



Personal Use Firewood Gathering Black Hills National Forest

Firewood in the Forest

Welcome to the Black Hills National Forest. The Forest Service sells permits to cut firewood for personal use.

Firewood cutting can be a fun outing, can save on your heating bill and can be good exercise. Firewood cutting cleans up dead wood, reduces the potential for wildfires, and avoids waste of a valuable resource, but it can also cause unwanted impacts if it's done wrong.

How much does firewood cost?

“Personal-use” firewood permit’s cost is \$20. You have to buy at least four cords (at \$5 per cord) Maximum 20 cords per year.

Where can I cut wood?

You can cut dead and down trees anywhere except in timber sales areas (marked with signs or painted trees), on private property, in campgrounds or recreation areas, or within 150 feet of water. Don’t cut within any, wilderness study area, wilderness, research natural area, or other area closed to firewood cutting like Black Elk Wilderness or Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. Check with the local ranger station for current closures. Also, be sure

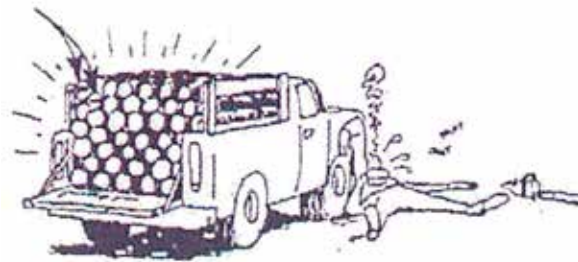
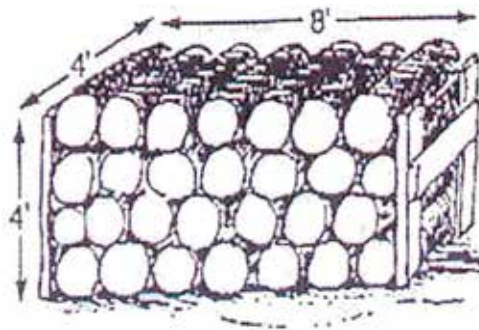
you are not cutting wood within the designated right-of-ways of any major highways or interstates.

What’s a cord?

Firewood is commonly measured in cords. A standard cord is the amount of tightly piled wood in a stack four feet high by four feet wide by eight feet long or 128 cubic feet.

Fire Season

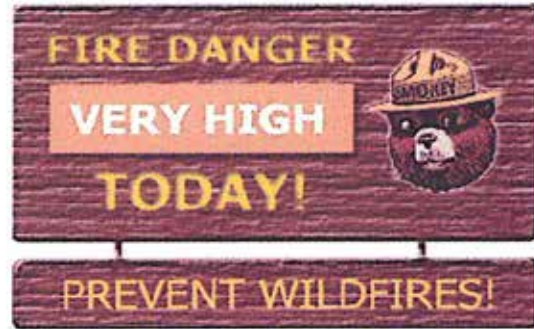
Sometimes when fire danger is particularly high, wood cutting may be limited to certain times of day or prohibited altogether. It’s up to you to know about current restrictions. Check our website for the current fire danger and restrictions or call a Forest Service office if you’re not sure.



Do's and Don'ts

Make sure to read your permit for all the details. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Make sure you have *your* permit with you and that it has *your* signature when you cut and haul *your* wood.
- Fill out the Product Quantity Removal Record of your permit in ink before transporting your wood.
- If you want to cut and transport wood for another person (called a third party), you will need authorization. The third party cutter is designated to cut the firewood for the permittee. Contact your local Forest Service office for additional information and authorization.
- Pile and lop and scatter slash away from roads, power lines, telephone lines, ditches and stream courses.
- Less than eight feet is the maximum length that wood can be removed. If you wish to remove wood that is longer than eight feet, you will need written approval that is site specific and has specific dates allowing the removal. Contact your local Forest Service office for assistance.
- Personal use firewood is not for resale.
- Take all material three inches or larger in diameter.
- Don't cut trees specially marked to be left for wildlife.
- If a tree is accidentally felled into a waterway, leave the entire tree.
- Motorized vehicle use off existing roads and trails will only be allowed in the areas designated as dispersed camping, up to 300 feet from the road, as shown on the motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Cutting of standing dead trees is permitted in areas designated as dispersed camping areas, as shown on the MVUM. Only down trees may be cut Forest-wide except in areas signed closed to firewood cutting, within administrative sites, and the Black Elk Wilderness.
- Firewood removed under this permit shall be less than 8 feet in length.
- Permits are valid Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st.
- Tags must be affixed to the load and canceled out.



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Hell Canyon Ranger District

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