



Firewood Cutting Guide

This is a guide and does not replace the terms and conditions of the permit.

Firewood permits are available year-round and expire December 31 of the year issued. Permits are sold for \$5 per cord with a four cord minimum (\$20) and a 20 cord maximum (\$100). Understand before you purchase, we cannot give refunds. The permittee must be 18 years of age or older. The permittee must be present when the wood is cut and gathered. If not, authorization for another person to be present can be obtained from the Forest Service office.

Measuring a Cord

The permittee is responsible for calculating and knowing the amount of firewood that they are cutting and removing from the National Forest. They are also responsible for attaching the correct number of permit tags to their load **PRIOR** to leaving the cutting area.

A full cord measures 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 8 feet long (4' x 4' x 8') and has a volume of 128 cubic feet.



An average half-ton pickup truck with a full-size bed can carry half a cord of dry firewood. A pickup with a short bed will be able to carry a little less.

For trailers, measure the height of the stacked wood and the length and width of the trailer. By multiplying these three measurements, you can obtain the cubic volume of the wood in your trailer. Divide this figure by 128 (cubic feet) and the result will be the number of cords in the load.

Number of cords = $\frac{\text{Length} \times \text{Width} \times \text{Height}}{128}$



1/3 of a cord (1/4 of a cord for short beds)



1/2 of a cord (1/3 of a cord for short beds)



Full cord (3/4 of a cord for short beds)

Accessing Fuelwood

Motorized travel is restricted to designated roads. Motor Vehicle Use Maps are available at the District Offices. Parking is authorized for up to 300 feet (the length of a football field) from designated routes, **provided that resource damage does not occur.** Leave gates the way you find them (open or closed). Be careful not to interfere with livestock that are grazing or moving about in the forest.

Cutting Guide

- Wood larger than 7 inches in diameter at either end must be cut into 6-foot lengths or less.
- Stumps need to be cut to a height of 8 inches or less.

- Cut residual branches (slash) to within 24 inches of the ground and clear them from roadways and ditches.
- Tractors, bulldozers, skidders, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other heavy equipment may **NOT** be used to collect personal use fuelwood.
- **DO NOT** drop trees across roads, fences, gates, or other improvements.

Firewood Available for Cutting

- Deadwood - dead standing or dead laying on the ground. Standing dead ponderosa pine **MUST** be LESS THAN 18 inches in diameter.
- Green Oak Brush - green (live) oak brush may be cut if the trees are less than 6 inches in diameter measured at the root collar (near the ground level). This diameter is equivalent to 19 inches in circumference measured around the tree bole at the root collar.

Firewood Not Available for Cutting

- Live/green trees (excluding gamble oak) unless the tree is blown down and the roots are exposed. A live tree is defined as a tree with any number of green needles or foliage.
- Standing dead ponderosa pine trees that are 18 inches or larger in diameter. These trees provide much needed wildlife habitat.
- Timber sale areas and other contract areas, including piles or "decks" of logs constructed by loggers. These decks are from timber sales that have been purchased from the Forest Service by the logger. Cutting firewood from log decks is timber theft. Timber sale areas can be identified on the ground with orange or pink painted boundaries or orange timber sale signs. For the most up-to-date information on Timber Sale Areas, contact the Ranger District.

- Firewood cutting within designated wilderness areas is allowed for on-site use only. However, chainsaws and motorized equipment are not allowed in the wilderness areas.

- Wildlife Trees/Snags are trees that have been designated as an asset for wildlife perching, nesting, and dens, as well as a source of food. Damage to these trees is strictly prohibited.



- Trees from administrative sites, including guard stations, campgrounds, and picnic areas.
- Within 100 feet of any commercial operations.

Refer to your permit for further information. You can also call or visit your local Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests office.

Supervisor's Office

970-874-6600
2250 South Main Street
Delta, CO 81416

Grand Valley Ranger District

970-242-8211
1010 Kimball Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Gunnison Ranger District

970-641-0471
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

Norwood Ranger District

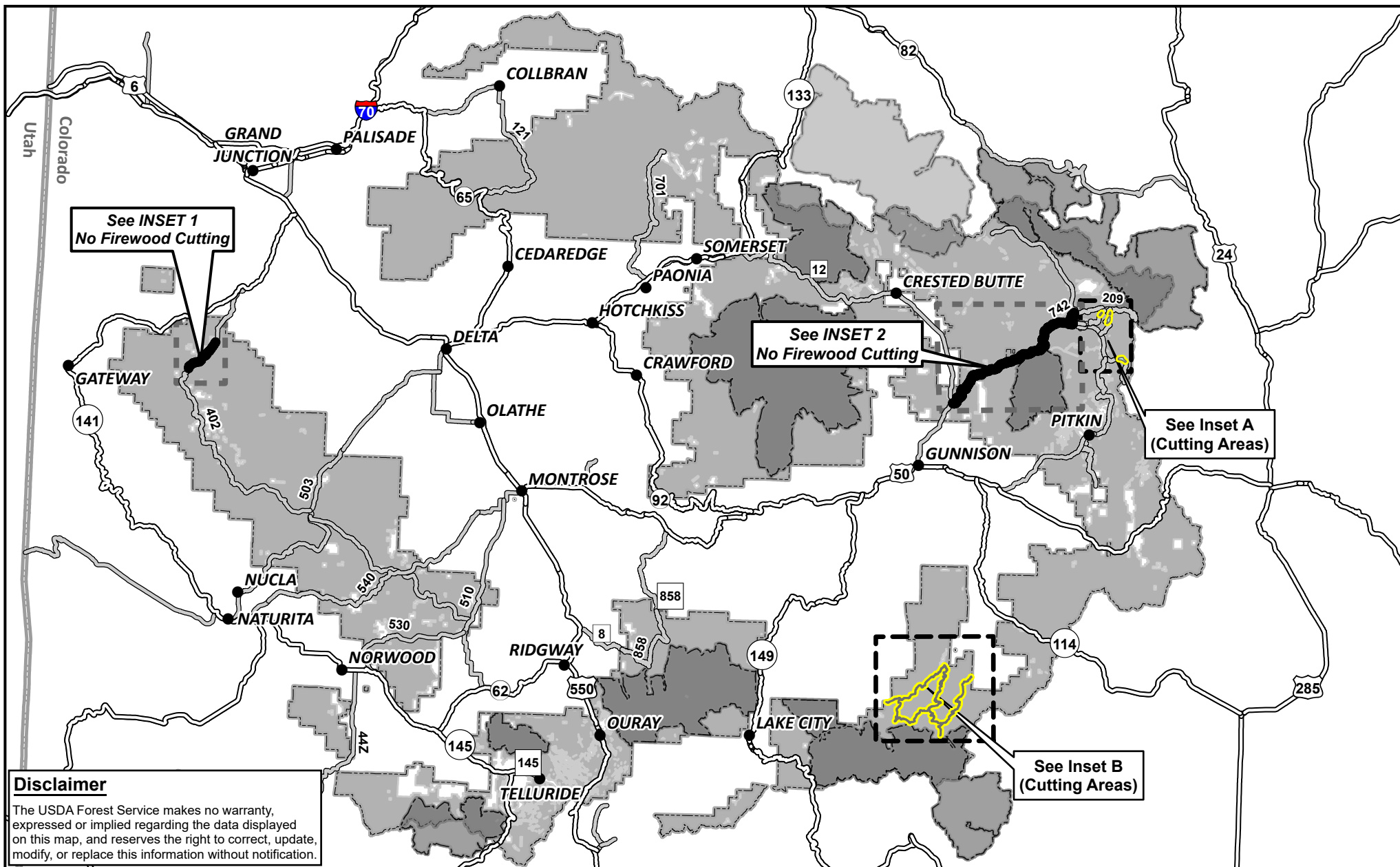
970-327-4261
1150 Forest Street
Norwood, CO 81423

Ouray Ranger District

970-240-5300
2505 S. Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401

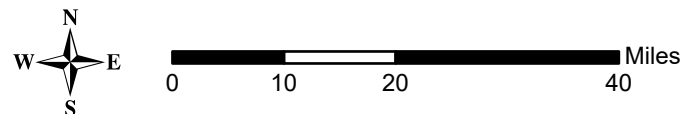
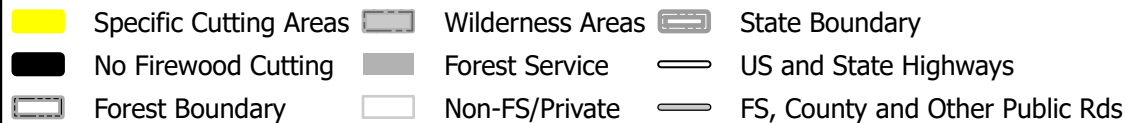
Paonia Ranger District

970-310-6383
1030 North Rio Grande Avenue
Paonia, CO 81428



Disclaimer

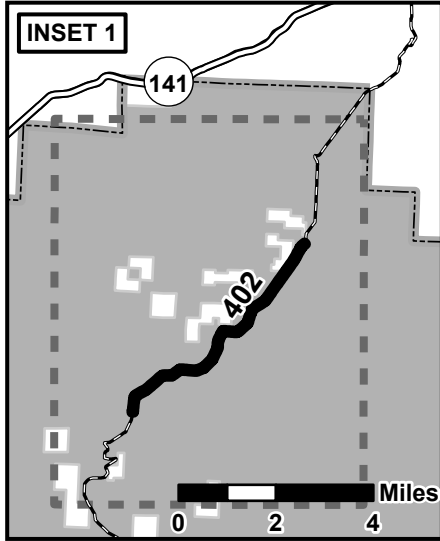
The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.





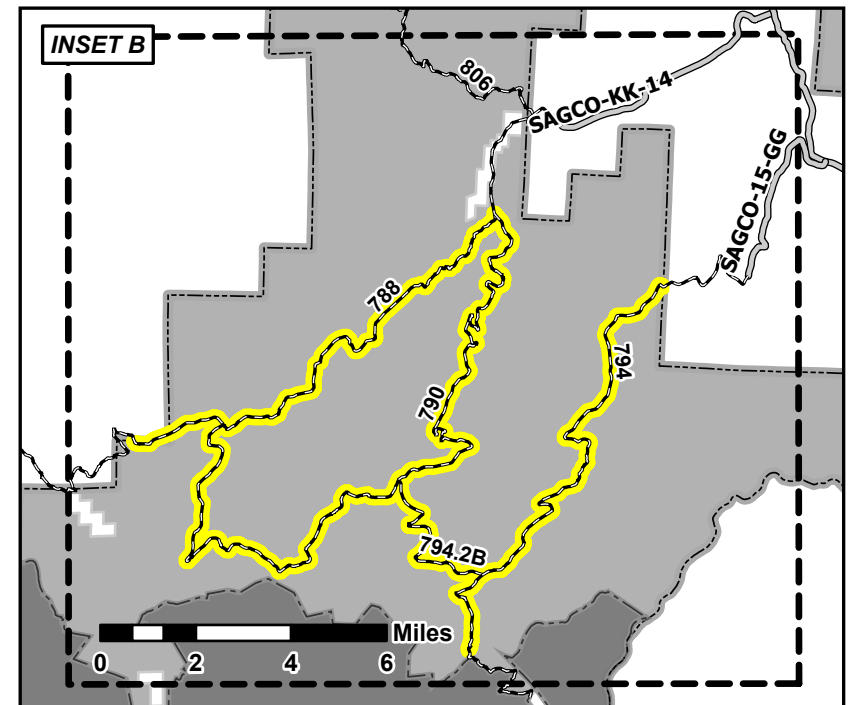
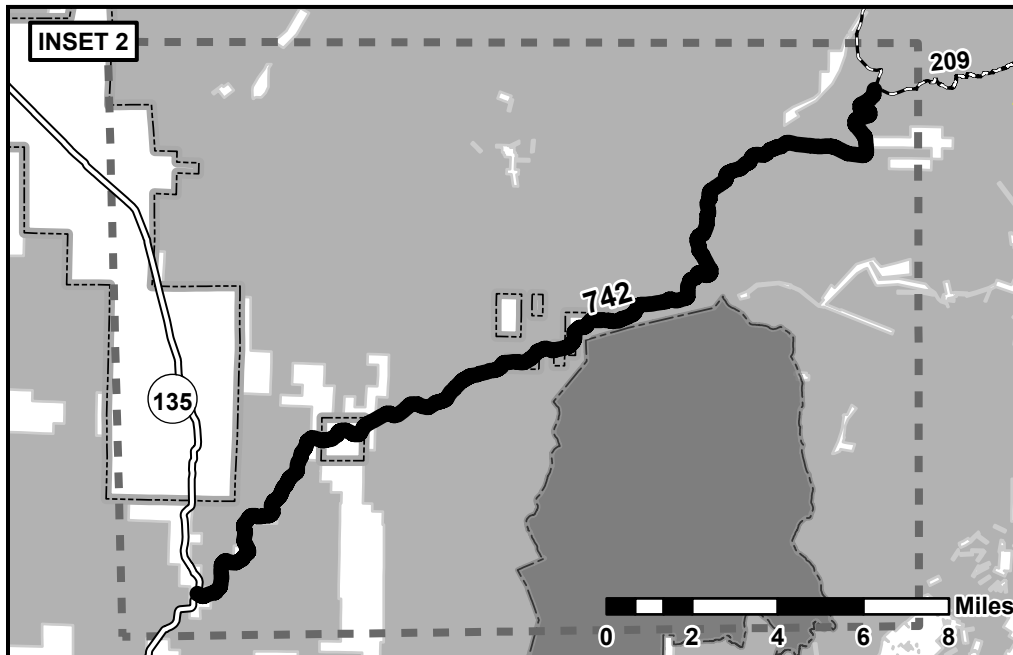
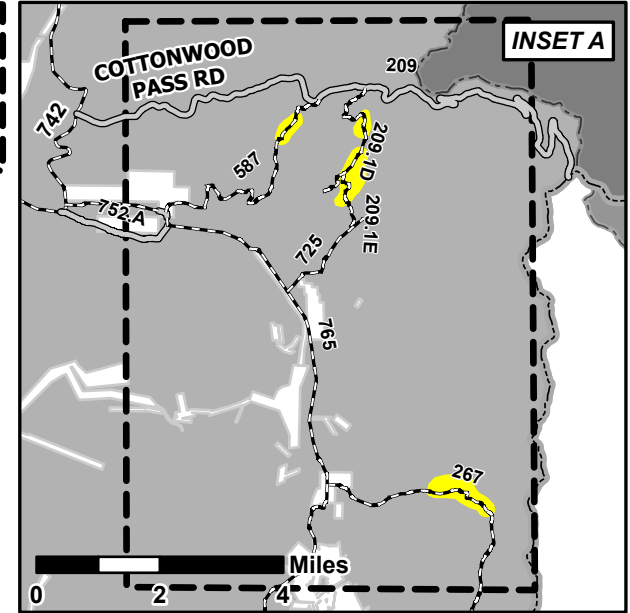
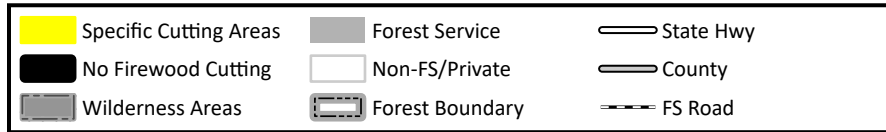
Firewood Permit Map - 2026

(Applies to National Forest System Lands Only)



No Firewood Cutting
INSETS: 1 and 5

Recommended Cutting Areas
INSETS: A and B



Disclaimer

The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.



Map Author: wasmith
Map Creation Date: 12/5/2025