



NEWS RELEASE

Lolo National Forest

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United States
Department of Agriculture
Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59804

October 30, 2015

Contact: Boyd Hartwig 406 329-1024

Missoula District Sets Weekend Hours for Christmas Tree Permits

Missoula, Montana – Christmas tree permits will be available at a cost of \$5 at all Lolo National Forest offices starting the week of November, 23. Permits may also be purchased at Bronco's Grocery in Frenchtown, the Clinton Market and the Bureau of Land Management Missoula Field Office, located at 3255 Fort Missoula Road.

The Lolo National Forest Supervisor's Office and Missoula Ranger District, located at 24 Fort Missoula Rd., will extend hours for permit sales to include three Saturdays – November 28th, December 5th and December 12th -- from 10:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Holiday gifts are also available in the Missoula Ranger District store, conveniently located adjacent to the front desk reception area.

Please note that the hours of operation for the Lolo National Forest Supervisor's Office and Missoula Ranger District will change permanently on November 2, 2015. Business hours will change from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm weekdays to 8:00 am – 4:30 pm weekdays.

Christmas tree permits will also be available for sale in the parking lot of Cabela's in Missoula on Sunday, November 8 from 2 – 4 pm as part of events celebrating the stopover of the Capitol Christmas Tree on its journey from Alaska to Washington DC.

The hunt for the perfect Christmas tree can be a fun, festive way to begin the holiday season. Following some simple tips can ensure it is a safe day out in the woods.

- Be aware of changing weather, as well as road and snow conditions. Good snow tires and a four-wheel drive vehicle are advised when traveling in winter conditions on Forest Service roads.
- Carry a map and be aware of your location.
- If you are on foot be aware of remaining daylight and time needed to return to your vehicle.
- Bring the right tools: a saw for cutting the tree and a shovel for removing snow from around the base of the tree.
- Advise family or friends of your destination and when you will return.

The Lolo National Forest does have some restrictions for tree cutting.

- Do not cut trees from plantations or within developed recreation areas including campgrounds, Pattee Canyon, Blue Mountain or the Rattlesnake recreation area.
- Do not leave live branches on the stump and trim the stump to no more than five inches above the soil.
- Do not cut tops off of trees.
- Do not cut trees within 150 feet of riparian areas (creeks and streams) or within Wilderness Areas.

Ranger District contact numbers are:

Missoula Ranger District: 329-3814

Ninemile Ranger District: 626-5201

Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District: 826-3821

Seeley Lake Ranger District: 677-2233

Superior Ranger District: 822-4233

For additional information please call (406) 329-3814.

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