

NEWS



Forest Service

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

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Lassen National Forest

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, October 31, 2003
For TDD assistance, please dial (530) 252-6624.

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LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS SALES BEGIN

SUSANVILLE, CA... Christmas Tree Permits will once again be available starting November 1st. In a change from prior years, this year, a family household will be able to purchase two Christmas tree permits. According to Ed Cole, Forest Supervisor for the Lassen National Forest "This change is in response to the needs of the public." The rest of the program remains essentially unchanged from last year.

Permits will sell for \$10.00 each. Each permit allows the harvesting of one Christmas tree from Lassen National Forest lands. According to Phil Sitze, the Forest's Christmas Tree Program Manager, "Cutting restrictions have changed and the maximum permissible diameter for cutting is six inches, or the same size as the length of a dollar bill." Along with the Christmas Tree Permit tag, purchasers are provided a *Christmas Tree Cutting Guide* containing a map of cutting areas and helpful tips.

Tree cutters are reminded to "Be Prepared" for sudden weather changes and colder conditions when in higher elevations. A fun family outing can become miserable and even dangerous with a quick change of weather for the unprepared. The permits expire on December 25th however forest officials recommend cutting your tree early in the season before the higher elevations are snow bound. Trees can stay fresh for quite some time if cared for correctly.

To help keep your tree nice and fresh cut two inches from the bottom of your tree when you get home and place it in water. Keep your tree watered and in a shady spot until you are ready for it in the house. Another helpful hint according to Sitze is "Bring an old tarp to wrap your tree in." Then when you drag your tree out of the forest, the tarp protects the tree and helps you avoid breaking branches. The tarp can also help avoid wind damage on the way home.

When driving home, make sure the tree permit tag is visible. The permit also needs to be attached to the tree and sealed so that the permit must be cut

or the seal broken to be removed. If you plan to transport more than five trees in the same vehicle, a Transportation Permit is required from the Sheriff's office.

Permits will soon be available from the Forest Service at the following locations and times:

Normal business hours are: Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

ALMANOR RANGER DISTRICT

900 East Hwy 36
P.O. Box 767
Chester, CA 96020
(530) 258-2141

EAGLE LAKE RANGER DISTRICT

477-050 Eagle Lake Road
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4188

HAT CREEK RANGER DISTRICT

43225 East Highway 299
P.O. Box 220
Fall River Mills, CA 96028
(530) 336-5521

LASSEN FOREST HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-2151

OLD STATION INFORMATION CENTER

Junction of Highway 89 and 44 in Old Station
(530) 335-7517

Special Hours: Friday through Sundays, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, through December 14TH

When purchasing in person, exact change is appreciated. Permits may also be purchased through the mail. Mailed requests for permits must be postmarked no later than December 7th and should be directed to the nearest District Ranger's Office.

When purchasing by mail, please include the following: printed name and address to which the permit(s) are to be mailed; your daytime telephone number;

and a check or money order for \$10.00 per tree, made out to: **"USDA, Forest Service"**.

Be sure your driver's license number is on the check. Please allow at least one week for processing of your request. Checks with incorrect amounts will be returned to the sender.

Office	Day and Hours	Extended Days and Hours
Almanor Ranger Station	M-F 8:00-4:30	SAT 11/22, 11/29, 12/6 9:00-4:00
Hat Creek Ranger Station	M-F 8:00-4:30	
Old Station Information Center	Fri-Sun 9:30-4:00 Til Dec 14th.	
Eagle Lake Ranger Station	M-F 8:00-4:30	SAT - 11/29 and 12/06, 8:00-1:00
Forest Headquarters	M-F 8:00-4:30	

Christmas Tree permits are also available from private vendors on a cash only basis. The participating vendors have volunteered to sell Christmas tree permits as a public service and cannot accept checks or credit cards for Christmas tree permits.

The following businesses are Lassen National Forest Christmas tree permit vendors for 2003:

BAMBI INN

7436 Humbolt Rd
Butte Meadows, CA 95942
(530) 873-4125

THE OUTPOST

Butte Meadows, CA 95942
(530) 873-3050

LASSEN MINERAL LODGE

Hwy 36 E
Mineral, CA 96063
(530) 595-4422

MINERAL GAS MART & DELI

38361 Hwy 36E
Mineral, CA 96063
(530) 595-3222

MILL CREEK RESORT

Mill Creek, CA 96061
(530) 595-4449

Vendor	Hours
BAMBI INN Butte Meadows, CA	Fri 4:00 - Closing Sat and Sun 10:00 - Closing
THE OUTPOST Butte Meadows, CA	Fri 12:00 - Closing Sat and Sun 9:00 - Closing
LASSEN MINERAL LODGE Mineral, CA	8:00 – 5:00 Seven days a week
MINERAL GAS & DELI Mineral, CA	Mon 12:00 – 5:00 Tues – Sat 8:00 – 5:00 Closed Sun
MILL CREEK RESORT Mill Creek, CA	Mon –Thurs 9:00 – 1:00 Fri & Sat 9:00 – 7:00 Sun 9:00 – 5:00

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