



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Tally Lake District Opens Area for Firewood Gathering

The Tally Lake Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest is opening two areas, located west and southwest of Tally Lake, for personal-use firewood gathering through the end of August. This will allow temporary access for woodcutting on eight miles of roads that are normally closed to motorized traffic. Woodcutters must have a valid Flathead National Forest wood cutting permit and should request specific location information from the Tally Lake District Office.

Tally Lake District Ranger Lisa Timchak said, "Public cooperation has been excellent in the past few years regarding firewood collection and I hope that opening these areas will help personal firewood cutters. Please follow the terms of the permit and I anticipate this program will continue."

Both standing dead and downed material are available within 200 feet of the roadway, unless the trees are marked, or if the trees are within 300 feet of a stream.

Terms of the firewood permit include;

- ❖ Do not cut marked trees. Some trees have been marked with paint (a horizontal stripe and a prominent "W"). These trees provide important denning, nesting, and perching habitat for many kinds of wildlife.
- ❖ Cutting is prohibited within 300 feet of a lake, stream, or wetland to maintain healthy riparian areas.
- ❖ Please clear the road surface and ditches of tops and limbs when you are finished cutting firewood, and scatter or pile the material off of the roadway.
- ❖ All vehicles must remain on the road surface.

Woodcutters are reminded to be safe, keep a lookout for other people and vehicles, and keep the road open and passable for others. Resource damage such as creating "stump roads" or felling marked wildlife trees could result in discontinuing the program. The area will be monitored.

A firewood permit is available for a minimum of four cords of wood for \$20. An individual may purchase a maximum of 12 cords per year. A cord measures 4' wide by 4' high in an 8' long stack; or 128 cubic feet. Firewood obtained under these permits may not be used for commercial resale.

Woodcutters must have their permit with them while collecting wood and follow the conditions of the permit. Woodcutters also need to have an approved and maintained spark arrester on chainsaws and splitters, and must have a shovel and fire extinguisher handy in the event of a wildfire. Personal wood permits are available from any office of the Flathead National Forest or from several vendors across the Flathead Valley.

Maps of the woodcutting areas now open on the Tally Lake District and firewood permits are available at the Tally Lake Ranger District Office and Flathead National Forest Supervisor's Office in Kalispell at 650 Wolfpack Way. For more information call 758-5204.

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