

Season's Greetings!

Since the early 1500s Christmas trees have been the center of holiday activities for many people. In this area, it is a popular tradition to begin the holiday season with an outing to cut the family Christmas tree. This brochure includes information which will help make your outing a success.



Buying A Permit

Permits must be purchased for each tree you are going to cut. There is a limit of three permits per family and they cost \$5 a piece.

The permits can be purchased from any Forest office or local vendor listed on the back of this brochure. They can also be obtained from Forest district offices if you wish.

If you can't contact one of these offices or vendors, a permit can be mailed to you. Simply send in your request along with a check or money order for the appropriate amount. Checks should be made payable to the USDA Forest Service.

Planning Your Outing

Permits are good on National Forest lands in northern Idaho and Montana and on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in northern Idaho and western Montana. If you aren't familiar with the Forests' boundaries, consider purchasing Nez Perce or Clearwater National Forest maps.

It is also important that you ask questions. Forest employees can provide valuable information about road and trail access and conditions. They can suggest good cutting areas and provide weather forecasts. Take advantage of this service.

Use this information to plan your travel route. Share the route with family or friends prior to your departure. Tell them when you plan to leave and when you plan to return. Agree what actions will be taken if you don't return according to plan.

To minimize the possibility of being stranded on back-country roads, be sure your vehicle is in top working order and that your tires have good tread. Prepare for mechanical emergencies by carrying the proper tools, including tire chains and a shovel.

Equip your vehicle with an emergency first aid kit, food and extra blankets or sleeping bags. A basic survival kit which includes matches and a candle is a must. Finally, wear warm clothing and dress in layers so you can easily add or remove clothing for comfort.

Cutting Your Tree

As a general rule, no special areas are designated for Christmas tree cutting.

You are asked to observe the following rules when choosing and cutting your Christmas tree.

- Cut your tree at least 200 feet away from well-traveled roads, flowing water, campgrounds and recreation sites.
- It is permissible to cut trees from the cut banks and fill slopes of lesser-traveled roads.
- Select your trees from thickets or overstocked areas. Avoid removing trees from plantations or other areas where tree growth is sparse.
- Select a tree that is the right height for your needs. **Please don't cut a large tree just to take the top.**
- Pile all discarded branches away from roads, ditches and culverts.
- Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible. Stumps should be eight inches or less.
- Attach a permit to each cut tree prior to transporting it in your vehicle.

Merry Christmas!



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If you require this information in alternative format (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice or TDD).

If you require information about this program, activity, or facility in a language other than English, contact the agency office responsible for the program or activity, or any USDA office.

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*TDD: Telephone for Hearing Impaired

For Further Information

Nez Perce Forest Supervisor's Office

104 Airport Road
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-1950
*TDD: (208) 983-2280

Harpster Store
HC 66, Box 337
Kooskia, ID 83539

Rae Brothers Sporting Goods

247 E. Main Street
Grangeville, ID 83530

Tackett's Saw Service

Highway 13 E
Grangeville, ID 83530

Clearwater Forest Supervisor's Office

12730 Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544
(208) 476-4541
TDD: (208) 476-0129

Helmer Store & Cafe

5588 Highway 8
Helmer, ID 83823

Southside Chevron

202 Spotswood
Moscow, ID 83843

Woodland Enterprises

310 North Main Street
Moscow, ID 83843

Tom Cat's Sporting Goods

618 Business 12 (Hwy. Bypass)
Kooskia, ID 83539

Idaho Rigging

5537 Highway 95
Potlatch, ID 83855

Cloningers Harvest Foods

508 3rd
Kamiah, ID 83536

United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service

**Cutting A
Christmas
Tree
on Your...**



**Nez Perce
and Clearwater
National Forests**