

Glenda Wiles

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Subject: News Release: Areas Open Temporarily for Firewood Cutting
Attachments: Firewood Cutting Areas.docx

Areas Open Temporarily For Firewood Cutting

Hamilton, Montana (June 26, 2017) – The Bitterroot National Forest has announced that it is temporarily opening several roads for the public to gather firewood. To learn more about each area, the current fire restrictions and receive a map of the locations, the public can stop by any Bitterroot National Forest office.

The 2017 firewood cutting areas are:

- Forest Roads 740 & 739A (Silverthorne Loop) – Stevensville Ranger District
- Forest Road 1302A (Bear Trap Creek Road) *To be opened after repairs to Willow Creek Road* – Stevensville Ranger District
- Forest Road 728 (Andrews Creek) – Darby/Sula Ranger District
- Forest Road 5785 (Colvert Creek) which will allow access to roads 13357 and 13359 – Darby/Sula Ranger District
- Forest Road 5685 (Thunder Mountain Road) – West Fork Ranger District

The forest has opened these designated areas in an effort to provide more accessible firewood. The firewood cutting areas are open until August 15th or sooner depending on fire restrictions.

Woodcutters are reminded of the requirements to have a spark arrester on their chainsaws and to carry a shovel, bucket, and fire extinguisher at all times.

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 turnouts for parking. As with wood cutting elsewhere on the forest, no trees are to be felled onto the roadway and all slash must be piled. Law enforcement will be monitoring the roads. Forest officials advise woodcutters to drive defensively and notify them of any downed trees or road damage.

You can purchase firewood permits at any Bitterroot National Forest office, M-F 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per cord and there is a four cord (\$20) minimum purchase. Each household is allowed a maximum 12 cords of firewood per year. Permits are good through March 31, 2018. ____

For more information contact the Bitterroot National Forest at (406) 363-7100. Stay in touch with us through www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF and www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF.

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