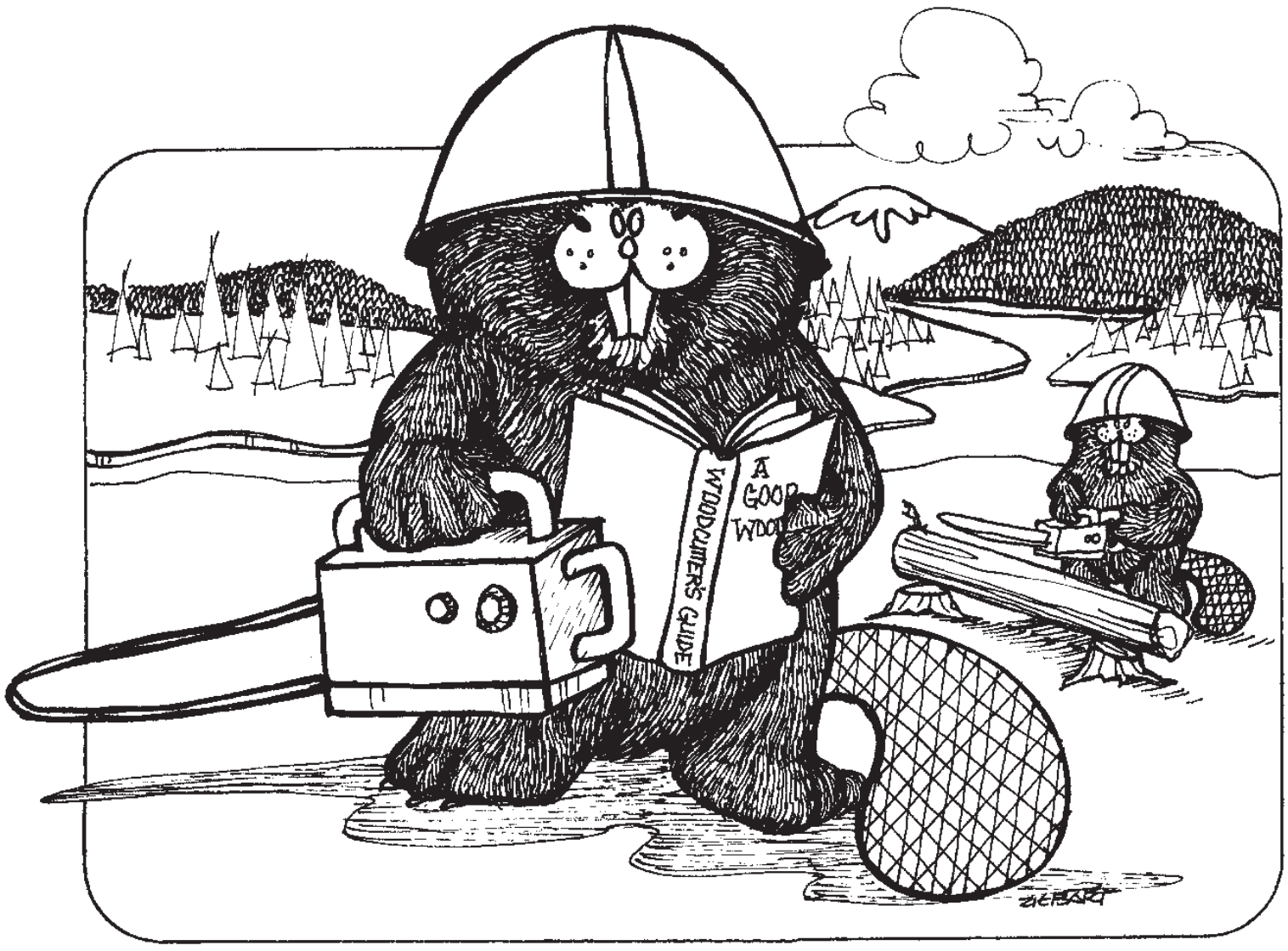
USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Umatilla National Forest

2026 Personal-Use Firewood Maps
Attachment–Part 2

(Part 1 is your Permit Form)



Is Today a Cut Day?

It's *Your* Responsibility to
Find Out Before You Head Out!

An updated recorded message will let you know if firewood cutting is allowed, restricted to certain times of the day, or closed completely due to hot, dry weather conditions.

Call Toll-Free

1-877-958-9663

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Umatilla National Forest's 2026 Program

GENERAL INFORMATION:

To receive a firewood permit, you must be 18 years of age or older and present a government-issued photo ID.

Personal use firewood is free of charge. Each household is allowed a maximum limit of 12 cords per year.

Firewood permits are available at all Umatilla National Forest Offices and at several local vendors. A vendor list is located on the back page of this guide. Vendors can only issue permits in twelve cord increments. A vendor fee (up to $2) may be added to the permit.

Woodcutters are reminded to cut firewood early in the season to avoid the fire-danger related closures typical in August and September. Call to confirm that woodcutting is allowed before you head to the forest.

COMMERCIAL FIREWOOD:

All commercial activities on National Forest System Lands require a commercial permit. If you wish to cut and sell firewood commercially, you must purchase a commercial firewood permit through the local Ranger District office for your area of interest. District contact information is provided on the back page of this guide.

FOREST-WIDE DEAD OR LIVE JUNIPER CUTTING:

For this year (2026), dead or live Juniper, **up to 24 inches in diameter or <75 inches in circumference at stump height**, may be cut anywhere on the Umatilla National Forest under the personal use firewood program to:

- supplement a shortage of firewood
- thin overstocked young juniper

FOREST-WIDE POLICIES:

The Umatilla National Forest strives each year to provide a firewood program that is easy to understand while complying with all of the laws and regulations that govern our forest management. These policies apply to every woodcutting area on the Umatilla National Forest including:

PRODUCT QUANTITY REMOVAL RECORDING

Firewood cutters are required to keep a record of the date, time and amount of firewood removed off National Forest Lands on the Product Quantity Removal Record **located on the front of your firewood permit.** This requirement will be enforced.

PRODUCT QUANTITY REMOVAL RECORD											
Date	Time	Quantity Removed	Date	Time	Quantity Removed	Date	Time	Quantity Removed	Date	Time	Quantity Removed
5/14/14	10AM	1 CORD									
5/14/14	12:30PM	1 /2 CORD									
6/3/14	1 PM	1/4 CORD									

24" STUMP DIAMETER

The Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon and southeast Washington are home to over 60 species of mammals and birds that use snags and down wood for nesting, foraging and shelter. Some areas on the Umatilla National Forest are "snag deficient." This means there are not enough snags (larger than 18" in diameter) in the area to provide habitat for these critters.

To help alleviate this problem, the Umatilla has imposed a maximum stump diameter of no larger than 24" for falling or removing any dead tree, standing or down. A 24" diameter also equates closely to 75" in circumference. On a standing dead snag, you measure stump diameter 12" up from the base of the tree. On dead-down firewood, try to locate and measure the stump of the tree. If that's not possible, measure the tree diameter at its largest end. The diameter is measured from the outside bark to the outside bark. **A ruler, provided on pages 8-9, will help you gauge stump diameter.**



No larger than 24" or 75" in circumference.

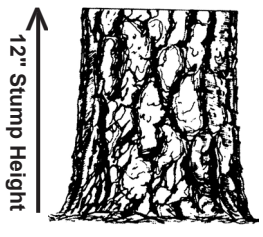


Ponderosa Pine needles, cones and bark



PONDEROSA PINE

Good Wildlife Home - Poor Firewood The Umatilla National Forest has authorized ponderosa pine for firewood cutting, providing the public with additional available species to choose from when cutting and gathering firewood. However, there are good reasons to consider not cutting ponderosa pine for firewood. Some areas on the Forest are “snag deficient.” This means there are not enough large snags in the area to provide habitat for nesting, feeding, and shelter for those animals that depend on them.



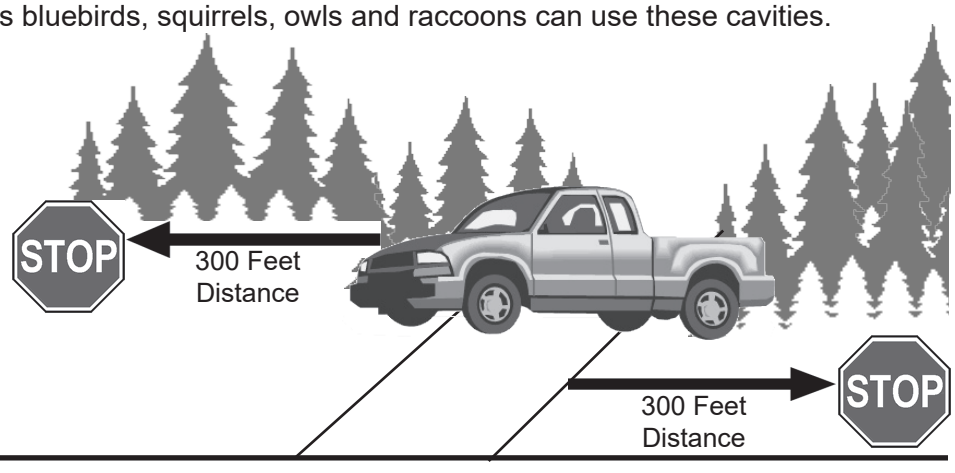
Compared to other kinds of conifer trees growing in the Blue Mountains, ponderosa pine has low density and makes relatively poor firewood. Since heat output is directly related to density, a cord of ponderosa pine generates less heat than other species. However, ponderosa pine is favored by many animals for nesting because of its soft composition.

In areas where snags are numerous, more than 70% of woodpeckers choose to nest in ponderosa pine. Because woodpeckers only nest in a cavity for one year, other animals such as bluebirds, squirrels, owls and raccoons can use these cavities.

TRAVEL ALLOWED WITHIN 300 FEET OF AN OPEN ROAD

You may drive a motor vehicle up to 300 feet slope distance off of an open road to cut and gather firewood, provided you do not cause resource damage. You may not travel beyond the 300 feet slope distance from any road open to motorized travel. Traveling beyond or around a guardrail or barricade/green gate with a motor vehicle is prohibited.

Please remember, your vehicle can easily damage soils and vegetation when traveling off of open roads, especially in the spring time when the ground is soft. It is illegal to cause this kind of resource damage with your vehicle.



Can I Cut Today?

Weather Conditions Affect Woodcutting, Find Out Before You Head Out!

Chainsaws can start fires. Summer months in the Blue Mountains are typically hot and dry, often triggering some level of public-use restrictions involving chainsaws, as well as campfires, smoking, travel and other activities. It's your responsibility to find out what restrictions are in place and plan accordingly.

To determine if firewood cutting is allowed, restricted or prohibited on the North Zone (*Walla Walla and Pomeroy Ranger Districts*) or South Zone (*North Fork John Day and Heppner Ranger Districts*) of the Umatilla National Forest, just call our **TOLL-FREE** information line at **1-877-958-9663**. An updated recorded message will state if firewood cutting is:

- allowed all day,
- restricted to specific hours (i.e.1 P.M.- 8 P.M. chainsaw shutdown),
- restricted to specific zones of the forest,
- or closed completely due to wildfire danger.

Restrictions are determined by current and predicted weather and ground conditions. Imposing or changing restrictions will be announced by 6 P.M. on the day prior to the day the restriction will go into effect. Weekend restrictions will be announced by 6 P.M. on Friday. Again, it is your responsibility to check if restrictions are in affect!

An approved chainsaw spark arrestor, axe, shovel and 8 oz. or larger fire extinguisher are required to be in the possession of the firewood cutter. Woodcutters are also required to remain in the work area for a minimum of one hour after the chainsaw is shut down to watch for and suppress any fires or smoldering duff.

For Umatilla National Forest's current personal wood cutting restrictions call:

1-877-958-9663

Validating your load tickets

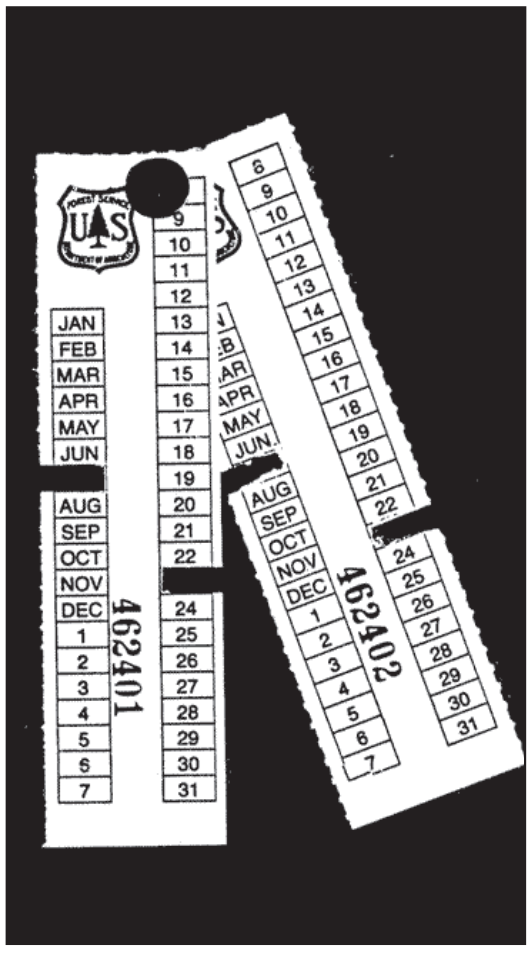
It's your responsibility to tag your firewood load properly. If you fail to tag your load or validate your tickets, you may receive a violation citation.

To properly validate and tag your load:

1. COMPLETELY REMOVE the month and day on the colored load ticket.

2. SECURELY ATTACH (staple, nail, or tack) one ticket on the back of the load, for each 1/2 cord or portion thereof, on the truck or trailer before leaving your woodcutting area.

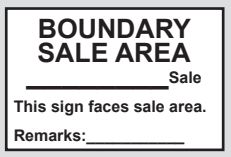
3. Do not stack tickets on top of each other. All tickets must be clearly visible on the back of the load.

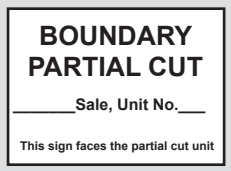


SIGN LANGUAGE

You encounter all kinds of signs, ribbons, and markings while out hunting for firewood. What do they all mean and how should you interpret them? Good question! In fact it's one of our most commonly asked questions. Hopefully we can shed some light on this subject so the next time you're out you'll know whether ***TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT.***

Timber Sale Boundary Signs:







Firewood cutting is prohibited within active timber sale boundaries.

Firewood Cutting Signs:





You may see these signs posted when the harvesting portion of a timber sale is complete but before the site prep burning takes place. This allows woodcutters to cut firewood from slash piles, etc., before the area is burned. We encourage woodcutters to use these areas.

Other Signs to Watch For:



Firewood Cutting is NOT allowed in Old-Growth Management Areas

Ribbons and Paint Marks:

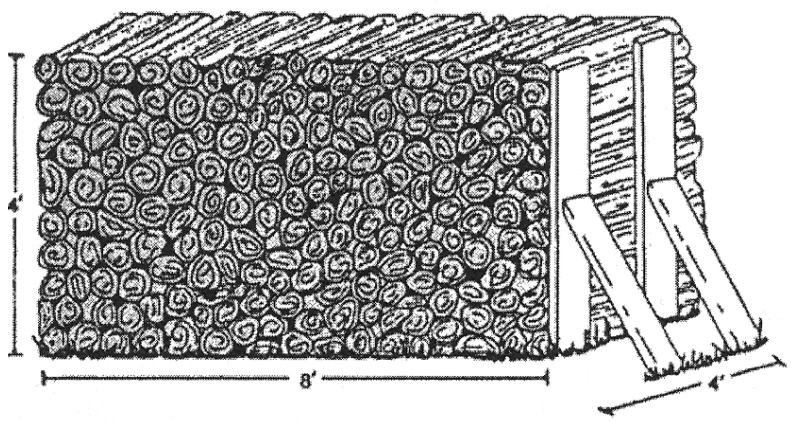
Trees, both dead and alive, can be marked with colored paint and ribbons for many reasons. Ribbons are frequently used to mark timber sale units, while paint marks are used to identify wildlife trees. However, both paint and ribbons can be used to depict other activities too. Do not cut trees marked with paint or ribbons. For more information on active timber sales, please contact the district office.

Our best advice to the woodcutter is:

"When in Doubt, DON'T Cut"

Firewood Measurements

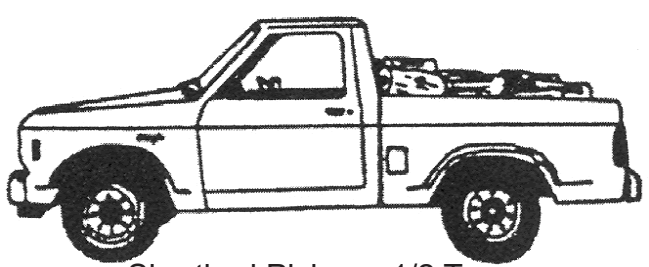
It is important to measure your firewood load correctly to make sure you validate the right number of load tickets. Each pickup bed is different and can haul* anywhere from 1/2 cord to 1-1/2 cords. For accuracy, use the following to calculate the amount of firewood loaded on your pickup: LENGTH x WIDTH x HEIGHT divided by 128 cubic feet.



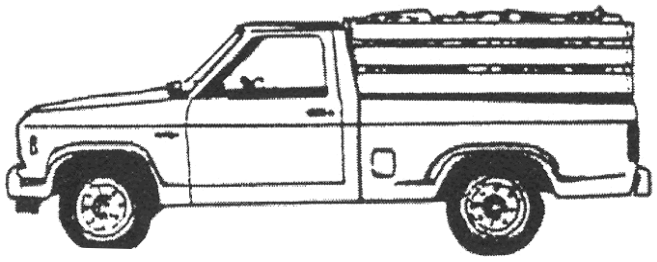
One cord of wood measures 8 feet long, 4 feet high and 4 feet wide. A cord contains 128 cubic feet of round wood.



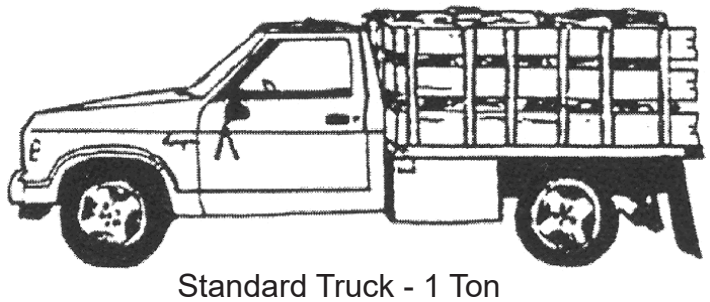
Small Pickup - 1/4 Ton
With or without racks, this truck bed holds approximately 1/2 cord of firewood.



Shortbed Pickup - 1/2 Ton
With or without racks, this truck bed holds approximately 3/4 cord of firewood.



Longbed Pickup - 1/2 or 3/4 Ton
Without racks, this truck bed holds approximately 3/4 cord of firewood. With racks, it holds approximately 1 - 1.5 cords of firewood.



Standard Truck - 1 Ton
With racks, this truckbed holds approximately 1.5 - 2 cords of firewood.

*Do not overload your truck with firewood. Check the owner's manual for your vehicle's safe weight restriction.

Safety Reminders

Prevent Accidents!

- Know your physical condition and capabilities.
- Keep your equipment clean and in good condition.
- Stay alert! If you're getting tired, take a break.

Prevent Injuries!

Wear protective equipment such as:

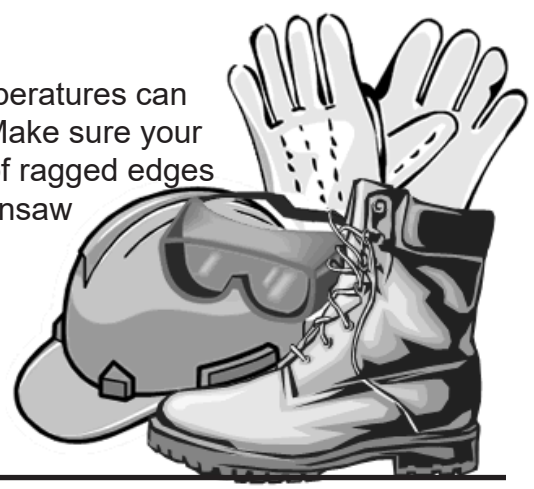
- A hard hat to protect your head from falling limbs or branches.
- Safety glasses to protect your eyesight.
- Ear plugs to protect your ears from permanent hearing loss.
- Gloves to protect hands from abrasions and cuts.
- Heavy workboots or shoes with high tops and steel toes.
- Woodcutter chaps for leg protection.

Prevent Giardia!

Pack enough water to supply you for the day. Do not drink untreated water from streams, lakes, ponds or livestock watering facilities.

Prevent Hypothermia!

Bring a variety of clothing. Temperatures can drop quickly in late afternoon. Make sure your clothing is form-fitting and free of ragged edges that could get caught in the chainsaw or snagged on brush or limbs.



And Always!

Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be home.

Heppner Ranger District - West

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

OPENING DATE: May 1, 2026
CLOSING DATE: Nov. 30, 2026

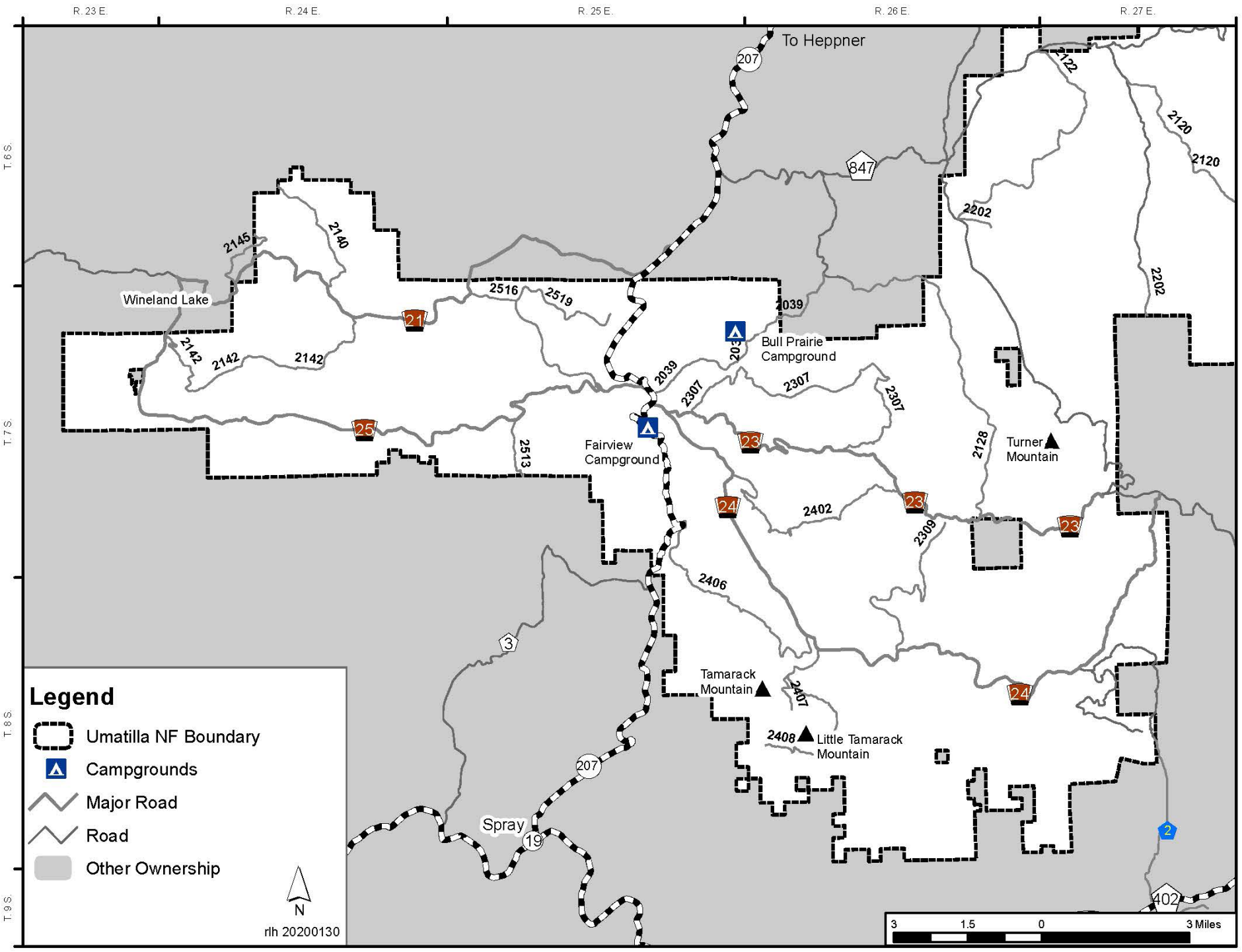
WHAT YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER: Any dead standing or down tree, less than **24 inches in diameter** at stump height, if it has no green needles. **Exception:** Green-live Juniper less than 24 inches in diameter at stump height may be cut anywhere on the district.

Trees with signs, ribbons, tags or paint marks on them may not be cut. Where the cutting of standing dead trees is allowed, stumps shall be no higher than 12 inches in height.

WHERE YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER: Within 300 feet slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. This map displays roads open to woodcutting (unless otherwise posted).

DO NOT CUT OR GATHER FIREWOOD: Within 300 feet distance from any live stream, lake or pond; within developed campgrounds or along OHV trails; within designated Wilderness Areas; or where otherwise posted. Do not cut any dead standing or dead down tree over 24 inches in diameter. Do not cut beyond 300 foot slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. Do not cut any tree marked “wildlife tree”.

PROTECT ALL IMPROVEMENTS: Such as fences, roads, spring developments, and gates.



Heppner Ranger District - East / North Fork John Day Ranger District - West

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

OPENING DATE: May 1, 2026
CLOSING DATE: Nov. 30, 2026

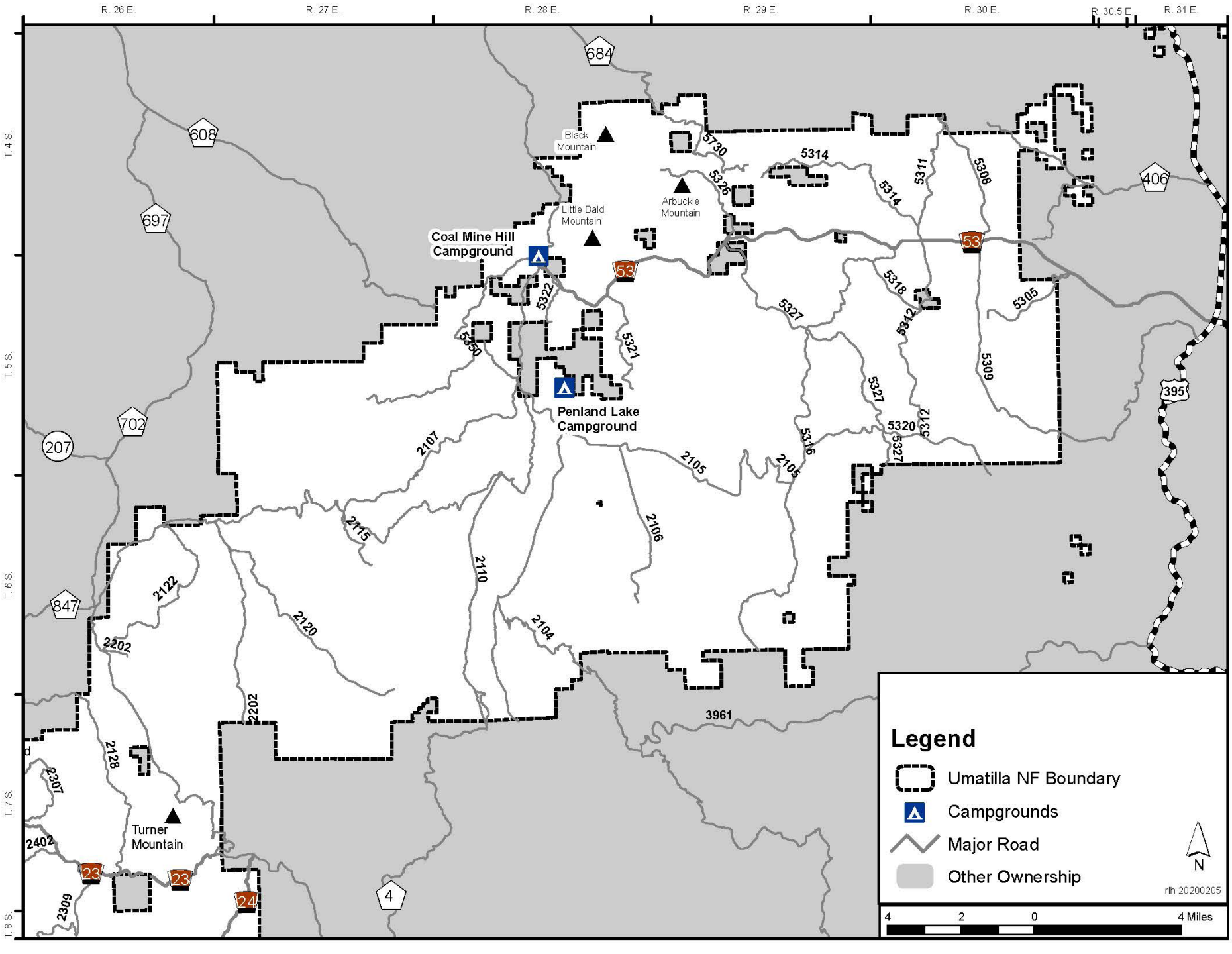
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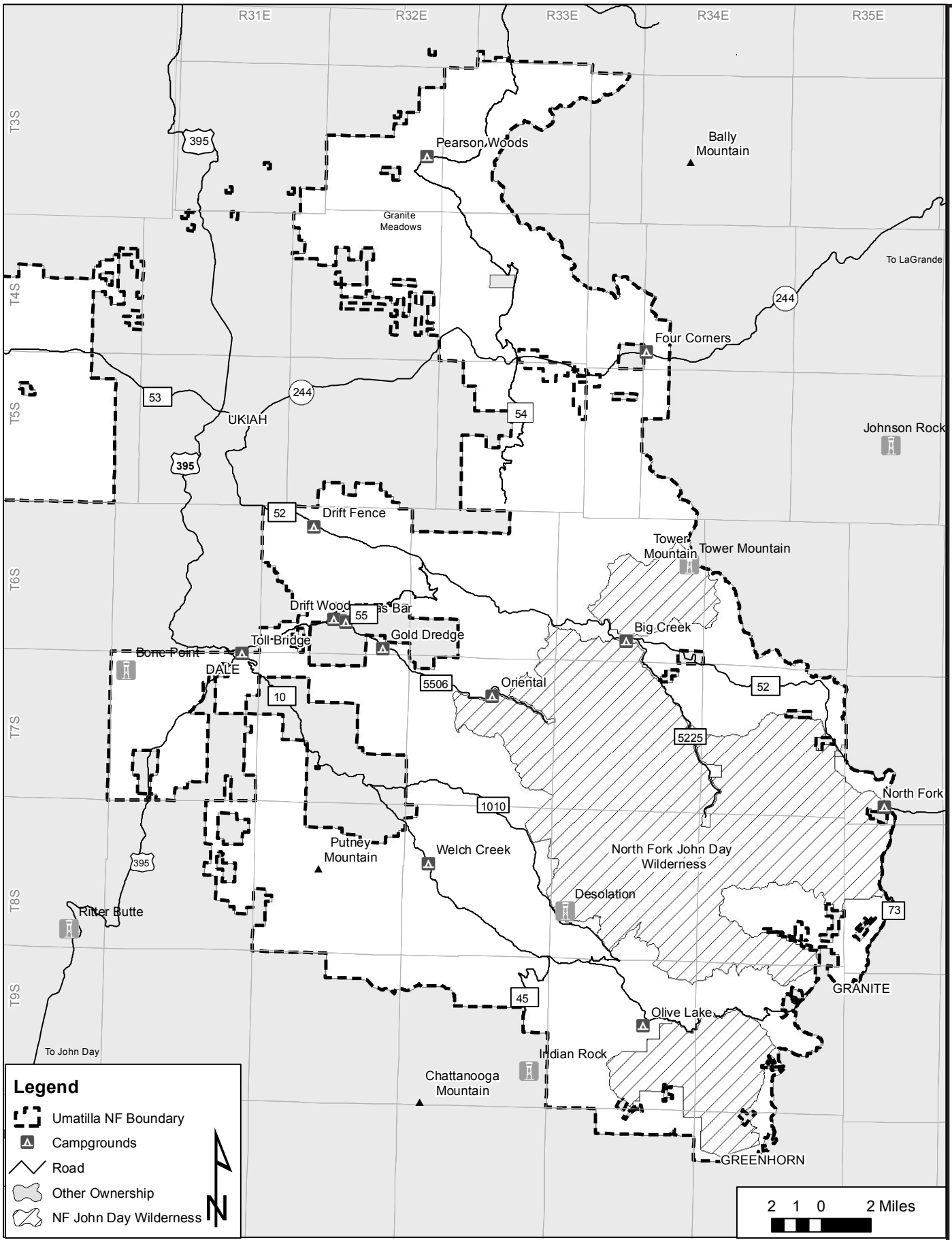
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PROTECT ALL IMPROVEMENTS: Such as fences, roads, spring developments, and gates.



North Fork John Day Ranger District - North and South

OPENING DATE: May 1, 2026
CLOSING DATE: Nov. 30, 2026



SPECIAL CONDITIONS

WHAT YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER: Any dead standing or dead down tree, less than **24 inches in diameter** at stump height, if it has no green needles, signs, ribbons, tags, or paint marks. Where the cutting of standing dead trees is allowed, stumps shall be no higher than 12 inches in height. **Exception:** Green-live Juniper less than 24 inches in diameter at stump height may be cut anywhere on the district.

WHERE YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER: Within 300 feet slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. Please refer to the Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) for open road information. Maps are free-of-charge at the District Office, Supervisor's Office and on District information bulletin boards throughout the District.

DO NOT CUT OR GATHER FIREWOOD: Within 300 feet distance from any live stream, lake or pond; within developed campgrounds, along OHV trails, designated wilderness areas, or where otherwise posted. Do not cut any dead standing or dead down tree over 24 inches in diameter. Do not cut beyond 300 foot slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. Do not cut any tree marked "wildlife tree".

PROTECT ALL IMPROVEMENTS: Such as fences, roads, spring developments and gates.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS:
You are prohibited from parking on Forest Road 52 (Ukiah-Granite Road) and must pull completely off of the pavement to cut or gather firewood due to high vehicle use and high traffic speeds associated with this road.

Walla Walla Ranger District #1

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

WHAT YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER:
Any dead standing or dead down tree, less than 24 inches in diameter at stump height, if it has no green needles, signs, ribbons, tags, or paint marks. Where the cutting of standing dead trees is allowed, stumps shall be no higher than 12 inches in height. **Exception:** Green-live Juniper less than 24 inches in diameter at stump height may be cut anywhere on the district.

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DO NOT CUT OR GATHER FIREWOOD:
Within 300 feet distance from any live stream, lake or pond; within developed campgrounds, along OHV trails; or where otherwise posted. Do not cut any dead standing or dead down tree over 24 inches in diameter. Do not cut any tree marked “wildlife tree”.

PROTECT ALL IMPROVEMENTS:
Such as fences, roads, spring developments and gates.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS:
Firewood cutting is prohibited in the Mill Creek Watershed, all Wilderness Areas, and along State Highway 204.

Because of high vehicle traffic along Forest Roads 31 (Summit Road), 63, and 62, you must pull completely off the road to cut or gather firewood.

WOOD CUTTING IS PROHIBITED ON THE FOLLOWING ROADS:

- Forest Road 64 from its junction with State Highway 204 to its junction with Forest Road 6400250 (Jubilee Lake access road).

- Forest Road 6400250 (Jubilee Lake access road).

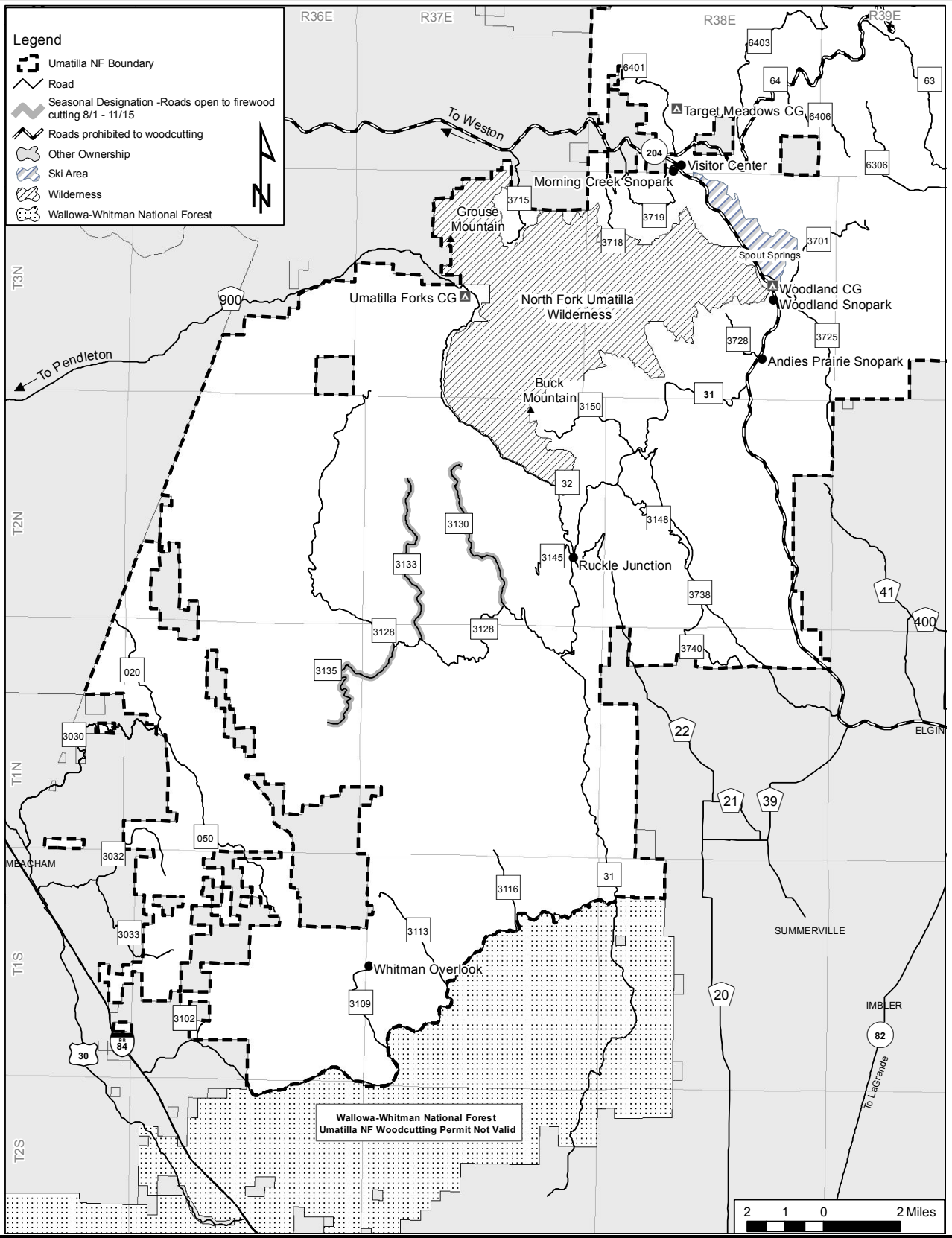
- Forest Road 64 from its junction with County Road 9115, south of Dayton, WA to its junction with Forest Road 6400650 (Ski Blue-wood entrance road).

- Forest Road 6403120 (Mottet Campground access road).

- Forest Road 6401050 (Target Meadows Campground access road).

OPENING DATE:
May 1, 2026

CLOSING DATE:
Nov. 30, 2026



RULER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Use this ruler only as a guide to help measure the tree's

Walla Walla Ranger District #2

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

WHAT YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER:
Any dead standing or dead down tree, less than **24 inches in diameter** at stump height, if it has no green needles, signs, ribbons, tags, or paint marks. Where the cutting of standing dead trees is allowed, stumps shall be no higher than 12 inches in height. **Exception:** Green-live Juniper less than 24 inches in diameter at stump height may be cut anywhere on the district.

WHERE YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER:
Within 300 feet slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. Please refer to the Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) for open road information. Maps are free-of-charge at the District Office, Supervisor's Office and on District information bulletin boards throughout the District.

DO NOT CUT OR GATHER FIREWOOD:
Within 300 feet distance from any live stream, lake or pond; within developed campgrounds, along OHV trails; or where otherwise posted. Do not cut any dead standing or dead down tree over 24 inches in diameter. Do not cut any tree marked “wildlife tree”.

PROTECT ALL IMPROVEMENTS: Such as fences, roads, spring developments and gates.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS:
Firewood cutting is prohibited in the Mill Creek Watershed, all Wilderness Areas, and along State Highway 204.

Because of high vehicle traffic along Forest Roads 31 (Summit Road), 63, and 62, you must pull completely off the road to cut or gather firewood.

WOOD CUTTING IS PROHIBITED ON THE FOLLOWING ROADS:

- Forest Road 64 from its junction with State Highway 204 to its junction with Forest Road 6400250 (Jubilee Lake access road).

- Forest Road 6400250 (Jubilee Lake access road).

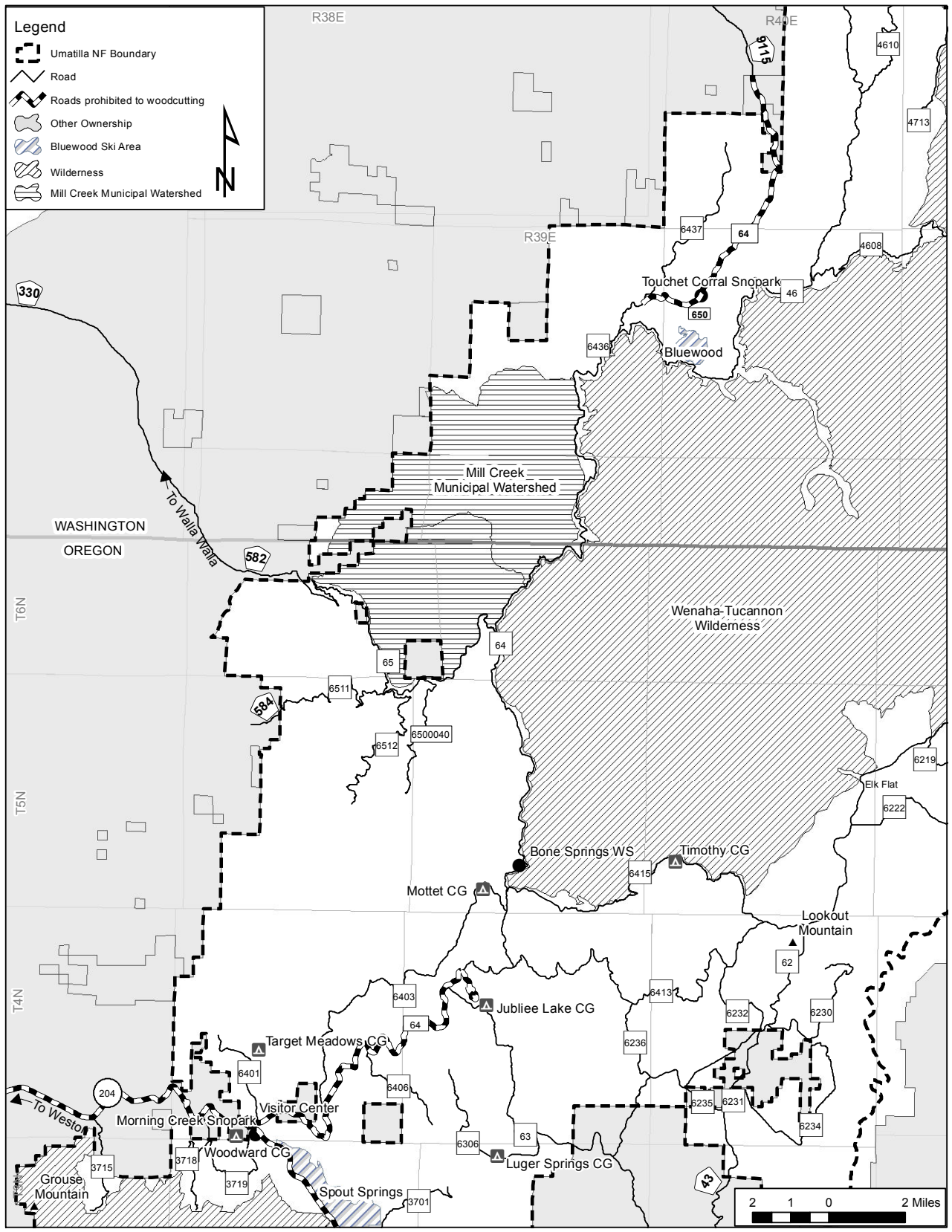
- Forest Road 64 from its junction with County Road 9115, south of Dayton, WA to its junction with Forest Road 6400650 (Ski Bluewood entrance road).

- Forest Road 6403120 (Mottet Campground access road).

- Forest Road 6401050 (Target Meadows Campground access road).

OPENING DATE:
May 1, 2026

CLOSING DATE:
Nov. 30, 2026



diameter, at stump height. See instructions on page 2.

Walla Walla Ranger District #3

OPENING DATE: May 1, 2026
CLOSING DATE: Nov. 30, 2026

WHAT YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER:
Any dead standing or dead down tree, less than **24 inches in diameter** at stump height, if it has no green needles, signs, ribbons, tags, or paint marks. Where the cutting of standing dead trees is allowed, stumps shall be no higher than 12 inches in height. **Exception:** Green-live Juniper less than 24 inches in diameter at stump height may be cut anywhere on the district.

WHERE YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER:
Within 300 feet slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. Please refer to the Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) for open road information. Maps are free-of-charge at the District Office, Supervisor's Office and on District information bulletin boards throughout the District.

DO NOT CUT OR GATHER FIREWOOD:
Within 300 feet distance from any live stream, lake or pond; within developed campgrounds, along OHV trails; or where otherwise posted. Do not cut any dead standing or dead down tree over 24 inches in diameter. Do not cut any tree marked “wildlife tree”.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

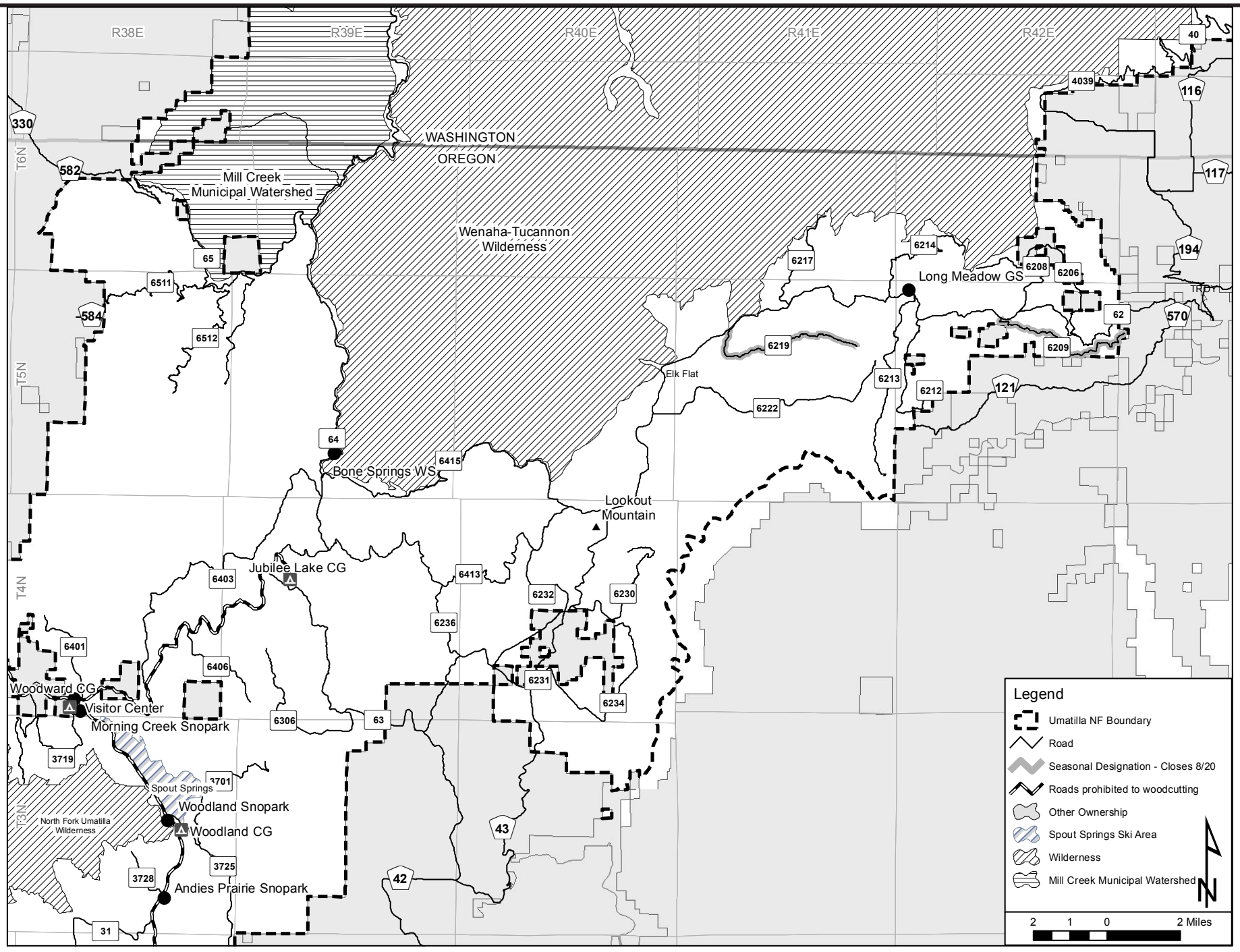
PROTECT ALL IMPROVEMENTS:
Such as fences, roads, spring developments and gates.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS:
Firewood cutting is prohibited in the Mill Creek Watershed, all Wilderness Areas, and along State Highway 204.

Because of high vehicle traffic along Forest Roads 31 (Summit Road), 63, and 62, you must pull completely off the road to cut or gather firewood.

FIREWOOD CUTTING IS PROHIBITED ON THE FOLLOWING ROADS:

- Forest Road 64 from its junction with State Highway 204 to its junction with Forest Road 6400250 (Jubilee Lake access road).
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- Forest Road 64 from its junction with County Road 9115, south of Dayton, WA to its junction with Forest Road 6400650 (Ski Bluewood entrance road).
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- Forest Road 6401050 (Target Meadows Campground access road).



Pomeroy Ranger District #1

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

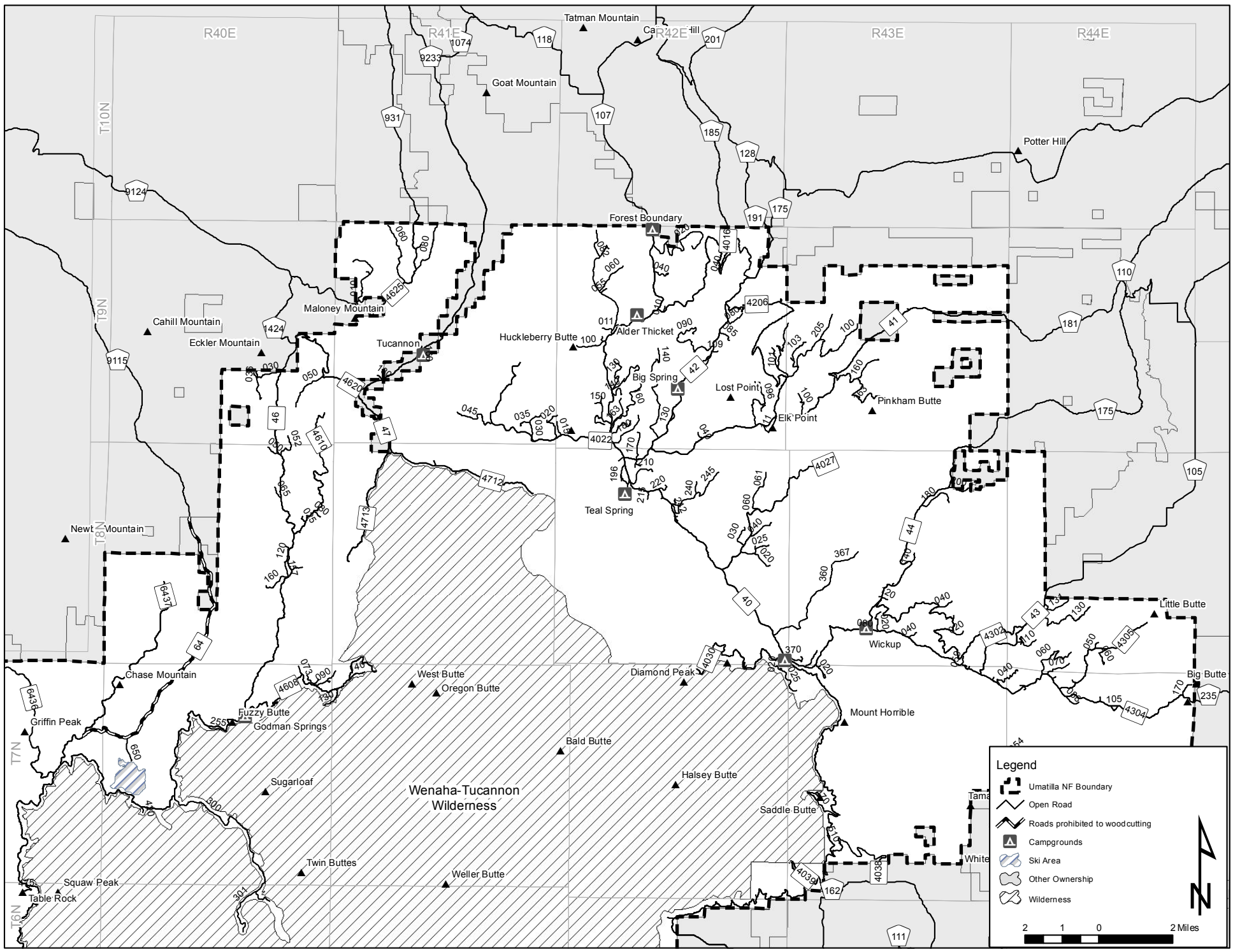
OPENING DATE: May 1, 2026
CLOSING DATE: Nov. 30, 2026

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WHERE YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER: Within 300 feet slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. This map displays roads open to woodcutting (unless otherwise posted). Please refer to the Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) for open road information. Maps are free-of-charge at the District Office, Supervisor's Office and on District information bulletin boards throughout the District.

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PROTECT ALL IMPROVEMENTS: Such as fences, roads, spring developments, and gates.



Pomeroy Ranger District #2

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

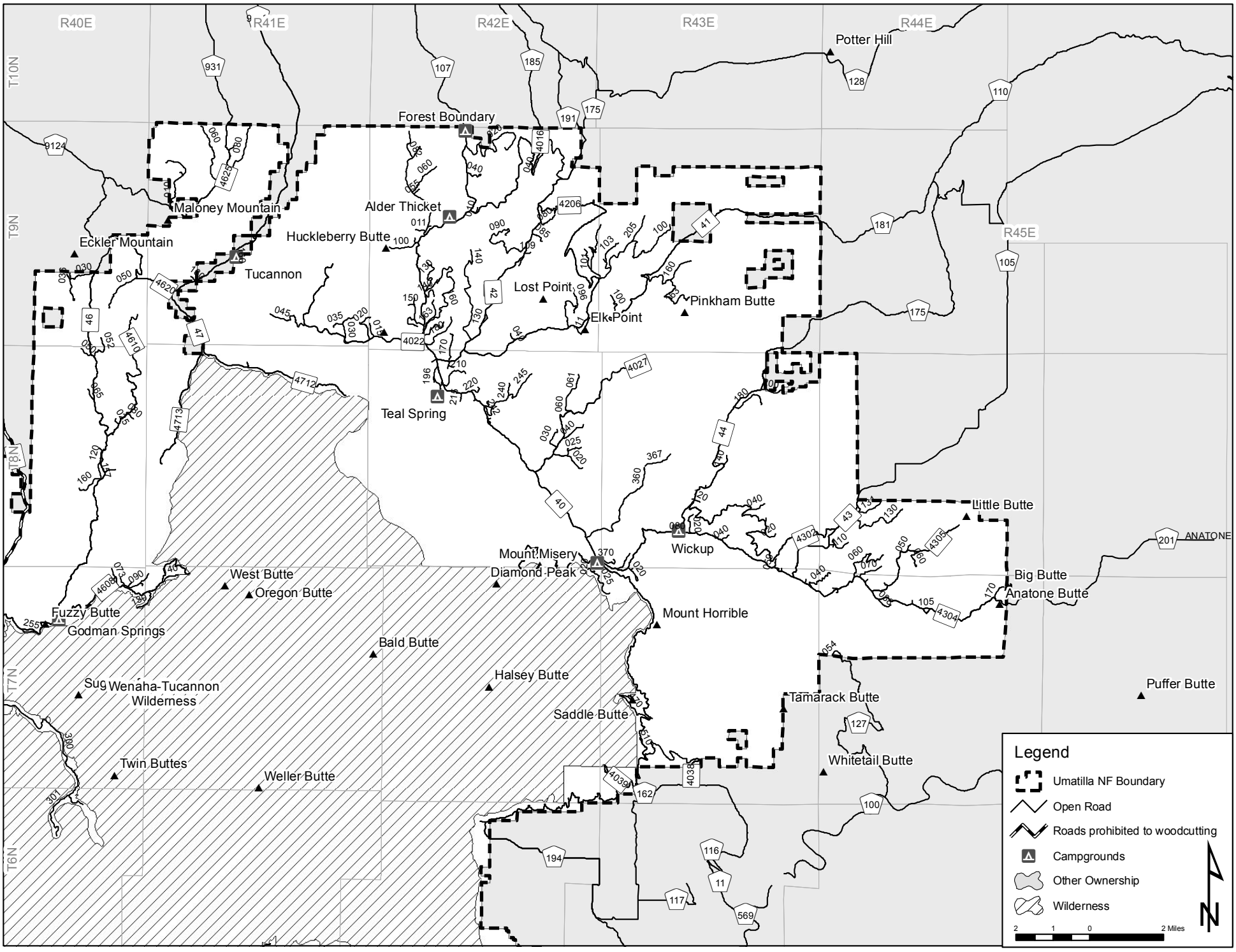
OPENING DATE: May 1, 2026
CLOSING DATE: Nov. 30, 2026

WHAT YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER: Any dead standing or dead down tree, less than **24 inches in diameter** at stump height, if it has no green needles, signs, ribbons, tags, or paint marks. Where the cutting of standing dead trees is allowed, stumps shall be no higher than 12 inches in height. **Exception:** Green-live Juniper less than 24 inches in diameter at stump height may be cut anywhere on the district.

WHERE YOU MAY CUT AND GATHER: Within 300 feet slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. This map displays roads open to woodcutting (unless otherwise posted.) Please refer to the Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) for open road information. Maps are free-of-charge at the District Office, Supervisor's Office and on District information bulletin boards throughout the District.

DO NOT CUT OR GATHER FIREWOOD: Within 300 feet distance from any live stream, lake or pond; within developed campgrounds or along OHV trails; within designated Wilderness Areas; or where otherwise posted. Do not cut any dead standing or dead down tree over 24 inches in diameter. Do not cut beyond 300 foot slope distance from roads open to motorized travel. Do not cut any tree marked "wildlife tree".

PROTECT ALL IMPROVEMENTS: Such as fences, roads, spring developments, and gates.



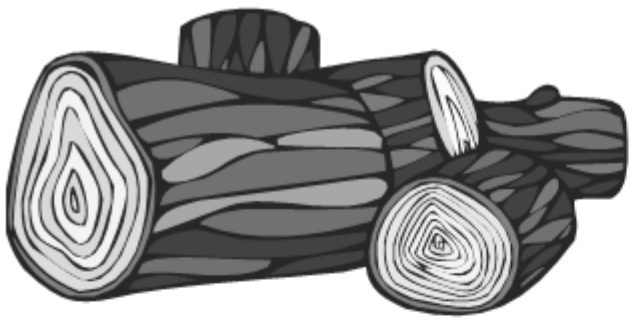
FIREWOOD SEASON 2026

Dates to Remember

May 1 - Firewood Season Begins (some areas may be inaccessible due to snow).

July through September - Late summer months are typically very hot and dry. Firewood cutting may be prohibited at this time. Make sure to call our toll-free message phone at **1-877-958-9663** to see if firewood cutting is allowed.

November 30 - All firewood areas close for the season.



May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Where's all the tamarack and red fir firewood?

Have you noticed that tamarack (western larch) firewood is not as abundant as in the past? It is in high demand due to its superior BTU value and for the ease of splitting. Red fir (Douglas-fir) is becoming scarce for the same reason.

There is still plenty of firewood for you to cut, but it just won't all be red fir or tamarack. Lodgepole pine is another very suitable wood for your stove. Spruce is easy to split and there's an abundance of white fir. When you cut a variety of firewood species, you help to clean up ground fuels which could reduce the intensity of a forest fire.

To get the most BTU value out of any species of firewood, ensure that it is thoroughly seasoned and kept dry while in storage. Ensure that your stove is operating efficiently by cleaning the firebox and chimney on a regular schedule. Also, be sure to check the regulations for using woodstoves in the county in which you live.

BTU (British Thermal Unit) Value of Common Firewood Species

Species	Million BTUs/cord
Western Larch (Tamarack)	28.7
Western Juniper	26.4
Lodgepole Pine	22.3
Grand Fir (White fir)	21.1
Douglas-fir (Red fir)	20.6
Spruce	15.9
Balsam	14.3
Subalpine Fir	13.6

Source: http://firewoodresource.com/Firewood-btu-ratings

The lengths that some woodcutters go to, because of the high demand for the "redwoods", is causing resource damage in areas of the forest:

- Dead trees greater than 24 inches are being cut and removed (which is one less big snag for the wildlife that use them)
- Roads are being illegally "constructed" to access stands that are beyond the 300 foot travel limit
- Locks are being cut and removed on gates and barricades to gain access to closed road systems
- Green larch is being cut/girdled (a deliberate, deep severance of the cambium layer causing eventual death to the tree), either to remove immediately or for later retrieval.

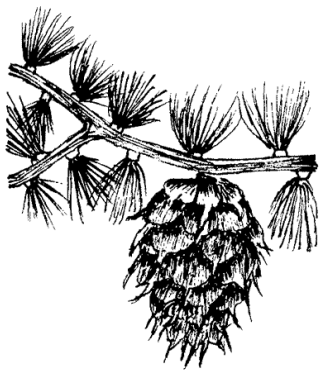
To help us keep the Personal Use Firewood Program in operation, we need your help. Consider mixing your woodpile with all species; look into purchasing a modern, more efficient stove; alternate wood heat with another form of heat.

Report firewood violations:

Another item we need help with is the reporting of activities that appear to be illegal, such as vehicles beyond the 300 foot access limit; illegally constructed "roads"; overloaded vehicles causing traffic hazards; cut locks on gates and /or broken gates; loads of firewood coming out very early in the morning or late at night; loads of firewood not tagged, etc. The information that would be useful is:

- Date and time of observation
- Vehicle and/or activity description
- Vehicle license plate number and state, if you can get it safely
- Location of observation
- General description of people involved

Please report woodcutting violation to any Umatilla National Forest office. Contact numbers are located on the back page of this guide.



Western Larch / Tamarack

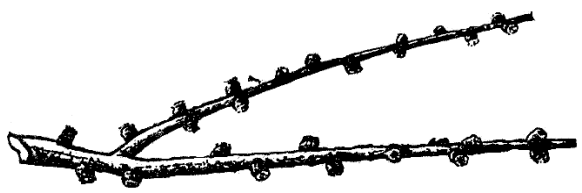
Dead or Alive? Can you tell the difference?

The western larch, also known as the tamarack, is a truly unusual, fascinating and important tree. It's uniqueness, however, is a threat to its life. Because its needles turn yellow and later fall to the ground, the larch appears to be dead during the winter even though it is very much alive.

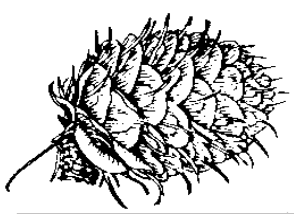


When gathering firewood, please don't mistake a living larch for a dead one. There is more than one way to identify a western larch. Each season of the year presents the larch in a different dress. Fall, winter, spring or summer, the larch is easily recognized. In the fall, the needles of the western larch turn a straw yellow, contrasting sharply with the surrounding green of other trees. The needles soon drop to the ground, leaving the larch bare of foliage throughout the winter and early spring, taking on the appearance of a dead tree. Like the pines, larch needles are clustered. However, there are 14 or more needles in each cluster – far more than any pine has. The larch is the only cone-bearing tree in the Western United States that sheds all of its needles. This unusual characteristic makes identification absolutely certain.

To tell the difference between a western larch and a dead tree of another species in the wintertime (both without needles) examine the Twigs. The needles of the larch grow from conspicuous short spurs. These spurs, like rows of tiny barrels, easily identify larch in winter.



Identification of larch in the summer is not difficult. While its curious traits are less pronounced, the trees can be pinpointed with careful observation. Larch cones are "whiskery" and have single-pointed bracts that stick out like snake tongues. Its narrow crown has an open appearance and the entire trunk and all of the short, horizontal limbs can be seen.



The Western Larch is a truly unusual, fascinating and important tree. **Please be careful you don't cut a living tree.**



More than meets the eye
The hidden value of dead wood



People living near or traveling to our National Forests often see many dead trees, both standing and fallen, and ask “Why can’t these trees be cut and used for firewood? After all, they’re already dead; isn’t it wasteful to not use them?” This is a good question!

There are many important ecological functions of dead trees and good reasons why firewood cutting must be carefully regulated.
Let’s look at some of these reasons…

DEAD TREES HELP CONTROL EROSION
By acting as a physical barrier to the flow of surface water, logs and other woody debris help to prevent soil from being washed away. This not only keeps the soil intact, but also prevents water-soluble nutrients from being removed.

DEAD TREES PROVIDE HOMES FOR WILDLIFE
One of the major responsibilities of the Forest Service is to maintain habitat for wild animals. Standing dead trees (snags) provide places to nest, rest, perch, roost, store food, escape predators and seek shelter from unfavorable weather for a host of birds and small mammals.

Many insects also live in snags, and are an important food source for birds. These birds help control insects that could otherwise destroy living forest trees. Birds of prey, such as hawks and owls, use snags as hunting perches as they search for and eat destructive rodent species.

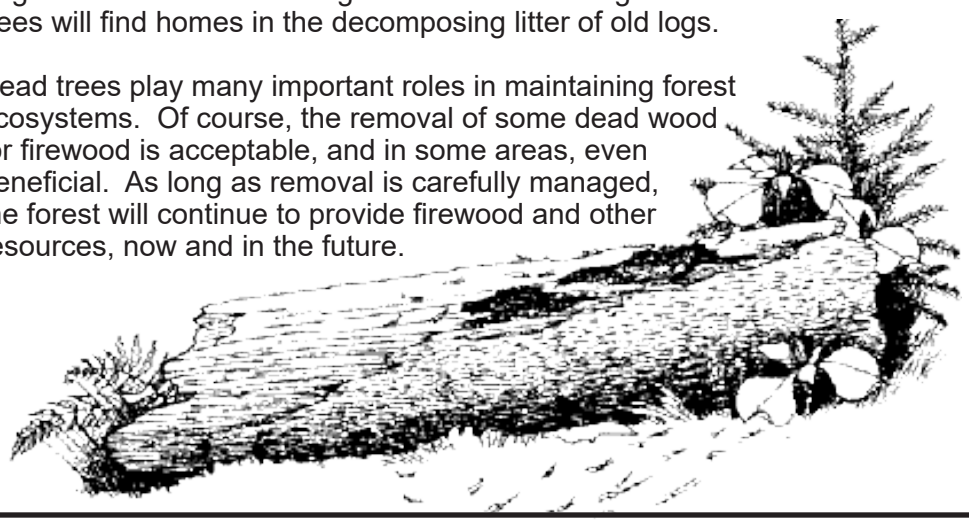
DEAD TREES PROVIDE SHADE
Dead standing trees can provide a certain amount of shading for a site which has been opened up by fire, logging or insect kill. This shading can reduce evaporation enough to make the difference between a quick return to forested conditions and a long, slow process of regeneration.

While standing dead trees help keep water on the site, fallen dead trees retain water much better. They reduce evaporation and hold water like a sponge. The longer a tree lies on the ground, the more porous and water-holding it becomes. This combination of shade and moisture often creates the perfect site for new seedlings.

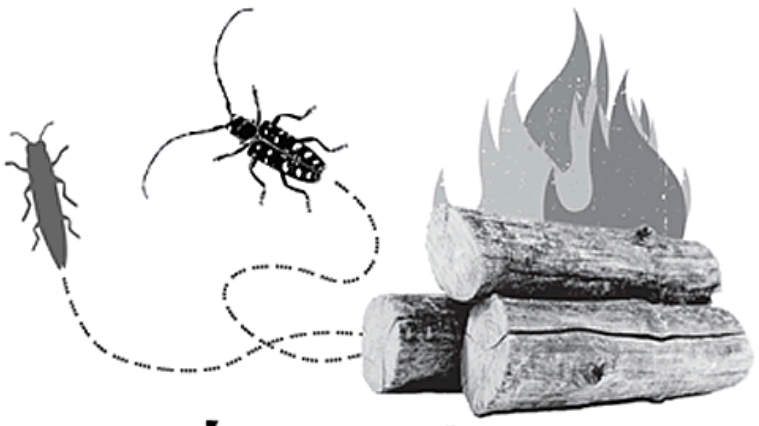
DEAD TREES PROVIDE NUTRIENT RESERVOIRS
Nutrients such as nitrogen and calcium accumulate and are stored in decaying, fallen trees. These nutrients are eventually released into the soil and used by young trees and other plants. Without downed trees, much of these nutrient stores would be washed away and lost from the site.

Rotting wood harbors microorganisms, such as fungi, which are critical to the movement of nutrients into plants. As a dead tree deteriorates, it begins to crumble and fall apart. The soft, moist, nutrient-rich fragments offer new seedlings an excellent rooting medium and new trees will find homes in the decomposing litter of old logs.

Dead trees play many important roles in maintaining forest ecosystems. Of course, the removal of some dead wood for firewood is acceptable, and in some areas, even beneficial. As long as removal is carefully managed, the forest will continue to provide firewood and other resources, now and in the future.



Moving firewood can transport forest insects and disease. Did you know it’s illegal to bring firewood into our area from any state beyond Oregon, Washington or Idaho? Whether you’re a camper heading out on a trip or just gathering firewood, do nature a favor and don’t move firewood. Learn more at: *DontMoveFirewood.org.*



DONTMOVE FIREWOOD.org

BURN SMART
to improve air quality

The relationship between firewood and the ecosystem doesn't end at the forest boundary. The increasing use of wood heat over the last decade has contributed to our community's air pollution problem.

Wood smoke isn't the only source of air pollution, but when too many homes fire up on stagnant air days, large amounts of smoke particles and toxic fumes become suspended in the air outside, and even inside, our homes. That's when wood smoke can cause health problems. Some particles are so small they get inhaled deep into the lungs and can't escape. Young children, the elderly, and people with breathing difficulties are especially at risk. Wood smoke also lowers your resistance to infections like pneumonia and aggravates bronchitis and asthma.

Most wood burning units emit more pollution into the air than alternate forms of heat such as natural gas, electricity, or oil, especially if they're not used properly. To get the most, both economically and ecologically, from your wood heat follow these wood-wise tips:

✔ BURN RIGHT
Use the proper stove for your home.
Maintain and clean your stove each year.

✔ BURN SMART
Burn small hot fires. A hot fire will get the most mileage from your wood by burning it completely and cleanly.

✔ BURN CLEAN
Use the proper fuel. Burning dry, seasoned wood reduces smoke emittance and creosote buildup. Allow six to twelve months drying time and store your wood under cover.

✔ BURN HOT
Provide enough air to your fire. Avoid the temptation to "hold" a fire overnight by cutting down the air supply. This creates more smoke and creosote buildup.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AND MOTORIZED ACCESS

The Umatilla National Forest has implemented the 2005 Travel Plan Rule and released the Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM.) MVUMs are single purpose maps developed to display National Forest System routes (roads and trails) and areas open to motorized travel. Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) are updated each year and are available, free of charge, at any Umatilla National Forest Office and online.

How does this affect the woodcutting program? Firewood cutting is limited to areas accessible by the open road system. Open roads are those Forest roads displayed on the MVUM as open or seasonally open. Roads not shown on the MVUM are not designated for motorized travel. Some closed roads may be opened for a specified period of time for firewood cutting only. Please check with your local ranger district office for more information.

Why close roads? In some cases, roads are seasonally closed to provide adequate habitat security for big game animals. Other resources also benefit from closures. For example, soil erosion and water quality problems are reduced, recreation experiences are more diverse, and opportunities for hiking and horseback riding are improved. Main roads, such as those accessing private property, trailheads, campgrounds, developed springs, and scenic overlooks, will remain open.

As firewood continues to be a major economic and recreational need in Eastern Washington and Oregon, the Firewood Program on the Umatilla National Forest will continue to be managed to provide the best possible areas and accessibility to woodcutters.

CONVENIENT LOCATIONS TO OBTAIN A FIREWOOD PERMIT

Because most Forest Service Offices are open Monday-Friday., 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, we've arranged for local businesses to issue our firewood permits. A vendor fee (up to $2) may be added to the permit. Most of these businesses are open early mornings, late evenings, and weekends. Some are open 24-hours a day. To better assist you, permits can be obtained at these following businesses:

Ace Hardware
1845 N. 1st
Hermiston, Oregon 97838
(541) 567-6816

Ace Hardware
202 North West 1st St
Boardman, OR 97818
(541) 616-2400

Bi-Mart
901 SW Emigrant
Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 276-7850

J&D's Food Mart
111 SW Birch
Pilot Rock, OR 97868
(541) 443-3369

Rhode's Supply
202 E Main St
Ukiah, OR 97880
(541) 427-3008

Dale Store
48388 Hwy 395 N
Dale, OR 97880
(541) 421-3484

Heppner Mobil
329 N. Main Street
Heppner, OR 97836
(541) 676-5062

Lone Elk Market
800 Willow Street
Spray, OR 97874
(541) 468-2443

Athena Convenience Store
313 East Main St.
Athena, OR 97813
(541) 566-2396

Tollgate Crossing Store
62393 Highway 204
Weston, OR 97886
(541) 429-1277

Elgin Food Town
1480 Division
Elgin, OR 97827
(541) 437-2012

Zip Zone 2
419 S. Main St.
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862
(541) 938-3185

Pomeroy Food Center
509 Columbia Street
Pomeroy, WA 99347
(509) 843-3391

Last Resort
2005 Tucannon Road
Pomeroy, WA 99347
(509) 843-1556

General Store
426 W. Main Street
Dayton, WA 99328
(509) 382-1042

Schurman's True Value
801 6th Street
Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 758-6411

Hell's Canyon NRA
2535 Riverside Dr.
Clarkston, WA 99403
(509) 758-0616

NOTE: Vendors are only able to issue permits in twelve cord increments. A vendor fee (up to $2) may be added to the permit.



Is the weather hot and dry?
Find out if there are firewood cutting restrictions!
Call Before You Cut!
1-877-958-9663

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

REQUIRED WOODCUTTING EQUIPMENT

* **SHOVEL**
* **AXE**
* **FIRE EXTINGUISHER**
* **SPARK ARRESTOR**



UMATILLA National Forest Where to Call:

Mon-Fri. 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Heppner Ranger District
117 South Main Street
Heppner, OR 97836
(541) 676-9187

North Fork John Day Ranger District
401 W Main St
Ukiah, OR 97880
(541) 427-3231

Pomeroy Ranger District
71 West Main Street
Pomeroy, WA 99347
(509) 843-1891

Walla Walla Ranger District
1415 W. Rose Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 522-6290

Supervisor's Office
72510 Coyote Road
Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 278-3716

Wallowa-Whitman NF
La Grande Ranger District
3502 HWY 30
La Grande, OR 97850
(541) 962-8500