



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Personal Use Firewood Gathering

## Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest



### Firewood in the Forest

Welcome to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge 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?

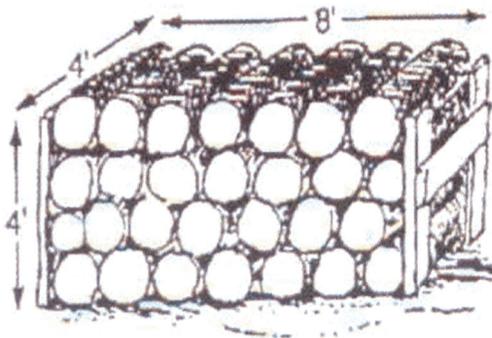
"Personal-use" firewood permits cost anywhere between \$20 and \$60, depending on how much wood you buy. You have to buy at least four cords (at \$5 per cord) or you can buy more wood, up to a total of 12 cords per individual per year.

### Where can I cut wood?

You can cut dead trees anywhere *except* in timber sales (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 area, wilderness study area, recommended wilderness, research natural area, or other area closed to firewood cutting like Thompson Park, south of Butte. 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 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 8 feet long or 128 cubic feet.

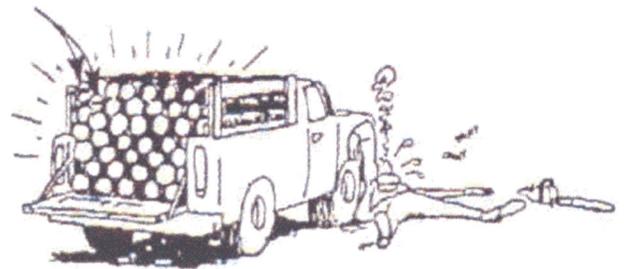


### Fire Season

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.



Here's a half-cord load.



One cord loaded, one tired woodcutter

R1-11-05

Forest Service  
Northern Region



March 2019

## 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.
- ◆ Park your vehicle so it does not block or impede traffic, especially fire and emergency vehicles.
- ◆ Vehicles can travel one vehicle length of distance off an authorized travel route as displayed in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Travel National Forest Plan Map.
- ◆ Pile and lop and scatter slash away from roads, power lines, telephone lines, ditches and stream courses.
- ◆ Six feet is the maximum length that wood may be removed. If you wish to remove wood that is longer than six 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.
- ◆ Take all material three inches or larger in diameter.
- ◆ Don't cut trees specially marked to be left for wildlife.
- ◆ Firewood gathering is prohibited within 150 feet of any running stream, pond, lake, marshy, or wet area, unless otherwise designated.
- ◆ If a tree is accidentally felled into a waterway, leave the entire tree.



Permits may also be purchased from: Bob Ward and Sons Sporting Goods, Ace Hardware, and the BLM in Butte; Hardware Hank in Anaconda; the BLM office in Dillon; True Value in Ennis; Wheat and Thistle in Harrison; McLeod Mercantile in Sheridan; Ralphs Exxon in Lima; Ace Hardware in Whitehall; Hardware Hank in Boulder; I-90 Auto Truck Plaza in Deer Lodge; and Fic's Conoco in Drummond.

To obtain your fuel wood permit, forest visitor maps, travel addendum maps and information, stop by one of the following offices Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF Headquarters  
Dillon Ranger District**

420 Barrett Street  
Dillon, MT 59725  
(406) 683-3900

**Pintler Ranger District**

88 Business Loop  
Philipsburg, MT 59858  
(406) 859-3211

**Butte Ranger District**

1820 Meadowlark Lane  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 494-2147

**Madison Ranger District**

5 Forest Service Road  
Ennis, MT 59729  
(406) 682-4253

**Sheridan Work Center**

402 S. Main  
Sheridan, MT 59749  
(406) 842-5432

**Wise River Work Center**

PO Box 100  
Wise River, MT 59762  
(406) 832-3178  
\*Open May–Late November

**Wisdom Ranger District**

PO Box 238  
Wisdom, MT 59761  
(406) 689-3243

**Web:** [www.usda.gov/bdnf](http://www.usda.gov/bdnf)

**Twitter:** [BvrhdRldgeNF](https://twitter.com/BvrhdRldgeNF)

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[U.S. Forest Service: Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest](https://www.facebook.com/USForestServiceBeaverheadDeerlodgeNationalForest)

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