



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Carson National Forest Service Dead and Down Fuelwood Guide

2022 Permit, Cutting and Transporting Instructions



Forest Service
Southwestern Region
Carson National Forest

Information in this guide applies to national forest land within the Carson National Forest. To cut and transport fuelwood from the Carson National Forest, you must have:

- signed original permit;
- fuelwood removal tags issued with the permit; and
- this Fuelwood Guide with cutting and transporting instructions.



The illegal taking of fuelwood can result in the loss of the permit, loss of any cut wood, up to a \$5,000 fine and 6 months in jail. The 2022 fuelwood season on the Carson National Forest ends on December 31. There is a forest-wide limit of 20 cords of dead and down fuelwood per household, per calendar year. Permit holders need a valid photo identification. Designated haulers need a valid state driver's license.

How to Use Your Permit and Tags

1. Sign the permit and validate the tags by punching a hole through the month, day and time that you used it.
2. Attach the validated tag securely with a nail or tack to the back of each ½ cord or less before your wood is transported anywhere.
3. Load removal tag numbers must match the numbers printed on the permit. Individual load removal tags may not be used more than once.

How Can I Cut and Transport Fuelwood Responsibly and Safely Once I Have My Permit?

After receiving a fuelwood permit, you must observe the following cutting and transportation instructions:

1. Live, green trees may not be cut and removed from the Carson National Forest with a Dead and Down Fuelwood Permit. You may cut and remove live, green trees **only** from within the green fuelwood cutting areas that are designated by each specific District and after you purchase a Green Fuelwood permit.
2. Cutting dead limbs from live trees is not allowed. If there are green leaves, buds, or needles anywhere on the tree, it is not dead. You may take dead and down wood, limbs, old logs and chunks of wood lying on the ground.
3. Do not take material that is marked with paint or is piled in logging decks unless it's designated as a dead fuelwood area. Do not cut any logs, log piles, or snags (i.e., standing dead trees) in active timber sale areas or where posted with signs.
4. During wet and muddy conditions, please do not drive when damage to soils or roads may occur. Please wait to cut on another day when the roads are drier.
5. Fuelwood cutting is not allowed within 100 feet of the centerline of any paved roads, lakes and streams.
6. Fuelwood cutting is not allowed in administrative recreation sites unless designated as a fuelwood area.
7. Secure your load. Before traveling, you must tie down and secure your load. It is mandated by law that all vehicles carrying a payload must be secured.
8. Loads of wood and power saws are subject to inspection by forest officers. Failure to allow inspections shall be cause to cancel the permit.

For information on closures and restrictions, please contact the appropriate ranger district.

Help Reduce Fire Danger

During the fire season restrictions may be imposed on this permit. Between these dates, it is the permittee's responsibility to become informed of predicted fire danger and restrictions. All saws must have a spark arrester installed and equipped with an approved spark arrester with a screen size no larger than 0.023 inch.

What Roads Can I Use?

To cut and retrieve firewood, you may travel on existing open roads as designated in the Carson National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). Motorized off-road travel is authorized to access and load firewood unless specified elsewhere on the permit, or identified as prohibited. If it is necessary to go off-road, please use the most direct route in and out of the area to accomplish firewood retrieval. Off-road travel is not permitted to "scout" for wood. Driving on roads that are not designated as open roads in the MVUM is not permitted to scout for wood.

How Much Wood Do I Have?

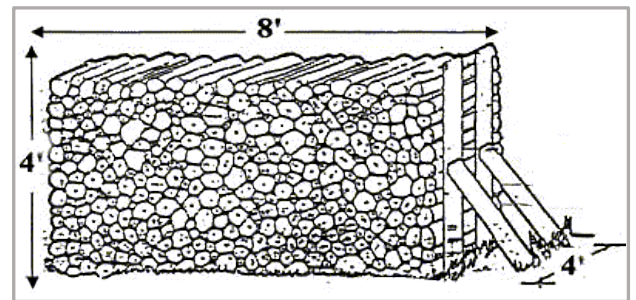
A cord of firewood has a total volume of 128 cubic feet. A cord can be stacked in any shape but it's commonly stacked 4 feet wide x 4 feet high x 8 feet long. So, how much wood do you actually have? Multiply the width x length x height of your wood stack and divide by 128 for the number of cords.

Example:

5 feet wide x 6 feet long x 3 feet height = 90 cubic ft.

$90 \div 128 = 0.70$ cords. This load would require two $\frac{1}{2}$ cord tags because it is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ cord.

Remember, tags must be attached to the load and punched with the appropriate date.

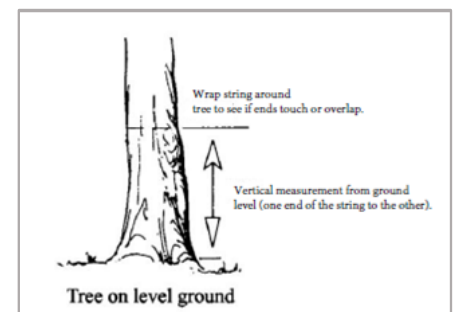


Help Protect our Snags

- **Don't cut standing dead ponderosa pine larger than 16 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH)** as these provide wildlife habitat. Standing dead trees, called snags, provide birds and mammals with shelter to raise young and raptors with unobstructed vantage points.

- **To determine 16 inches DBH, cut a piece of rope/string to a length of 50 inches.** Measure from the base of the tree at ground level to the endpoint of the string. From the endpoint of the string, wrap the string around the tree to determine if it is within the 16-inch size limit. The tree may be felled if the two ends of the string make contact with one another or overlap.

See instructions graphically displayed in the image at right:



- Only 30 bird species are capable of making their own nest cavities in trees. The pileated woodpecker is a famous example. Another 80 animal species depend upon previously excavated or natural tree holes for their nests. Other animals count on deep drifts piled around natural obstructions like dead tree trunks to dig their deep dens in winter.
- The insulation of a tree trunk home allows wildlife to survive summer and winter temperature extremes. Tree cavities and loose bark are used by many animals to store their food supplies.