Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
2015 Christmas tree Cutting Instructions

Please be sure to carry your permit with you and place the tag on the tree as soon as it is cut. You may only cut the tree species specified on your permit, and only in the area designated on your permit and map. **The dates for cutting your tree begin November 16 and end at midnight on December 24, 2015.** No refunds will be made, even if weather conditions prevent you from reaching your cutting area and cutting your tree.

Cut the tree as close to the ground as possible leaving a stump no more than 6 inches high. Allowable tree diameter 5 inches or less (diameter is measured at 4 ½ feet from the ground) and not exceed 10 feet in total height. Do not cut the top off of a tree. Remember a tree standing in the woods looks smaller than it will in your home. Please remove all trash and litter resulting from your cutting activities. Scatter any slash left behind making sure your slash piles are less than 2 feet deep.

Please cut your tree out of sight of any road and only on National Forest land. Vehicle use in some areas may be restricted to driving only on established forest roads. Please consult the cutting area map you were given.

An armload of green branches for decorations may be taken along with your tree as part of this permit. These may be found where timber has recently been logged. You are also welcome to pick up pine cones for decorations, if you wish.

Please be sure that **everyone** in your party reads the safety precautions in this message prior to leaving home. In the past, there have been some very serious accidents, even fatalities, resulting from failures to heed one or more of these safety measures.

Safety Precautions

Always notify friends or relatives where you intend to go and when you expect to return. Be prepared for bad weather, including muddy or snowy roads. At a minimum, we suggest you take the following items with you:

1. Tire chains
2. Shovel
3. First Aid Kit
4. Matches or Flares
5. Tow Chain
6. Warm Clothing
7. A little food and water
8. Flashlight
9. Blankets
10. A full tank of gas

Before going out to higher elevations check local weather conditions. Plan to leave the cutting area before nightfall. Remember, winter storms can suddenly occur, making forest roads hazardous. Forest roads are **NOT PLOWED** so roads may be snow packed, dangerous or inaccessible. If you notice a storm is brewing, start home as soon as possible. If you get caught in the storm, be cautious and stay on the main roads – avoid short cuts. Stay dry and avoid overexertion. If you get stranded, stay with your group and your vehicle. Keep a window open while using your car heater.

Be aware that you are not the only forest user in the woods this time of year. You may encounter other recreation users, firewood cutters, loggers, or even deer and elk hunters. As a precautionary measure, you may want to consider wearing an article of brightly colored, highly visible clothing while walking in the woods. Please park your vehicle off the road, so you do not interfere with other traffic.

Enjoy yourself and have a happy Holiday Season!