



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

**Contact:** Aaron Voos, (307) 745-2323

### **National Forest Christmas Tree Permits Available**

**(LARAMIE, WY - November 17, 2011)** – Christmas tree permits will be available starting on Monday, Nov. 21 at all Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest offices in Colorado and Wyoming for \$10.00.

Each permit allows for the cutting of one tree on National Forest System Lands. There is a limit of five permits per household. Trees must be for personal use, not for resale. The permit must be clearly displayed around the stem of the tree before leaving the cutting area.

Some areas of the Forest are off limits to tree cutting or may be difficult to access. Please contact the Ranger District in the area where you will be cutting your tree for site-specific information, including road status and area restrictions. The Forest Service would like to emphasize that all Wilderness areas are off limits to cutting on all Forest Service districts.

Recent high winds and the subsequent blow down of both live and dead trees should serve as a reminder to all forest visitors to pay attention to the forecasted weather and to be aware of their surroundings, especially in areas affected by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Weather conditions can change quickly, so be prepared. Dress for winter conditions and have your vehicle equipped adequately.

Christmas tree cutting has taken place on National Forests for many decades and there is no short supply of young trees. On a very small scale, it helps manage young tree stands, and gives the remaining trees more room and nutrients to grow. Christmas tree cutting programs on National Forests are a sustainable management practice, while allowing visitors to establish traditions. Tree cutting regulations have been established to maintain a healthy forest environment.

Some reminders when cutting your tree include:

- Trees may not be cut within 100 feet of roads or within 200 feet of campgrounds, picnic areas, scenic pullouts, administrative sites, timber sale areas or designated Wilderness areas. Distances may be greater for state highways and scenic byways, contact district offices for details.
- Visitors are encouraged to choose a tree that is growing with other trees in a cluster and not choose the “perfect” tree that stands alone. The forest environment benefits by thinning the clusters and allowing the strong trees to remain and provide for a healthy genetic source for the future forest.
- Maximum tree height is 20 feet.
- Cut the tree to a stump height of six inches or less, or below the lowest living branch, whichever is lower. If one living branch is left on the stump, the tree will continue to grow, although it will probably become deformed and encourage disease.

- If boughs are wanted, please choose a taller tree than needed (maximum 20 feet) and use the lower branches for boughs. Please do not cut boughs from other living trees.

For more information, contact your local Forest Service office or visit <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/mbr/christmastrees>.

**Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District Office**

*Hours:* Mon. –Fri., 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
2171 State Highway 130  
Saratoga, Wyo., (307-326-5258)

**Douglas Ranger District Office**

*Hours:* Mon. –Fri., 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (closed 12-1 p.m.)  
2250 E. Richards St.  
Douglas, Wyo., (307-358-4690)

**Hahns Peak-Bears Ears District Office**

*Hours:* Mon. –Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
925 Weiss Drive  
Steamboat Springs, Colo., (970-870-2299)

**Laramie Ranger District Office**

*Holiday Hours (Nov. 21 – Dec. 17):* Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
2468 Jackson Street  
Laramie, Wyo., (307-745-2300)

- Hours on Dec. 10 will be in Centennial, Wyo. at the Community Christmas Bazaar

**Parks District Office**

*Hours:* Mon. –Fri., 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
100 Main Street  
Walden, Colo., (970-723-8204)

**Yampa District Office**

*Hours:* Mon. –Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
300 Roselawn Street  
Yampa, Colo. (970-638-4516)

- Permits can be ordered through the mail from the Yampa office

**\*NOTE:** Permits can be purchased at various locations, such as select Bureau of Land Management and Chamber of Commerce offices. See <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/mbr/christmastrees> for details.

###