

Sawtooth National Forest Christmas Tree Permits go on Sale

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SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS GO ON SALE

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO.....The Holidays are fast approaching and permits for cutting Christmas trees for personal, family use on the Sawtooth National Forest will be available beginning Friday, November 17, 2017 and will be valid until December 25, 2017. The cost of this year's permit is \$10. This permit will enable a family to choose and cut a tree up to 20 feet. There is a limit of one tree per family or organization. Permits will be available at the following locations throughout the Sawtooth National Forest and surrounding areas:

Fairfield Area

Fairfield Ranger District Office – 102 First Street East, Fairfield, Idaho (208)764-3202 - 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday-Friday

Camas Creek Country Store – 113 US-20, Fairfield, Idaho (208) 764-2211 - 6:30 AM – 8:00 PM Monday – Thursday 6:30 AM – 8:30 PM Friday, 7:00 AM – 8:30 PM Saturday, 7:00 AM -8:00 PM Sunday

Twin Falls Area

Forest Supervisor's Office - 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, Idaho (208) 737-3200 – 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday – Friday

Rock Creek General Store – 3048 North 3800 East Hansen, Idaho (208) 423-5659 - 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM Seven days/week

Hansen Quick Stop & Go – 440 US 30, Hansen, Idaho (208) 423-9900 - 5:00 AM – 11:00 PM Seven days/week

Burley Area

Minidoka Ranger District Office - 2306 Hiland Avenue, Burley, Idaho (208) 678-0430 – 8:00 AM – 12:00- 12:30 - 4:30 PM Monday – Friday

Ketchum Area

Ketchum Ranger District Office - 206 Sun Valley Rd Sun Valley, ID 83353 (208) 622-5371 – 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Monday – Friday

Sawtooth NRA Hdqtrs Office - 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, Idaho (208) 727-5000, – 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Monday – Friday Saturday– 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Nov 25, Dec. 2, 9 and 16th.

LL Green Hardware - 101 N Main St, Hailey, Idaho (208) 788-9359 – 8:00 AM – 6:00PM Monday-Saturday

Stanley Area

Stanley Ranger Station - Idaho 75, Stanley Idaho (208) 774-3000 – 8:30 AM – 12:00; 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM Monday-Friday

Lower Stanley Country Store -55 LOWER STANLEY, Stanley, Idaho (208) 774-3566 - 9:00 – 7:00 Monday – Saturday

Depending on the specific area where people choose to cut their trees, a variety of trees are available. These include Lodgepole pine, Subalpine fir, Douglas-fir and Pinyon pine.

"We strongly recommend that people check with the Forest Service office closest to the area where they plan to cut their tree," said Julie Thomas, Public Affairs Officer. "Conditions on-the-ground vary greatly from area to area throughout the Forest. In some places it may be necessary to cross-country ski or use a snow machine to access cutting areas."

There are a few areas that are off limits for cutting Christmas trees. These include campgrounds, administrative sites, ski areas, summer home sites and organization camps. "People will be provided

with information when they purchase their permit," said Thomas. "This will include maps and rules for cutting trees."

Thomas advised people to be well prepared when going into the forest to cut their tree. "Weather and road conditions can change quite rapidly at this time of the year. We encourage people to take extra food and clothing and let someone know where you plan to go and when you plan to return."

Additionally, in support of Every Kid in a Park, the Sawtooth National Forest will offer one free Christmas tree permit to fourth graders who present a valid paper or durable Every Kid in a Park pass. The fourth grader must be present at the time the permit is issued and must be picked up before you cut your tree. The free Christmas tree permit will not be available at local vendors, but is available at all Sawtooth National Forest offices in Twin Falls, Burley, Fairfield, Ketchum, Stanley and Sawtooth National Recreation Area headquarters.

The U.S. Forest Service is among the federal agencies that support the Administration's Every Kid in a Park initiative, a nationwide call to action to build the next generation of conservationists. The initiative provides a free pass to all fourth-grade students who first go to www.EveryKidinaPark.gov and complete the application process. Students can either use a paper pass or can redeem the paper pass for a durable pass at select federal lands. The Sawtooth National Forest hopes the Every Kid in a Park will help to inspire every young person to visit the Sawtooth National Forest!

For additional information about the Sawtooth National Forest call 208-737-3200 or visit the Sawtooth National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/sawtooth and like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Forest-Service-Sawtooth-National-Forest/986556001373037>