

# Firewood Guide

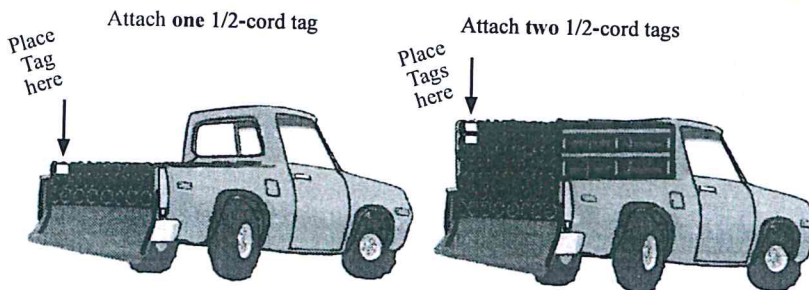
## Santa Fe National Forest

### Load Tags Are Easy To Use

Using your load tag(s) is as easy as 1-2-3. Following these simple rules will help ensure the future availability of firewood:

1. **Validate the load tag** where indicated by punching a hole through the month, day, and time you are using it. You must also complete the **Product Quantity Removal Record** on the permit.
2. **Attach the validated load tag(s)** securely to the back of your load **BEFORE** it is transported **ANYWHERE**.
3. **Be prepared to stop your vehicle** for officials to check your permit, load tag(s), and photo I.D.

### How Much Wood Do You Have?



One cord of wood measures 4' x 4' x 8' = 128 cubic feet. An average long bed pickup (measuring 8 feet in length by 4 feet in width) will carry a 1/2 cord of wood easily. You can carry a full cord in the same size truck bed by using extended side rails and loading wood to the top of the cab. All wood removed under this permit must be less than 8 feet in length.

You are responsible for accurately identifying your load with the appropriate load tags. The tags must be securely attached to the back of each 1/2 cord of wood and any load less than 1/2 cord before it is transported anywhere. Any load more than 1/2 cord requires two or more tags. Each household is allowed to purchase up to 20 cords of dead & down wood per year.

### Notice!!

Failure to validate and affix your load tag to the load, hauling wood without a permit, and/or hauling wood with used load tags (old dates already punched) may result in loss of the wood, a \$5,000 fine, and/or up to 6 months in jail.

### Important Do's and Don'ts

#### You may:

- Gather fallen dead wood on the national forest with a valid permit in designated areas. Please check at the ranger district office to find out what kind of wood you may cut in the designated areas.
- Transport firewood gathered on private land across the national forest without a permit, BUT state law requires that you carry a letter of authorization from the landowner.
- Only travel on roads designated open on the Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) unless the permit specifies otherwise. MVUMs are available at all Forest Service Offices.

#### You may not cut:

- Any tree marked with "wildlife tree" signs.
- Standing dead or green trees.
- Within timber sale or contract areas posted with signs.
- Within 100 feet of lakes and flowing streams.
- Within established recreation and wilderness areas.
- Within other areas prohibited on permit.



Forest Service  
Southwestern  
Region

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

MR-R3-10-01 Revised  
Mar 2026

## Be a Courteous and Safe National Forest User

Make sure your chain saw has a spark arrester with a .023" or less screen to prevent hot carbon sparks from igniting vegetation. Check with district offices for current fire conditions before heading out.

Don't drive around road closure barriers. Roads are closed to protect wildlife, or guard against erosion.

Avoid driving on muddy roads. The ruts you leave behind channel runoff water and erode the land and pollute your water.

Do not block, damage or litter road surfaces, shoulders or ditches with trash or tree branches.

Leave gates as you find them and don't disturb livestock. Ranchers pay to graze livestock under permit.

Respect the rights and privacy of private landowners, but please report violations to ranger district offices.

———— Follow the terms and conditions listed on your permit ————

## Use Wood Wisely

Reduce air pollution and heat your home better with these tips:

- Buy a stove with emission controls and don't burn too much wood at one time. Overloading a stove or fireplace with wood crowds draft controls and restricts air flow, resulting in a "cool," inefficient fire which creates a great deal of smoke.

- Control heat output by limiting the amount of fuel burned at a given time. Build small fires and burn "hot" by allowing air to reach the flames. Check your chimney outside. An efficiently burning fire

emits little or no smoke. Check your stove pipe and clean your chimney as recommended by the manufacturer.

- Burn seasoned wood which has been split and loosely stacked in a dry spot sheltered from rain and snow for at least one full summer. Green wood may take up to one full year to dry properly.

## Save Our Snags

Dead trees—known as "snags"—are home to many species of wildlife. As a tree dies, each stage of its decomposition plays a vital role in the feeding or housing of certain species. Dozens of species of birds and mammals depend upon snags for shelter, food and rearing offspring. Bats roost and build nursery colonies in exposed crevices. Squirrels nest and store food in natural cavities. Hawks, eagles and osprey nest, roost and hunt from perches atop dead trees.

Look for paint marks or signs that designate it as a "wildlife tree" (painted with a "W").

## Pick Up Firewood Permits at these locations

**Please call.**

Coyote Ranger District  
20 Private Drive 1707, Box 1  
Coyote, NM 87012  
(575) 638-5526

Cuba Ranger District  
U.S. Hwy. 44, south end of Cuba  
Cuba, NM 87013  
(575) 289-3264

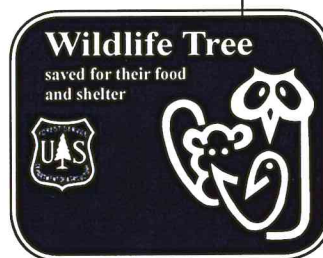
Espanola Ranger District  
18537 US 84/285, Suite B  
Espanola, NM 87533  
(505) 753-7331

Jemez Ranger District  
051 Woodsy Lane  
Jemez Springs, NM 87025  
575-829-3535

Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District  
32 S. Main,  
Pecos, NM 87552  
(505) 757-6121

Las Vegas Office  
1926 N. 7th Street  
Las Vegas, NM 87701  
(505) 425-3534

Forest Supervisor's Office  
11 Forest Lane  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
(505) 438-5300



Even if a tree isn't designated as a wildlife tree, look for signs of animals such as cavities, nests, droppings, and feathers. The trees surrounding a wildlife tree also provide protection.

Remember, even though the tree cavity or nest you find may be vacant, it can serve as a home for new residents later.