



FIREWOOD CUTTING

Sierra National Forest

Introduction

This brochure is part of your **WOODCUTTING PERMIT**. Please use it to review regulations pertaining to FIRE WOODCUTTING and GATHERING and to locate areas under restrictions.

Check at local Forest Service stations for current conditions and local information regarding woodcutting.

The purchase of a wood permit does not guarantee that you will find the type and amount of wood you desire and **NO REFUND** of fees paid by the purchaser will be made after you purchase the permit.

Where is it?

If you look hard enough you can find good firewood almost anywhere in the Sierra National Forest. In lower elevations that are accessible most of the year and immediately adjacent to major roads, the supply is more limited, simply because a lot of people have been there already. If you are willing to burn only oak or lodgepole pine, it will be harder to find. The more particular you are about the type of firewood and the distance you will travel to get it, the harder it will be to find.

For information on wood locations contact the district offices in North Fork, and Prather as they are more familiar with local conditions.

The Forest Service cannot authorize you to cut or gather wood on private land. The Sierra National Forest Visitors Information Maps shows the approximate locations of private landholdings and roads that are open to the public, as well as other details in navigation while in the forest. Maps can be purchased at Forest Service offices and visitor stations.

How do I get it?

Before you collect any firewood you are required to obtain a firewood cutting permit. This is available at the three offices listed in this brochure, and at some seasonal offices during the summer. The permit authorizes the signer of the permit to gather a specified amount of dead and downed wood, for his or her personal use, from any portion of the Sierra National Forest open to woodcutting.

The enclosed map shows the approximate boundaries of fire danger rating areas, and special areas such as wilderness, major recreation areas, and special management zones, that are permanently closed to woodcutting. Other small areas, such as active timber sales, may be closed temporarily due to contractual agreements and responsibilities of the logging

contractor. In such cases signs will be posted around the closed area.

When you apply for a permit at one of the offices, you may be provided with any special maps and instructions relating to cutting within that district. If you apply for a forest-wide cutting permit, you must secure the necessary maps and instructions covering each district. Due to changing conditions such as road closures, weather, timber sale activity, and changing supplies of wood it will generally be necessary for you to secure current maps and instructions by visiting the office administering the area where you plan to cut. Remember that not all land within the boundary of the National forest is public-owned. It is your responsibility to be certain you are not trespassing on private land.

Cutting Standing Trees is PROHIBITED!

Standing dead trees (snags) play a role in supporting wildlife populations in the forest. They are a source of food, nests, perches and protective cover for many birds and mammals. Removal of snags for firewood purpose, must, therefore, be carefully managed. Public understanding and support of our snag removal policy is very important.

The falling of any standing tree for fuelwood is prohibited under this permit.

There usually is ample downed material available for firewood within the timbered portion of the forest. The purpose of the firewood program is to provide you with material you can use now and remove dead wood from the forest. Sometimes a limited number of special permits are sold which authorize cutting of standing trees.

Measuring and Removing Firewood.

Firewood is commonly measured in cords. A standard cord is the amount of tightly piled wood in a stack 4 feet wide by 4 feet high by 8 feet long.

The average half-ton pickup truck can carry a half cord of dry wood without overloading the vehicle. You may purchase up to ten cords of firewood for your personal use each year. If you live in an older home in the mountains, you may need all 10 cords. Valley residents in newer homes should find one or two cords adequate for their needs.

As a control on the number of cords of wood removed from the forest, you are required to attach, **in a visible location on the back of the load**, your LOAD RECEIPT(s) issued with this permit. One load receipt is to be attached for each one-quarter cord of wood in the load. Before attaching Load Receipt(s) to the load, **punch or ink out** the month and day of removal. Load Receipt(s) **MUST** be attached to the load **before leaving the wood-cutting site and moving 500 feet!** Under the firewood cutting permit regulations, you may not transport material in lengths greater than 6 feet. A specific authorization is needed.

One hundred twenty-eight (128) cubic feet of stacked, round wood equals one (1) cord. The amount of wood that may be carried varies by the size of vehicles and the weight of the wood being hauled. Permit holders are responsible for reasonably determining the quantity of wood being removed. As a general guide, you can load 1/4 to 1/2 cord in most small imported or domestic mid-size pickup trucks. Full-size pickups with short beds normally hold 1/2 cord to 3/4 cord, and with side boards can hold 3/4 to 1 full cord.

Your Saw Can Start a Fire!

Any internal combustion engine can start a fire in dry grass or pine needles by emitting, through the exhaust, hot carbon particles in the engine.

Because a chain saw is a potential torch in the forest, California Law requires that chain saws used on forest and range lands be equipped with an approved spark arrester.

These spark arresters fit within the chain saw muffler, are made of stainless steel wire screen and must have openings no larger than .023 inches. This law applies to all equipment powered by internal combustion engines except passenger vehicles.

Restrictions on Chain Saws

When forest vegetation gets so dry that a small spark can develop into major wildfire, chain saw use may be banned until the critical period passes.

When use of chain saws is prohibited, you may still use hand saws or collect smaller material from the ground, except where entry is restricted because of high fire danger.

When fire danger within any fire danger rating area (see map inside) reaches very high, chain saw use will be prohibited in the area. Each ranger district may designate specific local areas exempt from chainsaw prohibitions. These areas would be identified and signed as open to woodcutting. To determine if chain saws may be used in a specific area on a given day, call the 24 hour fire weather information line: **559-500-4488**. This report is revised daily about 5:00 p.m. during fire season.

A Final Reminder!

The firewood cutting program of the Sierra National Forest benefits both you and the land we all own. The following stipulations, along with the other instructions on this brochure, are part of the personal use permit contract. A violation of any condition of this brochure voids the permit.

Collecting, taking possession or transporting any part of a tree or plant without a valid permit is in violation of 36 CFR 261.58(t).

1. Do not cut any standing trees.
2. Do not transport material in lengths greater than 6 feet.
3. Be sure you comply with the following State fire laws:
 - a. Smoke only while sitting in an area at least 3 feet in diameter, cleared of all flammable materials down to mineral soil;
 - b. Equip all mechanical equipment powered by internal combustion engines with approved spark arresters or mufflers.
 - c. Have either a round point shovel (not less than 46" long overall) or a State approved fire extinguisher.
4. This permit is not valid on private land or areas posted closed to woodcutting.



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2001

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Use this map as a general locator of firewood cutting and gathering areas within the boundaries of the Sierra National Forest. A National Forest Visitor Map can be purchased at Forest Service offices and visitor centers.

Color-coded "*Fire Danger Rating Area*" signs are posted along designated routes in accordance with **HIGH, MODERATE**, or **LOW** fire hazard areas depicted on this map.

Areas specifically closed to woodcutting are:

Private land within the Forest boundary.
Forest administration stations.
Research or experimental Areas.
Giant Sequoia groves.
Further planning areas.
Wilderness areas.
Bass Lake Basin Memorial Day Weekend to
Labor Day Weekend.
Kings River Special Management Area.
Developed campgrounds.

Fire Weather and Information

559-500-4488

**(24 hour service; recording
changed daily by 5:00 p.m.)**

For further information contact:

Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
559-877-2218 ext 0

High Sierra Ranger District
P. O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
559-855-5360 ext 0

Sierra National Forest Headquarters
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611
559-297-0706 ext. 0