

	Flathead National Forest	Media Release
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Personal Woodcutting Permits Available on Flathead National Forest

Wood permits that allow individuals to cut and remove firewood from the Flathead National Forest, and other national forests in Montana, Northern Idaho and portions of North and South Dakota, and some Bureau of Land Management lands in the state, are on sale now.

A permit is available for a minimum of four cords of wood for \$20. An individual may purchase a maximum of 12 cords per year. A cord measures 4' wide by 4' high in an 8' long stack; or 128 cubic feet. The permit is valid for one year, through March 31, 2010. Firewood obtained under these permits may not be used for commercial resale.

The personal use wood permit allows the removal of downed timber or the cutting of standing dead trees under most conditions. The Flathead National Forest prohibits the cutting of western larch November 1 through May 31. During this time, live larch trees have lost their needles and appear dead. It's important to check with local Forest Service Offices about any special restrictions or requirements.

The Brush Creek Wildland Fire Area on the Tally Lake Ranger District, located west of Whitefish, is not available for wood gathering or cutting. Various post-fire management activities are taking place in the area and firewood cutting and gathering will not be permitted until those activities are completed. Firewood removal or cutting is not permitted along the Tally Lake Road, Forest Road #913 from the 1.7 mile to its intersection with the Star Meadows Road. No cutting is permitted in the Coram Experimental Forest or on the paved section of Westside Reservoir Road, Forest Road, #895.

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Woodcutters must have their permit with them while harvesting wood. Woodcutters also need to have an approved and maintained spark arrester on chainsaws and splitters, and must have a shovel and fire extinguisher (8 oz. liquid or 1 lb dry chemical type) handy in the event of a wildfire.

During spring 'breakup' conditions with soft road surfaces, woodcutters are asked to respect signed load limits and temporary road closures to prevent road damage.

Personal wood permits are available from any Flathead National Forest office or from several vendors across the Flathead Valley. These vendors include:

Snappy's Sport Senter	Kalispell
Kelly Rae's Conoco	Kalispell
Mike's Conoco	Columbia Falls, Hungry Horse and Whitefish
Bear Paw (Exxon)	East Glacier
Local Joes Gas & Grub (Conoco)	Bigfork
Ronan Power Products	Ronan
Ronan Sports and Western	Ronan
Swan Ecosystem Center	Condon
Swan Lake Trading Post	Swan Lake
Swan Valley Centre	Condon
Brigg Mercantile	Olney

For more information on vendors or about wood cutting and gathering on the Flathead National Forest, please contact a local forest service office, or call 758-5208.

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