

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

November 16, 2015

Contacts: Chamise Kramer, FS Public Affairs Specialist (541) 618-2051
Jim Whittington, BLM Public Affairs Officer, Medford District (541) 618-2220
Megan Harper, BLM Public Affairs Officer, Coos Bay District (541) 751-4353

Christmas Tree Permits Available on November 16, 2015

For many families, venturing out onto public lands to cut a Christmas tree is an annual holiday tradition!

Beginning November 16, tree permits will be available at locations across southwest Oregon, including both Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Offices and multiple local vendors. Permits allow the cutting of personal-use trees for Christmas and other holiday events, and a permit is required for the harvest of each individual tree. Please contact your local Forest Service or BLM office, as permits may be available sooner than the official date indicated above.

Permits for Christmas trees on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Medford and Coos Bay BLM Districts are \$5.00 per tree, and are non-refundable. There is a limit of five tree permits per household, and the permits may be used only on those lands open to Christmas tree harvesting and administered by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, and the Medford and Coos Bay BLM Districts. Maps that identify these areas will be provided at the time of permit purchase.

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

New this year: Smokey Bear and Santa Clause are pairing up! **As part of the new national initiative Every Kid in a Park, fourth graders who get their free pass to access thousands of fee sites across the country may also bring that pass into their local Forest Service or BLM office and receive one Christmas tree permit, free of charge.** To get the fourth graders in your life their free Every Kid in a Park pass, visit <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>.

Important Notes

Christmas tree harvest is not allowed in wilderness areas, campgrounds, developed recreation areas, National Monuments, Research Natural Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or within fences or posted tree plantations, within 200 feet of state highways, or on private lands. Christmas tree harvest is also not permitted within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, the Wild and Scenic Rogue River corridor or Recreation Areas. This emphasizes the importance of keeping the agency-provided tree permit map with you, as well as a Forest or



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/>

BLM
FOREST SERVICE

BLM map, and a familiarity of your location prior to cutting.

Traveling safely on public lands is very important; please 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 may become dangerous if you are not properly prepared or familiar with your location. Specifically, the Bear Camp Road is not maintained from November 5 through Memorial Day Weekend; the agencies ask that you use extreme caution before considering the areas accessed via this route for your Christmas tree cutting outing, as roads may be unpassable and weather conditions can change quickly.

On any outing to the forest this time of year, be prepared for winter weather. Check weather conditions prior to departure, and always travel with a full tank of gas, adequate supplies such as warm clothing, blankets/sleeping bags, high energy food, water, warm beverages, first aid kit, flashlight, whistle, mirror, shovel, chains, and maps.

Always let someone know where you plan to harvest your tree and your expected return time. Consider going with others who are familiar to the area, particularly if you are unfamiliar with the area in which you will be traveling or have not harvested a Christmas tree before.

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.

