

# NEWSRelease

Bureau of Land Management • Forest Service

3040 Biddle Road • Medford, Oregon 97504 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford>  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## The Yuletide Season Is Drawing Near Christmas Tree Tags Available Soon

**Medford/Coos Bay, OR**—It's that time of year to starting thinking of the annual family trip to the woods for a holiday tree.

Starting on Saturday, November 19, tree tags will be available at numerous vendor locations in southwest Oregon. Starting on Monday, November 21, Christmas tree tags may also be purchased from Forest Service and BLM offices in southwest Oregon, including the Medford Interagency Office and the BLM Coos Bay District in North Bend starting on Monday, November 21. The tags allow the cutting of personal-use trees for Christmas and other holiday events. A permit is required for the harvest of each individual tree.

The permits sell for \$5.00 per tree and are non-refundable. There is a limit of five tree permits per person. The permits cover a large area that includes the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Coos Bay and Medford Districts of the BLM, where lands are open to personal use tree harvesting. Maps with directions to cutting areas will be provided.

The Christmas tree permit tag is validated after harvesting your tree by cutting out the date, month and year on the tree tag and securely attaching it to the cut tree in a visible location before transporting it.

## Important Note

Christmas tree harvest is NOT allowed in wilderness areas, campgrounds, developed recreation areas, National Monuments, Research Natural Areas, Area's of Critical Environmental Concern, or within fences or posted tree plantations within 200 feet of state highways or on private lands. Christmas tree cutting is also NOT permitted within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the Wild and Scenic Rogue River corridor and Recreation Areas. This stresses the importance of having your tree permit map with you, along with a local Forest or BLM map, and a good understanding of your location prior to cutting.

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2

## **Christmas Tree Tags Available For Sale-Safety Precautions**

Traveling safely on public lands is very important for you and your family's health and safety. Keep in mind that roads on public lands administered by the Forest Service and BLM are not plowed in the winter and can present some situations that quickly become dangerous if you are not properly prepared.

On any outing to the forest this time of year, be prepared for winter weather and check weather conditions prior to departure. It is strongly encouraged that you take a reliable map of the area (Forest Service or BLM map in addition to your tree permit map) with you and travel with a full tank of gas. Bring along adequate supplies such as warm clothing, blankets/sleeping bags, high energy food, water, warm beverages, first aid kit, flashlight, whistle, mirror, shovel and chains. Always let someone know where you plan to harvest your tree and when you expect to return. Consider going out with a more experienced friend if you are new to this activity or unfamiliar with the area in which you will be travelling.

The Bear Camp Coastal route is open but not recommended for travel this time of year, as the route is not maintained for winter travel from November 5<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Be safe, and happy holidays!

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more land – 253 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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