

**2015 RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY TREE PROGRAM
SOUTH PLATTE RANGER DISTRICT
PIKE NATIONAL FOREST**

**Cost: \$10.00/permit/tree; Maximum: 5 trees/per household
FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY; NOT FOR RESALE
Cutting Dates: Friday, November 27 – Sunday, December 6**

Rules to Follow:

Violators of the following acts may be imprisoned for up to six months and assessed a \$5,000 fine.

- Cutting a tree without a permit
- “Topping” Trees – Cutting only half of the tree
- Cutting trees more than 6” in diameter at ground level
- Cutting more than one tree with a single tree permit
- Not placing your permit on the tree after you have cut it
- Not removing the entire tree that was cut (all lower branches and stemwood)

Safety Suggestions:

- **SHOOTING IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE BUFFALO CREEK AREA AT ANY TIME DURING CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING. §36 CFR261.58(m)**
- Dress warm and be prepared for changes in weather.
- Forest roads may be snow covered and icy. We recommend you carry chains and/or use a four wheel drive vehicle; high clearance may also be necessary.
- Have a full tank of gas.
- Leave pets at home.
- Teach family members what to do in case they get lost.
- Bring a hand saw. **Not allowed: chainsaws, axes, and power saws.**
- Please be at the area entrance no later than 2:30 pm to allow for plenty of daylight to find and cut your tree. The sun sets early in December and darkness falls very fast.

Reminders:

- Trees must be 6 inches or less in diameter AT GROUND LEVEL.
- Trees must be cut 6 inches or less from the ground; do not leave any live limbs on the stump.
- Trees must be in the Buffalo Creek area of the South Platte Ranger District (refer to area map provided with permit). There is private land within the boundary. It is the permittees’ responsibility to make sure they are on National Forest.
- Permits are NON-REFUNDABLE and must be used on the date specified. Sunday, December 6, is open to cutting for all permits as a ‘make-up’ day.

Holiday Spirit:

Plan on making your tree cutting experience one to remember with friends and family! Bring lots of warm clothes, a picnic lunch, cameras, and Santa Clause hats!