

Hearthfull Treasures ... Firewood Cutting on Your National Forests

Firewood Cutting

... in your national forests has been a tradition for thousands of New Mexicans for hundreds of years. Firewood has been an economic mainstay, a regional necessity, and a quickly-adopted hobby in recent years.

The following information is general for those interested in firewood cutting. For specific information about the kinds of wood, costs and permits, contact the individual ranger district. Information is available by telephone.

Remember that conditions and availability of wood changes every day. We recommend you contact the district office for the area you are interested in before going to buy your permit. This may save you a wasted trip as weather conditions will begin to affect some areas' accessibility.

This information was current as of September 2008.



Carson National Forest

Cutting season runs from May 1 through December 31. Dead and down permits are available at the following offices:

Camino Real Ranger District

- Supervisor's office (Northern Zone) is open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 758-6200.
- Camino Real office (Southern Zone) is open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 587-2255

Canjilon Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 684-2489.

El Rito Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30
Phone: (575) 581-4554.

Jicarilla Ranger District (Bloomfield)

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (505) 632-2956.

Questa Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30

Phone: (575) 586-0520.

Tres Piedras Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30

Phone: (575) 758-8678.

Cibola National Forest**Magdalena Ranger District**

- Office open Monday-Friday, 8-12 and 12:30-4:30

Phone (575) 854-2281.

- All permits are \$10 per cord with a 2-cord minimum purchase (\$20) and an 8-cord limit per family unit per year. Only one permit per household at one time; permit is good for 60 days.
- Dead/down and dead standing piñon, ponderosa pine, juniper, spruce, fir and aspen: 14" diameter or less at the base.
- Green piñon and juniper: 14" diameter or less at the base.

Mountainair Ranger District

- Office open Monday-Friday, 8-12 and 12:30-4:30

Phone: (505) 847-2990.

- All permits are \$5 per cord with a 4-cord minimum purchase (\$20) and a 10-cord limit per family unit per year. Season runs May 1 through December 15.
- Manzano Mountains: green standing, dead standing, and dead and down. Call for details.
- Gallinas Mountains: green juniper only.

Mt. Taylor Ranger District (Grants)

- Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8-12 and 1-5; no Saturdays

Phone: (505) 287-8833.

- Ft. Wingate office: Saturdays only 8-3.
- All permits are \$5 per cord with a 4-cord minimum purchase (\$20) and a 10-cord limit per family unit per year.
- Dead and down, and dead standing piñon and juniper any size.
- All other species must be less than 12" diameter except oak.

Sandia Ranger District (Tijeras)

- Office Hours: Summer schedule is Monday-Saturday, 8-4:30 and winter schedule is Monday-Friday 8-4:30, Phone: (505) 281-3304.
- Permits are awarded by lottery. One permit per household per year; \$20 minimum purchase per 2-cord permit. Call for details.
- Note: no off-pavement motorized travel is allowed. Removal by hand methods is required.

Gila National Forest

Firewood season on the Gila National Forest is from January 1 through December 31. Permits may be obtained at any district office for all areas open to firewood cutting on the forest. Dead firewood permits are valid forest-wide except in prohibited areas. Green firewood permits are valid only in green firewood areas. Contact any district office for information on species, size limitations, and cutting areas. Permits are \$10 per cord with a 2-cord minimum purchase. There is a forest-wide limit of 10 cords per household per year. Free use firewood areas are not open on all districts. Call the office of the particular district you are interested in to inquire about the availability of any free use firewood areas.

Black Range Ranger District (T or C)

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 894-6677.

Glenwood Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 539-2481.

Quemado Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 773-4678.

Luna Work Center office open April 1 - Oct. 31, Monday-Friday, 8-4:30 and
Nov. 1 - March 31, Tuesdays and Fridays, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 547-2612

Wilderness Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 536-2250.

Reserve Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
Phone: (575) 533-6232.

Silver City Ranger District

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (575) 388-8201.

Lincoln National Forest

Season runs January 1 through December 31, weather permitting. Limit of 10 cords per family per year.

Supervisor's Office (Alamogordo)

Office open Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:30
Phone: (575) 434-7200.

Smokey Bear Ranger District (Ruidoso)

- Office open Monday-Friday, Saturday (summer only), 7:30-4:30
Phone: (575) 257-4095.
- Dead and down, all species: permits are \$10 per cord with a 2-cord minimum purchase.
- Green standing, piñon and juniper: permits are \$10 per cord with a 2-cord minimum purchase.

Sacramento Ranger District (Cloudcroft)

- Office open Monday-Friday, Saturday (summer only), 7:30-4:30
Phone: (575) 682-2551.
- Dead and down, piñon and juniper: permits are \$10 per cord with a minimum 2-cord purchase.
- Dead and down, mixed conifer (mostly pine): permits are \$5 per cord with a minimum 4-cord purchase.

Guadalupe Ranger District (Carlsbad)

- Office open Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:30
Phone: (575) 885-4181.
- Green standing and dead and down piñon and juniper.
- Permits are \$5 per cord with a 4-cord minimum.

Santa Fe National Forest**Jemez Ranger District**

Office open Monday-Friday, 8-12 and 12:30-4:30
Phone: (575) 829-3535

Walatowa Visitor Center, Jemez Pueblo

- Open 7 days, Sunday-Saturday, 8-12 and 1-5
Phone: (575) 834-7235, 834-7265 or 834-2200.
- Dead and down, all species. District-wide; dead standing piñon.
- Permits are \$20 for 5 cords and available at the Jemez District office and the Walatowa Visitor Center.
- Call the office for up-to-date firewood information.

Cuba Ranger District

- Office open Monday-Friday, 7:30-12 and 12:30-4:30; Saturdays, 7-12 and 12:30-3:30, mid-May through the end of December
Phone: (575) 289-3265.
- Dead and down, mostly ponderosa pine and aspen.
- Dead and down permits are \$20 minimum for 5 cords with a maximum limit of 10 cords per year.
- Call the office for up-to-date firewood information.

Coyote Ranger District

- Office open Monday-Friday, 8-12 and 12:30-4:30
Phone: (575) 638-5547.
- Dead and down, mostly ponderosa pine.

- Permits are \$20 minimum for 5 cords with a maximum of 10 cords per year.
- Call the office for up-to-date firewood information.

Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District

- Office summer hours are Monday-Friday, 8-5. Winter hours are Monday-Friday, 8-4:30
Phone: (505) 757-6121 in Pecos or (505) 425-3534 in Las Vegas.
- Green piñon and juniper: Permits are \$10 per cord with a maximum of 4 cords per year.
- Dead and down mixed conifer and ponderosa pine: Permits are \$20 minimum for 5 cords.
- Call the office for up-to-date firewood information.

Espanola Ranger District

- Office summer hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00-12:30 and 1-5, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Winter hours are 8:00-12:30 and 1-4:30 after Labor Day
Phone (505) 753-7331.
- Separate units become open during the summer; permits cost \$20 minimum for 5 cords.
- Call the office for up-to-date firewood information.

Los Alamos Office

- Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-1 and 1:30-4
Phone: (505) 667-5120.
- Permits for both the Espanola and Jemez Ranger Districts are sold here.
- Call the office for up-to-date firewood information.

Load Measurement

Procedure for determining firewood capacity of a pickup or trailer:

1. Measure the pickup box width (W) to the nearest 1 foot.
2. Measure the pickup box length (L) to the nearest 1 foot.
3. Measure the height of actual or anticipated load* (H) to the nearest 1 foot.
4. Multiply $W \times L \times H$ to determine cubic foot capacity of truck box or trailer box.
5. Divide the capacity figure above by 128 (the cubic feet per cord) to determine the capacity of your truck or trailer in cords.

Example:

W = 4 feet; L = 6 feet; H = 3 feet (no side racks)

$4 \times 6 \times 3 = 72$ cubic foot capacity

$72 \text{ cubic feet} \div 128 \text{ cubic feet per cord} = .56 \text{ cords or about } \frac{1}{2} \text{ cord.}$

*Anticipated load capacity: trucks or trailers without side racks are generally loaded only a foot or so above the top of the truck box or trailer. Side racks allow for loading to the top of the rack or slightly higher, provided the suspension of the truck or trailer can support the weight.