



# Hoosier National Forest Highlights

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## Firewood, Beetles and Pests on the Hoosier National Forest



By: Teena Ligman, Public Affairs Specialist

After the long cold winter most people's firewood supplies are pretty low and they are looking to cut wood for the fall. A definite benefit of living close to a National Forest is the opportunity for gathering firewood.

Firewood permits for personal use are available for purchase from the Hoosier National Forest offices in Tell City and Bedford during normal office hours (8:00 to 4:30). The cost of the permit is \$20.00. Each permit covers 2 cords of wood, or four pickup truck loads, and is valid for a maximum of three months from date of issue. Firewood must be cut into lengths of 4 feet or less.

The firewood permit will give a description of the area it is valid for. The permit holder must record on the permit as they remove quantities of wood. The permit must be carried at all times when cutting firewood on the Hoosier as the permit may be checked at any time by a Forest Service officer.

An exception to the need for a permit to gather firewood is when you are camping on the Forest. Campers are allowed to gather small amounts of firewood without a permit for "on-site" campfires. A reminder for campers; Indiana Department of Natural Resources firewood regulations are different than Forest Service rules which are more

restrictive. Firewood brought onto the Forest must be USDA or Indiana Department of Natural Resources approved.

When cutting firewood, people may cut from downed trees only, no standing live trees or snags may be cut. Areas identified by the Forest Service as permit areas are usually closed timber sale areas, areas of storm damage, designated firewood cutting areas, or within 70 feet of a road way.

The Forest Service currently has a few areas identified for firewood cutting but expect more to become available in the near future. Firewood needs to stay in the county where it is cut to limit the spread of pests.

Quarantines were put in place to regulate the movement of wood that might carry the emerald ash borer, an invasive species of ash trees. The emerald ash borer (EAB) affects all ash trees in Indiana. The pest can be carried from place to place with firewood.

Though EAB has now been found in almost every county in Indiana there are still some areas of many counties that are not infected and there are benefits to slowing the spread as researchers work to find controls for the insect.

And there are other pests besides the EAB that can travel in your firewood to infest healthy trees. Asian longhorned beetles are now east of Cincinnati. The area is under quarantine and 35,000 possible host trees have already been destroyed. We need to be vigilant to ensure the longhorned beetle doesn't get to the Hoosier. Gypsy moth is also a constant threat and travels on firewood.

Help keep our forest healthy by getting your firewood locally. For more information on the firewood program, contact Jason Combs at (812) 547-9242 or [jdcombs@fs.fed.us](mailto:jdcombs@fs.fed.us).



Firewood cutting opportunities along the Ohio Road in north Perry County.



The Asian Longhorned beetle, an invasive beetle which travels on firewood, is currently being aggressively eradicated in western Ohio.