



Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National
Forests
Grand Valley Ranger District
Christmas Tree Cutting Regulations
2008



Christmas tree cutting regulations vary by Ranger District. If you plan on cutting trees from a different Ranger District, please contact that District for their specific rules and cutting areas. The following rules and recommendations apply when cutting your tree(s) on the **Grand Valley Ranger District**:

1. Christmas tree cutting is open district wide **except** for areas signed as closed or signed as "no firewood cutting", campgrounds, trailheads, private land, timber sale areas, Powderhorn Ski Area and lodges, or designated Nordic Ski Areas. **Refer to the enclosed maps for specific areas closed to Christmas tree cutting and winter motorized travel restrictions.**

2. All trees must be tagged with a permit BEFORE leaving the area or transporting. Trees are for personal use only and cannot be re-sold. A maximum of 5 (five) trees per family is allowed. One permit is required for each tree cut. Price for each permit is \$8.00.

3. Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible; at least below the lowest live branch. Carry a shovel with you to clear the snow away from the base of the tree, and then cut the tree at ground level. **Stumps should be no more than 6 (six) inches high.**

- ❖ It is very important to cut the tree as close to the ground as possible. If live branches are left on the tree trunk then the tree will continue to grow. This creates a very disfigured tree that is not desirable within the forest

4. **Trees must be 20 (twenty) feet or shorter in total height. Just cutting the top of a large, taller tree is prohibited.** This will also ensure that your tree will fit in your Christmas tree stand. Remember, trees look much smaller in the woods than they do at home.

5. Subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, pinyon pine, and lodgepole pine are permitted to cut. **Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir are NOT permitted for Christmas tree cutting.** See the species illustrations and descriptions on the following page.

6. Select one tree from a group of trees; this will encourage the remaining trees to grow faster. You will also help with the management of your National Forest!

7. Do NOT cut trees within 100 feet of Highway 65, streams, lakes, ponds or other aquatic areas.

8. **Please follow winter travel regulations. See the following page for Travel information.**

9. Use handsaws or an axe to cut your tree. Most trees less than 20 feet tall are going to have a base that is smaller than 6 inches in diameter, making chainsaws unnecessary.

10. **It is recommended that you bring snowshoes or skis as the best trees will not be next to the highway.** Be prepared to walk-in (¼ mile or more) to find the best trees.

11. Please pack out your trash.

For further assistance, please call the Grand Valley Ranger District Office in Grand Junction at (970) 242-8211 or the Forest Supervisor's Office in Delta at (970) 874-6600.

Refunds cannot be given even if weather conditions restrict access



Motorized Travel Restrictions

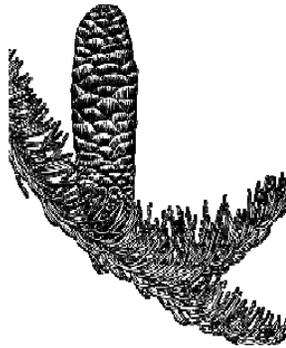
- The Uncompahgre and Grand Mesa winter travel regulations are effective annually from November 15 – May 15, but dependant upon adequate snow depth to allow for winter activities (generally six inches or more).
- Maps enclosed do not include all areas affected by winter travel regulations. Please refer to the Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre Winter Travel Maps for a completed list of winter travel regulations. These maps are available for purchase at you local Forest Service office.
- In an effort to reduce traffic congestion and public safety along Highway 65, we recommend you use established trailheads, parking areas and pull-offs.



Christmas Tree Species Description

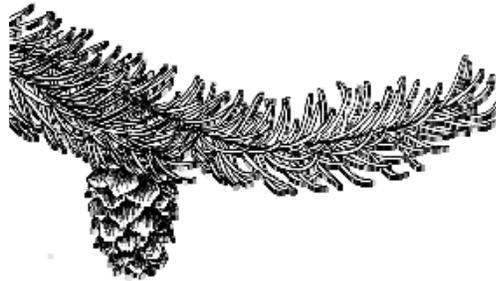
Subalpine fir (recommended species)

Subalpine fir needles are blunt or notched at the tip, fairly soft, and flattened. They leave smooth round scars when they fall off the twigs. Buds are round, almost globe-shaped, and orange brown. The bark is smooth and grayish white with pitch blisters. Trees are spire-shaped.



Engelmann spruce (cutting allowed)

Engelmann spruce needles are pointed, sharp to the touch, four sided, and the same color on all sides. They spread on all sides of the twigs. The older twigs from which needles have fallen have stubby pegs on them.



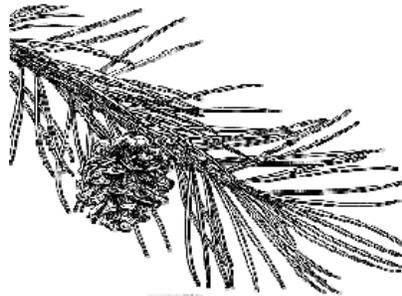
Pinyon Pine (cutting allowed)

Pinyon pines have needles gathered together at base of needle in groups of two. Pinyon needles are about 1 ½ inches long.



Lodgepole Pine (cutting allowed)

Lodgepole pines have needles in pairs of two. Lodgepole needles are about 3-7 inches long.



Douglas Fir (DO NOT CUT)

Douglas fir have a single needles that lack woody pegs or suction cups, yellow-green to blue-green, 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches long, tips blunt or slightly rounded, very fragrant.



Ponderosa Pine (DO NOT CUT)

Mature Ponderosa Pines can be easily identified by their distinctive orange-brown bark which is arranged in large plates. The dark yellow-green needles are 5-10" long and grow in clusters of three.

