



Public Lands Center Salmon-Challis National Forest

Commercial Use Firewood (Dead Trees)

A permit and load tickets are required. A firewood cutting permit and load tickets are required to cut, gather, and transport firewood on Public Lands. Firewood permits are valid from January 1 until December 31 of the year purchased. Only dead or down trees may be gathered for firewood.

Permit cost: \$5.00 per cord with a 4 cord or \$20 minimum purchase. A maximum of 60 cords total per residence per calendar year (A residence is the physical address).

Information needed to purchase permit: name, physical address, identification number, vehicle information (year, make, model, color, and license plate number of vehicle being used to haul firewood), in addition to number of cords to be purchased.

Where to get Salmon-Challis National Forest Commercial Use Firewood permits: Firewood cutting permits are available year-round at the Salmon-Challis National Forest District Offices in Challis, Mackay, North Fork and Leadore, and the Public Lands Center office in Salmon, Idaho. Contact the nearest [Forest office](#) for details.

Commercial permits are only available at Forest Service offices.

Where to go: Not all lands on Public Lands are open to firewood cutting. Please consult the firewood map to be sure you are in an area where cutting is permitted. Remember that not all land within the Public Lands is publicly owned. It is your responsibility to be certain you are not trespassing on private land. **The permit is for the Salmon-Challis National Forest lands only**, and not for BLM, State, or private lands.

To reflect Implementation of the Salmon-Challis National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) open travel routes are identified on the current MVUM and governs use of all motor vehicles on the Forest. Motorized vehicles are allowed within 300 feet from the centerline of the designated routes for the purpose of cutting and removing firewood, provided that vegetation is not destroyed. A motorized vehicle may be permitted in other areas that are specifically designated for firewood cutting.

Areas excluded from firewood cutting. Please see firewood cutting area map for additional restricted sites.

- No firewood cutting within 200 feet of Administrative Sites, Developed Campgrounds, Picnic Areas, & active timber sales, research natural areas, or other areas signed on the ground as closed to firewood cutting.
- In addition, no firewood cutting is allowed in those areas designated by color shading or by description as portrayed on the Salmon-Challis fuelwood map that is part of the firewood permit when purchased.
- No firewood cutting within 300 feet of streams, lakes, ponds, or wet/boggy areas. Do not fall or drag trees across streams.
- Do not cut trees that are signed, painted and protected for other resource purposes.

Standing dead and down trees may be gathered for firewood. Refer to firewood map for locations where cutting is allowed.

How to tell if the tree is dead: Trees without any green needles may still be alive. Western Larch (tamarack) loses its needles in the fall and is still a live tree. A wind blown tree may take several months or years to die. Do not cut the tree if it has any green needles and/or the inner bark, called the cambium, is green, wet, spongy, light in color. To test a questionable dead tree before it is cut, peel away a small section of the bark and examine the thin cambium layer between the bark and the wood. A dead tree has no green needles and the cambium is dry and dark color.

Stump height: Leave stumps as low as possible, but no higher than 8 inches.

Hauling restrictions: Firewood material must be cut to 8 feet in length (all diameters).

To validate the load ticket: After loading the firewood, completely remove the month and day on the colored load ticket, corresponding with the date the firewood is being removed. On the back of the load, firmly staple, nail, or tack one ticket for each 1/4 cord being transported. All load tickets must be clearly visible.

Measuring and Transporting



A standard cord can be described as a well-stacked pile, 4 by 4 by 8 feet.

The load accountability portion on the front of the permit must be filled out in ink and load tags punched and displayed before transporting any wood. Failure to do so will result in a citation.



What is a cord of firewood? One cord of firewood measures 4ft. X 4ft. X 8ft. which equals 128 cubic feet and weighs approximately 2,662 lbs. The average half-ton pickup can carry a 1/2 cord of dry wood without overloading the vehicle. Remember to validate the firewood load tickets before leaving the cutting area.

Fire requirements & restrictions: Firewood cutters are required to have the following equipment while cutting and transporting firewood:

Saw: Must have approved, functioning spark arrestor. Exhaust system in good repair. Screen-type spark arrestor of 0.023" mesh or less, qualified under US Forest Service standards.

Shovel: Long handled, '0' or larger shovel.

Fire extinguisher: At the cutting site during the period May 10 to October 20. Charged with pressurized chemical. Not less than 8 oz. capacity by weight. Type AB.

Fire watch: During high fire (Dry) conditions it is advised to do a one-hour fire watch after shutting down the chainsaw.

During periods of high fire danger, restrictions that prohibit fuelwood cutting may be enacted. Contact the nearest [Forest office](#) for current fire restrictions:

Use of permit by another party: In very limited circumstances (when a person is not physically able to collect the firewood him or herself), a third party permission attachment to the personal use firewood permit may be approved. The permittee shall have the third party wood cutter come into the office at the time permit is purchased so the wood cutter can sign the third party agreement. It is necessary to have approval and the signed form before collecting firewood. Contact your nearest [Forest office](#) for details.

16 day occupancy rule: Equipment used for the harvest and transport of product must abide by the Salmon-Challis National Forest's 16 day occupancy rule and therefore must be removed from the vicinity within these timeframes.

Materials received with firewood permit: Maps and all other included materials (Firewood tags & Firewood permit) received with the firewood permit are considered a part of the firewood permit and therefore are binding.

Violation of Terms & Conditions of firewood permit: May be subject to a fine (Citation).

Citations: Citation is a Class C Misdemeanor. Max \$5,000.00 fine, six months in jail or both.