

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds (also known as exotics and invasive plants) devour 4,600 acres of public land doing millions of dollars' worth of damage in the west each year. You can help by: Washing your vehicle prior to entering Public Lands - especially the tires, undercarriage, muffler, etc., to remove any noxious weed seeds that you may have picked up along roadways. For an extensive weed list and additional information go to the Oregon Noxious Weed Profiles site at: <https://go.usa.gov/xdgWD>

Wildlife and Snags

Dead and dying trees provide food and shelter for many wild animals. As a tree dies, each stage of decomposition plays a vital role in the feeding, breeding, or housing of wildlife. Before taking a standing dead tree for firewood, please examine the tree for wildlife use, and if there is significant use, please consider leaving it for wildlife.

Firewood cutting in Central Oregon is only allowed during specific dates shown on official maps. These seasonal restrictions protect roads from water damage, prevent soil degradation, and safeguard wildlife and natural resources. Always check cutting area maps for local rules and closures before harvesting firewood.

ADDITIONAL FIREWOOD CUTTING AREAS

may open after publication of the firewood synopsis. Contact a Ranger District office regarding the availability of new areas and to obtain a map of the new area.

The specific USDA Forest Service map noting the location of new areas is required to be in your possession when cutting or removing wood.

Woodcutting Permits and more information are available at the following locations:

Crescent Ranger District
136471 Hwy 97 North
Crescent, OR 97733
(541) 433-3200

Redmond Air Center
1740 SE Ochoco Way,
Redmond, OR 97756
(541) 504-7200

Sisters Ranger District
US-20 & S Pine St
Sisters, OR 97759
(541) 549-7700

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District; Deschutes NF Supervisor's Office
63095 Deschutes Market Rd.
Bend, OR 97701
(541) 383-5300

Ochoco National Forest Lookout Mt. Ranger District
Paulina Ranger District
3160 NE 3rd St.
Prineville, OR 97754
(541) 416-6500

Crooked River National Grassland
274 SW 4th St
Madras, OR 97741
(541) 416-6640

For a list of vendors who also sell firewood permits, please visit the Forest Service website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/deschutes/permits>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/ochoco/permits>

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Central Oregon Personal Use Firewood Synopsis

Rules and Regulations for: Deschutes & Ochoco National Forests Crooked River National Grassland

To report wildfires, Call 911 or the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center (541) 316-7700.

General Rules and Regulations:

These rules are in addition to the "General and Other Conditions" listed on your permit. See individual woodcutting maps for additional specifications for those areas.

1) Permittee must be present and have in their possession:

- Permit
- Synopsis - rules and regulations
- Firewood unit maps
- Load tags
- Required Fire equipment

2) The current year's load tag must be validated by completely removing the month and day that you are removing the firewood. The validated tag must be highly visible at the back of the load, and displayed prior to moving the vehicle. Previous year's tags are not valid. One tag is required for every 1/2 cord of firewood, or any portion thereof.

3) Each household may obtain up to eight (8) cords of free personal-use firewood annually. Permit is for personal use only and cannot be sold, transferred or bartered.

4) Households interested in selling firewood may purchase personal-use charge permits for up to eight (8) cords of firewood annually.

5) Permittee shall complete the Product Quantity Removal Record in ink prior to transporting products.

6) Woodcutting is prohibited in all posted timber sales, contract areas, developed campgrounds, old growth areas, research natural areas, riparian areas, wilderness areas and all other areas posted closed to woodcutting. Riparian areas are defined as follows for each National Forest (NF):

Deschutes NF - riparian areas are defined as land within 300 feet of water such as springs, streams, wet meadows, floodplains and overflow channels.

Crooked River National Grassland (CRNG) and Ochoco NF – Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA) are NOT open to woodcutting. These areas are displayed on each map, in light gray under the legend category of

"Closed to Woodcutting – Riparian".

7) Do not cut trees (standing and/or down) marked with paint, signs, wildlife tags, blazes or with any evidence of wildlife habitation such as nests or cavities.

8) Open and closed dates, species authorized for removal, and other restrictions may vary by map, see each cutting area map for specific information about firewood cutting.

9) Woodcutting is authorized for dead trees only, or as specified on woodcutting maps. Some areas do not allow the cutting of standing dead trees. Be familiar with the map of your cutting area.

10) Where cutting of standing trees is allowed, stump heights may not exceed 12 inches. Maximum length of wood allowed to be transported is 6 feet. Remove all wood down to 3 inches in diameter for less waste.

11) Protect all green trees and other vegetation during falling and removal activities. Live trees and other vegetation may not be cut to create access to firewood.

12) The only power equipment authorized for use are: chain saws, winches and hydraulic splitters, unless otherwise prohibited in specific cutting areas.

13) Woodcutting activity is permitted only within designated firewood area boundaries as specified on woodcutting map.

14) Cut and scatter limbs and tops so they lie no more than 12" from the ground. This reduces potential for wildfire. Remove all slash from roads, ditches, and trails.

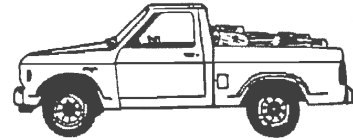
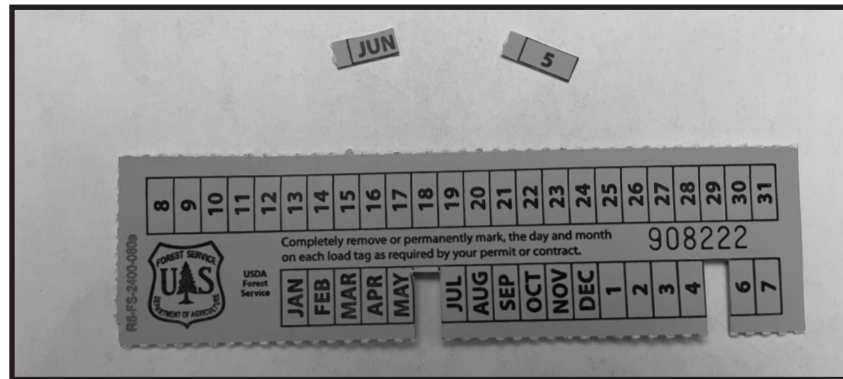
15) Woodcutters must comply with all road closures, seasonal road closures, and transport firewood in vehicles less than 26,000 lbs GVW.

16) No tree felling within 150 feet of utility lines.

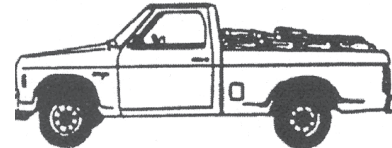
17) No cutting (including pruning or clipping) of whitebark pine.

Validate and Use Load Tags Correctly:

- Measure your load of wood to determine how many tags are necessary.
- One cord = 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet, or 128 cubic feet.
- To validate your tags, completely remove the day and month tabs from each load tag needed.
- Securely attach all load tags to the back of your load in a highly visible location.
- Attach one tag for each 1/2 cord or portion thereof. (See Rule #2 above)



Short bed pickup truck
1/2 cord or less = 1 tag



Full size pickup truck
1/2 cord or less = 1 tag



Full size pickup with rails
1 cord = 2 tags

Fire Precaution Requirements:

Required Equipment & Fire Watch

The following equipment and fire watch are required while using power equipment from **May 1st to November 30th**:

- **Spark Arrester:** Chainsaw exhaust system must be in good repair with a screen type spark arrester of 0.023" or less and qualified under USDA/USDI Federal Standards
- **Shovel:** Long handled round point with an 8" blade (size 0) in possession of the operator.
- **Fire Extinguisher:** Pressurized chemical of not less than 8 ounce capacity by weight.
- **Fire Watch:** 1-hour fire watch is required after power equipment is shut off.

Public Use Fire Restriction Stage Levels for Chainsaws:

Stage 1: Partial Shutdown

Shut down all chainsaws powered by an internal combustion engine between the hours of 1 pm and 8 pm. A Fire Watch is required to stay in the area for one hour after power equipment has been shut off to watch for fire starts. Fire equipment is required.

Stage 2: General Shutdown

All woodcutting activity with chainsaws powered by an internal combustion engine are PROHIBITED.

- For current shutdown levels call the toll-free recorded fire information message line at 1-800-523-4737.

- Call one of the local offices listed on the back of this synopsis.

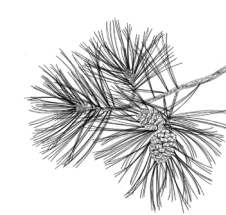
General Fire Information:

<http://www.centraloregonfire.org/> or use the QR code shown here:

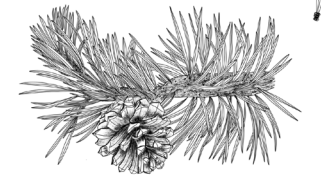


Lodgepole pine bark is thin, flaky and gray with no crevices, except near the base of the tree. Prickly, egg-shaped cones, seldom longer than 2 inches, may remain closed on the tree for years.

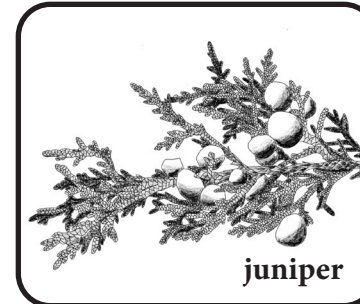
Ponderosa pine egg-shaped cones are 3-6 inches long and each scale is tipped with a short, straight prickle, hence the name "prickly ponderosa." The bark is much thicker than lodgepole pine bark and flakes in a jigsaw puzzle shape. The bark on young trees is nearly black, while mature trees are yellow or orange in color. Bark crevices of older trees and cut branches have a pitchy smell similar to turpentine.



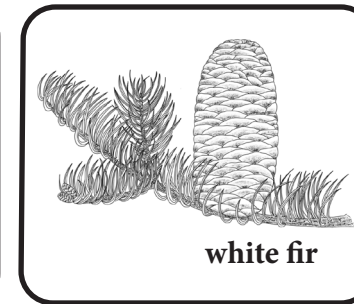
Lodgepole pine: two needle bundles 1-3" long, with thin gray bark that has no crevices



Ponderosa pine: three needle bundles 5-10" long. Bark is much thicker than lodgepole and has crevices.



juniper

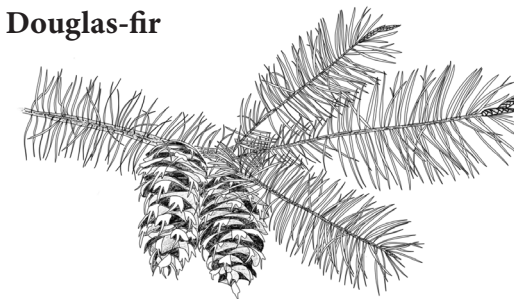


white fir

Juniper needles are tiny, scale-like and scratchy to the touch. Juniper trees have bluish-white coated berries instead of cones. The bark is thin, reddish-brown and fibrous.

White fir has horizontal branches that form a pointed, narrow crown. Flat, flexible needles extend in rows perpendicular to the stem. Needles are light bluish green with white lines above and are 1 to 2.5 inches long. Light gray bark is much thicker than lodgepole pine bark. Cones are greenish-yellow or purplish, 3-5 inches long, and cylindrical, growing upright from the topmost twigs. Cone scales have fine hairs and short, concealed bracts. White fir produces a fragrant resin which rises in small blisters on the trunk.

Douglas-fir



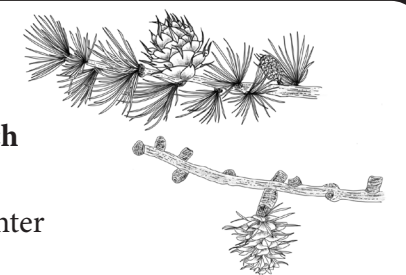
Western larch (also called tamarack) is Oregon's only native conifer that sheds its needles after they turn yellow in the late fall or winter. Spring needles are very light green and darken over the summer. Needles cluster on stout woody pegs. Whiskery cones are small and woody, 1-2 inches long and with papery bracts that are longer than the scales. Bark is reddish-orange, furrowed and flakes off in irregular shaped pieces.

Douglas-fir needles are 1 inch long with a blunt tip. They surround the twig like the bristles of a bottle brush and are soft to the touch. Cones are 3-4 inches long. Pitchfork shaped bracts are longer than the scales and hang down. The bark has resin blisters when young and is reddish-brown with deep furrows when mature.

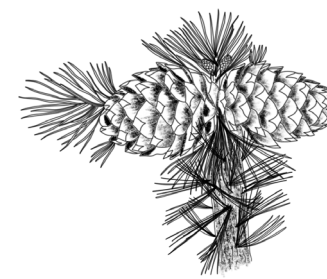
Summer

Western larch

Fall - Winter



whitebark pine



Whitebark pine is federally listed as a threatened tree species found at high elevation in Central Oregon. The dark green to yellow-green needles grow in bundles of five and are often slightly curved, relatively stiff, and between 1-3 inches long. The bark is thin, smooth, and silvery-white on young trees and becomes scaly and gray as it matures. The species produces egg-shaped, purple-black cones (1.5-3 inches long) that do not open naturally but are often found shredded by wildlife that eat the seeds. When young, whitebark pine may be confused with other five-needle pines in Central Oregon including western white pine and sugar pine. Whitebark pine does not occur on the Ochoco National Forest.