

Personal Use Forest Products Permit

Terms and conditions of use

These terms and conditions apply to all activities carried out under the authority of a Personal Use Forest Products Permit as authorized by the *Forests Act* and section 67 of the *Timber Management Regulation*.

Requirements

To be eligible to hold a Personal Use Forest Products Permit, a person must:

- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Be a resident of Alberta;
- Be in good standing with the Crown relating to timber, grazing and land use and not have any outstanding fines or dues owing to the Province of Alberta; and
- Be aware and understand fully that there may be risks associated with harvesting trees and cutting and removing roundwood timber or firewood from Crown land. The permittee assumes full responsibility for the permittee and all persons accompanying the permittee when carrying out activities authorized by this Personal Use Forest Products Permit.

The permittee will not be entitled to any damages, costs, losses, disbursements, or compensation whatsoever from the Province regardless of the cause or reason therefore, on account of:

- a. Any damage or annoyance arising from any acts, omissions, or negligence of owners, occupants or tenants of adjacent or contiguous Crown lands or properties; or
- b. Any damage or destruction of personal property of, or personal injury to, the permittee or any other person.

General Conditions

All harvesting operations are to be conducted in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Personal Use Forest Products Permits are valid for thirty (30) days from the date of issuance.
2. Each permit is issued for one type of timber product: Christmas trees, firewood/roundwood or transplants. A permittee is only allowed to hold **one permit of each type**, at a time.
3. The timber products authorized for harvest under this permit are for **personal use by the permittee and not for resale or commercial use**
4. The permittee shall:
 - a. Possess a copy of the permit on their person at all times while harvesting and transporting the products authorized for collection under this permit;
 - b. Provide a copy of the permit to a Forest Officer, or other authorized agent of the Crown, upon request;
 - c. Only cut or remove the products authorized by the permit within the “permitted harvest” areas

Do I need a permit for camping?

When random camping on vacant Crown land, a permit is not required to cut firewood for use at the campsite.

If timber products are brought home for personal use, then a Personal Use Forest Products Permit **is** required.

- defined on Personal Use Forest Products Permit maps published by Alberta or in areas as defined by the director;
- d. Obey locally posted access restrictions (for example, no unauthorized access within industrial operations) unless access permission from public land occupant is granted;
 - e. Only utilize the PUFPP in the forest area for which the Personal Use Forest Products Permit was issued. (For example: a permit issued for the Calgary Forest Area cannot be operated within the Slave Lake Forest Area);
 - f. Not transport any trees that show signs of disease or insect infestation outside the forest area from which the trees were collected;
 - g. Only operate vehicles on designated trails and roads when operating a permit within a Public Land Use Zone;
 - h. Not utilize mechanical equipment while harvesting, skidding or transplanting trees under a permit, with the exception of off highway vehicles. Examples include (but are not limited to) skid steers, bobcats, skidders, loaders, feller bunchers or backhoes;
 - i. Cut stumps no higher than 30 centimetres from the ground;
 - j. Not leave tree limbs, tree tops or other residual materials resulting from harvesting, transplanting or transporting forest products on road right-of-ways, the road surface, in ditches or recreational trails;
 - k. Not interfere with or inhibit any traffic on any road while operating a permit;
 - l. Not damage surrounding live trees while operating a permit;
 - m. Not damage other public land users' infrastructure, property or improvements. Examples include (but are not limited to) fences or recreation trails.

Transplants

A permittee that holds a Personal Use Forest Products Permit that authorizes the removal of transplants shall:

- a. Remove no more than twenty (20) transplants;
- b. Remove transplants that are under 2.5 metres (approximately 8 feet) in height; and
- c. Fill any holes created from transplanting trees.

Removal of transplants underneath power lines is acceptable when safe to do so.

Christmas trees

A permittee that holds a Personal Use Forest Products Permit that authorizes the cutting and removal of Christmas trees shall:

- a. Cut no more than three (3) Christmas trees;
- b. Cut trees less than 2.5 metres (approximately 8 feet) in height;
- c. Not cut the tops of trees taller than 2.5 metres;
- d. Cut Christmas trees that have a stump width of 15 centimetres or less; and
- e. Utilize all trees cut by the permittee.

Removal of Christmas trees underneath power lines is acceptable when safe to do so.

Firewood and roundwood timber (building logs, posts and rails)

A permittee that holds a Personal Use Forest Products Permit that authorizes the cutting and removal of firewood or roundwood timber shall:

- a. Cut no more than five (5) cubic metres (approximately 1.5 cords) of firewood or roundwood;
- b. Take as much of the tree as possible (utilize all parts of the tree greater than 4 centimetres);
- c. Scatter woody debris, such as tops and branches resulting from felling and bucking, within the vicinity of the felled tree; and

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- d. Not remove timber from log decks (decked timber often belongs to a logging company, or is salvage belonging to an oil and gas company).
- e. Removal of dry timber from a slash pile is acceptable if no reforested trees are disturbed in the process. A slash pile is a disorganized heap of timber unusable to a logging company and left behind after logging operations are completed. Slash piles are different than log decks.

Restrictions

The Permittee shall not damage, cut or remove whitebark or limber pine – also known as five needle pine. Both species are listed as endangered under the *Alberta Wildlife Act*. Whitebark and limber pine can be identified by examining the needles.

Both species have needles arranged in clusters of five (5) and are easily distinguishable from other pines which have needles in clusters of two (2).



Figure 1 limber pine

Do not operate a Personal Use Forest Products Permit in the following areas:

- a. Reclaimed sites, such as around deliberately placed rocks, large grassy areas that do not appear natural, very steep slopes where the trees are preventing erosion etc.;
- b. Facilities, such as forestry bases, industrial camps, viewpoints, roadside turnouts etc.;
- c. Recreation areas, campgrounds, provincial parks, natural areas or private land;
- d. Any reforested cut block or area where active logging operations are occurring;
- e. Demonstration/educational forests and tree improvement/research; and
- f. Within 30 metres of a stream, river, creek or watercourse nor within 100 metres of a lake.

Useful reminders

- Be prepared for the conditions under which you may be operating your Personal Use Forest Products Permit.
- Road conditions are variable, a 4x4 vehicle is recommended.
- Ensure you have the appropriate equipment and fuel to fell, dig or harvest trees. Always let someone know where you are going and the time you are expecting to return home.
- Take extra winter clothing and emergency supplies (blankets, food and water, candles, etc).
- Use respect! Please do not leave garbage at the cutting or transplant site.
- For more information please contact: for-info@gov.ab.ca

Definitions

“**Roundwood timber products**” means building logs, fence posts, pilings, poles, rails and similar products.

Section 2.17 of Timber Management Regulation

“**Timber**” means all trees living or dead, of any size or species and whether standing, fallen, cut or extracted.

Section 1(l) of Forests Act

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