



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) 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, _____ of:
(Full Name of Permittee)

(Home Address)

HEREBY apply for a Free Use Permit to cut firewood for personal use and **NOT** for sale.
I hereby agree to the following:

1. Only **DEAD** conifer trees (standing or down) or live and dead deciduous trees (birch aspen, cottonwood) may be cut for firewood. Conifer trees with broken tops, or if they have been blown down can **ONLY** be cut for firewood if there are no green needles left on the tree. Please be aware that live larch trees do not have needles on them in late fall, winter and early spring months.
2. **DO NOT** cut standing leave trees within a cutblock area.
3. Wildlife Protection: Care shall be taken not to cut or remove any trees greater than 60 cm (about 2 feet) in diameter or 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!
4. Cutting of any decked logs is **PROHIBITED** and may be subject to criminal charges.
5. Firewood gathering is **PROHIBITED** within Provincial Parks, active logging areas, research trial areas, recreation areas and campsites and 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.
6. **PERMISSION MUST BE** granted from the holder of Woodlots; the Harrop-Procter, Slocan Valley, West Boundary and Creston Valley Community Forest Agreement areas, before you cut a tree within these area based tenures using this permit.
7. It will be the responsibility of the Permittee to ensure they are cutting on Crown land.

8. Stumps will 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.
9. The maximum length of firewood pieces shall not exceed 1.2m (less than 4 ft.) in length. Cedar posts and rails shall **not** be manufactured or transported from the area under this permit.
10. 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.
11. No tree will be cut within 10 meters of any stream.
12. The permittee assumes all risk of loss or injury and will 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.
13. The Permittee shall not use machinery to haul out firewood from the cutting area under this permit. Power saws may be used for falling, bucking and limbing.
14. The Permittee shall make themselves familiar with and abide by any published notice in respect to the **Wildfire Act** (Note: whenever you cut, you must have at least one useable shovel and one useable fire extinguisher present at all times.)
15. 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 one (1) year from the date of signing.

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

Signature of Permittee

Date: _____

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

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)