The compendium is a list of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions adopted pursuant to authority in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) applicable to areas administered by the National Park Service (NPS). On January 18, 2022 the NPS published proposed changes for the 2022 compendium and invited public comment on those proposed changes through February 18, 2022. A summary of comments and NPS responses is provided below.

Comments and Responses

36 CFR 13.35(d): The Superintendent may authorize, with or without conditions, the collection of dead standing wood in all or a portion of a park area. Collecting dead or downed wood in violation of terms and conditions is prohibited.

1. Comment: A commenter suggested that: 1) chainsaws be authorized throughout the preserve for use by the public for cutting standing dead trees as firewood, 2) caching of firewood be allowed for safety purposes, 3) tree cutting restrictions included in the proposed compendium revision are impractical, and 4) distance requirements create fire and public safety hazards and are difficult to determine.

NPS Response. Having considered comments received, the NPS is altering the proposed compendium revision to allow the public cutting of standing dead trees for use as firewood by permit. Accordingly, chainsaw use will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In response to comments, stipulations for woodcutting will be revised to require that any un-used firewood be dispersed, except at public use cabins where un-used wood will be stacked away from structures for use by the general public. Additionally, stipulations will be amended to allow a maximum stump height of eight (8) inches as suggested. NPS actively maintains Firewise zoning around all NPS facilities so there is little risk to structures from standing dead trees. Rather, the distance requirements as originally articulated are aimed at protecting scenic values in areas of concentrated use such as the vicinity of cabins and structures. These will remain in place.

All other stipulations included in the original compendium change language will be included as baseline terms and conditions to any permit issued, however, the Superintendent may modify these on a case-by-case basis:

- Standing dead trees may be cut from September through April for the sole purpose of heating public use cabins and temporary shelters within the preserve
- Harvested trees may not be exported from the preserve
- Un-used firewood will be dispersed, except at public use cabins where any excess wood will be cut to an appropriate length and stacked no closer than thirty (30) feet from structures for use by the general public
- Girdling live trees for future harvest as deadwood is prohibited
- Commercial use of harvested trees is prohibited
- Cutting and transport of harvested wood will be conducted in a manner that minimizes damage to the vegetative mat and underlying soils
- Tree stumps will be flush-cut at ground level when possible or at a height not greater than eight (8) inches. All tree limbs, tops, or unremoved debris left from cutting will be lopped and scattered. Depth of debris will not be greater than eighteen (18) inches. All tree parts greater than three (3) inches in diameter must be used.

- Standing dead trees will be harvested no closer than three hundred (300) feet from existing structures and no closer than fifty (50) feet from roads, paths, and waterways. Trees will only be taken from areas outside of the normal view of the public and in areas where cutting will not impact other park users, wildlife or natural and cultural resources.

- A minimum of twelve (12) standing dead trees per acre will be left for wildlife habitat.

- Block or clear-cutting is prohibited. A minimum of fifty (50) feet will be maintained between harvested trees.

- Chainsaw use will be considered on a case-by-case basis under 36 CFR 2.12(a)(3) and is prohibited unless expressly authorized by this permit. Where authorized, chainsaws fuel and bar oil will be stored in approved containers. All precautions should be taken to prevent fuel spills. All chainsaws must have the appropriate spark arrestors meeting USFS specifications.

The 2022 Compendium will be revised to read as follows:

36 CFR 13.35(d): The Superintendent may authorize, with or without conditions, the collection of dead standing wood in all or a portion of a park area. Collecting dead or downed wood in violation of terms and conditions is prohibited: The superintendent may allow cutting of dead standing wood by members of the public from September through April for the sole purpose of heating public use cabins and temporary shelters within the preserve subject to the terms and conditions of a permit.

*The above restriction serves to minimize impact to preserve resources, ensure that natural biodegradation processes are unimpaired, and protect against overharvest.*