NEED TO KNOW

How to Cut your Tree

- Trees may be cut from along roads, from forest plantations and in the understory of older stands.
- Be sure to be on Forest Service land. Know before you go.
- Cut trees only if there is a standing tree within 10 feet to avoid denuding areas.
- Do not cut trees within 100 feet of campgrounds or trailheads.
- Christmas tree cutting is PROHIBITED within the Quinault Special Management Area, designated wilderness, and Research Natural Areas.

Selecting your Tree

- Each forest has limitations on the size of the tree you can cut and the species of trees that are permitted. See below to help you measure and choose a tree that meets your permit's guidelines.
- Any evergreen are available for cutting except Western White Pine
- Tree Height: 15 feet maximum
- Do not remove the top of the tree; cut down the entire tree
- Washington State Law requires a hauling permit for hauling more than five trees on/in a vehicle at one time.

How to Plan your Trip

- You must print and bring your Christmas Tree Permit with you.
- Cell service may be spotty or unavailable. Be sure someone knows where you are and when to expect you back.
- Check the latest weather conditions, forest warnings and road closures before you leave on your trip, conditions can deteriorate rapidly in the mountains.
- Bring a map with you. Don't rely on GPS because it may not be up-to-date with forest service roads.
- Dress warmly and take extra dry clothes. Expect winter weather, including cold temperatures, snow and winds.
- Roads are not plowed. Carry tire chains, shovel(s) and a tow chain

Helpful Cutting Tips

- If the tree is too big to transport inside of your vehicle, wrap it in canvas to prevent wind damage.
- Once home, cut the bottom of the trunk off and place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket of water. Replenish water.
- If storing your tree outside for a few days before putting it in the house, keep it in an area protected from the wind, such as the north or east side of your house or under a shaded tree.
- Tools you might want to consider bringing with you include a measuring tape to ensure you select a tree that fits in your home; handsaw to cut your tree; gloves to protect your hands; boots to protect your feet; a tarp to sit on and/or to move your tree once it’s cut; and rope or straps to secure your tree to your vehicle.

For maps and more information about your Christmas tree permit, visit [https://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/olympic](https://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/olympic)