

News Release



USDA Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416-2485

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact(s): Grand Valley Ranger District, 970.242.8211
Norwood Ranger District, 970.327.4261.
Paonia Ranger District, 970.527.4131
Gunnison Ranger District, 970.641.0471
Ouray Ranger District and Montrose BLM Field Office, 970.240.5300

CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS ON SALE!

Delta, CO., (November 6, 2008) – The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest and the BLM Montrose Field Office announced that they will begin selling Christmas Tree Permits on Monday, November 10. Permits are for personal use only and not for resale. The permit cost is \$8.00 each and can be purchased during normal business hours at any of the Ranger District Offices (Grand Valley, Gunnison, Paonia, Norwood), at the Forest Service/BLM Office in Montrose, at authorized vendors (Grand Junction/Collbran area) and/or at the Forest Headquarters in Delta.

“Purchasing a permit and going into the forest to choose and cut a Christmas tree is a great and affordable opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy your national forest and public lands,” stated Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor Tracy Parker. “We encourage folk to have a great time and ask that they follow the rules for cutting the trees and stay on designated roads and trails with their motorized vehicles.”

Specific information and requirements should be obtained by contacting the ranger district office where individuals plan to harvest their tree. Information sheets will be provided with each permit.

In general: a variety of tree species can be harvested across the Forest, with some species restricted on some ranger districts; each tree must have a permit and the permit must be attached to the tree before leaving the site; and trees are not permitted to be cut in areas signed as closed, in or adjacent to campgrounds, roads, Wilderness, private land, active timber sales, tree planting areas and/or in and adjacent to riparian areas. Topping of larger trees is not permitted (e.g. cutting the top off a large tree) and stumps should be cut as close to the ground as possible, but no higher than 6 inches.

Because winter weather is upon us and variable, it is recommended that snowshoes or skis be used to access areas to cut trees and a sharp handsaw used to cut the trees. Below are some other useful tips for Christmas trees:

- Wrap the tree in an old blanket to prevent wind damage during transportation.
- Cut the stump a second time at home to get a straight cut to install it in the stand and to allow the tree to absorb water.
- Make sure that you keep water (or the mixture below) in the stand for safety and to help the tree remain fresh longer.
- A “fire minimizing” mixture consists of a mixture of: 2 gallons of hot water, 2 cups of corn syrup, 2 ounces of liquid bleach, 2 pinches of Epsom salts, ½ teaspoon Borax and 1 teaspoon of chelated iron (garden shop).

Specific Information and Permits can be obtained at:

Grand Valley Ranger District:

2777 Crossroads Blvd Unit 1, Grand Junction, CO 81624; 970-242-8211

Paonia Ranger District

PO Box 1030; N. Rio Grande Ave, Paonia, CO 81428; 970-527-4131

Forest Headquarters

2250 Highway 50 Delta, CO 81416; 970-874-6600

Ouray Ranger District and Montrose BLM Field Office

2505 S. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401; 970-240-5300

Gunnison Ranger District

216 N. Colorado St. Gunnison, CO 81230; 970-641-0471

Norwood Ranger District

1150 Forest Road Norwood, CO 81423; 970-327-4261