

## **CHRISTMAS TREE FAQs**

**Q:** Where can I buy a Christmas tree permit?

**A:** Contact your local BLM office to inquire about a permit.

**Q:** How much is a permit?

**A:** One Christmas tree tag (i.e. permit) is \$5.

**Q:** How many trees can I cut?

**A:** Christmas trees are harvested and sold as individual trees. The number of Christmas trees sold for personal use varies by District but is generally not more than five.

**Q:** Where should I go to cut my Christmas tree?

**A:** Your local BLM District Office will point to you to an area available for Christmas tree harvests and probably provide a vicinity map with your permit. District maps are also available for purchase at the office.

**Q:** Which trees are available to cut?

**A:** Christmas trees choices consist of several species of coniferous trees, including Douglas-fir, true firs, and pine. Trees shall not be over 12 feet in height.

**Q:** Can I drive to my tree after it has been cut?

**A:** Drive only on existing roads and park so as not to block traffic. Comply with all road closures. Also, make sure to cut your tree at least 50 feet from the road.

**Q:** What other considerations should I know before cutting my tree?

**A:**

- ✓ Clean up any trimmings or limbs.
- ✓ Leave stumps no higher than 6 inches. It is illegal to “top” a tree.
- ✓ Cut off any green limbs left on the stump (these can be used for decorating greens).
- ✓ The maximum height of tree to be cut is 12 feet tall.
- ✓ Do not cut trees with visible nests or wildlife.
- ✓ Do not cut in active timber sales, progeny test sites, areas that have been planted with new trees.
- ✓ Do not cut on private land, in wilderness areas, designated campgrounds, or existing tree plantations.

**Q:** What types of safety precautions should I consider?

**A:** With forecasts for this winter predicting colder temperatures and above average precipitation, it’s as important as ever to prepare for the unexpected when looking for your holiday tree. Bring a handsaw or axe as well as winter clothing and safety equipment. Tire chains and a shovel are recommended, as is extra food, drinking water, blankets, a flashlight, first aid kit and survival gear. Tree cutting and travel may take longer than anticipated, so notify a friend or family member where you’re going, get an early start, and leave the woods well before dark.

## **Christmas Tree Tips**

**Make A Fresh Cut** When you get your tree home, make a fresh cut on the butt to open up the pores which have been clogged by sap. Cut off at least one-half inch. The fresh-cut surface should be creamywhite, not yellow or brown. If you do not make a fresh cut, the tree will not be able to drink water. After the cut is made, put the tree in water as soon as possible. Even if a hole is drilled to accommodate a pin-type stand, a fresh cut should also be made on the butt.

**Put in Water** Place the tree in a sturdy stand which will hold at least one gallon of water per day. Fill with plain water. If the tree is not going into the house right away, it should be stored in a bucket of water on a cool porch or patio away from wind or sun.

**Water Daily** An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form and no more water will be absorbed by the tree.

**Mini-Lights Produce Minimum Heat** Miniature lights produce much less heat and reduce the drying effect upon the tree. Always check light sets for frayed or cracked wire insulation and broken sockets before placing them on a tree. Do not attempt to repair a worn light set. Throw it away and buy a new set. Always turn off the lights of your tree when leaving the house or retiring for the night.

**Keep Away From Heat Sources** Place the tree away from heat sources such as heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves and fireplace inserts, radiators, television sets or sunny windows.

**Remove the Tree Promptly After Christmas**, before the tree dries, remove it from the house for pick up by your disposal service or for your local chipping and compost program. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.