



Morel (*Morchella* sp.) Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Introduction

On the Daniel Boone National Forest, a variety of forest products and renewable natural resources may be gathered or collected for personal use.

Some rules to remember

- A permit is required to gather most forest products. Permits can be obtained at Forest Service district offices.
- Several forest products may be gathered without a permit—*pine cones, mushrooms, fruits and nuts*—in small quantities and for personal use only.
- A permit is required to gather or collect any forest product in bulk or for commercial purposes.
- Permits must be properly completed, including the Product Quantity Removal Record, prior to transporting products.

Forest Service permits are valid only on national forest lands.

When collecting forest products, be aware that national forest lands are highly interspersed with state and private land. Maps are available at Forest Service offices to help you determine where national forest boundaries occur.



Blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) Gerald Holmes, California Polytechnic State University, Bugwood.org

Permits Required

Firewood

Firewood may be collected in bulk with a valid firewood permit. A map of designated areas are provided with each permit.

Firewood permits are issued at a \$20 minimum, which allows for the collection of up to 400 cubic feet (approximately four full-size pickup truck loads, or four cords). The permit is valid for cutting dead and down wood only, unless otherwise specified.

Plants

The taking of any plant species from national forest lands requires a permit to prevent impacts on plant populations. ***Ginseng is currently excluded from collection.***

- Collectors must obtain a permit before taking any plant. The permit cost is \$20.
- A permit is valid for only one district of the Daniel Boone National Forest. Collectors must decide which district they prefer for collecting.
- When purchasing a permit, collectors must identify which plant species will be gathered. Typically, only one permit for each plant species is issued.
- The expiration date on a permit may vary by plant species or by district.

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Gathering Forest Products

Daniel Boone National Forest





Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius* L.) Photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski

Ginseng

Ginseng harvest is currently prohibited.

Wild ginseng populations have disappeared across southern Appalachia. The decline is primarily due to illegal harvest, such as taking out of season, excessive take beyond set limits, taking immature plants, and taking mature plants without reseeding for future growth.

In an effort to reestablish wild ginseng populations in the Daniel Boone National Forest, the issuance of permits to collect ginseng from national forest lands is suspended.

The taking of seeds from wild ginseng plants on national forest lands is also prohibited.

The collection of ginseng from Kentucky state and private lands is subject to regulations under KRS 246.650 and 302 KAR 45:010. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture can provide additional information.

Removing any wild ginseng plant or its parts from national forest land without a permit is considered theft. Penalties for plant poaching may include a fine of up to \$5,000 or a 6-month sentence in federal prison, or both.

Rocks and Minerals

Contact a district office for their policy on collecting small quantities of rocks or minerals.

Firewood for Campers

When camping in the Daniel Boone National Forest, visitors may collect firewood without a permit as long as it is used while camping.

- Firewood collected for camping must be dead and down on the ground.
- The cutting of live or dead standing trees is prohibited, no matter what size.
- Campers may not take firewood home or carry it onto privately-owned land.



About These Rules

The rules that govern the collection of forest products on national forest lands are in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36CFR261.6, which prohibits cutting, removing, or otherwise damaging any timber, tree, or other forest product, including special forest products and forest botanical products, except as authorized by Federal law, regulation, permit, contract, special use authorization, free-use authorization, or personal-use authorization. Copies of these rules are on file at all Forest Service offices.

Prohibited Activities

Removing Artifacts

Visitors are not allowed to remove historic or prehistoric artifacts from national forest lands. All artifacts are protected by state and federal law (36CFR261.9; 36CFR296.4).

Historic items include old nails, glassware and household utensils that were used during early settlement years. Prehistoric items include arrowheads, pottery and other objects that are centuries old.

The Forest Service prohibits all ground-disturbing activities where historic and prehistoric artifacts may be located.

Stripping Tree Bark

Stripping bark from trees is illegal. The trees need their bark to help protect them from drought, disease and insects.



The stripping of bark from trees is prohibited and may be punishable by fine and/or imprisonment. Anyone caught poaching bark from national forest land will face federal charges. State laws apply to the theft of bark from private property.



Where to Get a Permit

Permits for gathering or collecting forest products may be obtained at five office locations.

Cumberland Ranger District 606-784-6428
2375 KY 801 South
Morehead, KY 40351

Gladie Visitor Center 606-663-8100
3451 Skybridge Hwy (KY 715)
Stanton, KY 40380

London Ranger District 606-864-4163
761 South Laurel Road
London, KY 40744

Redbird Ranger District 606-598-2192
91 Peabody Road
Big Creek, KY 40914

Stearns Ranger District 606-376-5323
3320 US 27 North
Whitley City, KY 42653

For More Information

Daniel Boone National Forest
Supervisor's Office
1700 Bypass Road
Winchester, KY 40391
859-745-3100
Permits are not sold at this location.

Federal relay system for the deaf and hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.