United
States
Department
of Agriculture
Forest Service

Firewood Removal Guide Map

Thank you for your cooperation in getting the firewood removal guide and load tickets for the National Forest Lands in Okanogan County. The purpose of this guide is to show where firewood removal is allowed.

We recognize the importance of the firewood program to the public. Our goal is to continue the program while providing proper protection to the many wildlife and fisheries living in the Forest.

It is your responsibility to comply with the conditions listed in this guide.

Failure to comply with these restrictions and regulations is in violation of Title 36 CFR 261.6

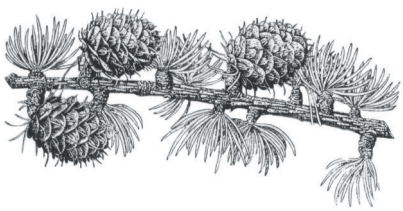
Please help us manage wisely, and enjoy gathering firewood in your National Forest.

Effective date 4-2016

Firewood Removal Conditions

Methow Valley and Tonasket Ranger Districts

Winching firewood is allowed provided vehicles are on an unblocked, signed Forest Service road, and the firewood is within 200 feet of the road.



No cutting of western larch after November 15.

Western larch, also known as tamarack, is a truly unusual, fascinating and important tree.

Because its needles turn yellow in the autumn and later fall to the ground, the larch appears to be dead even though it is very much alive.

Tonasket Ranger District

All dead or down, woody material less than 20 inches in diameter is considered firewood.

Firewood gathering season:
April 1st - December 31st

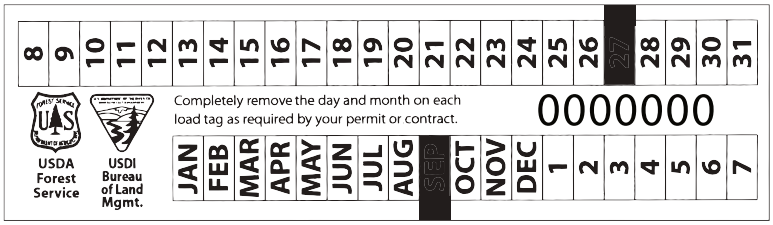
Methow Valley Ranger District

There is **no diameter limit** on down or standing dead trees.

Firewood gathering season:
May 1st - December 31st

Western Larch cone and needles

Purchase Firewood Load Tickets



Validate the load ticket by punching out the month and day you are getting the wood.

Load tickets issued with this firewood removal guide are valid on National Forest Lands in Okanogan County only.

Tag Your Firewood. Before leaving each site, you must attach the appropriate number of validated load tickets to the back of the load where they can easily be seen. Attach one ticket for each 1/2 cord you are hauling. Amounts less than 1/2 cord still require one ticket.

Areas Closed to firewood removal are:

- ★ Beyond 200 feet of an unblocked signed Forest Service road.
- ★ Areas closed by seasonal or special closure.
- ★ Within 300 feet of fish bearing streams as shown on this map. Within 150 feet of other streams, ponds, lakes, reservoirs or wetlands not shown on this map.
- ★ Late Successional Reserves as shown on this map.
- ★ Trees signed or marked with any color paint.
- ★ Campgrounds, Trailheads, Picnic Areas, Wilderness Areas Research Natural Areas, Botanical Areas or other Forest Service Administrative Areas.
- ★ The North Cascades Scenic Highway (including all side roads) between the east and west scenic highway portal signs.
- ★ Within 200 ft. of State Hwy. 20 on National Forest Land.
- ★ Forest Service Road No. 5400 (Harts Pass Road)
- ★ Timber Sale Areas or other areas signed as “No Firewood Cutting Allowed”. Contact Methow Valley or Tonasket Ranger District for the status of timber sales.

NOTE: Where roads are within 150-300 feet of streams, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, or wetlands, the area is closed to firewood removal.

Campers on the National Forest may use up to 1/4 cord of firewood per day, without purchasing a firewood permit. Unused firewood must be left on the National Forest.
A firewood permit is required to take firewood off the National Forest. The same cutting rules apply when cutting camp firewood as when cutting firewood for your home or personal use.

No cutting or gathering of firewood **IN** developed campgrounds.

Fire Precautions

Cutting and removing firewood from the National Forest is controlled by the Industrial Fire Precaution Levels, which is determined on a daily basis during the Forest fire season (April 1st to October 31st) for the Okanogan Area. The Fire Precaution zones are based on mostly elevation, average rainfall, and vegetation types.

If you use a power saw (chainsaw), you must have these things with you:

- A good exhaust system on the saw with a screen type **spark arrestor installed with a maximum screen opening of 0.023 inch.**
- A long handled, round point **shovel** with an 8 inch (size “0”) minimum blade.
- An 8 ounce capacity (by Weight) liquid pressurized chemical **fire extinguisher** or a 1 pound dry chemical fire extinguisher.

Industrial Fire Precaution Levels (IFPL)

Level I: Fire precaution requirements are in effect. A one hour fire watch/security is required at this and all higher levels unless otherwise waived.

Level II (Partial Hootowl):

Power saws may NOT be used from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. local time.

Level III: All woodcutting with power saws is prohibited.

Level IV (General Shutdown):

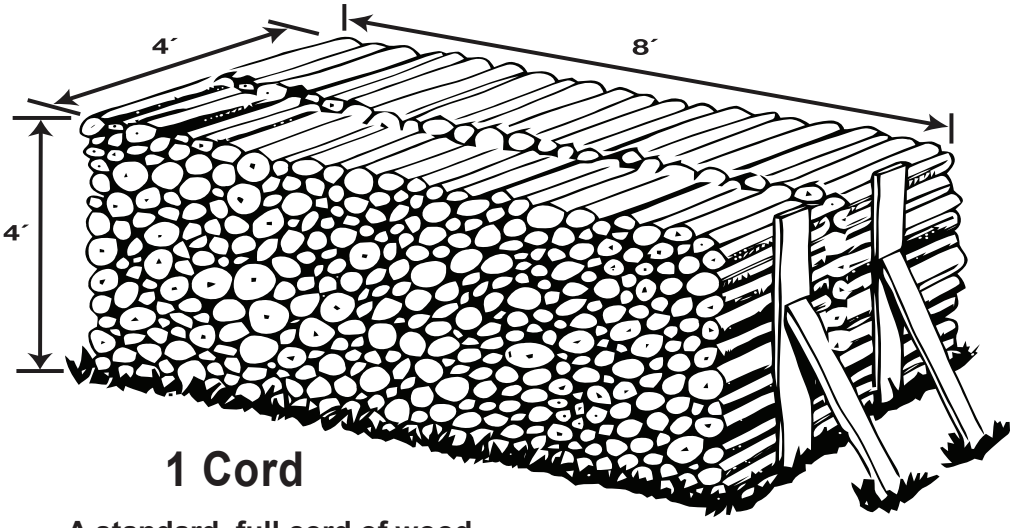
All operations are prohibited. The fire danger is very high.

For current Industrial Fire Precaution Levels, call:
1-800-527-3305
or website: fortress.wa.gov/dnr/ifpl/IFPL.aspx

To determine the daily fire precaution level, you will need to know what zone you are working in. The zones are identified on the Firewood Guide. Fire precaution levels are also posted on precaution signs at USFS offices.

I	II	III	IV	Fire Precaution Class
X	X			Have an approved spark arrestor on your saw, carry a shovel and fire extinguisher. Stay in the cutting area and watch for fire starts for at least one hour after the power saw is shut down.
	X			Shutdown powersaws at 1 p.m.
		X	X	All woodcutting activity prohibited.

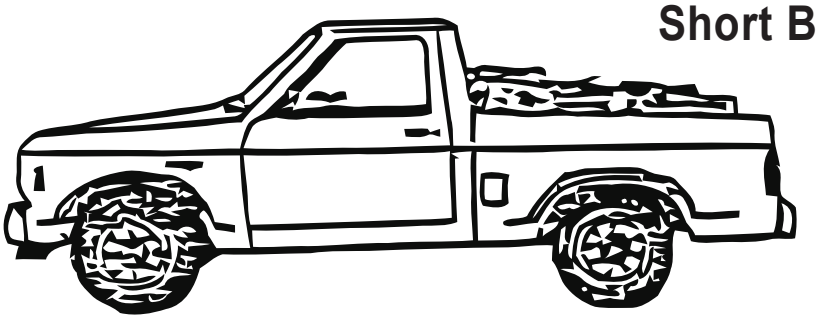
Current IFPL
Contact phone or website above or scan QR code with your phone.



1 Cord

A standard, full cord of wood
has a volume of 128 cubic feet, measures as a pile 8 feet long, 4 feet high, and 4 feet wide. A full cord can weigh up to 5,000 pounds.

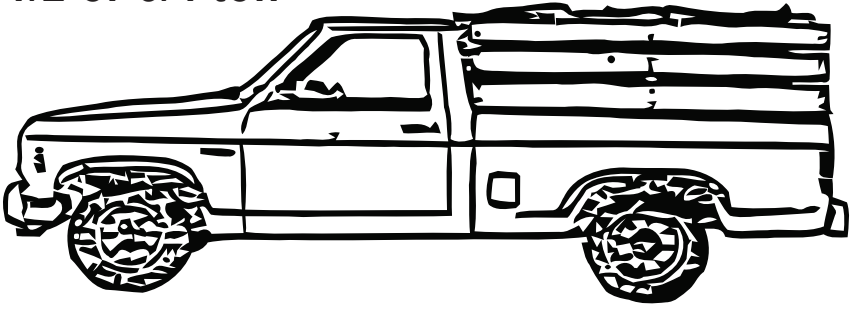
Short Bed Pickup - 1/2 ton

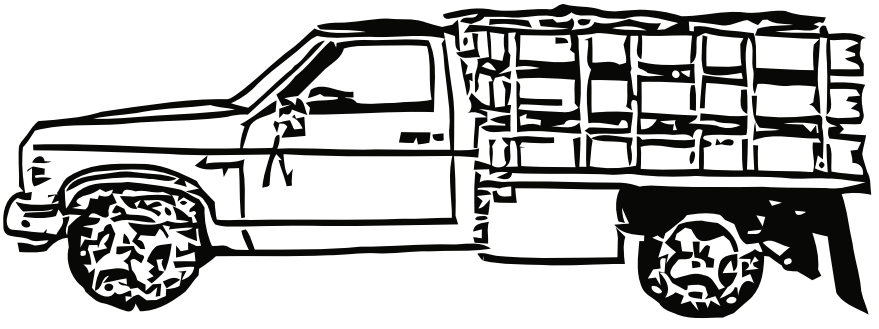


With or without racks this truck bed holds approximately 1/2 (one-half) cord of wood.
One load ticket required.

Long Bed pickup - 1/2 or 3/4 ton

Without racks this truck bed holds approximately 1/2 (one-half) cord of wood.
One load ticket required.
With racks this truck bed holds approximately 1 (one) cord of wood.
Two load tickets required.





With high racks this truck bed holds approximately 1 1/2 (one and one-half) cords of wood.
Three load tickets required.

Standard Truck - 1 ton

Firewood Removal Conditions

Upon receiving and signing for your permit, you are agreeing to the conditions listed on this map.

Please read them carefully

1. Up to 12 cords of firewood, per household, per year, may be removed with the purchase of firewood permits and the corresponding load tickets. Each load ticket is worth $2.50 which is good for 1/2 cord. There is a $20 (four cord) minimum permit fee for purchased firewood. Purchaser must be 18 years or older to buy a permit.

2. All dead or down woody material less than 20 inches in diameter (including bark, measured 1 foot above the ground for standing material) is considered firewood on the National Forest except standing or down trees that are signed or marked with any colored paint.

3. **Closed areas for firewood removal on the National Forest are:**
   a. Beyond 200 feet of an unblocked, signed National Forest road. Gathering beyond 200 feet is not allowed.
   b. Areas or routes closed by current travel regulations or special closures.
   c. Within 300 feet of fish bearing streams as shown on this map.
   d. Within 150 feet of other streams, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, or wetlands not shown on this map.
   e. Late Successional Reserves (shown as closed to firewood gathering on this map).
   f. Campgrounds, trailheads, picnic areas, Wilderness Areas Research Natural Areas, Botanical Areas or other Forest Service Administrative Sites.
   g. The North Cascades Scenic Highway (including all side roads), between the east and west scenic highway portal signs.
   h. Within 200 feet of State Highway 20 on National Forest Lands.
   i. Forest Service Road 5400 (Harts Pass).
   j. Timber Sale areas, or other areas signed as “No Firewood Cutting Allowed.”

4. Winching firewood is allowed provided that your vehicle is on an unblocked, signed Forest Service road, and your firewood is within 200 feet of the road.

5. The use of tractors, skidders, snowmobiles and bulldozers for harvest and removal of firewood is not allowed under this permit without the written permission of the Forest Service. The use of ATVs or UTVs for skidding is prohibited.

6. Road surfaces, shoulders, ditches, and closure devices (gates or earthen barriers) must not be blocked or damaged. Operating a vehicle off of unblocked Forest Service roads is prohibited.

7. You are required to tag your firewood before leaving each wood cutting site and attach the appropriate number of validated load tickets to the back of the load where they can be easily seen. Attach one ticket for each 1/2 cord you are hauling prior to leaving any wood cutting site. Amounts less than 1/2 cord still require one ticket. Load tickets/firewood permits must be shown to any Forest Service employee or Law Enforcement Officer when requested.
   a. You are required to fill out the removal log on your permit showing date and time material is removed.

8. Campers may gather and use up to 1/4 cord of firewood per day for each campsite without needing to get a firewood permit. Removal of firewood **IN** a developed campground is not allowed. Unused firewood must be left at your campsite when you leave. A firewood permit is required if you want to remove the firewood from the National Forest. The same cutting rules apply when cutting camp firewood as when cutting firewood for your personal use.

9. Material removed under this permit must be cut to lengths of less than 8 feet.

10. Stump height must be less than 12 inches and all unused material must be removed from roadways and ditches.

11. Payments for purchased firewood permits are not subject to refund. Firewood permits and the load tickets expire Dec. 31 of each year. Firewood permits/load tickets cannot be resold, exchanged or given away.

12. All Okanogan National Forest Industrial Fire Precaution restrictions apply to this permit.

13. The permittee, and those accompanying her/him, shall indemnify and hold the USDA Forest Service harmless from any claims, loss, cost, injury, expenses, attorney’s fees, damages or liability caused by or arising out of the exercise of this permit.

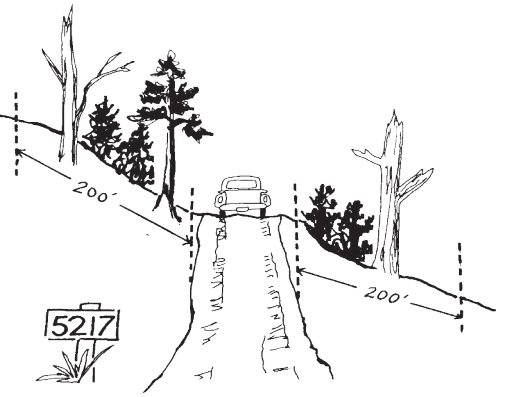
14. Any violation of the conditions of this permit may invalidate the permit and result in appropriate legal action including civil damages (36 CFR 261.6).

15. The permittee identified on form FS-2400-1, Forest Products Removal Permit, must be present when gathering firewood. Advance approval and written documentation, arranged at local Forest Service Offices, is required for exceptions.

16. Cutting of western red cedar trees is not permitted.

Seasonal Firewood Closure

Firewood gathering on the Methow Valley Ranger District is allowed May 1 through December 31 and on the Tonasket Ranger District from April 1 through December 31 with no cutting of western larch from either District after November 15. The seasonal closures are designed to reduce damage to roads in the late winter and spring, promote the use of seasoned wood which results in cleaner air, and reduce resource impacts in the winter.



Wood cut during the late winter is unseasoned and contains higher moisture. Burning drier wood leads to more efficient heating; less wood and less smoke.

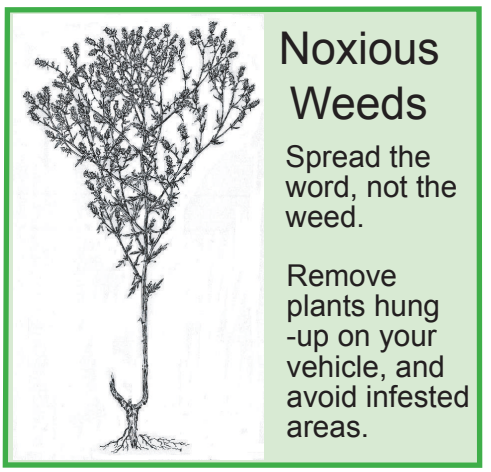
Depending on the conditions, travel on the forest roads in the late winter and early spring can cause rutting and other damage. Debris left behind from woodcutting can block water runoff, leading to washouts. Road maintenance dollars aren't sufficient to cover the cost of repairing this damage each year.

Other impacts from woodcutting before snowmelt occurs include damage to fences, high stumping because of the deep snow and damage to groomed winter trails.

The seasonal closures to firewood gathering may be lifted earlier in years when conditions warrant.

Help Stop the Spread of Noxious Weeds

Weed seeds and plant parts can become lodged in tires, shoes, clothing, pets and firewood. They can fall anywhere and start new infestations.



You can help to stop the spread:

- ★ *Remove the seed sources from the area that you're cutting in. Place plants and seeds in plastic bags and dispose of them appropriately.*
- ★ *Don't drive through or park in weed infested areas.*
- ★ *Clean seeds from shoes, clothing, pets and wood before going home.*

To report noxious weed infestations on National Forest Lands contact the nearest Ranger District office.

For More Information Contact:

Okanogan-Wenatchee N.F.

Omak Visitor Center
401 Omak Ave.
Omak, WA 98841

Tonasket Ranger District
1 West Winesap
Tonasket, WA 98855
(509) 486-2186

Methow Valley Ranger District
24 West Chewuch Rd.
Winthrop, WA 98862
(509) 996-4000

Remember...Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires!

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Take a map. The Okanogan National Forest Travel Plan Map and this Okanogan National Forest Firewood map are free where firewood permits are sold. Restrictions on both plans apply.