



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

FREE USE PERMIT FOR FIREWOOD

****DOMESTIC PURPOSES ONLY****

**Valid only within the Selkirk Forest District
(Arrow, Boundary, Kootenay Lake, Revelstoke and Golden Timber Supply Areas)**

This Free Use Permit authorizes you, under Section 48(1)(b) of the *Forest Act*, to cut dead and down wood for firewood (to a maximum of 5 cords per calendar year- 18m³ or approx. 6-8 pick-up loads) in the Selkirk Forest District. Pursuant to Section 94(5) of the *Forest Act*, and Section 10(5) of the *Timber Marking and Transportation Regulation*, firewood covered under this free use permit is exempt from the scaling and marking requirements. This permit is subject to the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA), the *Forest Act* and accompanying regulations. The permittee must fill out, sign and carry this permit at all times while cutting or transporting firewood, and must produce this permit at the request of a Natural Resource Officer, Conservation Officer or a Peace Officer. This permit is not transferable.

I, _____
(Full Name of Permittee)
(Home Address)_____

HEREBY apply for a Free Use Permit to cut firewood **for personal use only**.
And in doing so, I hereby agree to comply with the following conditions:

1. **Not to sell** any firewood gathered on Crown land to another person.
2. Cut only **DEAD** conifer trees (standing or down). Conifer trees that have been blown down or broken off, shall **ONLY** be cut for firewood if there are no green needles left on the tree(s). No cutting of deciduous trees is allowed under this permit.
3. Please be aware that live larch trees do not have needles on them in late fall, winter and early spring months. Cutting, damaging or removing live larch trees or other live conifers is an offense under the *Forest and Range Practice Act*, subject to a minimum \$173.00 fine and potentially other penalties.
4. Cutting of any decked logs is **PROHIBITED** and may be subject to criminal charges of theft under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.
5. Wildlife Values are to be recognized. **No trees greater than 50 cm** (approximately 20 inch) in diameter as measured at stump height (30cm from germination) shall be cut under this permit. Care shall also be taken to not cut, damage or remove trees showing signs of wildlife use (see last page). Watch especially for trees posted with a "Wildlife Tree" sign. It is an offence under the *Wildlife Act* to destroy any active bird nest. Look carefully before you cut!
6. **It is the responsibility of the Permittee to ensure** they are cutting **ONLY** on Crown land outside of municipal boundaries, and is not part of any Woodlot, active logging areas, research areas, recreation areas/campsites, the Mt MacPherson Ski Area/Demonstration Forest in Revelstoke; or in areas where a road closure is in effect or road access restrictions are posted. (see website map)

7. Cutting firewood within The Harrop Proctor Community Forest, the Nakusp Community Forest, and the Kaslo Community Forests is permitted. You must abide by the conditions of this permit.
8. Firewood gathering is **PROHIBITED** within all Provincial Parks and Conservation Lands administered by the Ministry of Environment.
9. **PERMISSION MUST FIRST BE GRANTED** from the Nk'Mip First Nation Woodland License, Slocan Intregal Forestry Coop- "SIFco", West Boundary and the Creston Valley Community Forest Agreement areas, before cutting a tree within these area based tenures using this permit.
10. No tree shall be cut within 10 meters (approximately 30 feet) of any stream or wetland.
11. Stumps shall not be higher than thirty (30) centimeters (1 foot) above the ground. No tree shall be left leaning, hanging or in any other condition that jeopardizes the safety of other forest users.
12. The maximum length of firewood pieces shall not exceed 1.2m (approximately 4 ft.) in length.
13. The Permittee shall not use motorized vehicles and/or other mechanical means to drag or skid whole or partially cut logs greater than 1.2m in length. Power saws may be used for falling, bucking and limbing.
14. All branches shall be lopped from the trees felled, and the branches shall be scattered as to not cause an accumulation. The debris must be cleared from roads, roadside ditches, culvert inlets and outlets prior to leaving the area with a load of firewood.
15. The Permittee shall make themselves familiar with and abide by any published notice or prohibition in respect to the *Wildfire Act* (Note: whenever you cut, you should have at least one functional shovel and one fire extinguisher present at all times.)
16. The permittee assumes all risk of loss or injury and shall indemnify and save harmless the Crown of and from all claims, costs, expenses and losses faced, incurred or suffered by the Crown as a result directly or indirectly of the activities carried out in connection with this permit.
17. Failure to abide by any of the above conditions will result in the immediate cancellation of this permit, possible forfeiture of the timber and/or issuance of a violation ticket or other monetary penalty under the *Administrative Remedies Regulation*.

NOTE: Many roads have active industrial traffic during the weekdays. Follow all posted instructions in respect to the use of the road. Do not block roads under active use with your vehicle or firewood. Work safe and drive carefully.

This permit is not valid unless it is signed and dated by the permittee and expires on December 31 of the calendar year in which it was signed.

I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this permit:

Date: _____

Signature of Permittee

This permit is issued by: Tara DeCourcy, RPF, District Manager of the Selkirk Forest District
For more information contact your local office listed below.

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Selkirk Forest District
Tenures Department

Nelson Office:	Tel: (250) 825-1100
Castlegar Office:	Tel: (250) 365-8600
Revelstoke Office:	Tel: (250) 837-7611

WHAT CONSTITUTES GOOD WILDLIFE TREE HABITAT

When considering the needs of wildlife it is important to recognize that all trees are not equal in value. Given the large number of wildlife tree-dependent species and wide range of wildlife uses of these trees, there can be no simple system for determining which trees provide the best habitat for wildlife. The most significant indicators of wildlife tree quality are the height and diameter, decay stage, location, distribution and cause of death.



Wildlife Tree Characteristics:

- greater than 15 m in height preferable
- greater than 30 cm dbh preferable (interior)
- greater than 70 cm dbh preferable (coastal)
- tree classes 2–6 most valuable
- windfirm, sound root system
- broken top
- some large branches
- some intact bark with space behind loose bark
- nest cavities, feeding excavations
- some evidence of decay (visible fungal conks or open cavity)