



Cutting Your

Christmas Tree on Public Lands



Additional Permit Conditions

San Juan Public Lands Center
Durango, CO (970) 247-4874

Dolores Public Lands Office
Dolores, CO (970) 882-7296

Columbine Public Lands Office
Bayfield, CO (970) 884-2512

Pagosa Public Lands Office
Pagosa Springs, CO (970) 264-2268

www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan
www.co.blm.gov/sjra/sjra.html

As Revised 2009

Do Not Cut Trees:

- within 100 feet of county roads, or state or federal highways;
- within 100 feet of developed campgrounds;
- in Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Recreation Areas, or Research Natural Areas;
- in tree plantations or active timber sales.

Specific Areas Off-Limits:

DURANGO

- La Plata Canyon.
- ### PAGOSA SPRINGS
- Chimney Rock Archaeological Area.
 - Williams Creek Research Natural Area.
 - Piedra Management Area.

CORTEZ-DOLORES

- Sage Hen Wildlife Area.
- McPhee and Lone Dome Recreation Areas from the dam to Bradfield Bridge.
- Narraguinnep Research Natural Area.
- Within 1/4 mile of West Mancos Rd. (FS#561) from the Forest boundary to Transfer Campground.
- Permits can be purchased for Canyons of the Ancients National Monument only at the Dolores Public Lands Office.

(Due to recent insect activity in the Monument, Christmas-tree-sized pinyon pines are scarce.)



Safety Tips

Be prepared for winter (remember, there's usually more snow in the high country than there is in town).

- Plan ahead. Check the weather forecast before you head out.
- Contact one of our offices for road conditions.
- Be prepared with 4WD, snow tires and/or chains. National Forest and BLM roads are NOT plowed for snow removal.
- Keep vehicles on open roads - do NOT drive on closed roads.
- Carry a National Forest or BLM map of the area you plan to visit.
- Carry emergency supplies in your vehicle.
- Be prepared to hike through deep snow in cold temperatures. Wear warm clothes, gloves, hat, and snow boots.
- Leave word with friends or family of your planned destination and time of return, and try not to go out alone.
- Start early - winter days are short. Take advantage of the limited sunlight.
- Beware of areas that are prone to avalanches.
- If you drive up a narrow snow-packed road, be aware there may be no turn-around area farther up.



STEP 1: Buy a Christmas Tree Permit

Purchasing a Christmas tree permit allows you to cut one tree on National Forest or BLM land on the San Juan Public Lands. Permits and maps are on sale at our offices and some local retail outlets. You can purchase up to five permits to cut trees to be used for personal use (not for resale). When you buy your permit, you will be asked where you plan to cut your tree. Your harvest must take place in the area you designate (either BLM or National Forest). Our permits are not valid for state, tribal, or private land. Permits are good only for the year in which they are purchased. We also offer advice on the best areas to harvest trees.

STEP 2: Select the Tree Best for You



White Fir (*Friendly to the touch.*) Perhaps the best Christmas tree. We encourage thinning of this species for forest health. Abundant at mid elevations. Fragrant and soft with a full crown. Flat, flexible needles attach separately to branches. Cones grow upwards, but are usually gone by winter.

Subalpine Fir (*Friendly to the touch.*) Very similar to white fir, but grows at higher elevations.



Spruce (*Prickly to the touch.*) Found at higher elevations. Needles are stiff, square, and sharp. Needles attach separately to branches. Cones hang down with thin, papery scales.



STEP 3: Select the Tree Best for the Forest

Other tree species are protected from use as Christmas trees because of an inadequate amount of young trees in those species. Help us retain these species.

Do NOT Cut: Ponderosa Pine

Found at lower to mid elevations. Long, round needles in clusters of 2-3. Classic woody cones have thick scales.



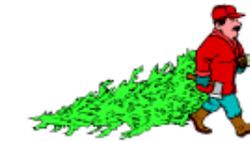
Do NOT Cut: Douglas Fir

Found at all elevations on moist, north-facing slopes. Often abundant in deep canyons. Short, flat, soft needles attach separately to branches with red-pointed buds. Cones hang down with 'tails' sticking out between scales.



STEP 4: Select the Right Size of Tree

The permit allows you to cut a tree up to 20 feet tall. Please choose a tree as close to the size you want, as possible. Never cut the top out of a standing tree, or cut a tree and then take only its top. Please do not disfigure trees in this manner.



STEP 5: Cut It Correctly

Take a shovel with you, so you can dig down through the snow to ground level. Cut the trunk off as close to the ground as you can, leaving no more than a six-inch stump. Do not leave live branches on the stump.

STEP 6: Tag Your Tree

Attach your permit to the trunk or branches before moving the tree. Removing an untagged tree from federal lands can result in a fine. Make sure the tag is as visible as possible when you load the tree on or in your vehicle.

CAUTION: USFS/BLM roads are not plowed for snow removal.