

## Ravalli County Commissioners Office

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**From:** McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 24, 2014 10:17 AM  
**Subject:** News Release: New areas to open temporarily for firewood cutting  
**Attachments:** Firewood cutting areas - 2014.docx



## NEWS RELEASE

### *Bitterroot National Forest*

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United States  
Department of Agriculture  
Bitterroot National Forest  
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Hamilton, Montana 59840

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122

July 24, 2014

### NEW AREAS TO OPEN TEMPORARILY FOR FIREWOOD CUTTING

Hamilton, MT, – The Bitterroot National Forest has announced that it is temporarily opening four roads on the Forest for the public to gather firewood beginning Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. To learn more about each area and receive a map of the locations, the public can stop by any Bitterroot National Forest office.

The 2014 firewood cutting areas are:

- Forest Roads 740 & 739A (Silverthorne Loop) – Stevensville Ranger District
- Forest Road 5685 (Thunder Mountain Road) – West Fork Ranger District
- Forest Road 728 (Andrews Road) – Sula Ranger District

The forest recently did some thinning along East Fork Road near Sula. There are numerous trees on the ground below the power lines (in the right of way), just east of Springer. This area will also be temporarily opened to the public to gather firewood.

The firewood cutting areas are open until Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the fifth year that the Forest has opened designated areas in an effort to provide more accessible firewood. You can purchase firewood permits at any Bitterroot National Forest office, M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 per cord and there is a four cords (\$24) minimum purchase. Each household is allowed a maximum 12 cords of firewood per year. Permits are good through March 31, 2015. \_\_\_\_

The designated roads are open for firewood cutting only during daylight hours, no other motorized access purposes will be allowed. Please use wide shoulders and turn-outs for parking. As with wood cutting elsewhere on the Forest, no trees are to be felled onto the roadway and all slash must be cleaned up. Law enforcement will be monitoring the roads. Forest officials advise woodcutters to drive defensively and notify them of any downed trees or road damage.

If you have suggestions for roads or areas you would like to see opened to firewood cutting in the future, please contact Darby District Ranger Chuck Oliver at (406) 821-3913.

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