USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2026 FOREST USER'S MAP

Republic/Three Rivers Ranger Districts

Colville NATIONAL FOREST

A Message from Colville National Forest Supervisor - Joshua White

Welcome to the Colville National Forest! To better serve the public and inform visitors to the Colville National Forest, we have created a new Forest User's Map that will help you more easily find what you need. This map combines information from our Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) and a former standalone Firewood Cutting map. Our goal is to provide a single map that includes the necessary information you will need to navigate the forest for recreation, firewood cutting, and other adventures.

This map will help all users and visitors to the Colville National Forest continue to care for and enjoy their public lands now and into the future. To gather firewood for personal use, you must obtain a free firewood authorization and follow all requirements noted on the authorization. Authorizations can be obtained at any Colville National Forest Office (www.fs.usda.gov/r06/colville/permits).

Please ensure that you have your map and, if gathering firewood, your harvesting authorization available to help us all conserve resources for our communities and future generations who depend on them. Information about motor vehicle use is included on the back of this map. Your cooperation and compliance to all Forest regulations is appreciated and helps make the Colville National Forest's firewood, recreation, and other programs a success.

Thank you for letting us serve you! We hope you have a safe and enjoyable visit.

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

When cutting or gathering firewood, you must:

- Obtain a firewood authorization
- Keep your vehicle on open, existing roads, and do not block traffic
- Pay for or repair damage to the national forest resulting from your activities
- Remove branches, bark, and other debris from roads and ditches and scatter them across the landscape
- Remove all trash and litter
- Comply with all fire requirements and fire precaution levels
- If using a power saw between April 1 and October 31, have an exhaust system in good repair with a spark arrestor of 0.023 inches or less, a pressurized fire extinguisher of more than eight ounce capacity by weight, and a long-handled round point shovel, size 0 or larger blade
- Cut trees so the stump is less than 12 inches high
- Cut logs shorter than 8 feet long, unless pre-approved by the district ranger
- Have entire authorization in your possession at all times
- Follow all Terms and Conditions found on your authorization

Within 200 feet of a road that is shown as open to firewood cutting, and on any unpaved county road within the national forest, you may cut any dead standing or down tree year-round unless:

- It is marked as a wildlife tree or a transect tree
- It has any green leaves or needles
- It is a standing western red cedar. Down western red cedar can be cut into lengths less than 16 inches
- It is within 300 feet of fish-bearing streams, natural lakes or natural ponds
- It is within 150 feet of other streams, wetlands, constructed ponds or reservoirs
- It is within 100 feet of a dry stream channel
- It is in a log deck. Some log decks are open to firewood cutting, but must be signed
- It is in an administrative site
- Or otherwise prohibited in your authorization Terms and Conditions

Representatives of the Forest Service are available to help you determine where you can legally cut your firewood. If you have problems or concerns about the program, or need assistance finding firewood, call us toll free at **1-877-727-8704** or visit us online at **www.fs.usda.gov/r06/colville**.

Respect Private Land and Other Non-FS Land

Colville National Forest firewood cutting authorizations, issued by the Forest Service, are not valid on private land/other ownership. Private landowners use a variety of signs to post their property boundaries, and not all private property lines are posted.

It is your responsibility to determine where you are cutting. Always be alert for property boundary signs. Forest Service maps are a good general source of information regarding national forest, private land and other land ownerships and may be purchased at all Forest Service offices.

For daily updated fire information call 1-800-527-3305 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/r06/colville

Fire Prevention

- Carry gasoline in an approved container equipped with a spout, or use a funnel so that gasoline does not spill on the saw or ground.
- Before starting the saw, move at least 10 feet from the place where you refueled.
- Clear brush and dry material from the cutting area. When you put the saw down, put it on bare ground or rock.
- Do not operate the saw if it overheats or backfires.
- Remove oily rags, used oil filters, garbage and other debris when you leave the site.
- Never smoke while working. Any smoking should be done inside a closed vehicle or while sitting in an area cleared of flammable materials.
- After cutting, remain in the area for one hour to be sure that a fire has not started.

Fire Prevention Tips

Adjust firewood activity to reflect the current Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) Precautions and Restrictions. The Forest is broken down into multiple Fire Precautionary Zones (FPZ) and each FPZ may have its own IFPL.

Industrial Fire Precaution Level Precautions and Restrictions

Level	I	II	III	IV	Precautions / Restrictions
	●	●			Carry Required Safety Equipment listed above
	●	●			Stay in area for one hour after power saw is shut off to watch for fire starts
		●			Shut down power saws at 1:00 p.m.
			●	●	All woodcutting activity prohibited

Snags and Wildlife

When cutting firewood, be on the lookout for telltale signs of animal life in the trees before you cut. Wildlife needs dead hollows or fallen trees for food and family homes. In many managed forests, certain kinds of trees - both dead and alive - are reserved as homes for many species of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Nearly all wildlife species benefit from "animal inns" for food, nesting or shelter. Please don't cut trees with paint marks, wildlife signs, broken tops, trunk holes or visible nests, or any other trees prohibited by the authorization.

Wildlife Trees....

Many kinds of wildlife depend on snags as well as healthy, living trees, defective trees, and logs both on the ground and in the streams.

A standing dead tree is called a "snag". Snags are used by wildlife for:

Courting	Hibernating
Nesting	Hiding
Raising young	Hunting
Feeding	Roosting
Sleeping	Storing Food

The Best Firewood

Some trees burn hotter than others.

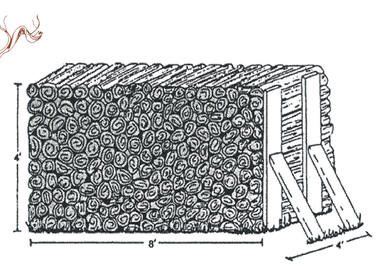
This chart shows common types of trees in our area and their heat values in BTU's (British Thermal Units).

A higher value indicates more heat.

Kind of Wood	Heat BTU's	Weight (lbs/cord)	Resin Conent
Lodgepole Pine	17.5	2,610	Low
Western Larch	22.3	3,330	Low
Douglas Fir	20.6	2,970	Medium
Ponderosa Pine	17.1	2,240	High
Subalpine Fir	13.6	2,730	Medium

1 Cord

A standard, full cord of wood has a volume of 128 cubic feet, measures as a pile 8 feet long, 4 feet high, and 4 feet wide. A full cord can weigh up to 5,000 pounds.



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