

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212
www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html



SERVICE FIRST



United States Department of Agriculture
FOREST SERVICE
San Carlos Ranger District
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212
www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/sanc/

For Immediate Release

**Cass Cairns
Barb Timock**

**BLM 719-269-8553
USFS 719-553-1415**

October 30, 2009

BLM and US Forest Service personal use Christmas tree permit sales

CAÑON CITY, Colo. – Personal use Christmas tree permits will be available soon for the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) San Carlos Ranger District. Cost of either a BLM or Forest Service permit is \$10 per tree with a limit of two trees per household. The conditions of use and sale period for the permits are specific to the issuing agency.

The Royal Gorge Field Office will begin selling BLM Christmas tree permits on Nov. 2 through Dec. 24. They may be purchased at either the Royal Gorge Field Office at 3028 E. Main St., Cañon City during regular office hours between 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area office at 307 W. Sackett Ave., Salida between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The BLM permit allows tree cutting on BLM public lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office with the exception of Wilderness Study Areas, the Phantom Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, within an eighth of a mile of any developed recreation site (i.e. campgrounds, trailheads), or within the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area river corridor.

The San Carlos Ranger District will begin selling USFS Christmas tree permits on Nov. 23 through Dec. 24. They may be purchased at the district office at 3028 E. Main St., Cañon City during regular office hours between 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., District Work Centers in La Veta (719-742-3681), and Westcliffe (719-783-2079), or the Forest Supervisor's Office at 2840 Kachina Dr., Pueblo from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Call the Work Centers for location and office hours. The FS permits allows tree cutting on National Forest system lands within the San Carlos Ranger District boundaries with the exception of Wilderness areas, and administrative and developed recreation sites.

Species vary upon location and may include Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, pinyon pine, white fir, subalpine fir, spruce, and Rocky Mountain Juniper. Permits must be purchased before trees may be cut. Handouts with suggested areas, specific agency stipulations, and recommendations are provided with purchased permits.

Cutting your own Christmas tree can be fun but be prepared for winter conditions. Plan to do some walking through snow to get your tree and make sure everyone in your party has warm clothes and boots. Pack emergency supplies, carry an appropriate map and leave word with friends or relatives of your planned destination. Take a vehicle equipped for winter conditions with 4-wheel drive, snow tires or chains and start early since winter days are shorter.

For additional information call the BLM-FS Service First office at 719-268-8500 or visit the web for the BLM at www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/rgfo.html and the USFS at www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/sanc/holidaytree.shtml.

- end -