



Modoc National Forest
USDA Forest Service

News Release

For Immediate Release: Apr. 15, 2008
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New Wood Policy Revealed

Alturas ... The Modoc National Forest and Bureau of Land Management's Surprise, Alturas and Eagle Lake field offices have modified their juniper woodcutting policies. Woodcutters gathered at the Modoc County Sheriff's office, Tues. April 8th. Hosted by Modoc County and moderated by Sean Curtis, County Natural Resource Advisor, 37 woodcutters learned about and debated the BLM and Forest's policy on Juniper firewood. Leaders of both agencies were on hand to answer questions and explain the policy changes.

Energies ran high and there was much discussion on points of the policy. The attachment to the permit was reviewed and suggestions were made for improvements. Fuelwood cutters with a permit may cut junipers less than 30 inches in diameter at stump height (12 inches) that sprouted after the 1870s. They can easily be recognized as they have pointed tops, symmetrical shape, one central trunk, smooth lightly furrowed bark with only shallow fissures, and no or very thin low branches.

Old junipers may NOT be cut for fire wood. They will have one or more of these features: rounded or asymmetrical tops that may be sparse and contain dead limbs, deeply furrowed fibrous bark on the trunk that is reddish in color in living trees and gray in dead trees, large dead or live branches near the base of the tree, or multiple trunks.

National Forest permits went on sale on Monday and can be used weather permitting, May 1 – Feb. 29.

BLM permits go on sale May 1 and are good until Nov. 1 or bad weather.

The new Forest policy and two-agency permit attachment is available on line at www.fs.fed.us/modoc.

The Apr. 8 meeting was a follow-up to the County-hosted meeting in November where the agencies met with woodcutters to receive suggestions on how to continue firewood cutting while preserving old Western juniper trees. This was as a result of comments submitted on the Draft Sage Steppe Ecosystem Restoration Environmental Impact Statement. The results of the research for that EIS indicated that there is significant value

to old junipers. Old fuel wood policies for both agencies allowed woodcutters to cut them down for firewood.

For more information call the BLM at 233-4666 or 279-6101 or the Modoc National Forest at 233-5811, 279-6116, 667-2276 or 299-3215.

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