

There's Life in Dead Trees

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

Wildlife Trees are scarce in some areas because of overharvest as firewood.

Before taking a standing dead tree for firewood, consider leaving it for wildlife habitat.

As a tree dies, each stage of its decomposition plays a vital role in the feeding, breeding or housing of mammals and birds. Even if a cavity or nest is vacant, it may serve as a home later.

Standing dead ponderosa pines provide food and shelter for many species of wildlife, and cannot be cut for firewood in many areas. Please see "Special Rules" and the map inside for details.

Ponderosa pines are prevalent in low- to mid-elevations. They have thick, protective bark comprised of stacked plates like puzzle pieces. In older trees, the bark is orange in color.

Ponderosa needles come bundled in three's, and are five to 10 inches long, forming tufts at branch ends.



Ponderosa pine cones are three to six inches in length and have sharp teeth.

THANK YOU!



Gathering Firewood for Personal Use

San Juan Public Lands Center

15 Burnett Court Durango, CO 81301
970 247-4874

Columbine Ranger District

367 S. Pearl St. Bayfield, CO 81122
970 884-2512

Dolores Public Lands Office

29211 Hwy 184 Dolores, CO 81323
970 882-7296

Pagosa Ranger District

180 Pagosa St, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970 264-2268

www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan

San Juan National Forest and BLM Tres Rios Field Office

Southwestern Colorado



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



(Revised
2013)



How to Use Your Tags

STEP 1. Purchase tags for gathering firewood on National Forest or BLM lands. Tags allow you to gather firewood a half cord at a time, if needed.

STEP 2. Tags are nonrefundable, nontransferable and valid only for the year in which they are purchased. Tags can only be used to gather firewood for personal use. Gathering firewood for resale requires a commercial-use permit.

STEP 3. Take your unvalidated tags with you to gather firewood. Carry a map so you know if you are on National Forest or BLM land. Do not trespass on private land.

STEP 4. Estimate the amount of your load and validate the corresponding number of tags (see below). Each tag is good for a half cord of wood. Punch out the dates to validate the tag(s) as you load the wood.

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

The average truckbed can carry a half cord of wood. A full cord will fit if the truckbed has extended side rails that allow you to load wood up to the height of the cab (see illustration).



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

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

What You Can Cut

Downed or Standing Dead Trees:

You may remove for firewood:

- Dead wood lying on the ground.
- A standing dead tree of any size as long as it has no green foliage, except for ponderosa pine (*see below).

Wood cut for firewood larger than 7 inches in diameter must be cut to a length of 8 feet or less.

Live Green Oak:

You may remove for firewood:

- Live green oak less than 6 inches in diameter.

Other:

You may remove for firewood:

- Downed green trees, of various sizes or species, **ONLY** in specially designated fuels-reduction areas. Check with Rangers Districts for opportunities.

What You Cannot Cut

Ponderosa Pine*

No standing dead ponderosa pines can be cut on National Forest lands on the Columbine District in the HD Mountains, or on BLM lands from Bayfield to Durango.

On the rest of the Columbine District and the entire Dolores and Pagosa Districts, no standing dead ponderosa pines measuring larger than 15" in diameter can be cut.

Areas Off-Limits (See Inside Map)



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

ON 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
- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS

- Lizard Head, Weminuche, South San Juan Wilderness Areas; Piedra Management Area, Chimney Rock National Monument.
- 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.

ON 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 without damaging soil or vegetation.