



UI Extension Forestry Information Series II

Wood as a Fuel No. 18

Firewood Permits, Selection, and Storage

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Heating with wood provides a heat like no other. Once you have made the decision to heat with wood you are ready to get a permit, gather the wood, and store it for those dark and cold days of winter.

Firewood gathering permits.

Most state and federal agencies in Idaho allow you to gather wood on their lands. Permits provide information to managers on how many people are gathering wood off of their lands also your contact information in case they need to relay information to you about fire danger, locations of active timber harvesting, or changes in road conditions. Get a map with your permit so you know where the boundaries of any given piece of state or federal land are located.

- The Idaho Department of Lands issues permits from their area offices. They have a minimum of 4 cords/ \$20.00 minimum and each additional cord is \$5.00 up to their 10 cord maximum.
- The Forest Service issues permits from most of their offices throughout Idaho. They too have a 4 cords/ \$20.00 minimum, with \$5.00 for each additional cord up to 12 cords. They take cash or checks only.



Many private landowners will also let people harvest rewood from their land. You must get permission from the land or timber owner before removing any wood. All wood, whether it is alive or dead, is private property on these lands. Make sure you fully understand where you are allowed to gather rewood and

to collect only dead and down material, unless other arrangements have been made with the landowner. It is also a good idea to get a "Bill of Sale" from the landowner before you transport your wood on public highways.

Firewood selection.

Gathering rewood to heat or supplement heating in your home can use a considerable amount of your time and energy. **All wood is NOT equal!** Know what kind of wood will best suit your purposes and get the good stuff. For example, you might select a mix of grand fir and white pine if you want an aesthetically pleasing fire that is easy to start and will only last a few hours. When you want maximum, long-lasting heat choose Douglas-fir or western larch. Many like to mix fast-burning wood such as pine with slower fuels, such as larch for a fire that will heat up a room quickly but last all night. Harder

