

FIREWOOD CUTTING PERMIT

Cutting firewood for personal use is a popular pastime for a lot of people who live near the Sierra National Forest. Each year, hundreds of people go to the woods to stock up on a winter supply of firewood, lots of times thinking about how pleasant it will be to sit in front of a warm fire on a cold winter night. There is something very satisfying about a nicely cut, split, and stacked wood pile. Before you head out with your chainsaw, there are a few things you should know about cutting firewood on the forest...

Obtaining a Firewood-Cutting Permit:

Anyone eighteen years or older may purchase a permit at any Sierra National Forest (SNF) office. The personal-use firewood-cutting permit consists of the permit, personal-use firewood map, and firewood tags. Due to the diversity of timber stands, forest-specific management goals, and other considerations, the rules for cutting firewood differ from forest to forest. The permit is valid for cutting firewood only in the areas designated on the permit and maps.

A personal-use firewood-cutting permit is \$5 per cord with a minimum charge of \$20. A maximum of 12 cords may be purchased per individual per year. The permit is for personal-use firewood only, not for re-sale. Keep in mind that areas of private land, BLM, NPS, & State are scattered within the boundaries of the SNF. The permit is only valid on SNF. Late spring and late fall are the best times to cut firewood. Most firewood does not burn well when freshly cut -- **plan on drying firewood for several months before using it**. If possible, stack firewood off the ground in a place that allows air circulation around the pile, which facilitates drying.

Equipment Regulations:

It is the permittee's responsibility to comply with all equipment regulations. Chainsaws and other internal combustion engines must be equipped with a Forest Service approved spark-arrester system. The spark-arrester system must be complete and in good working order. As a precaution, permittees are required to have a UL-approved fire extinguisher and a shovel with an overall length of at least 46 inches within 25 feet of chainsaw operations.

Where is Cutting Allowed?

There may be special restrictions on where and when you can cut firewood. In open areas, all species of dead and down trees may be cut and removed in portions less than 6 feet long. Some areas of the forest are restricted and or have seasonal restrictions. Refer to the permit and any attachments for more information. In the wet season, some national forest roads may be closed for public safety, to prevent damage by vehicle traffic. Refer to the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to ensure compliance with motor-vehicle-use regulations.

Restrictions:

The SNF is open from April 1 to November 30 for firewood cutting unless otherwise restricted by the permit or by special closures. Active timber sale areas; posted "no wood cutting" areas; wilderness areas; administrative sites; within 150 feet of campgrounds; and within 300 feet of rivers, year-round streams, and lakes are closed to firewood cutting.

During summer, early fall, or fire season, parts of the SNF may be closed to cutting due to fire danger or extreme weather conditions. Call (559) 500-4488 or visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra/> for any firewood cutting restrictions that may be in effect. A pre-recorded message will state the predicted Project Activity Level (PAL) requirements for the next day (see table on next page). It is the permittee's responsibility to comply with fire prevention precautions that may restrict access to areas in the forest.

Areas Specifically Closed to Woodcutting

- Private land within the Forest boundary.
- Forest administration stations.
- Research or Experimental Areas.
- Giant Sequoia groves.
- Further planning areas.
- Wilderness areas.
- Bass Lake Basin from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend.
- Kings River Special Management Area.
- Developed campgrounds