



Hoosier National Forest Highlights

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Cutting Firewood on the Hoosier National Forest



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One of the benefits of living close to a National Forest is the opportunity for gathering firewood for personal use. Firewood permits are available for purchase from the Hoosier National Forest offices in Tell City and Bedford during normal office hours. The cost of the permit is \$20.00. Each permit covers 2 cords of wood, or four pickup truck loads, and is valid for a maximum of 3 months from date of issue. Firewood must be cut into lengths of 4 feet or less.

The firewood permit will give a description of the area it is valid for. The permit holder must record on the permit as they remove quantities of wood. The permit must be carried at all times when cutting firewood on the Hoosier as the permit may be checked at any time by a Forest Service officer.

An exception to the need for a permit to gather firewood is when you are camping on the Forest. Campers are allowed to gather small amounts of firewood without a permit for "on-site" campfires.

Firewood may be cut from downed trees only, no standing live trees or snags may be cut by the permit holder. Areas identified by the Forest Service are usually closed

timber sale areas, designated firewood cutting areas, or within 70 feet of a road way. Last winter Forest Service personnel cut many hazard trees in recreation areas and along roadways that may be collected for firewood. Currently there are firewood areas at Tipsaw Lake and Indian-Celina Recreation areas on the Tell City Ranger District and Hardin Ridge Recreation Area on the Brownstown Ranger District.

The Forest Service has also identified a large firewood cutting area along the Ohio Road in north Perry County. The Ohio Road is west of State Highway 37, about ½ mile north of the entrance to the Indian-Celina Recreation Area. The Forest Service has cut many trees suitable for firewood along the road right-of-way including white oak, black oak, hickory, and sugar maple. This area is behind a Forest Service gate. A permit holder will be authorized a key to this gate for firewood cutting purposes only.

Quarantines were first put in place by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to regulate the movement of wood that might carry the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive species of ash trees. The emerald ash borer affects all ash trees in Indiana. The pest can be carried from place to place with firewood. To help keep the Emerald Ash Borer and other pests from spreading, firewood must not move across county lines. Permits holders have to cut firewood in the same county they live in.

For more information, contact Jason Combs at (812) 547-9242 or jdcombs@fs.fed.us.



Picture Caption- Firewood cutting opportunities along the Ohio Road in north Perry County.