



Firewood Permit Guide

Best Practices for Firewood Collection in the National Forest

Thank you for helping us improve forest health by removing dead and down trees from the forest! As a firewood permit holder, you provide a valuable service and have an important role to play in protecting our natural resources. Help ensure the continued health and longevity of the forest by obeying the following firewood collection best practices.

Do

- Harvest dead and down wood in areas identified by your permit.
- Pack it in and pack it OUT.
- Remove slash and debris from cutting area, road surfaces, road shoulders and ditches.
- Travel on roads designated open on the Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) unless the permit specifies otherwise. *MVUMs are available for download*
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r08/florida/maps-guides>.
- Prevent forest fires. Carry fire suppression equipment including a shovel and fire extinguisher.
- Collect wood in a safe and prudent manner.

Don't

- Harvest standing (live or dead) trees.
- Harvest wood within highway easements, designated campgrounds, Wilderness Areas, administrative sites, active timber sales or along established hiking, biking or OHV trails.
- Drive around road closures, block roadways or impede traffic.
- Drive off road when ground conditions may cause excessive rutting or ground damage.
- Harvest firewood on private property.
- Construct roads or trails to cut or gather firewood.
- Use portable sawmill equipment, large capacity hydraulic boom loaders, and large capacity truck/trailer combinations.
- Use tractors, rubber-tired skidders, ATVs/OHVs or similar vehicles, or other equipment to move firewood.

You must have your permit with you any time you harvest firewood!

The permit log must be filled out with the date, time and cords collected each time you harvest firewood.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much is 4 cords of wood?

The Forest Service sells wood in cords. Your permit allows you to cut 4 cords, which is roughly equivalent to 4 loads without sideboards on an 8-foot bed pickup truck or 6 loads on a 6.5-foot bed pickup truck.

All wood removed under this permit must be less than 6 feet in length.

Why can I only harvest “dead and down” wood?

The purpose of the firewood program is to provide you with firewood you can use now and to safely remove dead wood from the forest. Standing dead trees (snags) require more skill to harvest and present additional hazards. They are also a source of food, nests, perches and protective cover for many birds and mammals and are more carefully managed due to their wildlife benefits.

Why can't I collect firewood in an active "Timber Sale Area?"

The Forest Service manages the harvest of forest products, like firewood and timber, through a variety of contracts and permits. The timber in an active timber sale area has already been purchased through the timber sale contracting process. Your firewood permit will not allow you to collect firewood in areas where the timber has already been purchased by another entity.



Figure 2. Timber sale areas will be clearly marked with blue, white or orange horizontal lines painted on the trees and/or signs.

General Forest Safety



Check with district offices for current fire conditions. Common activities like parking on dry grass or operating a chainsaw without a spark arrestor can start wildfires.



Remember that not all land within the boundary of the National Forest is publicly owned. It is your responsibility to be certain you are not trespassing on private land.



Avoid driving on muddy roads or around road closures. The ruts you leave behind collect water and lead to erosion that damages the road and pollutes water sources.

Follow the terms and conditions listed on your permit. When in doubt, contact the issuing District Office!

Apalachicola Ranger District Office

57 Taff Drive
Crawfordville, FL 32327
850-926-3561

Lake George Ranger District Office

17147 E. State Road 40
Silver Springs, FL 34488
352-625-2520

Osceola Ranger District Office

24874 US Highway 90
Olstee, FL 32072
386-752-2577

Seminole Ranger District Office

40929 State Road 19
Umatilla, FL 32784
352-669-3153