News Release

BLM Colorado San Luis Valley Field Office **Media Contact:** Maribeth Pecotte (970) 724-3027

Nov. 30, 2021

Christmas tree and firewood permits available in Monte Vista

MONTE VISTA, Colo. – Permits for cutting Christmas trees and firewood on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are available online and from the San Luis Valley Field Office in Monte Vista, Colorado.

Christmas tree permits are \$10 per tree and may be purchased online at <u>forestproducts.blm.gov</u> at any time, or they may be purchased from the field office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Permit sales run through December 24. BLM lands are largely available for harvest, except for Wilderness Study Areas. Permits exclude cutting of willow, alder, and bristlecone pine.

"With the purchase of a Christmas tree permit, families can take part in the time-honored tradition of selecting and cutting their own holiday tree," said San Luis Valley Field Manager, Melissa Garcia. "We recommend bringing along a hand saw, rope or twine, extra food, water and blankets when you cut your tree." Warm clothes and boots, tire chains, a shovel, and emergency supplies are also important to bring along.

A BLM permit is required for firewood cutting and removal from BLM public lands and costs \$10 per cord. Permits purchased from the U.S. Forest Service are not valid for cutting firewood on BLM.

For more information about forest products on BLM lands, call the San Luis Valley Field Office at 719-852-7074.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 11 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$111 billion in economic output across the country in fiscal year 2020—more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 498,000 jobs.