



## Christmas Tree Cutting on the Sulphur Ranger District

Christmas tree permits will be sold November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Permits are \$20/each with a maximum of 5 permits per person. Christmas tree cutting is allowed throughout the district during that time, excluding the areas listed as “closed” below. If you plan to cut your tree at the Elk Creek or Jim Creek cutting areas, these will be open to the public Saturday December 3rd, 2022 – Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, **please purchase your permit prior to arriving at these cutting areas.**

### AREAS CLOSED TO CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING

You may cut your Christmas tree almost anywhere on the Sulphur Ranger District **except**:

- The Fraser Experimental Forest, accessed by CR 73 (NFSR 160)
- Indian Peaks, Never Summer, Vasquez Peak and Byers Peak Wilderness Areas
- Winter Park/Mary Jane Ski Areas & above to Berthoud Pass
- James Peak Protection Area

The district has highlighted areas that allow for easier access and parking, and these are depicted in the attached maps.

### CUTTING GUIDELINES THROUGHOUT THE SULPHUR RANGER DISTRICT

- Tree trunk size must be six inches or less in diameter (strictly enforced)
- Cut tree six inches or less from the ground
- No topping of trees
- Handsaws are best (chainsaws prohibited)
- No trespassing on private property
- Permits must be visible on the tree or your dash for easy viewing
- Pack out your own trash
- Dogs must be on a leash

### ELK CREEK and JIM CREEK CUTTING AREAS

The road through the Elk Creek cutting area and the parking area at the north end of the water board road (Jim Creek), will be open from Saturday December 3rd, 2022 – Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. **Purchase your permit prior to arriving at the cutting area, permits are not available onsite.** The entrance gate closes at 2:00 pm for Elk Creek. Please have your tree selected and return to your vehicle no later than 3:00 pm to allow time to load your tree and exit the area before 4:00 pm. Tire chains, 4-wheel drive or all-wheel drive are **required** upon entering the cutting area. This is for your safety; please cooperate with this requirement. You will be asked to verify that you have one or the other at the entrance station. If the road conditions are icy, chains may be needed to get up the hill at the bottom of CR 72, just outside of Fraser.

The parking area at Jim Creek will close at 3:00 pm.

**Snowmobiles are prohibited in the cutting areas during this time.**





### **PROHIBITED**

Chainsaws or other power saws; all-terrain vehicles; other off-road vehicles; cutting trees marked with blue paint. Snowmobiles are allowed in much of the Sulphur Ranger District when the snow level is six inches or greater. Most Forest Service roads are closed to wheeled vehicles after November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **RECOMMENDED**

Wear appropriate winter clothing: waterproof pants and jacket (ski or snowmobile type clothing), warm fleece or wool layers, snow boots or snowshoes, mittens or gloves, hats, and sunglasses. Have a full tank of gas. Bring food, extra water, warm drinks, a blanket, a shovel, first aid kit, sleds, tarps, and twine for loading and tying down your tree, and a spare set of keys.

Pets are required to be on a leash; however, it is recommended to leave pets at home since walking through deep snow is difficult for them.

### **SAFETY NOTE**

The forest will likely have two or more feet of snow. Temperatures drop quickly after dark, often down to zero degrees or colder, and weather can change quickly during the daytime. Please plan accordingly for cutting your tree. Do not wander too far from your vehicle; always know the direction back to your vehicle. Return to your vehicle by 3:00 pm to allow time to load your tree. Watch the weather and always keep your group together.

**CAUTION:** Due to the mountain pine beetle epidemic, before you head into the forest to cut your Christmas tree, **look up – look down – look around! Avoid standing dead trees.**

For the most current information on road or trail conditions and closures, please check the Sulphur Ranger District website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/arp> when planning your trip.

**Permit may be purchased at the following locations:**

Country Ace Hardware 627 W. Agate Granby, CO 80446 Monday – Saturday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Sunday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Grand Lake Visitor's Center 14700 US Hwy 34 Grand Lake, CO 80447 Sunday – Saturday: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply 541 Zerex St. Fraser, CO 80442 Monday – Saturday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Sunday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm	Fireside Market and Eatery 78337 US Highway 40 Winter Park, CO 80482 Sunday – Saturday: 7:00 am – 9:00 pm
Winter Park Chamber of Commerce 78841 US Highway 40 Winter Park, CO 80482 Sunday – Saturday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Online at: <a href="http://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a> You are required to print the permit and have with you when you cut your tree.

