



Christmas Tree Permits 2023

Since the early 1500's, trees have been the center of holiday activities for many people. Begin the holiday season with an outing to cut the family tree on the Eldorado National Forest. Christmas Tree Permits are being offered to the public in an effort to help reduce hazardous fuel ladders that have built up over years of fire suppression. Removal of excessive amounts of small trees from the forest will help create a healthier forest over time.



Make a Plan!

- ✓ Share your planned 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 your plan.
- ✓ 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, water and extra blankets or sleeping bags. A basic survival kit which includes matches and a candle is a must.
- ✓ Dress in layers of warm clothing so you can easily add or remove clothing for comfort.
- ✓ Handsaws are recommended for Christmas Tree cutting. **And don't forget to bring rope to tie your tree down for transport!**

- ◆ **Cost:** \$10 for each tree (**credit/debit only**). Limit of 1 tree per permit/person/household. There is also a \$2.50 service fee per permit.
 - ◇ 4th graders with a valid Every Kid Outdoors Pass are entitled to 1 free tree. To obtain a pass go to www.EveryKidOutdoors.gov. Apply the pass number during checkout to waive the cost of 1 Christmas tree.
- ◆ **Where to Purchase:** Visit www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/eldorado to purchase your Christmas Tree Permit.
- ◆ **When:** In 2023, visitors have 2 opportunities to purchase a Christmas tree permit.
 - ◆ **ONLINE: October 28 (Saturday) starting at 7:00 AM** until the online permits are sold out. Purchasers will print their permit at home to take with them.
 - ◆ **IN-PERSON: November 4 (Saturday) at 8:00 AM** until the permits are sold out - A limited quantity of permits will be available for purchase in person at the Placerville and Amador Ranger District offices only.
 - ◆ In order to accommodate our serving military members and their families or others celebrating a delayed Christmas, the last day to **CUT** a tree is December 31st.
 - ◆ A Christmas Tree Cutting map is available for download when you purchase your Christmas Tree Permit.
- ◆ **Size:** A maximum trunk diameter of 6 inches at the base of the tree and a tree height of 20 feet.
- ◆ **Tree Species:** Pine, fir, or cedar. Do not cut any hardwood; such as, aspen or oak.
- ◆ **Permits:** Non-transferable. No Refunds = All Sales are Final. Permit must be in possession when cutting and transporting tree (s).
- ◆ **Restrictions:** Several wildfire areas are excluded from Christmas Tree cutting including the Mosquito Fire Closure Area, north of Wentworth Springs Road, and the 2021 Caldor Fire Area, including National Forest Lands along Mormon Emigrant Trail, Silver Fork Road, and North-South Road. Portions of the King Fire area are also closed to give seedlings a chance to grow and forests to reestablish. Contact Ranger District offices for alternative recommendations. Motorized vehicles are only allowed on existing roads and trails that are open to the public, except where snowmobiles are allowed.

Cut your tree early to avoid road closures due to weather.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





Eldorado National Forest

2023 Christmas Tree Permit Instructions

The printed ENF Christmas Tree Permit and a Christmas Tree Cutting map are all part of the Permit and must be in the Permittee's possession while cutting and transporting tree (s). This Christmas Tree Permit DOES NOT authorize the Permittee to cut Christmas Trees on private land adjacent to the Eldorado National Forest, in an active timber sale, or excluded areas as indicated on the Christmas Tree Cutting Area map.

Restrictions and Instructions

Motorized vehicles are not allowed off of system roads or trails as indicated on the Eldorado National Forest Christmas Tree Cutting Map. Road use may be restricted at any time due to rain and/or snow. Be aware of closed roads; gated or non-gated.

Cut only in accessible areas identified on the Christmas Tree Cutting map. (**DO NOT** cut on private land or other non - National Forest System Lands.) **Be respectful** of adjacent private property, no cutting within 100 feet of private residences. No cutting within 250 feet of campgrounds, picnic areas, active timber sales or administrative sites. **It is your responsibility to know authorized areas where cutting is permitted.**

Choose a tree from a variety of pine, fir or cedar. It is prohibited to cut and remove any hardwood such as aspen or oak with a Christmas Tree Permit.

The maximum allowable tree size that can be cut is 6" in diameter at the base of the tree .

You are required to print your permit at home, display the permit in your vehicle so it's visible, and sign/date when you cut your tree. Have your permit properly filled out and available to show to a Forest Officer during transport.

Handsaws are recommended, but if you choose to use a chainsaw it must be equipped with a properly operating spark arrester system and either a fire extinguisher or long handled shovel are required. If using a chainsaw, ensure you are cutting on a permissive cut day by calling (530) 295-5699. Project Activity Level (PAL) = A through D are cut days, E or EV are not.

This Permit is subject to all applicable Federal Statutes and Regulations, and state and local laws.

Non-compliance with these rules may result in a citation, fine, and tree confiscation.

NO REFUNDS ~ All sales are final and Permits are **NON TRANSFERABLE**.

Practice Good Stewardship

TOPPING IS NOT PERMITTED. Do not cut a large tree just to take the top. Select a tree that is the right height for your needs. Do not cut trees greater than 20' in height.

Because these permits are being offered to help reduce fuel ladders in the forest. It is important to cut trees **within** 10 feet of another green tree. Do not cut single standing trees as there is little fire hazard.

Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible, **leaving a stump of 6 inches or less and remove remaining green branches from the stump.** Scatter all discarded branches away from roads, ditches, and culverts.

**Carry your printed permit and display on your dashboard of your vehicle.
If you have difficulty printing your permit, please call one of our offices.**





Every Kid Outdoors - Free Tree for 4th Graders

In support of Every Kid Outdoors, established under presidential proclamation, the Forest Service will offer one free Christmas tree tag to fourth-grade students who present a valid paper voucher or durable Every Kid Outdoors pass.

To obtain the free Christmas tree, **fourth-grade students must obtain the pass online**, and participate in the cutting of the Christmas tree with their family. To obtain the paper pass and to learn more about the Every Kid Outdoors program, visit www.EveryKidOutdoors.gov.

Safety Tips or Planning Your Outing

It is important that you ask questions. Forest Service employees can provide valuable information about road and trail access and permissive cutting. Use this information to plan your trip and travel route. A Christmas Tree Cutting map is available for download when you purchase your Christmas Tree Permit.

Good Stewardship

Christmas Tree Permits are being offered to the public in an effort to help reduce hazardous fuel ladders that have built up over years of fire suppression. Removal of excessive amounts of small trees from the forest will help create a healthier forest over time.

- * Scatter all discarded branches away from roads, ditches, and culverts.
- * Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible. Stump should be 12 inches or less. Select a tree that is the right height for your needs do NOT cut a tall tree just to take the top.
- * As the purpose is to thin the understory of our forest, choose a tree within 10 feet of another green tree.

Please Remember...

- ◆ Obey all local laws and regulations regarding parking restrictions. Be mindful that travel on Forest System Roads may be closed or restricted to over the snow travel, i.e. snowmobile.
- ◆ **Be respectful** of adjacent private property, no cutting within 100 feet of private residences. **DO NOT** cut on private land or other non- National Forest System Lands.)
- ◆ Handsaws are recommended, but if you choose to use a chainsaw it must be equipped with a properly operating spark arrester system and either a fire extinguisher or long handled shovel are required. Ensure you are cutting on a permissive cut day by calling (530) 295-5699.
- ◆ And enjoy the forest and your experience!

Other Sources for Cutting Christmas Trees

Local Tree Farms - There are over 30 local Christmas Tree farms in the area. Many of these also provide food, crafts, activities, and a chance to visit with Santa Claus. Look for more information on Local Christmas Tree farms at <https://chooseandcut.com/>

Office Locations

Forest Service staff are available to assist with your Christmas Tree Cutting trip planning at the phone numbers listed below:

Placerville and Pacific Ranger District

(530) 644-2324
4260 Eight Mile Road Camino, CA
95709

Amador Ranger District

(209) 259-3774
26820 Silver Drive Pioneer, CA
95666

Georgetown Ranger District

(530) 333-4312

