

KINDS OF TREES AVAILABLE

Ponderosa pine is noted for its full shape and long graceful needles. It grows almost everywhere in the Hills.

Spruce is very popular as a holiday tree. It grows at higher elevations and on wetter, north facing slopes and drainage bottoms. Spruce has a classic tapered form, and its short needles allow for easy stringing of lights and ornaments.

Juniper is a shorter tree found at lower elevations in the southern and western parts of the Hills. Many people like its full shape bluish-green coloring.

SAFETY IN THE WOODS

- Dress for inclement weather with boots, hat, and gloves. Remember that road and weather conditions can suddenly change. Tell others where you are going and let them know when you return.
- Do not drive off the road unless you have a clear view of the ground, and are in an area where it is legal to do so. Park so other vehicles can safely pass.
- Use your saw or ax carefully.
- Carry a winter survival kit, snow shovel, and drinking water.
- You may need tire chains or 4-wheel drive.
- Wear bright colors during the fall deer hunting seasons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the nearest Forest Service office:

Supervisor's Office

Custer, SD (605) 673-9200

Hell Canyon Ranger District

Custer, SD (605) 673-9292
Newcastle, WY (307) 746-2782

Mystic Ranger District

Rapid City, SD (605) 343-1567

Northern Hills Ranger District

Spearfish, SD (605) 642-4622

Bearlodge Ranger District

Sundance, WY (307) 283-1361

Visit the Forest's website at:

www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills



The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CUTTING A CHRISTMAS TREE

on the
Black Hills
National Forest



WELCOME TO THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST

We hope you have an enjoyable and safe time choosing and cutting your Christmas tree this year.

Your tree is just one of the many products national forests provide. Through careful management, the Black Hills National Forest also offers outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, clean water, livestock grazing, timber products, and minerals.

You can help protect the forest by following a few simple rules when you select and cut your tree. Please read about these rules in this brochure.

The Forest is a 1.2 million acre (2,000 square miles) outdoor wonderland in all seasons of the year. I hope you'll take some time to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds us here in the Black Hills.

The employees of the Black Hills National Forest wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



The Forest Service collects fees for Christmas trees under the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) authority. The fees will be used for repair, maintenance, and enhancement of local recreation facilities and to provide enhanced visitor information services at local Forest Service offices.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You must have a permit for each tree. Forest Service permits cost \$10 each and are available at all National Forest offices in the area, several surrounding National Grassland offices, and some private businesses.

You can purchase your tree by mail. Make your check out to USDA Forest Service and send it to Black Hills National Forest, 1019 North 5th Street, Custer, SD 57730. If you include a stamped return envelope, we will send your permit back the same day.

Trees are for personal use only and cannot be sold. There are no refunds for unused permits, and all permits expire December 31 of this year.

You can cut your tree anywhere in the Black Hills National Forest with the following exceptions:

- Active timber sales
- Campgrounds, picnic areas, and other administrative sites
- Black Hills Experimental Forest near Roubaix Lake/Rochford
- Black Elk Wilderness
- Beaver Park area near Sturgis
- Spearfish Canyon
- Jasper Fire area near Custer

Before cutting, make sure you are not on private land. Remember to attach the adhesive permit to each tree before leaving the cutting area to avoid a fine.

CUTTING GUIDELINES

The maximum tree height is 20 feet.

- Cut the stump within six inches of the ground.
- Cut and scatter the limbs and other unused parts of the tree so they lie within a foot of the ground.

SETTING UP YOUR TREE

Keep your tree as fresh as possible.

- Store your tree upright in a bucket of water in the garage or basement until you are ready to move it indoors.
- In the house, keep the tree well watered at all times.
- Keep the tree away from fireplaces, stoves, or heating vents.

DISPOSING OF YOUR TREE

Some landfills do not accept trees. You can use the needles and twigs for mulch and burn the larger pieces in your stove or fireplace. Consider donating your tree for wildlife or fish habitat improvement. Do not dump your tree or any other trash on public lands.