

2 Durational Foresters are needed for a period of two years to address an extraordinary increase in firewood permit requests for home heating purposes. Increased homeowner firewood demand is believed to be directly related to Connecticut's economic downturn and rising State unemployment. The Division of Forestry homeowner firewood sales have increased substantially as energy prices have climbed; 2006 sales - 510 cords; 2007 sales - 788 cords; 2008 sales - 960 cords. Despite the recent reduction in energy costs, **January 2009 demand for homeowner firewood permits has already surpassed all 2008 requests by 67% (1600 cords).** This alarming increase is expected to continue based upon previous years permit request cycles. The Division of Forestry projects requests could easily exceed 2000 cords in 2009 and possibly surpass 4000 cords for 2010 given current economic forecasts. Division of Forestry staff strives to honor all permit requests but with existing staff, we cannot issue additional permits.