

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2014 8:52 AM  
**Subject:** News Release: New firewood permits available  
**Attachments:** Firewood Permits - 2014.docx



## NEWS RELEASE

### *Bitterroot National Forest*

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United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Bitterroot National Forest  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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March 31, 2014

### **NEW FIREWOOD PERMITS AVAILABLE**

Hamilton, MT. – Personal firewood cutting permits for 2014 will go on sale Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at all Bitterroot National Forest offices.

The permits are good for one year and allow woodcutters to take up to 12 cords of firewood. The permits cost \$7.00 per cord, and there is a \$28 or four cord minimum purchase. A cord is the amount of tightly piled wood in a stack four feet high by four feet wide by eight feet long.

Permits can be purchased weekdays at any Forest Service office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Just like last year, woodcutters will receive load tickets with each firewood permit. The load tickets are required to be stapled on all loads of firewood coming off the Bitterroot National Forest. Last year's load tickets are obsolete and woodcutters will receive new ones for this season.

Personal use wood permits allow you to remove downed timber or to cut standing dead trees under most conditions on National Forests and Grasslands, and Bureau of Land Management lands within Montana, Northern Idaho, and portions of North and South Dakota. It's important to check with the local ranger station to see if there are any specific local restrictions or requirements.

Woodcutters must have their firewood permit and load ticket with them while harvesting wood, keep their vehicles on designated roads and trails, have an approved spark arrester on chainsaws and splitters and carry a shovel and fire extinguisher. No wood can be cut or gathered within 150 feet of streams, creeks or waterways. Firewood gathering is also prohibited in all developed recreation areas, campgrounds and along Wild and Scenic River Corridors.

Due to this year's record snowpack, which is currently 152% of average in the Bitterroot Basin, the forest is advising woodcutters to use caution while driving on Forest Service roads. Many remain snow covered and icy, especially at higher elevations. Roads at lower elevations are experiencing snowmelt during the day and the resulting runoff is freezing at night, creating sheets of ice that are dangerous to negotiate. As the weather

warms, there could be water on top of ice or an extremely soft roadbed (mud) that is easily damaged by vehicle traffic. The last time the Bitterroot Basin had this much snow at this time of the year was back in 1997.

For more information and guidelines check the firewood permit and firewood cutting handout available at all Bitterroot National Forest offices or visit [www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot). Stay in touch with us through [www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot) and [www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF](https://www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF).

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