immediately accessible due to snowdrifts. Firewood cutting in the northern Sawtooth, specifically the Ketchum Ranger District and Sawtooth NRA, will be delayed until the end of May or beginning of June. Firewood gatherers should call the Sawtooth NRA at 727-5000 to check snowmelt and road conditions in these areas.

Once the snow melts, the public is encouraged to cut firewood early in the year because fire restrictions may impact the cutting season later in the summer. Early season wood cutters should be very careful with wet road conditions and avoid them if rutting or getting stuck is a potential.

All motorized travel related to fuelwood gathering must be in strict accordance with official Forest Service travel regulations for the area unless specifically exempted in the firewood permit. Firewood cutting is not allowed within riparian areas (adjacent to creeks and rivers). Regulations for each forest are available when permits are issued.

The Payette and Sawtooth National Forests have a few areas where firewood can be collected free of charge. However, a permit is still required. One free use area on the Sawtooth National Forest is north of Galena Summit off of Decker Flat road in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA). Two free use areas are located in the Payette National Forest in the Hazard Lake and Kenney Point areas. Specific location information and permit use requirements will be provided with the permit.

Each Forest firewood permit in 2009 is valid for use on any Forest. However, fuelwood gatherers are required to have a current fuelwood map of the Forest they are cutting in. For additional information, contact the local ranger district offices, or the forest websites.

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**Vendors for the Boise National Forest include:**

Ellie's Store, Idaho City  
Donna's Place, Idaho City  
Banks Store, Banks  
B&W Fuels, Emmett  
Ray's Corner Market, Horseshoe Bend  
East Cleveland Beverage, Caldwell  
Garden Valley Chevron, Garden Valley  
Emmett Saw and Motor Rentals, Emmett

**Boise NF Ranger District Offices include:**

Boise NF Visitor Information Center, 373-4007  
Mountain Home, 587-7961  
Idaho City, 392-6681  
Cascade, 382-7400  
Lowman, 259-3361  
Emmett, 365-7000  
Garden Valley, 462-3241

**Vendors for the Payette National Forest include:**

Draper's Outdoor Power Equipment, Ontario  
Ridley's Food & Drug, Weiser  
Do It Best, Weiser  
Hell's Canyon Corner, Cambridge  
Farmer's Supply Co-op, Council  
Council Mountain Machines, LLC, Council  
Old Town Market, McCall  
Yellow Pine General Store, Yellow Pine

**Payette NF Ranger District Offices include:**

Weiser, 549-4200  
Council, 253-0100  
McCall, 634-0400  
New Meadows, 347-0300

**Sawtooth National Forest Vendors are:**

Rock Creek General Store, Hansen  
Market Basket, Fairfield

**Sawtooth NF Ranger District Offices Include:**

Minidoka Ranger District, 678-0430  
Ketchum Ranger District, 622-5371  
Fairfield Ranger District, 764-3202  
Sawtooth National Recreation Area, 727-5013  
Stanley Ranger Station, 774-3000  
Sawtooth Supervisor's Office, 737-3200

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