

There's Life in Dead Trees

Dead and dying trees provide food and shelter for many wild animals.

As a tree dies, each stage of decomposition plays a vital role in the feeding, breeding or

housing of wildlife. Even if a cavity or nest is vacant, it may serve as a home later.

In some areas, *Wildlife Trees* are scarce because of their popularity as firewood. Before taking a standing dead tree for firewood, consider leaving it for wildlife habitat.

In most areas, ponderosa pines are protected for this reason. Refer to "Special Rules" inside. Ponderosas are the most prevalent low- to mid-elevation pine in this area. They have long needles (~7"), with 2-3 needles to a bundle. The bark is usually orange in color.



Helpful Tips

- Get permission from landowners to cross private land. If transporting firewood from private lands across public lands, carry a letter of authorization from the landowner.
- Archaeological and historical sites are protected by federal law - avoid them.
- Roads may be closed to protect wildlife, prevent erosion, or for your safety.
- Do not disturb livestock or wildlife. Leave gates as you find them - open or closed.
- Respect the rights and privacy of others, but report violations.
- Do not leave branches and tops (slash) in ditches or on cut-slopes of roads. This can block drainage and lead to road damage and erosion.



Check with our offices to see if fire bans are in place that may restrict the use of chainsaws.



Gathering Firewood on San Juan Public Lands

San Juan Public Lands Center
15 Burnett Court Durango, CO 81301
970 247-4874

Columbine Public Lands Office
367 S.Pearl St. Bayfield, CO 81122
970 884-2512

Dolores Public Lands Office
29211 Hwy 184 Dolores, CO 81323
970 882-7296

Pagosa Public Lands Office
180 Pagosa St, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970 264-2268

www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan

Personal-use Firewood Permits for San Juan National Forest and BLM lands in Southwestern Colorado



(As Revised 2010)



How to Use the Permit

STEP 1. Purchase the amount of permits you will need. A one-cord minimum purchase is required. Each permit is divided into two half-cords, which may be gathered separately on National Forest or BLM lands in southwest Colorado.

STEP 2. Permits are non-refundable, nontransferable, and good only for the year in which they are purchased. This is a personal-use permit. To cut and/or sell firewood commercially, you must have a commercial-use permit.

STEP 3. Take your unvalidated permits with you to gather the firewood. Carry a map so you know you're on National Forest or BLM land. Make sure you don't trespass on private land.

STEP 4. Estimate the amount of your load and validate the corresponding number of permits by punching out the dates before you transport the wood. Firewood larger than 7" in diameter must be cut to 6' lengths or less.

STEP 5. Before transporting firewood from where you gathered it, attach validated permit(s) to the load in a visible manner. Be prepared to stop your vehicle so your permit can be verified.

The average pickup can carry a half cord of wood. A full cord will fit in the average truck bed by loading wood to the top of extended side rails, even with the height of the cab.



A full cord of wood, measures 8' X 4' X 4'.

WARNING: Validated permits are good only for the load you are transporting and may not be reused. Hauling without a permit, or with a previously used permit, is illegal. Violation of federal regulations can result in confiscation, fines and/or imprisonment.

What You Can Take

Live Green Trees:

The only live green trees you may remove with this permit are Gambel oak trees less than 6 inches in diameter.

Areas Off-limits to Green Oak Cutting: National Forest lands between Mancos and LaPlata Canyon in the following areas:

- Chicken Creek drainage,
- Mancos River drainage,
- Echo Basin drainage,
- Horse Creek drainage,
- East Mancos drainage, and
- Caviness Mountain and Madden Peak areas accessed by Forest Road # 316.

Dead and Down Trees:

You may remove down and dead wood of any size or species.

Standing Dead Trees:

With the exception of ponderosa pine and trees otherwise marked, you may take standing dead trees of any size.

Ponderosa Pine:

- Columbine Public Lands in the HD Mountains area, and BLM lands between Bayfield and Durango – No standing ponderosa pines can be cut.
- All Dolores Public Lands, Pagosa Public Lands and other Columbine Public Lands – No standing ponderosa pines larger than 15 inches in diameter can be cut.

Thinning Projects:

Green trees are sometimes available to the public for removal from fuels-reduction projects. Permits for larger quantities or other forest products may be available. Please check with the offices listed on back.

Areas Off-Limits (See Inside Map)



Some areas that are off-limits will be posted with this sign. Other areas listed below or on the inside map may not be posted but are still off-limits.

BLM LANDS

- All areas behind locked gates.
- Animas Mountain, Grandview Ridge, and Perins Peak areas near Durango.
- Dolores River Canyon, McKenna Peak, Menefee and Weber Mountain Wilderness Study Areas, and Disappointment Valley
- For Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, contact Dolores Public Lands Office.

NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

- Lizard Head, Weminuche, South San Juan Wilderness Areas; Piedra Management Area, Chimney Rock Archaeological Area.
- Narraquinnep Resource Natural Area.
- McPhee Park off Dolores-Norwood Rd #526.
- Area surrounding McPhee Reservoir and Dolores River below the dam.
- Within 100' of Colo. Hwy 145, W. Dolores Rd #535 and Dolores-Norwood Road #526.
- La Plata Canyon.

ALL PUBLIC LANDS

- Well pads, pipelines, powerlines, active timber sales and areas being revegetated.
- Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas, Research Natural Areas, Recreation Management Areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, resorts, and administrative sites.

ACCESSING OFF-ROAD AREAS

Unless otherwise posted, you may drive up to 300 feet off an open road on BLM or National Forest lands to park and load wood, but **ONLY** if you can do so with no damage to soil or vegetation.