



Interagency News Release



USDI Bureau of Land Management, Medford District -
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/index.php>

USDI Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District -
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/index.php>

USDA Forest Service, Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest –
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue-siskiyou/>

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Christmas Tree Permits Are Available For the Holidays

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medford/Coos Bay, OR – November 19, 2007 – It's that time of year again when people are looking to head to the great outdoors to cut a personal-use tree for Christmas and other holiday celebrations.

The local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at the Coos Bay and Medford Districts and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest are selling permits for \$ 5.00 per tree. Through a partnership among the Medford and Coos Bay Districts of BLM and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, you can purchase a permit from any of the agencies and harvest your tree from any of the southwestern public lands open to tree harvesting.

Permits from the Bureau of Land Management's Coos Bay and Medford District Offices will be available starting on Friday Nov. 23 while Forest Service permits are available now. Permits are also available through the listed vendor locations. For an updated list of vendor locations, please contact your local Ranger District office.

All federal offices are closed Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 22, and open on Friday, November 23.

The tree permits cover both BLM and Forest Service lands. When you purchase your permit, maps and information about cutting areas and restricted areas will be provided.

The Christmas tree permit tag is validated by the public when they cut out the date, month and year on the tree tag and securely attached it to the freshly cut tree in a visible location before it is transported.

Christmas tree harvest is not allowed in wilderness areas, campgrounds, developed recreation areas, National Monuments, Research Natural Areas, Area's of Critical Environmental Concern, 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 such as the Table Rocks, developed campgrounds, systems and picnic areas.

Again, it is advisable to check in with a phone call or visit to your local Forest Service or BLM office before your trip to obtain a map and directions to cutting areas as well as local road condition information. Please be aware that there are some roads that are not advisable for winter travel and may be also closed at any time due to snow and weather conditions.

The following are a few tips to keep your trip safe:

- Cut a tree early in the season before snow may limit access. Some cutting areas may not be accessible after snowfall so it is advisable to cut trees early in the season.
- Notify friends or relatives of where you are going, when to expect to return and what route you will traveling.
- Set out early in the day to find your tree.
- Before leaving home, check weather and road conditions, carry needed equipment like a saw, shovel, gloves, warm clothing, and tire chains, Always bring cold weather clothing, as weather can be unpredictable and can change quickly.
- Bring emergency food and water and have a full tank of gas in your vehicle.

FACT SHEET

Personal-Use Christmas Tree Harvesting on Your Public Lands

Special Stipulations

- A permit is required for the harvest of each individual tree.
- Trees can only be harvested on public lands where allowed by this permit.
- ***DO NOT*** harvest trees in wilderness areas, national monuments, wild and scenic rivers, campgrounds, developed areas, fenced or posted tree plantations, within 200 feet of state highways, or on private property. If you have questions about these restrictions, ask when you purchase your permit.
- Permits or trees cannot be resold.
- Cut only trees that are less than 12 feet tall. The tree should be cut as close to the ground as possible, and not more than 12 inches above the ground. Cut your tree only if there is another tree within 12 feet of it.
- After harvesting your tree, validate the permit by cutting out the year and date, and attaching the permit to your tree before transporting it.
- Respect all road and area closures.

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