



FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL FOREST (REGION 8)
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

FSH 2409.18 – TIMBER SALE PREPARATION HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 80 – USES OF TIMBER OTHER THAN COMMERCIAL TIMBER SALES

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Approved: *[Signature]*
Forest Supervisor

Date Approved: 11-06-2025

Posting Instructions: Supplements are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document; remove the entire document and replace it with this supplement. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last supplement to this Handbook was r8_nc_2409.18-2005-2 to Section 87.51b.

New Document	2409.18_87	11 Pages
Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date	2409.18_87.51 r8_nc_2409.18-2005-2, 6/20/05	7 Pages

Digest:

87.5 – Add special forest product collection standards for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests as specified by the 2023 Nantahala-Pisgah Land Management Plan.

87.51 – Add sections on incidental free use without a permit of various special forest products (fruits, berries, and nuts – no quantity limit; ramps and other edible greens and roots, medicinal herbs, mushrooms & fungi – 1 gallon/3 lb. daily limit).

87.51b – Removed pine straw sales from the Croatan Ranger District. No record that product being sold for that Ranger District. Removed Fraser fir collection.

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87.52 – Remove ginseng permit regulations (ginseng harvest no longer allowed). Add 40 lb. maximum limit per year for commercial ramps permits and seasonal restriction (March 15-May 15).

87.5 Exhibit 01 – Add exhibit clarifying incidental free use without a permit of special forest products.

87.5 Exhibit 02 – Change the price of ramps from \$0.50/lb. to \$2/lb. Reformat table for clarity.

87.5 Exhibit 03 – Expand Medicinal Herbs list.

87.5 Exhibit 04 – Add list of Prohibited Species for quick reference/clarity.

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87 – SALES OF SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS AND FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS

87.5 – Methods of Disposal

All collection of special forest products on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests is subject to the following standards and conditions, per the 2023 Nantahala-Pisgah Land Management Plan (LMP):

- No collection of special forest products is permitted in Research Natural Areas, Experimental Forests, or Special Interest Areas (RNA-S-04, SIA-S-07, EXF-S-09).
- No commercial collection of special forest products is permitted in Designated Wilderness Areas or Recommended Wilderness Areas (CDW-S-12, RW-S-07).
- No commercial collection of Fraser fir seedlings is allowed in the Roan Mountain Management Area (RM-S-10).
- No collection of moss species or showy species including azaleas, lilies, orchids, and trilliums (NTFP-S-02, NTFP-S-03).
- Collection within 30 feet of a perennial or intermittent stream is limited to those species, such as yellowroot (*Xanthorrhiza simplicissima*), that cannot be feasibly collected on upland sites. For species collected within this zone, collection is limited to a maximum of 50 plants per permit for any ground disturbing activities (transplants, roots), and only one permit is issued per individual each month (NTFP-S-04).
- Collection of down fuelwood without a permit is allowed for on-site camping use only (NTFP-S-05).

87.51 - Free Use

1. Incidental Free Use Without a Permit. No permit is required for small quantities of common special forest products being gathered for personal use, including customary and traditional uses for direct personal or family consumption. Material harvested or gathered under free use may not be sold or exchange. Persons availing themselves of this privilege on National Forest land are expected to exercise reasonable care in protecting the resource from damage. Incidental free use without a permit on the National Forest in North Carolina is allowable for the following products:
 - a. Incidental free use without a permit, **no daily quantity limit**:
 - i. Fruits and berries (e.g., apples, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, persimmons, etc.)
 - ii. Nuts (e.g., black walnuts, hazelnuts, hickory nuts, etc.)

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- b. Incidental free use without a permit, **daily quantity limit of 1 gallon or 3 pounds** per person (whichever is greater). Paid permits are also available for larger quantities (see 87.52).
 - i. Ramps and other edible greens and roots (e.g. branch lettuce, poke salad, cucumber root, etc.)
 - ii. Medicinal herbs and roots (e.g. bloodroot, black cohosh, stoneroot; see full list in Exhibit 03)
 - iii. Mushrooms and fungi (e.g. morels, chanterelles, chicken-of-the-woods, lion's mane, oysters, reishi, etc.)

Prohibited species may not be harvested or gathered under incidental free use. Prohibited species on the National Forests in North Carolina include ginseng, goldenseal, devil's-bit/fairy-wand (*Chamaelirium luteum*), Virginia snakeroot, azaleas, orchids, trilliums, native lilies, chaga, truffles, moss (including log moss), Fraser fir seedlings in the Roan Mountain management area, and all plants designated as threatened & endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service or designated as sensitive, locally rare/forest concern, or species of conservation concern by the US Forest Service (see Exhibit 04).

87.52 – Charge Permits or Sale of Products

List of saleable Special Forest Products:

1. Forest Products Removal Permit and Cash Receipt, form FS-2400-1. Charge permits may be used for specific saleable special forest products and are a legal instrument between specific parties to regulate the access and harvest of forest products. Saleable special forest products are listed in Exhibit 02. Additional notes on specific products:
 - a. Ginseng: The collection of ginseng was discontinued effective July 2021.
 - b. Medicinal Herbs: See Exhibit 03 for a list of medicinal herbs allowable for harvest.
 - c. Log Moss: The sale of Log Moss was discontinued effective January 1, 2006.
 - d. Galax: Every year there will be a seasonal restriction on the harvest of Galax from April 15 to June 15. Permits for less than 200 pounds will be issued for 15 days. Permits for over 200 pounds will be issued for 30 days.
 - e. Flame Azaleas: The sale of Flame Azaleas was discontinued effective June 1, 2005. The collection of other showy species including all other Azaleas, Trilliums, Orchids, and Native Lilies was discontinued effective February 2023.

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- f. Mountain Laurel, Maple, and Rhododendron: Permits for the sale of Mountain Laurel and Maple Sticks, and dug Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel plants, may be sold to one individual (referred to as the permit holder) who may have several workers digging or collecting under their permit. The permit holder must be on site and be able to produce the permit during the collection of any permitted product. Reducing the density of plants from any one area by more than 50% from pre-harvest levels should be avoided. Districts shall monitor designated harvest areas annually and adjust areas permitted for harvest to avoid overharvesting.
- g. Ramps: Ramp harvesting at quantities greater than daily free use limits (see Section 87.51) requires a Forest Product Removal Permit (FS-2400-1) and is limited to a maximum of 40 pounds per person per year, with a seasonal restriction of March 15 to May 15. Districts will adaptively manage permits for ramps based on demand and population monitoring data and only allow 50% of the bulbs within any one square foot area to be harvested at any one time.

Free Use Permits (FS-2400-8) may be authorized by District Rangers for civic/non-profit groups to harvest quantities up to 100 lbs. of ramps for non-commercial purposes.

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87.5 - Exhibit 01

Incidental Free Use Forest Products

The following special forest products may be collected without a permit for personal use. Material harvested or gathered under free use may not be sold or exchange.

Products	Conditions	Excluded Species (no collection)
Fruits & berries (Examples: apples, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, persimmons, etc.)	Free Use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permit required. • No quantity limit. • No commercial use. 	N/A*
Nuts (Examples: black walnuts, hazelnuts, hickory nuts, etc.)	Free Use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permit required. • No quantity limit. • No commercial use. 	N/A*
Ramps and other edible greens & roots (Examples: branch lettuce, poke salad, cucumber root, etc.)	Free Use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permit required. • Quantity limited to 3 lbs. (or 1 gallon, whichever is greater) per person per day. • No commercial use. Commercial: Permits available for ramps (Exhibit 02).	N/A* *All commonly used species in these categories are permissible. See Exhibit 04 for full list of prohibited species.
Medicinal herbs (Examples: bloodroot, black cohosh, stoneroot, see Exhibit 2 for additional allowable herb species)	Free Use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permit required. • Quantity limited to 3 lbs. (or 1 gallon, whichever is greater) per person per day. • No commercial use. Commercial: Permits available (Exhibit 02).	No collection of ginseng, goldenseal, devil's-bit/fairy-wand (<i>Chamaelirium luteum</i>), or Virginia snakeroot is permitted. See Exhibit 04 for full list of prohibited species.
Mushrooms & fungi (Examples: morels, chanterelles, chicken-of-the-woods, lion's mane, oysters, reishi, etc.)	Free Use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No permit required. • Quantity limited to 3 lbs. (or 1 gallon, whichever is greater) per person per day. • No commercial use. Commercial: Permits available (Exhibit 02).	No collection of chaga or truffles is permitted.

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87.5 - Exhibit 02

Permits for the following special forest products may be obtained at Ranger District offices:

Special Forest Products Requiring a Charge Permit (FS-2400-1)

Product	Price per permit	Quantity Permitted	Remarks
Galax (\$0.45/lbs.)	\$45 (15 days)	100 lbs. (15 days)	Seasonal Restriction from April 15 to June 15.
	\$90 (30 days)	200 lbs. (30 days)	
Ramps (\$2/lbs.)	\$20 to \$80	10 to 40 lbs.	Max. 40 pounds per person per year. No more than 50% of bulbs in 1' x 1' area. District to adaptively manage permits. Seasonal restrictions are March 15 to May 15. No permit required for personal use collection up to 1 gallon/3 lbs. per person per day (see Exhibit 01 above).
Firewood (\$5/ccf)	\$20 to \$40	4 to 8 ccf	Max 8 ccf per person per year. Dead and down wood only. Firewood may be collected <i>without</i> a permit for on-site camping use only.
Tree seedlings (\$0.20 ea.)	\$20	200 seedlings	Less than 24" height
Trees (\$2 ea.)	\$20	10 trees	2' - 6' maximum height
Locust Post (\$0.40 ea.)	\$20	50 posts	Non-commercial only
Cones (Pine) (\$5/bu.)	\$20	4 bushels	Seed collection.
Cones (Dry) (\$5/bu.)	\$20	4 bushels	Decorative/craft.
Rhododendron/Mountain Laurel Rootstock (\$0.25 ea.)	\$25	100	Evergreen species only. Digging is prohibited on road banks.
Rhododendron/Mountain Laurel Plants (\$5 ea.)	\$20	4 plants	Evergreen species only. Plants up to 6 feet tall. Cannot remove more than 50% of existing plant density. Permittee must smooth dug hole. Restricted harvest areas by district. Permit holder must be on site.
Florist Products (leaves & stems) (\$0.10/lb.)	\$20	200 lbs.	For commercial resale, Mountain Laurel leaves and Dog Hobble (<i>Leucothoe</i>).
Medicinal Herbs (other than Black Cohosh & Bloodroot) (\$0.20/lb.)	\$20	100 lbs.	See Exhibit 03 for complete listing of harvestable herbs.
Black Cohosh (<i>Actaea racemosa</i>) (\$0.20/lbs.)	\$20	100 lbs.	

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Bloodroot (<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>) (\$0.20/lbs.)	\$20	100 lbs.	
Mountain Laurel, Rhododendron (evergreen), Maple sticks (\$0.15 ea.)	\$30 (15 days) \$75 (30 days)	200 sticks (15 days) 500 sticks (30 days)	Up to 6 feet in length. Permits for 200 sticks 15 days. 30 days for 500 sticks. Permittee must be on site. District restricts areas.
Grape Vines (\$0.05/lbs.)	\$25	500 lbs.	

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87.5 - Exhibit 03

Medicinal Herbs List

Botanical Name	Medicinal Name	Part Used
<i>Agrimonia sp.</i>	Agrimony	Whole Herb
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa	Bark, and leaves
<i>Aletris farinosa</i>	Colic Root (Star Grass)	Root
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Ragweed	Above ground parts
<i>Angelica triquinata</i>	Filmy Angelica	Root
<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	Spikenard	Root
<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	Wild Sarsaparilla	Root
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's walking stick, Hercules cub	Berry, bark
<i>Aruncus dioecus</i>	Goat's beard	Root
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild Ginger	Root
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly weed, Pleurisy root	Root
<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	Wild Indigo	Root
<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	Blue Cohosh	Root
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea, red root	Root
<i>Chimaphila maculata</i>	Spotted wintergreen, Pipsissewa	Leaves
<i>Collinsonia canadensis, Collinsonia tuberosa</i>	Stone Root	Root
<i>Crataegus sp.</i>	Hawthorne	Berries
<i>Dioscorea villosa</i>	Wild Yam	Root
<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>	Eyebright, Eyebane	Above ground parts
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum, Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Joe-pye-weed (Gravel Root)	Whole Herb
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	Whole Herb
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen	Leaves, berries
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Leaves, flowers
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen	Leaves
<i>Ganoderma tsuga</i>	Reishi	Fruiting body
<i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i>	Agueweed, stiff gentian	Whole Herb
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	Root
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-hazel	Inner Stem Bark
<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	sharp-lobed hebotica	Leaves, stems
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Hydrangea	Root
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	St. Johnswort	Leaves, Flower
<i>Impatiens capensis, Impatiens pallida</i>	Jewelweed	Whole Herb
<i>Ligusticum canadense</i>	Appalachian Osha, American Lovage	Root

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<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Stems, Bark, Berries
<i>Lobelia inflata</i>	Indian tobacco	Whole Herb
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry	Leaves
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Beebalm	Leaves, herb
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Bergamot	Leaves, Herb
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Evening primrose	Whole Herb
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Maypop (Passion Flower)	Herb
<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>	Canadian lousewort	Leaves, Herb
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Pokeweed	Root, Leaves
<i>Plantago sp.</i>	Plantain	Root
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple	Root
<i>Polygonum cupidatum</i>	Knotweed	Root
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Root
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	Leaves, Herb
<i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i>	Rabbit tobacco	Above ground parts
<i>Puereria montana</i>	Kudzu	Roots
<i>Pycnanthemum pycnanthemoides</i> , <i>Pycnanthemum montanum</i>	Mountain mint	Leaves, Herb
<i>Rhus typhina</i> , <i>Rhus glabra</i> , <i>Rhus copallinum</i> , <i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Sumac	Flowers, fruits, leaves
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	Black Raspberry	Leaves
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Dock	Root
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Yellow Dock	Root
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	Inner Bark, Flower
<i>Salix alba</i>	white willow	bark, stems, leaves
<i>Sassafras albidium</i>	Sassafras	Leaves
<i>Scutellaria laterifolia</i> , <i>S. incana</i>	Skullcap	Leaves, Flower
<i>Solidago spp</i> (excluding SCC)	Goldenrod	Above ground parts
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Flower
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	Leaves
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Mullein	Leaves, Flower
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Common speedwell	Above ground parts
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Black Haw	Bark
<i>Xanthorrhiza simplicissima</i>	Yellowroot	Roots

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87.5 - Exhibit 04

Plants NOT to be Collected or Sold (Prohibited Species)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Remarks
American ginseng (Medicinal)	<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	Sensitive. Collection of ginseng was discontinued in July 2021.
Goldenseal (Medicinal)	<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	SCC. Collection has never been allowed on the NFsNC.
Devil's-bit, fairy-wand (Medicinal)	<i>Chamaelirium luteum</i>	Sustainability concerns.
Virginia snakeroot (Medicinal)	<i>Endodeca serpentaria</i>	Sustainability concerns.
Chaga (Mushrooms/fungi)	<i>Inonotus obliquus</i>	Sustainability concerns.
Truffles (Mushrooms/fungi)	<i>Tuber</i> spp. and other truffles of order Pezizales	Sustainability concerns.
Azaleas (including flame azalea, pink shell azalea, etc.) (Showy Species)	All deciduous <i>Rhododendron</i> species (<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i> , <i>Rhododendron vaseyi</i> , etc.)	Collection of flame azaleas was discontinued as of June 1, 2005. Collection of showy species including azaleas prohibited per 2023 LMP standard NTFP-S-03.
Native Lilies (Showy Species)	Native <i>Lilium</i> spp. (Day lilies, <i>Hemerocallis</i> spp., are non-native and may be collected.)	Prohibited on the Nantahala-Pisgah per 2023 LMP standard NTFP-S-03.
Orchids (Showy Species)	Family Orchidaceae	Prohibited on the Nantahala-Pisgah per 2023 LMP standard NTFP-S-03.
Trilliums (including bethroot) (Showy Species)	All species in Family Trilliaceae, including <i>Trillium</i> and <i>Trillidium</i> spp.	Prohibited on the Nantahala-Pisgah per 2023 LMP standard NTFP-S-03.
Moss (including log moss)	All moss species, including <i>Hypnum</i> spp.	Log moss collection on the NFsNC was discontinued as of January 1, 2006. Additionally, prohibited on the Nantahala-Pisgah per 2023 LMP standard NTFP-S-02.
Fraser fir seedlings in Roan Mountain Management Area	<i>Abies fraseri</i>	Prohibited per 2023 LMP standard RM-S-10.
All plants designated as Proposed, Threatened, or Endangered (USFWS) or Regionally Sensitive, Locally Rare/Forest Concern, or Species of Conservation Concern (USFS).	See list.	Contact National Forests of North Carolina botanists or ranger districts for complete list.