

Firewood cutting season opens soon

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Oregon — The Deschutes National Forest will open several areas to personal-use firewood cutting on April 16, while the Ochoco National Forest and the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management firewood cutting areas will open May 1.

Firewood cutting maps and permits can be purchased beginning April 16 at Forest Service and BLM offices, and several vendors. The cost is \$10 per cord of wood, with a two cord minimum. Last year, woodcutters gathered 14,948 cords of firewood on Central Oregon public lands.

Vendors issue permits as a public service in cooperation with Central Oregon federal land management agencies and add a \$1 service fee to each permit to help defray costs. Government offices do not charge the service fee.

Land managers might periodically open new areas during the season with limited amounts of wood in addition to sites already identified on firewood maps. Woodcutters should contact local government offices to learn the location of added areas.

Most firewood on public land is small and on the ground. Wood will be limited for late season woodcutters because most trees that died last winter will be harvested in early spring.

Woodcutters should ensure dead trees are not being used by nesting birds and other wildlife before collecting them as firewood.

A BLM personal-use fire wood cutting area in La Pine will no longer be available due to a depletion of available wood. The area has been available for fire wood cutting for several decades, particularly after the mountain pine beetle epidemic of the late 70s-early 80s.

“Wood supplies are not infinite and the remaining dead trees and down logs is needed as habitat for small mammals and birds,” said Forester Steve Castillo. Snow still blankets roads in many of the woodcutting areas and muddy conditions prevail where snow has recently melted. Vehicles can form ruts, cause erosion and kill vegetation on muddy roads. Woodcutters are encouraged to contact government offices to check road conditions before selecting areas to gather wood.

Central Oregon personal-use firewood permits are available at the following locations:

Bend:

Deschutes National Forest Headquarters, 1001 S.W. Emkay Dr., 383-5300

Bend/Ft. Rock Ranger Station, 1230 N.E. Third St., (Red Oaks Square), 383-4000

Joe's™s (formerly G.I. Joes), Mountain View Mall, 388-3778

Butler Market Store South, 61396 Highway 97, 383-0146

Crescent:

Crescent Ranger Station, 136471 Highway 97 N., 433-3200

La Pine:

Quick Stop Market, 51497 Highway 97, 536-2553

Madras:

Crooked River National Grassland Office, 813 SW Highway 97, 475-9272
Bi-Mart (sporting goods department), 1575 S. Highway 97, 475-1394

Prineville:

Ochoco National Forest Headquarters, 3160 NE Third St., 416-6500
Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management, 3050 NE Third St., 416-6700
R & R Grocery and Sporting Goods, 940 SE Combs Flat Rd., 447-7231

Paulina:

Rager Ranger Station (Paulina Ranger District), 7803 Beaver Creek Road, 477-6900
Paulina Store, 477-3311

Redmond:

Redmond Air Center, 1740 SE Ochoco Way, 504-7200

Sisters:

Sisters Ranger Station, Pine St. and Highway 20, 549-7700
Lutton's Ace Hardware, 373 E. Hood Ave., 549-8011

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