



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Lincoln National Forest | January 2024

LINCOLN *National Forest* FUELWOOD GUIDE 2024



WHERE TO PURCHASE A PERMIT

Supervisor's Office

3463 Las Palomas RD
Alamogordo, NM 88310
(575)434-7200

Smokey Bear Ranger District

901 Mechem Drive
Ruidoso, NM 88345
(575)257-4095

Sacramento Ranger District

4 Lost Lodge RD
Cloudcroft, NM 88317
(575)682-2551



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ABOUT YOUR PERMIT

- This Guide and the Permit you have been issued are valid only on Lincoln National Forest lands.
- By signing this permit, the permittee hereby consents to being stopped and inspected by any forest officer, County Sheriff, State Police Officer, Federal Law Enforcement or any official of the New Mexico Department of Forestry while cutting, possessing, or transporting fuelwood off the Lincoln National Forest.
- Utilize open roads indicated on the free Motor Vehicle Use Map, which is available at any Lincoln National Forest office. This map shows the system of roads, trails, and areas open to public motor vehicle use.
- Operate vehicles only when the ground is dry enough to prevent rutting. During wet or muddy conditions, please postpone cutting until roads conditions are dryer to prevent damage to resources.
- Vehicles and power saws are subject to inspection by law enforcement officers. Failure to allow inspection shall cause the forest Service to cancel the permit.
- All power saw mufflers shall be operable and equipped with an approved spark arrester with a screen size no larger than .023 inches. All vehicles shall be equipped with approved mufflers or spark arrestors.
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- Fuelwood collection is year-round (1JAN-31DEC)
- Permits cost \$20.00
- There is a limit of ten (10) cords per permit
- If you are interested, please ask your District about the larger-limit permits that are available.
- Fuelwood permits are non-transferable
- Fuelwood permits are valid for one (1) year after purchase. They cannot be extended or refunded.
- Unforeseen circumstances, fire conditions, weather, or court-imposed injunctions are not grounds for refund or extension of a permit.

**THIS GUIDE DOES NOT REPLACE A PERMIT.
FAILURE TO ADHERE TO GUIDELINES CAN RESULT IN
FINES AND/OR CANCELLATION OF YOUR PERMIT.**

RULES FOR ALL FUELWOOD PERMITS

Do not fell trees into roads, trails, trailheads, picnic areas, or campgrounds where people are congregated or likely to be.

Do not fell trees onto fences, structures, or other improvements.

You will be held liable for any damages incurred.



To protect wildlife species and riparian habitat, no cutting is permitted within **100 feet from the center of any stream.**

You must harvest **within 150 feet of open forest roads** according to the current Forest Travel Management Plan and Travel regulations.



**NO TRESPASSING
KEEP OUT**

Permittee must remain in designated areas at all times. **Do not enter any locked gates. Do not enter private land.**

Harvesting firewood from active commercial timber sale areas is prohibited. **Prohibited areas will have posted signage.**



You must secure your load with ratcheting straps, pull straps, or rope, **as mandated by the New Mexico State Police.**

GREEN-STANDING FUELWOOD PERMITS

The Lincoln National Forest offers Green Standing fuelwood permits. The product designation species on this permit will be “combined softwood”. Softwoods available for this permit are piñon pine, pine, juniper, and fir. Refer to the designated fuelwood map for specific information.

GREEN-STANDING FUELWOOD GUIDELINES

Harvest green-standing fuelwood only from designated areas - **specific cutting areas will be laid out with blue flagging designating the fuelwood boundary, or with three orange stripes painted on the trees facing into the unit.**

Cutting any tree with orange paint is prohibited.

Hardwoods, such as aspen, cottonwood, oak, maple, and walnut are prohibited.

Size is limited to a **14-inch diameter for piñon or 18-inch diameter for juniper at root collar** (See below for measuring instructions).

It is your responsibility to ensure harvested trees are the correct species and size.

HOW TO MEASURE AND CUT A GREEN-STANDING OR DEAD-STANDING TREE

Diameter at the root collar is measured just off the ground line (see illustration).

Stumps will be cut as low to the ground as practical - **in no case will they be cut higher than 6 inches.**

Portions of wood that have been cut and not used (slash), will be cut and scattered to no more than **24 inches off the ground.**



Use the Diameter String

DEAD FUELWOOD PERMITS

Dead fuelwood includes two types of permits: Dead-down, and dead-standing.

With the purchase of this permit, the permittee may collect fuelwood across all three districts of the Lincoln National Forest. Permittee must be compliant with all specifications listed in the current annual fuelwood guide.

DEAD-DOWN TREE GUIDELINES

All species and sizes of material are available with a dead-down permit.

Wood located off of temporary road closures or within restrictive signage is off limits.

You are not permitted to cut dead branches off of live trees.

DEAD-STANDING HARVEST GUIDELINES

- Dead standing trees are limited to 14-inch diameter or smaller (see illustration)
- Trees tagged as wildlife trees, bearing trees, or trees with transect location signs shall not be cut.
- Live trees may not be cut and removed from the Lincoln National Forest with a dead-standing fuelwood permit.

HOW TO MEASURE YOUR LOAD OF FUELWOOD

- A 1/4-ton small pickup truck, and a 1/2-ton pickup with a short bed, will hold a 1/4 cord of wood when the load is piled above the bed of the truck.
- On average, a full bed pickup truck will hold a 1/2 cord of firewood when filled to the top of the bed. This load would require two 1/4 tags (see page 7).
- A full bed truck with rails will hold 1 cord of wood when loaded level with the roof of the truck from cab to tailgate. This would require four 1/4 cord tags (see page 7).

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR CUTTING, HARVESTING, AND TRANSPORTING FUELWOOD

PRINTED COPY OF PERMIT


Your permit is a contract between you and the Forest Service. This contract states what fuelwood products you will be cutting, and how much you will be harvesting. **You will need to be able provide this permit to Law Enforcement Officials.**




LOAD REMOVAL TAG(S)

You have been provided with 1/4 cord load removal tags. Individual load removal tags may not be used more than once.

Before leaving harvest area, completely fill this removal tag out and attach it to the rear of the load:

- **Separate** each 1/4 cord tag.
- **Notch the tags** by punching out appropriate month/day to mark date of removal. (See Example) 
- **Attach** each 1/4 cord tag to the back of load.
- **Tag** your load with the correct amount and appropriate type of wood harvested: DEAD or GREEN.

1	28		Lincoln National Forest	Firewood Tag No. ABC1234	A
2	29				
3	30				
4	31				
5		A.M.			
6		P.M.			
7		JAN			
8		FEB			
9		MAR			
10		APR			
11		MAY			
12		JUN			
13		JUL			
14		AUG			
15		SEP			
16		OCT			
17		NOV			
18		DEC			
19					
20					
21		SUN			
22		MON			
23		TUE			
24		WED			
25		THU			
26		FRI			
27		SAT			

Fuelwood areas can change throughout the year. If it has been a while since you purchased your permit, please contact a Lincoln National Forest District Office to check on available fuelwood areas and any restrictions. **Cutting in closed fuelwood areas may result in a fine. It is your responsibility to be aware of any closures/restrictions in place.**

It is a good idea to keep this fuelwood guide and area maps on hand when cutting or transporting fuelwood from the Lincoln National Forest, as it contains guidelines and other important information.

Make sure you are aware of current conditions BEFORE you go out to harvest fuelwood!

PROHIBITED AREAS

The following locations are off-limits to fuelwood harvest **at all times:**

SMOKEY BEAR RANGER DISTRICT

White Mountain Wilderness, Capitan Mountain Wilderness, Ski Apache Recreation Area, Smokey Bear Ranger Station, Capitan Work Center, Mesa Barn, Cora Dutton Commercial Fuelwood Area, Baca Campground

SACRAMENTO RANGER DISTRICT

Sacramento Ranger Station, Mayhill Work Center, Sacramento Work Center

GUADALUPE RANGER DISTRICT

Queen Work Center, Sitting Bull Falls, Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Study Area

RESTRICTIONS TO FUELWOOD CUTTING

During fire season, certain conditions may limit or prevent fuelwood cutting.

If the Forest is under Stage 2 Fire Restrictions, chainsaws may not be used from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Under Stage 3 Fire Restrictions, all or part of the Forest is closed, and chainsaw use is prohibited.

Chainsaw use is prohibited under a Red Flag Warning.

Before you go out to harvest, contact your nearest Lincoln National Forest Service Office for current conditions.

Head to our website for any alerts, closures, and other resources!

SCAN ME



www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln