



Malheur National Forest

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Firewood – An Affordable Home Heating Option

John Day, OR - The Malheur National Forest has long been a provider of firewood for both personal use as well as the occasional commercial firewood sale. With the rising cost of fuel oil and other home heating options, using firewood is one way to ease some of the demands on the family budget. It is also a way to assist with reducing the buildup of dead fuels in the forest that can often contribute to wildfires.

Forest Supervisor Stan Benes, reminds residents that all restrictions on firewood gathering have been lifted on the Malheur National Forest except for the Flagtail, Shaketable and Egley fire areas. Firewood permits are available at all Forest Service offices in John Day, Prairie City and Hines. Minimum permit cost is \$20 for 4 cords of firewood. Up to 10 cords per year, per household can be purchased for an additional \$5.00 per cord.

There are several instructions and conditions that apply when implementing your firewood permit. They are listed on the permit and include some the following:

- Wood removed must be hauled in lengths no more than 8 feet, if the large end is greater than 6 inches.
- All trash and litter shall be removed.
- Slash and unused vegetative material resulting from firewood cutting shall be removed from roads and ditches and scattered in the surrounding landscape.
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed off existing roads that are open to the public.
- Load tickets must be securely attached to the load and clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle.
- Permittees are required to have a Type AB fire extinguisher, charged with pressurized chemical and not less than 8 oz. capacity by weight.

These are just a few of the conditions listed for personal use firewood. Make sure you are familiar with all conditions on the permit.

Firewood gathering can be an enjoyable family outing, as well as a notable contribution to managing the family budget. While out gathering firewood or recreating on your National Forest, remember to drive safely and to report any violations, such as destruction of forest signs or violations of forest road closures to any Malheur National Forest office.

Stay safe and enjoy your Forest!

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