

# Free firewood program extended

The Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and the Crooked River National Grassland will extend free personal-use firewood cutting through September 30. The same procedures announced at the beginning of May remain in effect. Firewood cutters can forego the normal requirement to obtain a permit from a Forest Service office or vendor.

This interim change to the firewood permitting process is an effort to maximize social distancing measures. After September 30, the Forest Service plans to return to the regular process of issuing firewood permits and load tags at our offices and vendor locations.

Firewood cutters can also take an additional two cords of firewood for personal use only. This is in addition to the four cords allowed during the month of May, for a total of six cords between May 1 and September 30. Inquire by phone or email with your local district office regarding commercial firewood permits.

Firewood cutters taking advantage of this opportunity will be required to follow the same rules and regulations that are in effect during the regular firewood cutting season. These rules and regulations are found in the "2020 Central Oregon Personal Use

Firewood Synopsis" and on individual firewood cutting area maps.

Free personal use firewood cutters will be required to have the following in their possession while cutting, loading and transporting firewood:

1. A completed and signed hard-copy version of the "Free Personal Use Firewood Authorization;" dated/valid June 1, 2020 to September 30th, 2020.

2. A digital or hard-copy version of the "2020 Central Oregon Personal Use Firewood Synopsis."

3. A digital or hard-copy version of the appropriate firewood cutting area map (i.e., the map covering the area where the firewood is being cut).

The Authorization, Synopsis and maps can be acquired at <https://go.usa.gov/xd4xV>; at local participating vendors; at Forest Service offices (located outside near the front doors); at Avenza.com. Firewood cutting area maps can be

downloaded onto your electronic devices with the PDF Maps app available from Avenza.com.

All firewood cutting is subject to periods of shutdown due to high fire danger or the implementation of Public Use Restrictions (PURs). Check the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) (1-800-523-4737) prior to cutting firewood. See the 2020 Central Oregon Personal Use Firewood Synopsis, page 3, for information about IFPL.

For more information contact Sisters Ranger District 541-549-7700.



PHOTO BY KEMA CLARK

Library staff has begun the process of reopening the sorely-missed community asset.

# Sisters Library starts reopening

By Kema Clark  
Correspondent

Tuesday, May 26, started the gradual reopening of Deschutes County Libraries. Books that were checked out months ago, can now be returned.

The return process is a little different for each branch. Some of the library locations are able to have the book bins in an area to allow library patrons to pull in and hand the books to a library employee or toss them in the bin. People don't have to exit their cars at all.

The Sisters Library was unable to arrange the drop-off in that fashion, since it's on a two-way street. Patrons park in front, exit their car, follow the signs and drop the books in the bin. You will never be closer than six feet to the library employees helping, so it's quick and easy. Saturday, May 30, was the second drop-off day.

On June 2, the library continued curbside drop-offs (the book drops will remain closed) and started allowing patrons to pick up items that were put on hold before the March closure.

Per library instructions, "items can only be picked up at the location where the hold was originally placed. All staff will be wearing masks and following social distancing protocols; we encourage the public to wear masks as well."

Beginning June 2, the Sisters Library hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Access the Library Reopening Plan: Frequently Asked Questions at <https://www.deschuteslibrary.org>. Patrons can place new holds on library materials starting June 10.

If there are eBooks, audiobooks or physical books that you want, and the library doesn't have them, you can request anything. Login to your library account, go to "My Library Dashboard" and click on "+ Submit a Suggestion" on the left side. Provide the information and you'll get a reply quickly from the library staff to say it's ordered, or explaining why it can't be ordered.

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