



United States Department of Agriculture

General Rules and Guidelines for Gathering Special Forest Products



for the greatest good

mt. hood
NATIONAL FOREST

What you will need to get started

A Forest Products Fee Removal Permit (Form FS 2400-1) or a Forest Products Free Use Permit (Form FS 2400-8) is required for all special forest products leaving the forest.

To obtain a permit for harvesting special forest products, each person harvesting must provide the following information:

- Must be 18 years or older
- State driver's license, government issued identification card
- Full name and address
- Vehicle license number and vehicle description
- Some products require full legal description or road and milepost of requested harvest area

Payment: Acceptable forms of payment are cash, checks or credit card.

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Important Information

- *Before harvesting any product obtain a permit if it is required. Use designated harvest locations and become familiar with any closure areas and ownership boundaries.*
- *Always carry your permit and your identification while harvesting. If required a permit will be provided that you will place on your vehicle dashboard.*
- *Collection of forest products is permitted only in the area(s) noted on the permit.*
- *If you have questions regarding special forest product permits, call the Forest Service office that issued this permit or the nearest Forest Service office.*
- *Know the local regulations and special concerns for the area, particularly regulations that limit campfires and how close you can camp to streams, lakes, roads, and trails.*
- *Always try to camp at least 200 feet (60 meters) from lakes and streams (about 70 adult steps).*
- *Wash yourself and your dishes at least 200 feet (60 meters) away from streams or lakes.*
- *Deposit human waste in small holes dug 8 inches (20 centimeters) into the forest floor and always at least 200 feet (60 meters) away from water sources, camp, roads, or trails.*
- *Water from Range and Wildlife water systems is unsafe for drinking.*
- *Tell someone where you are going and pack a cell phone with a charged battery.*
- *Pack out your garbage and anything you bring with you. Clean unburned trash out of your campfire ring. LEAVE NO TRACE!*

Free Use Special Forest Products



The Forest offers a variety of free use products: Mushrooms, Berries, Boughs, Greenery and Transplants. Products can be consumed on Forest without a permit. However if you want to remove them from the Forest to take home, you will need to get a “free use” permit from a local District office.



You must be 18 years of age and abide by all the conditions of the permit (FS 2400-8). You are allowed to have someone under the age of 18 help you gather products, but they can't gather for themselves. For example: you can collect one gallon of mushrooms per day. You can have someone along to help but can only collect one gallon if they do not have a permit.



Whichever product you decide to pick, you must know where you are and not gather on private or restricted land without permission. Your permit is only valid in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Free Use Permits:

36 CFR 223.8 “Delegations of authority to approve free use by individuals”

Free use permits are for personal use only – products gathered from these permits may not be sold or exchanged for goods. Permittee must be 18 years of age. Free Use permits are valid from date of receipt through December 31st or when quantity is reached, whichever comes first.

Transplant/Cut Greenery/Holiday Boughs- The permit will terminate when the maximum quantity (*as shown on your permit*) is reached, or on midnight of termination date, whichever comes first. Allowable species for harvest within the road prism only are: vine maple, huckleberry, rhododendron, salal, Oregon-grape, manzanita, ferns, and tree seedlings less than 2 feet tall.

Mushrooms - This permit comes with a harvest limit of 1 gallon per day, per permit; and only one gallon in a permit holder’s possession while on forest land. The permit will terminate when the quantity limit (*shown on your permit*) is reached or on midnight of the termination date, whichever comes first. You must have a valid permit and mushroom map with you while harvesting. There is a special requirement for the “Old Maid Flats” area; you must obtain a daily permit for this area from the Zigzag Ranger District.

If permittee wants to gather more than 1 gallon per day they will need to purchase a Fee permit.

Berries –The permit will terminate when the quantity limit (*shown on your permit*) is reached, or at midnight of the termination date shown on the permit, whichever comes first. No more than the quantity limit may be collected or transported per permit.

Special Forest Products offered for a Fee

Greenery and Transplants

Background: Many Native Shrubs and plants are popular with both the floral Industry and the home gardener. Their colorful vegetation, bright flowers or pleasing shapes make them ideal for accenting floral arrangements or transplanting to home landscape.



Harvest Techniques: Simple pruning and trimming tools can be used for greenery.

Shovels and heavy hand tools will be needed for transplants as will potting soil.

Remember: Harvesting rare, sensitive, threatened or endangered plants is illegal.

For more information on sensitive, threatened and endangered species please visit:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/>

Medicinal Plants



Prince's pine (Medicinal): Native Americans use this as a medicinal tea. Can also be used for cola and root beer flavoring. Prince's pine sometimes forms a carpet-like layer over a small area.

Harvest Techniques: Snap the plant off with a quick twist of the wrist.

Leave the roots intact so the plant can regenerate and be harvested again.

Other medicinal plants available include yarrow, Oregon-grape root, and elderberry.

Mushrooms



Background: Mushrooms consist of two parts: the fruiting body (seen above ground) and a web like root structure called the mycelium (located below ground). The mycelium decomposes organic matter, an important forest process which the organism digest as food. Many mushrooms are edible, harmless and delicious; while

many others are poisonous. It is critically important to know the difference. One bite of a poisonous mushroom can be fatal.

Harvest Technique: Most mushrooms should be cut off at ground level. Some like the matsutake are pulled or popped out of the ground. In addition, improper harvesting techniques such as raking can damage mushrooms by breaking caps, stems, and damaging the underground mycelia. There is little value in a damaged mushroom. Raking is prohibited. Harvest of truffles (underground fungi) is prohibited.

Season: Springtime is best for morels and oyster mushrooms, fall is the time for chanterelles, king bolete, matsutake, and puffballs. Mushrooms are sold by the pound or season (no limit on pounds with season permit). You must have a valid Mushroom map and permit in possession while picking.

Spring Season is January 1 thru June 30th

Fall Season is July 1 thru December 31.

Prices will vary if matsutake is included or not. Old Maid Flats on the Zig Zag Ranger District has special conditions you must follow.

Beargrass



Background: An evergreen herb of the Lily family, beargrass has long, thin basal leaves that form dense clumps or tussocks. It is a long-lived plant whose leaves can grow to a length of 36 inches. The stronger, thinner, more pliable center leaves are preferred for both basket making and floral arrangements. The flowers (which grow on a stalk up to six feet tall) are a delicacy for deer and elk. Beargrass is found on well drained soils at elevations up to 5,500 feet.

Harvest Techniques: Only the leaves of the beargrass may be harvested. Leaves can only be harvested by hand. No tools are allowed. The roots of the plant should be left undisturbed so the new leaves will grow. Do not disturb the flower. Leaves can easily be wrapped in bundles for shipment. Beargrass is sold by the pound. Each person harvesting must have a valid map of the harvest area and a permit.

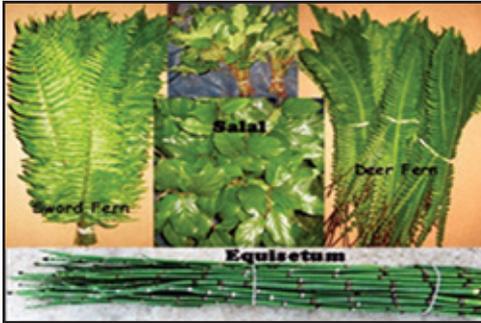
Stump, Chunks, Rootwads



Pieces are used for making furniture and landscaping. These are not in log form and cannot exceed 7 feet in length. These are generally collected from dead and down materials on top of ground. No digging is allowed.

Cuttings, Stems & Forest Greens

Background: Most common uses are floral arrangements, nursery stock or making specialty items such as bird perches and furniture.



Forest Greens includes Oregon-grape, salal, ferns, snake grass, beargrass, manzanita and huckleberry. These products are sold by the pound and may have seasonal restrictions.



Cuttings are most commonly used for nursery stock such as alder, vine maple, rhododendron and other hardwoods. Cuttings do not exceed 1" inch in diameter and 24" in length and are sold by the piece.



Stems are most commonly used as decorative pieces such as bird perches, making furniture or sold to nurseries for decorations. Manzanita, alder and vine maple are most commonly used. Stems are up to 2" inches in diameter and open length and sold by the piece.

Firewood



Background: About ten percent of the population uses firewood as a primary source of heat. Some cut and use firewood to help reduce fuel bills and many enjoy the aesthetic warmth of a wood fire. On the Mt. Hood National Forest most of the wood comes from slash left after timber sales, or blow-

down along the road side. The amount of slash available varies from year to year depending on the amount of timber sale activity and the demand for chips. Wood should be cut early and stacked to dry so that it will burn cleanly and reduce air pollution. Some communities restrict firewood use during times of poor air quality. Harvest Techniques: Chain saws and splitting mauls are often used to cut firewood. Before heading for the woods check for:

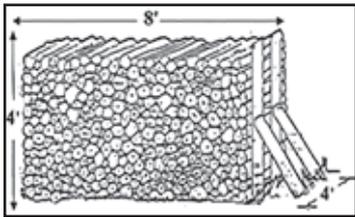
1. Permit, tags, guide and map
2. Shovel, fire extinguisher
3. Power saw, axe, wedges, and splitting maul
4. Ear and eye protection and a first aid kit
5. Hard toed boots and leg protection
6. Food, water, sunscreen, sunglasses
7. Charge your phone before leaving home

During fire season, you are required to maintain a "fire watch" lasting one whole hour after you finish cutting, to watch for fire starts.

Have fun and be safe.

Firewood Rules and Regulations

1. Visit the closest Forest Service District office.
2. You will learn where you can go to cut firewood and specific open and close dates. The season opens mid Spring (depends on snow level) and ends November 30th each year.
3. You will be provided permits, maps, and load tickets.
4. Validate a load tag by completely removing the month and day tabs. Securely attach one validated load tag to the back of every cord of firewood. Make sure it is clearly visible.



5. Fill out the Product Quantity Removal Record on your permit.
6. A cord of wood measures 8 feet long, 4 feet high, and 4 feet wide (2.4 meters long, 1.2 meters high and 1.2 meters wide).

7. Report illegal firewood cutting by calling your Ranger District office.
8. Standing live or dead trees and other vegetation may not be cut or damaged in order to access firewood nor can you drive off existing roads.
9. Park safely along roads so you do not impede traffic.

PRODUCT QUANTITY REMOVAL RECORD											
Date	Time	Quantity Removed	Date	Time	Quantity Removed	Date	Time	Quantity Removed	Date	Time	Quantity Removed
07/12	2:00pm	2 Cords									
08/01	9:00am	1 Cord									
09/12	2:00pm	1 Cord									
10/14	11:45am	½ Cord									

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Completely remove the day and month on each load tag as required by your permit or contract.															000007						
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7								

Posts, Poles, & Rails

Background: Popular uses include fences, corrals, flag poles, teepee poles, and jungle gyms. Species with straight trunks can be used and



will last a long time when treated. Peeling off the bark and allowing the wood to cure will add years to its usefulness.

Harvest Techniques: Chain or Crosscut saws should be used for cutting.

Size Limits: *Poles and Rails* cannot be over 30' in length or 6" diameter at the butt (ground level). They are generally green standing and must have a valid area map and permit. Posts are no more than 10' in length and 7" or less diameter measured at either end. These are generally "dead and down" trees or pieces. Go to the Ranger District office closest to where you want to harvest for special instructions and maps.



Irregular wood pieces

Background: Popular use is for making furniture and landscape. You can purchase different lengths and sizes. No cedar can be harvested for this.

Harvest Techniques and sizes:

Use of chain saw is the preferred. You may need the use of a wench or other tool the piece onto the trailer. The wood must be dead and on the ground. Harvesting cannot disturb the surrounding ground. The length cannot exceed 7.5 feet.

Christmas Trees

Background: For many homes, the holiday season would not be complete without a fresh scented Christmas tree. Among the more popular trees are true firs (noble and grand), pine and Douglas-firs which have a more “natural” look than the intensively cultured trees from the tree farm.



Harvest Techniques: Do not cut any tree within a fenced area, or tree test sites. Cut tree as close to the ground as possible. Cut stumps should not be taller than 12” and no live branches are to be left on the stump. Do not cut any tree unless it is at least 300 feet away from highways, campgrounds or other developed areas. Cut only on public lands open to the public. Cut only trees less than 12 feet tall. (Larger trees available at a “per foot” cost). One tree tag (see below) is required for each tree removed. Be sure to validate by completely removing the day, month and year tabs and attaching it to your tree so that it is clearly visible before driving off.

Season: Christmas tree season is November to December 24.



Invasive Species

Be aware that The Oregon Legislature passed the new firewood law in 2011, to stop invasive species like the Emerald Ash Borer from gaining a local foothold and may pertain to all wood products gathered in Oregon or other States. Oregon Law 570.720 prohibits bringing firewood into or out of Oregon unless it has been treated.



Why? Forests are in jeopardy from the transportation of invasive insects and diseases in firewood. Invasive pests live in wood, and when you pack it up and transport it to your camping destination or home, you run the risk of invasive bugs crawling out and infesting trees nearby. Once certain invasive insects take hold it can be devastating to forests and outdoor recreation sites. Insects such as Emerald ash borer, Sirex woodwasp, Gypsy moth and Asian longhorned beetle, or diseases, such as Sudden Oak Death, are carried by firewood.



Invasive plants have been introduced to the region or U.S. from a different region or country. They may have been introduced intentionally (as an ornamental plant, for example) or accidentally (as a contaminant in crop seeds, for example). While many non-native plants are extremely beneficial to society, like rice or potatoes, invasive plants spread rapidly and cause or are likely to cause harm to economic, environmental, or human health. Do not collect Invasive plants and look for seeds that may have attached to your clothing.

Be aware of invasive species and help stop the spread.

Fire Precautions & Wood Gathering

To report a forest fire, call 911. Woodcutters must know and comply with the following:

Industrial Fire Precaution Levels and Restrictions.

LEVEL I - Carry a shovel and fire extinguisher and stay in area for one hour after power equipment has been shut off to watch for fire starts.

LEVEL II - Carry a shovel and fire extinguisher and SHUT DOWN all power equipment at 1:00 pm. Stay in area for one hour after power equipment has been shut off to watch for fire starts

LEVEL III and IV -All woodcutting activity is prohibited.

All Precaution Levels require:

- a. that power equipment is equipped with a screen type spark arrester of 0.023 or less
- b. that you have a long-handled shovel with an 8 inch (20 centimeters) blade
- c. that you have a fire extinguisher of pressurized chemical of not less than 8 oz. capacity by weight



During fire season, you are required to maintain a “fire watch lasting one whole hour after you finish cutting, to watch for fire starts.

**To find out what the IFPL is in the area you plan to cut in
CALL: 503-668-1650 or
Check Our Website: [www.
fs.usda.gov/mthood](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mthood)**

The following conditions are part of your Free Use Permits (FS 2400-8)

These conditions are displayed on the back of your official Special Forest Products harvest permit. You are required to understand and follow the terms and conditions on the back of your permit.

1. Forest Products obtained under “free use” are for personal use and cannot be sold or exchanged (36 CFR 261.6 (f)).
2. Permit must be in the Permittee’s possession while harvesting and transporting products. Copies are not allowed.
3. This permit is nontransferable.
4. This permit and activities hereunder are subject to all applicable Federal statutes and regulations and State and local laws. In case of conflict, Federal statutes and regulations shall take precedence.
5. Motorized vehicles are not allowed off existing roads that are open to the public, unless otherwise specified within this permit. Permittee parking shall not block traffic or impede fire or emergency vehicles.
6. Permittee shall remove all trash and litter resulting from Permittee’s activities.
7. Concurrent with forest product removal activities, slash and unused vegetative material resulting from Permittee's activities shall be removed from roads and ditches and scattered in the surrounding landscape.
8. Permittee shall comply with fire requirements and current restrictions to prevent forest fires.

The following conditions are part of your Free Use Permit (FS 2400-8)

9. Permittee shall pay for or repair all damage to natural features; riparian areas; other vegetation; and roads, trails fences, ditches, telephone lines, or other improvements resulting from Permittee's activities under this permit.
10. The Forest Service reserve the right to unilaterally revoke this permit for Permittee's noncompliance with its terms and conditions or when revocation is in the public's interest.
11. Regardless of whether forest products are removed, this permit will terminate either at midnight of the termination date shown above, or when the quantity listed above is reached whichever comes first.
12. None of the terms or conditions of this permit may be varied or modified except for unilateral modifications by the Forest Service.
13. Permittee agrees to hold the Government harmless from any claim for damage or loss of property, personal injury, or death.
14. Collection of forest products is permitted only in the area(s) described by this permit.
15. Permittee shall complete the Product Quantity Removal Record in ink prior to transporting products. When load tickets are issued, the Permittee is required to complete load tickets when the Permittee moves the vehicle between collection sites. Load tickets must be securely attached to the load and clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle.

FS 2400-1 Forest Products Removal Permit

Subject to, and in strict compliance with, all the following conditions (both General and Other) and those listed above, the Permittee named herein is authorized to harvest and remove the forest products described above.

1. This sale is final and payments are not subject to refund:
2. Permit must be in the Permittee's possession while harvesting and transporting products. Copies are not allowed.
3. This permit is nontransferable.
4. This permit and activities hereunder are subject to all applicable Federal statutes and regulations and State and local laws. In case of conflict, Federal statutes and regulations shall take precedence. Where applicable, a Memorandum of Agreement between the Forest Service and BLM governs administration and enforcement of this permit (Sec. 330,P.L. 106-29 1).
5. Motorized vehicles are not allowed off existing roads that are open to the public, unless otherwise specified within this permit. Permittee parking shall not block traffic or impede fire or emergency vehicles.
6. Permittee shall remove all trash and litter resulting from Permittee's activities.
7. Concurrent with forest product removal activities, slash and unused vegetative material resulting from Permittee's activities shall be removed from roads and ditches and scattered in the surrounding landscape.

FS 2400-1 Forest Products Removal Permit

8. Permittee shall comply with fire requirements and current restrictions to prevent forest fires.
9. Permittee shall pay for or repair all damage to natural features; riparian areas; other vegetation; and roads, trails, fences, ditches, telephone lines, or other improvements resulting from Permittee's activities under this permit.
10. The Forest Service and/or BLM reserve the right to unilaterally revoke this permit for Permittee's noncompliance with its terms and conditions or when revocation is in the public's interest.
11. Regardless of whether forest products are removed, this permit will terminate either at midnight of the termination date shown above, or when the quantity listed above is reached whichever comes first.
12. None of the terms or conditions of this permit may be varied or modified except for unilateral modifications by the Forest Service and/or BLM .
13. Permittee agrees to hold the Government harmless from any claim for damage or loss of property, personal injury, or death.
14. Collection of forest products is permitted only in the area(s) described by this permit.
15. Permittee shall complete the Product Quantity Removal Record in ink prior to transporting products. When load tickets are issued, the Permittee is required to complete load tickets when the Permittee moves the vehicle between collection sites. Load tickets must be securely attached to the load and clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to share with you information about the expanding special forest products program on the Mt. Hood National Forest. We hope this brochure will make it easier for you to use these products for personal, commercial and scientific purposes. All we ask is that you use them in a caring and ecologically sound way, following the standards and guidelines available at local agency offices. These standards have been designed both to enhance your enjoyment of the forest and its resources, and to maintain these resources for future generations.

For further information please contact your local
Forest Service Office on the Mt. Hood National Forest:

Barlow Ranger District

780 NE Court Street
Dufur, OR. 97021
Phone: 541-467-2291
Mon. thru Fri. 7:45 to 4:30

Clackamas River RD

595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR. 97023
503-630-6861
Mon. thru Fri. 7:45-4:30

Hood River Ranger District

6780 HWY 35
Mt Hood-Parkdale OR. 97041
Phone 541-352-6002
Mon. thru Fri. 8:00-4:30

Zigzag Ranger District

70220 E. Hwy 26
Zigzag OR. 97049
Phone 503-622-3191
Mon. thru Fri. 7:45-4:30

Most of these offices are open on Saturdays after Memorial Day
Permits are not available at our Headquarters Office in Sandy, Oregon.



for the greatest good

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.