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Date: April 28, 2020

Dear Kaibab National Forest Woodcutters:

The Kaibab National Forest is providing our woodcutting community a unique program for the 2020 firewood season in response to the worldwide pandemic that is affecting all of us. Our program this year will focus on reducing potential exposure to the virus, while also remaining committed to providing you the forest products you need from your national forest lands in the easiest way possible.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our returning firewood cutters for all the great work you have helped us achieve over the last three years of our Pilot Program. I also welcome any partners who may be joining us this season for the first time. You are key partners in improving forest health on the Kaibab National Forest by removing dead, down, and small-diameter trees.

Before I explain how we have adapted our program this year to meet your needs for firewood and how we will together overcome the unprecedented challenges this pandemic has created in order to continue serving you, I want to touch on one important point. The accommodations we are making this season to keep our customers, communities, and employees safe, healthy, and thriving in these turbulent times, will only apply to the 2020 firewood cutting season. It is important that you understand that we will return to normal procedures next year. Now, let me share what is changing this year.

Rather than coming into the office to obtain a firewood permit, you will call the office and your permit information will be taken over the phone. We will still be offering Free Use and Paid Use permits, but the process will be different than in previous years.

Free Use Permits - We recognize our public and economies may be struggling at this time, and we are committed to ensuring you have access to the firewood you need. So, we have expanded the free use opportunities provided to you this year. Your 10-cord per individual, Free Use permit this year will allow you to cut wood in places you normally would have to pay for. In addition, we are altering our processes for obtaining a Free Use permit so that, rather than coming to pick up your permit, you will receive it in the mail. Lastly, for Free Use permits this year, we will be issuing you a reusable load tag instead of the quarter-cord, disposable tags you normally receive. This is an effort to reduce some of the burden on you as customers while remaining accountable for removing products from the woods. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document you are receiving with your permit for instructions on how to use your reusable load tag as it is important that you tag your load when hauling.

Paid Use Permits - For our customers who need more than 10 cords or who plan to re-sell the wood they cut this season, we are offering our Paid Use permits just as we have the last few years of our Pilot Program. Paid Use permits are 10 cords at \$2 per cord, for a total of \$20 per permit. Paid Use permits will use the quarter-cord load tags that you have used in years past, not the reusable load tag associated with the 2020 Free Use permit. At the time that you call in for



your permit, your payment information will be taken over the phone. Your Paid Use permit and load tags will not be mailed. Instead, you will need to pick them up from a drop box at the district office from which you obtained your permit.

We have made these changes because we believe that as a woodcutter you help perform a valuable ecosystem service, which is to reduce fuels and improve overall forest health. What we ask in return is that you help us steward our natural resources. You can do that by reviewing the information we provide about firewood cutting best practices in the Land Steward Guide. We hope you will help us protect and improve conditions and resources on the Kaibab National Forest by taking this guide to heart and encouraging your family, friends, and fellow woodcutters to do the same. We all benefit if we have a healthy forest to share!

Please continue to provide your suggestions and feedback so that we can ensure we are working with you in the best way possible to meet our shared goals. I encourage you to regularly visit our website at <https://bit.ly/KNFfuelwood> for updates and information that may be useful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Provencio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish above the name.

HEATHER PROVENCIO
Forest Supervisor