



Firewood Cutting and Gathering

Sequoia National Forest



Introduction:

This brochure provides an overview of the regulations pertaining to FIREWOOD CUTTING and GATHERING.

Check at local ranger stations for current fire danger conditions and local information regarding woodcutting. Woodcutters will be held personally accountable for wildfires that result from their actions while in the forest.

The purchase of a wood gathering permit does not guarantee that you will find the type and amount of wood you desire: **NO REFUND** of fees will be made after you purchase the permit.

Where Is It?

The best place to find concentrations of dead wood is where either a timber sale or a pre-commercial tree thinning operation has recently been completed. For information on these locations, contact one of our five DISTRICT OFFICES. The people there are in the forest daily and are familiar with local conditions.

If you look and work hard enough, you can find good firewood almost anywhere in the Sequoia National Forest. In the lower elevations that are accessible most of the year and immediately adjacent to major roads, the supply is more limited, simply because a lot of people have been there before you. The more particular you are about the type of firewood you want and the distance you will travel to get it, the harder it will be to find what you want.

Private land exists within the Forest boundary. The Forest Service cannot authorize you to cut or gather wood on private land.

How Do I Get Firewood?

Before you collect any firewood, you are required to obtain a personal use firewood-cutting permit. This is available at the offices listed in this brochure, and at some seasonal offices. The permit authorizes you to gather a specified amount of dead wood, for your personal use, from any portion of the Sequoia National Forest open to woodcutting.

When you purchase a permit, you will be provided with special maps and instructions relating to cutting. Due to changing conditions such as road closures, weather, timber sale activity, and changing supplies of wood, it will generally be necessary for you to secure current maps and instructions by a visit to the office administering the ranger district where you plan to cut.

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

Troughs cut into the ground and berms along the road, caused by the winching or dragging of logs and firewood to the road, shall be filled in and smoothed out. Leave your work area in its natural state by repairing any damage you cause



Campfire Permits

You may want a campfire for cooking, enjoying its warmth, and roasting marshmallows.

For campfires, stoves, lanterns or barbecues used outside a campground or recreational vehicle and some developed campgrounds, you need a campfire permit.

The permit is free, valid for a full year from January 1 to December 31, and may be obtained in person from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, CAL FIRE offices, or online at <http://www.preventwildfire.ca.org/Campfire-Permit/>

Your responsibilities for building and putting out your fire safely are explained on the campfire permit. 36 CFR 261.52(k) PRC 4433.

Be aware that as fire danger becomes greater, campfires may be prohibited. Please check to find out if there are fire restrictions in the area where you intend to camp.

You are welcome to gather dead and down wood to use for your campfire, but not to take home unless you obtain a fuelwood permit.

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Hume Lake Ranger District

35860 East Kings Canyon Road
Dunlap, CA 93621
[559-338-2251](tel:559-338-2251)

Kern River Ranger District

11380 Kernville Rd.
Kernville, CA 93238
[760-376-3781](tel:760-376-3781)

Blackrock Information Station

Kern Plateau
[\(760\) 376-1666](tel:760-376-1666) (Generally June-October)

Western Divide Ranger District

32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93265
[559-539-2607](tel:559-539-2607)

Forest Supervisor's Office

1839 S. Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)



A Final Reminder:

The firewood cutting program of the Sequoia National Forest benefits both you and the land we all own. A violation of any conditions in this brochure or on your firewood permit may void the permit and result in a citation. Collecting, taking, possessing or transporting any part of a tree or plant without a valid permit is in violation of 36 CFR 261.6(a), or 261.58(T).

- DO NOT cut standing dead trees on Hume Lake Ranger District.
- DO NOT cut any standing trees greater than 15 inches in diameter at ground level.
- BE SURE you comply with State laws:
- Smoke only while sitting in an area at least 3 feet in diameter, cleared of all flammable materials down to mineral soil.
- Equip all mechanical equipment powered by internal combustion engines with approved spark arresters or mufflers.
- Keep either a round point shovel (not less than 46" long overall) or a State approved fire extinguisher (14 oz.) within 25 feet of your chainsaw while it is operating.
- This permit is not valid on private land.

Areas CLOSED to woodcutting are:

- Private land within the Forest boundary
- Forest administration stations
- Research or experimental areas
- Wilderness areas
- Giant Sequoia (Redwood) Groves
- Areas posted as closed to woodcutting by the Forest Service
- Areas shown as closed to wood cutting on map attached to the permit.