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JUL 06 2018



Bitterroot National Forest

1801 N. First
Hamilton, MT 59840

Web: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot>

Ravalli County Commissioners

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News Release

Media Contact: (406) 363-7122
Tod McKay

Firewood Cutting Now Allowed in Lost Horse Drainage

Hamilton, Montana (July 9, 2018) – The Darby/Sula Ranger District has announced that it is opening portions of the Lost Horse Drainage for the public to access personal use firewood. Up until now, firewood cutting has been prohibited in Lost Horse Canyon.

“We are opening portions of the Lost Horse drainage to the public for firewood cutting in order to reduce the amount of fuel buildup available to a wildfire,” said Darby/Sula District Ranger Eric Winthers.

While the majority of the area is now open to the public in an effort to provide more accessible firewood, there are still a few areas along Lost Horse Road, including designated Research Natural Areas (RNAs) where no firewood cutting will be allowed. “Areas that are off limits are clearly marked and firewood cutters are encouraged to clean up after themselves and to not block the road,” said Winthers.

The Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) has recently updated its 2018 Firewood Cutting Map to reflect these new changes. The free maps are available at all BNF offices, on their website, or through the Avenza Map Store.

The forest also temporarily opened several roads last month to allow the public to more easily access personal use firewood. The areas are scheduled to remain open until August 15th or sooner depending on fire conditions and restrictions. Maps of each area are available at BNF offices and online.

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. Please use wide shoulders and turnouts for parking. Not all roads have turn-arounds for trailers. As with wood cutting elsewhere on the forest, no trees are to be felled onto the roadway and all slash must be piled.

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Kauai County Commissioners

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10/1/18

Dear Mr. [Name],

Reference is made to your letter of [Date] regarding [Subject].

The Commission has reviewed the information provided and has determined that [Action].

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact [Contact Information].

Sincerely,
[Signature]

[Name]
[Title]

Law enforcement will be monitoring these areas, including Lost Horse Canyon. Forest officials advise woodcutters to drive defensively and notify them of any downed trees or road damage.

You can purchase firewood permits at any Forest Service 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, 2019.

Remember, you can help continue the success of this program by removing firewood debris from road surfaces and ditches and by respecting other forest users and natural resources. Thank you for your responsible use of National Forest System lands!

Stay in touch with us through www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF and www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF.

Please contact the appropriate District Offices for updates and more information.

Darby/Sula Ranger District, (406) 821-3913
West Fork Ranger District, (406) 821-3269
Stevensville Ranger District, (406) 777-5461
Supervisor's Office – Hamilton, (406) 363-7100

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