

CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST

CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING INFORMATION



We hope cutting a Christmas tree will provide a special memory for you and your family. Since 2008, the Forest Christmas Tree program has been part of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Portions of your permit fee goes to: solicit additional vendors to make obtaining a permit more convenient, increasing staffing during peak use periods to better assist you with information and directions, increasing compliance patrols and checks to ensure fairness for permit purchasers, security, and safety to the public and other functions and support.

In order for the Forest Service to continue providing this opportunity and help you have a safe enjoyable experience we ask you to follow these guidelines.

BEFORE VENTURING OUT

A permit is required to cut and remove one Christmas tree. Permits are \$15.00 for trees up to 20 feet. Limited to one per household.

Christmas tree permits **are not** refundable

Permits can be purchased at the vendors listed on the [Caribou-Targhee website under Christmas Tree Vendors](#). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic additional options to purchase Christmas tree permits are available.

Local Ranger District offices will sell permits over the phone, through the mail, and some locations will offer curbside pickup. Call ahead for more information.

Online Option Beginning 2020. Christmas Tree Permits will be available for purchase through Recreation.gov. Visit <https://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits/ctnf> to learn more.

Make sure you cut your tree on public lands. Some Ranger Districts have designated areas or areas with restrictions. Consult the Ranger District you wish to cut your Christmas tree from for additional information.

After you cut your tree, attach your permit to it for the trip home. If using a permit printed online, place it on the dashboard of your vehicle.



CARING FOR YOUR TREE

Place your tree in a location away from heat registers, fireplaces, and stoves.

Use only inspected electrical cords. An electrical short can cause a dry tree to burn in seconds!

Water, Water, Water — Always keep your fresh tree in a stand that holds lots of water. Use a mixture of one part sugar to sixteen parts water. Don't forget to check the water level daily and refill the reservoir with the water and sugar solution.

WHEN CUTTING YOUR TREE

Help us manage trees for future generations. Cut conifer trees within aspen stands to allow the aspen trees to expand. Or cut from a clump of conifer trees to allow the remaining trees more space.

Select those Charlie Brown trees with defects and leave the healthiest trees behind.

Do not cut trees in or around campgrounds, organized sites, summer home areas, administrative sites (guard stations), ski areas, wilderness, wilderness study areas, private, state or BLM lands.

Cut your tree within 6 inches of the ground. All branches must be cut free of the stump or any portion of the tree trunk left. Do not cut off the top of a larger tree and take only the top.

Please avoid riparian areas, which are sensitive and difficult to regenerate.

Follow the [Caribou-Targhee Travel Plan map](#) and signs as you locate and cut your tree.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Ensure that you, your family and your vehicle are properly equipped for winter travel before leaving.

Always let someone know where you plan on going and when you plan to return.

Do not park your vehicle where it will block traffic or cause a traffic hazard.

Bring additional warm clothing, a container of hot liquid, water, a lunch or snacks – your trip may take longer than expected. Pack it in – Pack it out. Please keep your National Forests clean.

Carry a flashlight, tire chains, first aid kit, hatchet, ax or hand saw, good warm gloves, warm boots, and a rope to tie your tree down.



WHEN TRANSPORTING YOUR TREE

Make sure your permit is attached to the tree and is visible. If using an online permit, make sure it is clearly visible on your vehicle's dashboard.

Tie the tree securely to your vehicle. You may want to wrap it in a tarp or old blanket to protect the branches.

If you transport your tree on the top or bed of your vehicle, remember to have the trunk of the tree facing forward.

*From Everyone at the
Caribou-Targhee National Forest,
We wish you and your family a
very Merry Christmas!*

