



Christmas Tree Permits

Eldorado National Forest

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.



- ◆ **Cost:** \$10 for each tag (cash preferred). Limit of 2 tags per permit/household. Permittee must be present to purchase permit. Photo ID required. 4th graders with a valid Every Kid in a Park Voucher or Pass are entitled to 1 free Tag. To obtain a voucher www.EveryKidinaPark.gov.
- ◆ **Where to Purchase:** All Ranger Districts sell permits Monday to Friday during regular business hours (8am-4:30pm).
- ◆ **Size:** A maximum trunk diameter of 6 inches at the base of the tree and tree height of 20 feet.
- ◆ **Tree Species:** Pine, fir, or cedar. Do not cut any hardwood; such as, aspen or oak.
- ◆ **When:** Tags will be issued from November 14th until 12:00 pm on December 23. 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.
- ◆ **Permits:** Non-transferable. All sales are final = No Refunds. Permit must be in possession when cutting and transporting tree (s).
- ◆ **Restrictions:** Motorized vehicles are only allowed on existing roads and trails that are open to the public, except where snowmobiles are allowed.

Office Locations

Supervisor's Office

Placerville Drive/Forni Road exit,
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 622-5061

Pacific Ranger District

16 miles east of Placerville on
Highway 50 – Mill Run Road.
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
(530) 644-2349

Amador Ranger District

17 miles east of Jackson on
Highway 88
26820 Silver Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666
(209) 295-4251

Georgetown Ranger District

3 miles east of Georgetown on
Wentworth Springs Road
7600 Wentworth Springs Road
Georgetown, CA 95634
(530) 333-4312

Placerville Ranger District

7 ½ miles east of Placerville on
Highway 50 – Cedar Grove (Exit
#54)
4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709
(530) 644-2324

Good Stewardship

- * 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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Safety Tips for 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. Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) will be provided when you purchase your Christmas Tree Tag.

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!

Also 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.
- ◆ 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 last but not least, 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 www.chooseandcut.com.

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit - (530) 543-2600. Permit is \$10 (2 permits/family); pine, fir, or cedar. Permit sold at the LTBMU Supervisor's Office at 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, beginning November 24, Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm until the permit supply is exhausted.



Tips for Keeping Your Tree Fresh

1. Prior to decorating, store the tree outside in a container of water out of the direct sunlight. Don't be concerned if the water freezes, the tree will be fine.
2. Cut 1 to 3 inches off the base of the tree. Be sure you don't remove any bark above the cut; that bark is the only part that can carry water to the rest of the tree! Let that freshly recut tree sit in a bucket of room temperature water overnight.
3. Once in the stand, the real key to freshness and fire safety is to NEVER let that tree go without water. Just one day in a dry stand is enough to insure that the tree will never be able to absorb moisture again.
4. Aspirin, bleach, pennies (and other urban legends) are dangerous for children & pets. Lemon lime soda (7-up) has been found to be the best addition to help preserve the tree. Add a cup of soda to the water in the reservoir every couple of days. Don't overdo it; no more than one part soda to every three parts water. Make sure it's regular and not diet soda.