

Season's Greetings!

Since the early 1500's Christmas trees have been the center of holiday activities for many people. Begin the holiday season with an outing to cut the family tree. Tree cutting permits are being offered to the public in an effort to help reduce hazardous fuel ladders that have built up over years of fire suppression. Removal of excessive amounts of small trees from the forest will help create a healthier forest over time. This brochure includes information, which will help make your outing a success.

Buying a Permit

A **Permit** must be purchased for the tree you are going to cut. There is a limit of two permits per family and the cost is \$10 per tree. The permit may be purchased on the south shore from the Forest Supervisor's Office 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe; or on the north shore from the Forest Service office 855 Alder, Incline Village, Nev.

Safety Tips for Planning Your Outing

It is important that you ask questions. Forest employees can provide valuable information about road and trail access and conditions. Use this information to plan your travel route. Maps and area descriptions will be provided when you purchase your permit.

Share the route with family or friends prior to your departure. Tell them when you plan to leave and when you plan to return. Agree what actions will be taken if you don't return according to plan.

To minimize the possibility of being stranded on back-country roads, be sure your vehicle is in top working order and that your tires have good tread. Prepare for mechanical emergencies by carrying the proper tools, including tire chains and a shovel.

Equip your vehicle with an emergency first aid kit, food and extra blankets or sleeping bags. A basic survival kit which includes matches and a candle is a must. Finally, wear warm clothing and dress in layers so you can easily add or remove clothing for comfort.

Cutting Your Tree

You are asked to observe the following rules when choosing and cutting your Christmas tree.

- Know your map so you cut only in designated areas identified on the maps. Do not cut on private or other non-National Forest System Lands. **Be respectful** of adjacent private property, no cutting within 100 ft. of private residences. This permit does NOT give permission to cross private property. You are responsible for cutting only within authorized areas.

- Do not cut any hardwood tree such as aspen.

- Ensure you have the permit rules and the **ORANGE** Christmas Tree Permit (tag) in your possession while cutting and transporting your Christmas tree.

- Christmas Tree Permits are **NOT TRANSFERABLE**. You cannot buy someone else's permit.

- Select a tree that is the right height for your needs. **DO NOT cut a large tree just to take the top.**

- The maximum allowable tree size that can be cut is 6 (six) inches in diameter at the base of the tree. Trees to cut must be within 10 feet of another green tree.

- Attach the **ORANGE** permit tag to the tree (where it will be seen) before transporting the tree from the cutting area.

- Scatter all discarded branches away from roads, ditches and culverts.

- Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible. Stump height must be **six inches or less**.

- Local parking restrictions are strictly enforced. Park safely in a legal area. Do not drive off roads.

- Noncompliance with these rules may result in a citation, fine and tree confiscation.

- This permit and activities hereunder are subject to all applicable Federal Statutes and Regulations, and state and local laws.

- All sales are final ~ **NO REFUNDS**

Cut your tree early to avoid area closures due to weather

Tips for keeping your tree fresh

- * Re-cut the trunk at an angle 1 to 3 inches above the original cut.
- * Prior to decorating, store the tree outside in a container of water, out of the direct sunlight.
- * Add a few tablets of aspirin to the water (about 2 per gallon).
- * Don't be concerned if the water in the container freezes, the tree will be fine.
- * When you bring your tree into the house, re-cut the base at least 1" above the angled cut.
- * Be sure to keep water (with aspirin) in the tree stand at all times.

Also please remember.....

- * Obey all local laws and regulations regarding parking restrictions.
- * Travel on Forest System Roads may be restricted to over the snow travel, i.e. snowmobile.

For Further Information

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit '
35 College Drive '
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 '
Phone: 530 543-2600 '
855 Alder '
Incline Village, NV 89451 '
775-831-0914 '

Web Address: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/ltbmu>

Merry Christmas!



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Cutting A Christmas Tree on Your... National Forest Lands



*The Lake Tahoe Basin
Management Unit*