

# Personal Use Fuelwood Brochure



## Boise National Forest



May 15—November 30, 2025

### Information for Noncommercial, Personal-Use Fuelwood Permits

Your Fuelwood Permit is a legal document allowing the cutting of fuelwood from the Boise National Forest.

A valid forest fuelwood permit must be in your possession while harvesting and transporting fuelwood.

**There is a maximum household harvest of 10 cords per year.**

If you wish to cut commercially, please contact one of our Ranger District Offices.

Remember that not all land within the boundaries of the National Forests are publicly owned.

It is your responsibility to be certain you are not trespassing on private land.

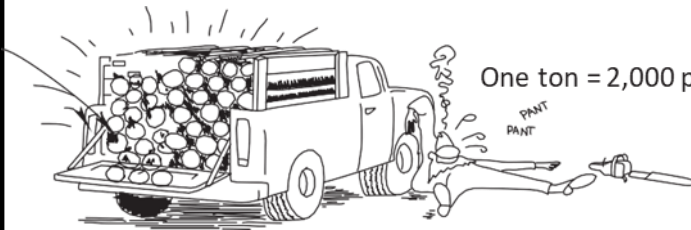
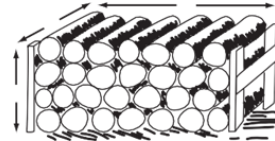
Obtain, and check for road access on the current, free Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for the area you plan on cutting your firewood because some Forest roads are closed. All motorized travel related to fuelwood gathering must be in strict accordance with the official Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) unless specifically exempted in your fuelwood permit.

Please obtain your firewood in compliance with the terms of the permit located on back page of permit.

We hope you enjoy a cozy winter from the wood obtained within the Boise National Forest!

## Firewood is Commonly Measured in Cords

1 Cord of tightly stacked dry wood measuring 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 8 feet long weighs **about** 2,600 pounds.



One ton = 2,000 pounds.



**You must stop at randomly placed firewood check points**

The use of motorized skidding equipment is prohibited. However, winching a log to the road is only allowed if all four tires of your vehicle remain on the maintained roadway.



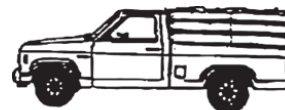
Small Pickup - 1/4-Ton

This truck bed holds about 1/4 cord of wood



Short Bed Pickup - 1/2-Ton

Without racks, this truck bed holds about 1/2 cord of wood



Long Bed Pickup  
1/2- or 3/4-Ton

With racks, this truck bed holds about 1 cord of wood



Standard Truck - 1-Ton to  
1 1/2 Tons.

With racks, this truck bed holds about 1 cord of wood

With high racks, this truck bed holds about 1 cord of wood

## Properly Validate Load Ticket(s), Attach & Record on Permit

### Whether Personal or Free Use Tickets and Permits are used:

1. On the ticket, cut out and completely remove current month and day notch.
2. Firmly staple, nail, or tack ticket(s) on the back of the fuelwood load for each 1/4-cord or portion thereof.
3. Each load ticket must be located individually on the left rear portion of the load, clearly visible from a distance.
4. Each load ticket has pre-printed numbers which must match the load tag numbers shown on the product removal permit: load tickets may not be sold, traded, or used to remove fuelwood under another permit.
5. Complete "Product Quantity Removal Record" on front of product permit, prior to transporting fuelwood.

If you fail to properly tag your load, validate your load ticket(s) and complete quantity removal record on permit, you are in violation of the terms and conditions of your permit and you may be subject to fines, penalties or further prosecution. Maximum penalties are \$5,000.00 and/or 6 months in jail.

1 TICKET PER 1/4 CORD

1 Cord of tightly stacked dry wood measuring 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 8 feet long weighs approximately 2,600 pounds.

## Digital Maps

For more detailed information and links to pdf maps for use on mobile devices, please use these QR codes:

Boise Map



Payette Map



# Cut Only Standing Dead & Down Trees for Fuelwood

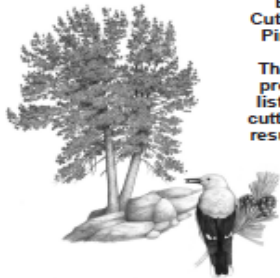
## Do NOT Cut Wildlife Trees



Cutting and/or removal of any tree bearing this sign is prohibited.

Standing, dead trees (snags) play a role in supporting wildlife populations in the forest. Removal of snags for fuelwood purposes must be carefully managed. For this reason, cutting is restricted in certain areas, and/or limited to certain sized trees.

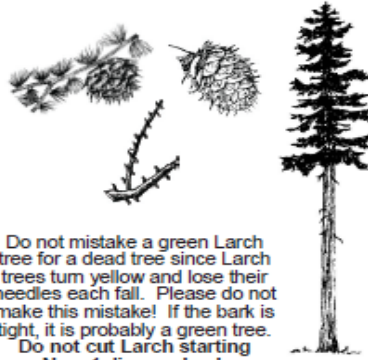
## Do NOT Cut or Remove Whitebark Pine Trees



Whitebark Pine has been listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Cutting or removing Whitebark Pine trees, whether green or dead, is prohibited. The Endangered Species Act provides strict protection for listed species. Possessing or cutting any part of the tree may result in a fine up to \$25,000 or up to one year in jail.

Identification: If the tree still has needles it will have five needles per bundle as compared to lodgepole pine that only has two needles per bundle. These trees are known for their multi-forked silhouettes on high mountain ridges.

## Do NOT Cut LIVE LARCH (Tamarack) TREES



Do not mistake a green Larch tree for a dead tree since Larch trees turn yellow and lose their needles each fall. Please do not make this mistake! If the bark is tight, it is probably a green tree. Do not cut Larch starting Nov. 1, live or dead.

## Check MVUM maps for Dispersed Camping Symbol



Use of a motorized vehicle for fuelwood gathering more than 300 feet off roads is NOT allowed. Use of a motorized vehicle while gathering fuelwood less than 300 feet off of roads is only allowed where a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) identifies authorized off-route travel for access to dispersed camping sites. MVUM's are available free from Forest Service offices.

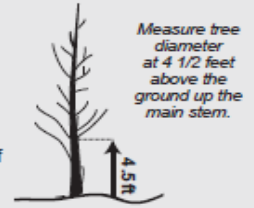
## Additional Cutting Restrictions:

Do Not Cut in the following areas:

- Developed Recreation Sites.
- Administrative Sites (e.g., Guard Stations, Boise Basin Experimental Forest, Research Natural Areas, Rental Cabins & Boat Ramps).
- Areas signed as Closed, Cutting Prohibited, and/or No Woodcutting.
- Private or other lands not administered by the Boise or Payette National Forests.
- Active timber sale areas, log decks and trees with paint markings. Note: some timber sales may be comprised of all dead trees.

## Diameter Measurement

When harvesting in areas with diameter restrictions, you must be able to properly measure and determine the correct diameter of a tree.



## Cut Stumps Low

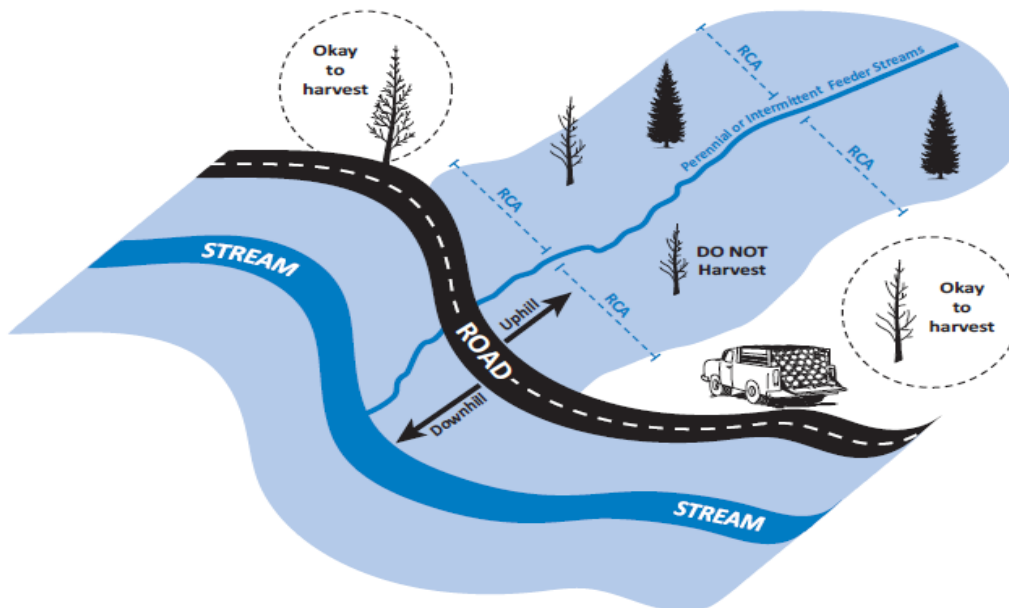
Less than 12 inches from ground.



# Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA)

Cutting or gathering fuelwood is prohibited within a 300-foot buffer on either side of perennial streams and 150-foot buffer on either side of intermittent streams, except as described below. A perennial stream maintains year-round surface flow and an intermittent stream flows seasonally and is dry in the summer/fall months.

Within 300 feet of perennial streams and 150 feet of intermittent streams, fuelwood cutting or gathering is allowed **on the uphill side of a road** (side away from the stream) if a road parallels a stream. Tributary streams above the road are not exempt and still require the appropriate stream buffers. Fuelwood cutting or gathering is prohibited in the blue areas.



- Harvest Zone (white areas)
- No Cutting Zone (blue areas)

# Am I fire safe and is my chainsaw legal? You are responsible if you start a fire.

## Report Wildfires:

**Boise NF Dispatch**  
208-384-3400

**Payette NF Dispatch**  
208-634-2757

**Southern Idaho Timber  
Protective Association**  
(SITPA) 208-634-2268



1. Keep the saw well away from cigarettes or an open flame when adjusting the saw or fueling .
2. Let your saw cool for at least 5 minutes before refueling.
3. Carry your gas in a safety can equipped with a spout, or use a funnel so gasoline does not spill on the ground.
4. Move your saw from the place where it was fueled and away from gasoline vapors before starting it. Also, remove oil and sawdust from all metal parts.

## Fire Precautions

Cutting and removing firewood from National Forest land in Idaho is controlled by IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE fire rules (IDAPA 20.04.01). Fuelwood cutters are required to have the following equipment while cutting and transporting fuelwood:

**SAW:** Exhaust system in good repair. Screen - type spark arrester of 0.023" mesh or less, qualified under US Forest Service standards.

**SHOVEL:** Long handles, round point with 8-inch blade.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHER:** A fully charged operable fire extinguisher with pressurized chemicals. Not less than 8-ounce capacity.

### CONTACT THE NEAREST RANGER STATION FOR CURRENT FIRE RESTRICTIONS.

**CRITICAL FIRE DANGER:** Restrictions that prohibit fuelwood cutting may be enacted during periods of critical fire danger.

**SMOKING:** is prohibited during periods of critical fire danger.

## Idaho State Statutes- Title 18 - Chapter 46 - The Removal and Cutting of Firewood & Transportation of Forest Products.

**Sec. 18-4628. TRANSPORTATION OF FOREST PRODUCTS** It shall be unlawful and constitute a misdemeanor for any person, firm, company, or business to transport on the public highways of this state any load of forest products, including coniferous trees, Christmas trees, saw logs, poles, cedar products, pulp logs, fuelwood etc., without proof of ownership.

**Sec. 18-4329. PENALTY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF FOREST PRODUCTS WITHOUT A PERMIT, CONTRACT, BILL OF SALE OR PRODUCT LOAD RECEIPT** Violation of the provisions of this section 18-4629, Idaho Code, shall constitute a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, be punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six (6) months or both.

## Websites

For more detailed information and links to pdf maps for use on mobile devices please visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/boise/maps-pubs>

**To Report Illegal Activities on National Forest Lands call:**

- Boise NF 208-373-4296
- BLM 208-373-4024

We recognize the importance of the fuelwood program to the public. Our goal is to continue the program while providing proper protection to the many wildlife and fisheries living in the Forest.



## Contact Information

### Boise National Forest Offices:

**Open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

#### Boise National Forest Supervisor's Office/Interagency Visitor Center

1249 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 200  
Boise, ID 83709  
208-373-4039 or 208-373-4100  
automated recording 208-373-4007

#### Cascade Ranger District

540 N. Main St.  
Cascade, ID 83611  
208-382-7400

#### Emmett Ranger District

1827 Highway 16  
Emmett, ID 83617  
208-365-7000

#### Garden Valley Guard Station

1219 Banks-Lowman Rd.  
Garden Valley, ID 83622  
208-462-3241

#### Idaho City Ranger District

3833 Highway 21  
Idaho City, ID 83631  
208-392-6681

#### Lowman Ranger District

7359 Highway 21  
Lowman, ID 83637  
208-259-3361

#### Mountain Home Ranger District

3080 Industrial Way  
Mountain Home, ID 83647  
208-587-7961

# FUELWOOD CUTTER—CHECK LIST

## BEFORE LEAVING HOME

- **I HAVE READ THE PERMIT**—I have read my permit and fuelwood brochure and realize that if I violated the permit terms and conditions, I could be subject to a \$5,000 fine, 6 months in jail or both. I have signed my permit and I am responsible for abiding by the permit conditions.
- **I HAVE THE PERMIT AND BROCHURE**—I have my original fuelwood permit and the fuelwood map of the National Forest I am gathering on with me when cutting and removing fuelwood.
- **ATTACHING LOAD TICKETS**—I have brought a nail or screw and proper tool(s) so I can attach my validated load ticket(s).
- **PERMITTEE IS PRESENT**—If I am not the permittee, the person named on the permit is with me while I cut and remove their fuelwood.
- **REVIEW FUELWOOD MAP** — I am only cutting fuelwood in areas shown as open on the fuelwood map.
- **10 - CORD MAXIMUM**—I and my household have not cut more than 10 cords combined of personal and free use fuelwood this year.
- **EXPIRATION DATE**— My permit has not expired.
- **MVUM**—I have a current Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

## COMPLYING WITH MOTOR VEHICLE USE REGULATIONS

- **300 FEET OFF-ROUTE**—I have reviewed the motor vehicle use map and the conditions on the back of my permit to make sure I am in an area where I can drive-off route. I realize that in areas where I am allowed to drive off-route, I cannot drive more than 300 feet from the road or damage the resource. I also realize that I must obey all on-the-ground signing regarding road, and areas being closed to my vehicle type.
- **DRIVING ON ROADS**—I am only driving on roads that are shown as open to my vehicle type on the official FS Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).
- **SKIDDING OR DRIVING**—I am not using any motorized skidding equipment. I am not skidding or driving through plantations, meadows, or riparian conservation areas (RCA). **If I am winching a tree to the road, all four wheels of my vehicle are on the maintained roadway.**
- **BLOCKING TRAFFIC**—I am not blocking traffic or impeding fire or emergency vehicles.

## CUTTING REGULATIONS

- **PROHIBITED TREE CUTTING**—I am not cutting any standing trees with green foliage, designated wildlife trees, or live larch trees. I am not cutting in an area where logging is occurring or log decks are present unless otherwise authorized. **I am not cutting live or dead Larch (Tamarack) after Nov. 1.**
- **WHITEBARK PINE**—I am not cutting any whitebark pine (live or dead) on the Boise National Forest.
- **STUMPS**—My stumps are less than 12 inches high
- **DIAMETER**—I am not removing any wood 7 inches in diameter or larger unless it is shorter than 8.0 feet in length
- **PREVENTING FOREST FIRES**—I am complying with fire requirements and current restrictions.
- **TREES WITH PAINT ON THEM**—I am **NOT** cutting any dead or live tree with **ANY** color paint on them .
- **FIRE TOOLS**— I have in my immediate possession a size “0” or larger shovel, a fire extinguisher of at least 8-ounce capacity, and have an approved spark arrester chainsaw.

## NO CUT AREAS

- **300 FEET / PERENNIAL STREAMS**—I am not cutting or removing fuelwood within a 300-foot buffer area on each side of any perennial stream unless the fuelwood is on the uphill side of a road. I have consulted my fuelwood brochure for further clarification for uphill side of the road rule. See page two of this brochure (Riparian Conservation Area diagram).
- **150 FEET/INTERMITTENT STREAMS, LAKES, RESERVOIRS, SWAMPS & MARSHES**—I am not cutting or removing fuelwood within a 150-foot buffer area on each side of any intermittent stream or aforementioned areas. I have consulted my fuelwood brochure for further clarification for uphill side of road rule. See page two diagram.
- **CUTTING 300 FEET / STATE OR FEDERAL HIGHWAYS** - I am not cutting or removing fuelwood within 300 feet of Idaho State Highways 21 and 55.
- **CUTTING 300 FEET / WARM LAKE HIGHWAY**—I am not cutting or removing fuelwood within 300 feet of Forest Highway 22 (Warm Lake Highway) without prior written approval of a Forest Officer.
- **CUTTING 200 FEET / DEVELOPED SITES** —I am not cutting or removing fuelwood within 200 feet of developed recreation sites, administrative sites, campgrounds and areas designated and signed as “closed” or “cutting prohibited”, or in areas designated as closed on the fuelwood map.

## WOOD REMOVAL PERMIT

- **FILL OUT REMOVAL FORM**—Prior to transporting my fuelwood, I have completed (in ink) the Product Quantity Removal Record located on the front of my permit.
- **VALIDATE LOAD TICKETS**—Prior to transporting my fuelwood, I have validated a load ticket for each 1/4 cord of wood by cutting out and completely removing the proper month and date. I understand my load tickets are not reusable.
- **ATTACH LOAD TAGS**— Prior to transporting my fuelwood, (even when moving between collection sites) I have securely attached my properly validated load tickets to the fuelwood so they are on the left rear of the load and clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle.

## LEAVING THE AREA

- **REMOVE TRASH**—I have cleaned up all of my trash and litter and will dispose of it at a proper trash facility.
- **CLEAN UP AREA**—Concurrent with forest product removal activities, slash and unused vegetative material resulting from Permittee’s activities shall be removed from roads and ditches and scattered in the surrounding landscape.
- **REPAIR ANY DAMAGES**—Permittee shall pay for or repair all damage to natural features; riparian areas; other vegetation; and roads, trails, fences, ditches, telephone lines, or other improvements resulting from permittee’s activities under this permit.