Permits, Fees, and Requirements

The firewood permit season is January 1 to December 31.

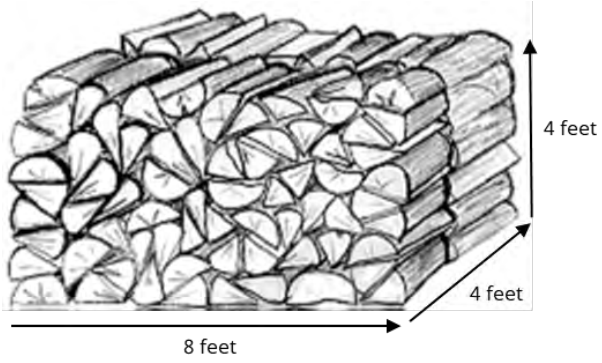
Personal Use Firewood Permits are required for cutting and removal of firewood. There is a 4-cord minimum, 12-cord maximum per adult limit per year. Visit our Forest Products Page for up-to-date information on permit costs.

Personal use firewood permits are valid for the entire Forest Service Northern Region. Contact local forests before cutting for local regulations.

Commercial Firewood quantities are typically sold as commercial timber sales. Contact your local Flathead National Forest office for information on commercial firewood.

Campfire Wood gathering of wood that will be burned at your camp is allowed without a permit. A permit is required to transport any unused firewood home.

One Cord



Flathead National Forest Contact Information

Contact any ranger district to obtain a firewood permit for the Flathead National Forest.

Supervisor's Office/
Tally Lake Ranger District
650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, Montana 59901
(406) 758-5200

Swan Lake Ranger District
200 Ranger Station Road
Bigfork, MT 59911
(406) 837-7500

Hungry Horse/ Glacier View Ranger District
PO Box 190340
10 Hungry Horse Drive
Hungry Horse, MT 59919
(406) 387-3800

Spotted Bear Ranger District
PO Box 190340
Hungry Horse, MT 59919
(406) 758-5376 (May 15 to Nov 15)
(406) 387-3800 (Nov 16 to May 14)

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USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Northern Region
Flathead National Forest

R1-25-09 April 2025

Flathead National Forest

Firewood Cutting Guide



General Rules

- Firewood permits authorize cutting of **dead** down trees as well **as standing dead trees** within the permitted area.
- **Six feet** is the **maximum** piece length that may be removed.
- **Do not cut** standing Cedar or Pacific Yew.
- **Do not cut** standing dead trees or down logs with signs, tags or paint marks on them.
- **Do not cut** or remove firewood from developed recreation sites, campgrounds, or Wild and Scenic river corridors.
- **Do not cut** or remove firewood from active timber sale units or other areas designated (by maps or signs) as closed to firewood cutting.
- **Do not cut** or remove firewood from within 150 feet of any running stream, pond, marshy or wet area. If a tree is accidentally felled into a waterway, leave the entire tree.
- Vehicles are restricted to roads. If winching, cable systems cannot be in excess of 100 feet.
- **During the Proclaimed Fire Season:**
  - Chainsaw operators must have a serviceable fire extinguisher and a shovel. b) Chainsaws must be equipped with an approved spark arrester screen. c) Vehicles must be equipped with a baffled muffler and serviceable tailpipe.

Flathead-Specific Rules

Firewood cutting or removal is:

- **Prohibited** within 300’ of any river, lake, or reservoir.
- **Prohibited** in the Coram Experimental Forest.
- **Prohibited** on or adjacent to the Westside Hungry Horse Res. Rd #895 from the intersection of Highway 2 to Lid Creek Campground.
- **Prohibited** on or adjacent to the Tally Lake Rd #913 (May 20th-September 30th).
- **Prohibited** on or adjacent to the Sheppard Cr. Rd #113 from the junction of Rd #539 to the junction of Rd #538B.
- From Nov 1 to May 31 larch trees cannot be cut unless they are dead, with loose buckskin bark.

Best Trees for Firewood

Common types of trees in northwest Montana and their heat values in BTUs (British Thermal Units) are listed below. Higher BTUs mean more heat.

Tree Species	BTUs
Western larch	22.3
Douglas-fir	20.6
Lodgepole pine	17.5
Ponderosa pine	17.1
Grand (white) fir	16.7
Spruce	15.0
Subalpine fir	13.6

Considerations

- Review this brochure and the conditions on the back of your permit carefully.
- Don’t forget to complete the **Product Quantity Removal Record** on your permit prior to leaving the cutting location.
- Avoid cutting wildlife trees. Standing dead trees (snags) are a source of food, nests, perches, and protective cover for many birds, mammals insects, and other animals. These trees usually have broken tops, visible nests, holes in the trunk, conks, or swellings.



- Cut safely. When cutting near a road have someone to watch for and stop traffic.

Get a Map

- Obtain a current Forest Service Map and be sure you are cutting on National Forest land, and not on private or state land.
- Motor Vehicle Use Maps for designated motorized roads and seasonal closures are available for free. Motorized travel off designated roads and trails is prohibited.
- To purchase a Forest Visitor Map or download a Motor Vehicle Use Map, visit our maps page at https://go.usa.gov/xHD9M