



United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service



# Christmas Tree Cutting Fact Sheet

# 2006



Gifford Pinchot National Forest  
[www.fs.fed.us/gpnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf)



Beginning Friday, November 17, 2006, you can bundle up,  
get your permit and head into the National Forest for a Christmas tree.

**Sorry, no refunds. A permit does not guarantee you will find a suitable Christmas Tree.**



## Tree Cutting Instructions.

- ❖ Cut one tree per permit.
- ❖ Select trees not more than 12 feet tall. Tree topping is prohibited.
- ❖ Cut the tree 12 inches or less above the ground level. Remove snow around tree base if needed. Cut off live limbs remaining on the stump.
- ❖ To make your trip back to the car easier, slide your tree on a plastic tarp.
- ❖ Upon return to your vehicle, punch out month, day, and year on permit. Immediately attach securely to your freshly cut tree where it will be clearly visible.



*The Forest will continue an open cutting policy. Maps display areas not available to cutting.*

## Special Instructions

- ❖ Christmas tree permits are not refundable for any reason.
- ❖ Tree cutting is prohibited in congressionally designated Wilderness Areas, the congressionally designated Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, experimental forests, developed campgrounds, administrative sites, within 300 feet of streams, on private or state owned lands within national forest boundaries, and in any other posted area.
- ❖ Gifford Pinchot National Forest Christmas tree permits are not valid on other land ownerships. Cutting on private lands is subject to trespass action.
- ❖ If unsure about areas available for tree cutting, contact the nearest Ranger District office or a Forest Service Officer in the field. Sno-Park permits are required when parking in a designated Sno-Park area and NW Forest Passes are required at designated trailheads.

## Safety Tips

*Be Prepared For  
Winter Weather Conditions!*

- ❖ For Information on Mount St. Helens and other Forest closures visit the Special Conditions page on the Forest website.
- ❖ Arrive early at your cutting area, otherwise you have to drive home in the dark.
- ❖ Carry tire chains, shovel, flashlights, and blanket in your vehicle. Most National Forest roads are not maintained or snowplowed during the winter.
- ❖ Wear proper winter clothing and carry extras in case you get wet.
- ❖ Drive safely and slowly, turn on your lights, and watch for ice.
- ❖ Let someone know where you are going and when to expect you back.
- ❖ Steep terrain and deep snow make walking difficult.
- ❖ Your ax or saw are sharp, Be careful.
- ❖ Park your vehicle on road shoulder or in turnouts. **DO NOT BLOCK THE ROADWAY.**

## Keeping Your Tree Fresh

### Make A Fresh Cut

When you get your tree home, make a fresh cut on the butt to open up the pores which have been clogged by sap. Cut off at least one-half inch. The fresh-cut surface should be creamy-white, not yellow or brown. If you do not make a fresh cut, the tree will not be able to drink water. After the cut is made, put the tree in water as soon as possible. Even if a hole is drilled to accommodate a pin-type stand, a fresh cut should also be made on the butt.

### Put in Water

Place the tree in a sturdy stand which will hold at least one gallon of water per day. Fill with plain water. If the tree is not going into the house right away, it should be stored in a bucket of water on a cool porch or patio away from wind or sun.

### Water Daily

An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form and no more water will be absorbed by the tree.

### Mini-Lights Produce Minimum Heat

Miniature lights produce much less heat and reduce the drying effect upon the tree. Always check light sets for frayed or cracked wire insulation and broken sockets before placing them on a tree. Do not attempt to repair a worn light set. Throw it away and buy a new set. Always turn off the lights of your tree when leaving the house or retiring for the night.

### Keep Away From Heat Sources

Place the tree away from heat sources such as heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves and fireplace inserts, radiators, television sets or sunny windows.



### Remove the Tree Promptly

After Christmas, before the tree dries, remove it from the house for pick up by your disposal service or for your local chipping and compost program. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.



Permit Sales on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will begin on  
**Friday, November 17**, at the following locations:

### Business Offices and Hours

<u>Location</u>	<u>Weekdays</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
<b>Gifford Pinchot National Forest Forest Headquarters</b> 10600 NE 51st Circle Vancouver, WA, 98682 (360) 891-5000; 24-hr recording (360) 891-5009 FAX: (360) 891-5010; TTY (360) 891-5003	8:00-5:00	No	No
<b>Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument</b> 42218 NE Yale Bridge Rd Amboy, WA 98601 (360) 449-7800	8:00-5:00	No	No
<b>Mt. Adams Ranger District</b> 2455 Highway 141 Trout Lake, WA 98650 (509) 395-3400	8:00-4:30	Yes (thru 12/16/06)	No
<b>Cowlitz Valley Ranger District</b> 10024 US Hwy 12 -- PO Box 670 Randle, WA 98377 (360) 497-1100	8:00-4:30	No	No

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*To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-594 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer*

### 2006 Christmas Tree Permit Vendors

- Amboy, WA - Amboy Market
- Ashford, WA - Ashford Grocery
- Ashford, WA - Suvers General Store
- Ashford, WA - Summit Haus
- Chelatchie, WA - Chelatchie Prairie General Store
- Cougar, WA - Cougar Store
- Cougar, WA - Lone Fir Resort
- Elbe, WA - Elbe Grocery
- Home Valley, WA - Wind Mountain Resort/Gift Shop
- Packwood, WA - Blanton's Market
- Randle, WA - Fischer's Shopping Center
- Randle, WA - J&L Country Mart
- Randle, WA - Randle One Stop (76 Station)
- Stabler, WA - Stabler Country Store
- Stevenson, WA - Main Street Convenience Store (24 hours)
- Trout Lake, WA - Little Mountain (True Value) Hardware

