

NEWS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

NATIONAL FOREST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Boise and Payette National Forests Begin Selling Christmas Tree Permits November 22

The Boise and Payette National Forests (NF) will sell Christmas tree permits from Saturday, November 22 through December 24. The permits will be available at Boise and Payette NF District Offices, participating local vendors, and the Interagency Visitor's Information Center located at 1387 South Vinnell Way in Boise. Each permit allows one tree to be cut, with a limit of three permits per family.

For both Forests, the cost of a permit for one tree is \$10, and the maximum height of a permitted tree is 12 feet. Permits are valid on both the Payette and Boise National Forests.

All purchasers are provided with information about where a Christmas tree may be harvested, restrictions and helpful tips.

A Christmas tree permit is for personal use only and the use of permits for commercial use is prohibited. Permits are not refundable for any reason.

"A permit does not necessarily assure the perfect tree since they are all natural untrimmed trees," said Audrey Karpe, Boise NF Tree Coordinator. "An outing in the woods can be a rewarding family experience for those that are properly prepared and know what to expect."

Thousands of Christmas tree permits are sold each year. "While most people do not have any problem with a winter outing to the woods, preparation is important for an emergency situation," added Karpe.

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To provide for family safety, officials advise a few simple guidelines:

- ✓ Use the brochure with instruction provided.
- ✓ Practice winter survival and driving techniques.
- ✓ Bring the right tools, such as a saw and a shovel, so the tree can be cut to within 6" of the ground's surface.
- ✓ Take along emergency equipment, plenty of food and water, and try to use a 4-wheel drive vehicle if you are planning to travel in snow country.
- ✓ Always advise neighbors and family friends of the route you intend to take, include a map of your destination, and the time that you plan to be gone.
- ✓ Be prepared for the possibility of a long hike or snowmobile ride while searching for the perfect tree.

If an unusually heavy snowfall occurs on the Boise NF, and forest roads become a safety concern for the public, some areas may be closed early to Christmas tree gathering. Forest roads are not plowed. Call ahead for road updates if conditions warrant. Please do not block private or county roadways at any time.

Boise National Forest Offices Selling Permits

All offices will be closed Saturday December 20.

INTERAGENCY VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER

1387 South Vinnell Way / (BLM State Office - West of Wal-Mart on Overland Road) / Boise, ID 83709 / 208-373-4007 (M-F 7:45-4:30)

The Idaho City Ranger District will be open (M-F 7:30-4:30).

AND Saturdays & Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Weekend hours begin Saturday, November 29
and end Sunday, December 21

MOUNTAIN HOME RANGER DISTRICT

2180 American Legion Boulevard
208-587-7961 (M-F 7:30-4:30)

IDAHO CITY RANGER DISTRICT

3833 Highway 21,
208-392-6681 (see above for hours)

CASCADE RANGER DISTRICT

540 North Main Street
208-382-7400 (M-F 8:00-4:30)

LOWMAN RANGER DISTRICT

7359 Highway 21
208-259-3361 (M-F 8:00-4:30)

EMMETT RANGER DISTRICT

1805 Highway 16, Room 5
208-365-7000 (M-F 7:30-4:30)

GARDEN VALLEY GUARD STATION

1219 Banks-Lowman Road
208-462-3241 (M-F 7:30-4:30)

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Vendors Selling Tree Permits For Boise NF

ELLIE'S STORE 208-392-4583

Highway 21, Mile-Post 31.5

7 miles south of Idaho City

Open 6 days a week – 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. (CASH ONLY / Closed Tuesdays)

DONNA'S PLACE 208-392-6000

Corner of Main St. and Hwy 21

(Behind the Idaho City Visitor Center)

Open daily: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. – 10 p.m

Sunday - 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.

BANKS STORE 208-793-2617

7864 Highway 55, Banks

Open everyday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

GARDEN VALLEY CHEVRON 208- 462-3869

Garden Valley

Monday-Saturday 6 a.m.- 10 p.m.

Sunday 7 a.m.- 10 p.m.

EMMETT SAWS, MOWERS AND RENTALS 208-365-2955

306 N. Washington, Emmett

Monday - Friday 8 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Sunday Closed

B & W FUELS 208-365-2291

1900 N. Washington, Emmett

Open everyday 6 a.m.- 9 p.m.

EAST CLEVELAND BEVERAGE 208-459-6442

2518 East Cleveland, Caldwell

Sunday -Thursday 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Friday and Saturday 6 a.m - 1 a.m.

RAY'S CORNER MARKET 208-793-2391

445 Highway 55, Horseshoe Bend

Sunday – Thursday 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.

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Payette NF Offices Selling Tree Permits

Council Ranger District Office
2092 Highway 95, Council, ID
208-253-0100

New Meadows Ranger District Office
3674 Highway 95, New Meadows, ID
208-347-0300

Weiser Ranger District Office
851 E 9th St., Weiser, ID
208-549-4200

McCall Ranger District Office
102 West Lake St., McCall, ID
208-634-0400

All Payette National Forest offices are open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information about the Christmas tree program, contact any of the District Offices.

Vendors Selling Tree Permits For Payette NF

Draper's Outdoor Power Equipment 541-889-9250
201 SE 2nd Ave, Ontario, OR

Ridley's Food and Drug 208-549-1332
652 E 1st St., Weiser, ID

Do It Best Hardware 208-549-0424
1101 State St., Weiser, ID

Hells Canyon Corner 208-257-3351
Corner of Highways 71 & 95, Cambridge, ID

Farmer's Supply Co-op 208-253-4266
2030 N. Highway 95, Council, ID

Council Mountain Machines 208-253-6666
2029 N. Highway 95, Council, ID

Mud Creek Outdoor Gear 208-347-2025
202 Virginia Ave., New Meadows, ID

Old Town Market 208-634-2016
507 N. 3rd St, McCall, ID

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