



## Cutting Your Own Christmas Tree on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests 2011

Visit us at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gmug>

### **Permit Information**

- Sales:**
- Permits are \$8.00 per tree - limit 5 trees per household – for personal use only and not for resale – all sales are final and non-refundable.
- Sale Dates:**
- November 21 - December 31, 2011 – offices are closed on observed holidays (Nov 24, Dec 26, Dec 31, 2011).
- Sale Times:**
- During posted business hours – (call for times).
- Expiration Date:**
- Permits expire at midnight on December 31, 2011.
- Species:**
- Subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, Lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, Ponderosa pine, Pinyon pine, Juniper - local species cutting restrictions may apply - ask at local district offices.

### **Permit Regulations**

#### **Cutting Regulations:**

- This permit only authorizes the cutting of trees 6 inches (or less) in trunk diameter, measured at 6 inches above ground level – please ensure that all live limbs attached to cut stump have been cut off to prevent re-growth.
- Topping of trees is not allowed (i.e. cutting only the top of tree and leaving the bottom with live limbs attached).
- Tag tree(s) before leaving the cutting area - rap tag around a large sturdy lower limb or tree trunk – each tag has adhesive on backside to ensure firm grip.
- Permits must be clearly visible on trees when transporting by vehicle.

**Area Regulations:**

- Cutting is permitted only on National Forest System lands.
- Respect private property rights and watch for no trespassing signs – know where you are before you cut.
- CUTTING RECOMMENDED – Within powerline corridors, fuels treatment areas, densely tree stocked areas – attached maps show other recommended cutting areas – ask at local district offices for other suitable areas.
- CUTTING PROHIBITED – Within administrative sites, picnic areas, campgrounds, trailheads, scenic pullouts, tree plantations, wilderness areas, other areas signed on ground or mapped as “Closed to Christmas Tree Cutting” – **attached maps show other prohibited cutting areas.**
- Pack out your trash.

**Special Regulations:**

See Attachment #1 (below) for special district regulations and Christmas Tree Cutting maps.

**Travel Regulations:**

- All Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest Travel Plan Management Restrictions apply - obtain maps at Forest Service Offices listed below.
- Keep to designated routes that are open to vehicular traffic.
- Do not drive on designated and groomed snowmobile trails - designated routes are closed when there is sufficient snow to maintain trail grooming with snow equipment.
- Park in a safe location and out of traffic path.

**Recommendations:**

- Call a district office for local road conditions, weather and travel advisory information.
- Four-wheel drive vehicle or chains.
- Full tank of gas.
- Handsaw, axe, shovel for digging snow.
- Tarp, rope or tie-downs.
- Dress appropriately for winter weather.
- Sled, snowshoes are advisable at higher elevations.
- First-aid kit, food, extra water, blanket, warm liquids.

**Where to Obtain Permits: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison National Forest Offices:**

*Business Hours: (call for times), Monday – Friday (closed on observed holidays-Nov 24, Dec 26, Dec 31, 2011).*

Forest Supervisor’s Office, 2250 Hwy 50, Delta: 970-874-6600

Norwood District, 1150 Forest St., Norwood: 970-327-4261

Ouray District, 2505 S. Townsend, Montrose: 970-240-5400

Grand Valley District, 2777 Crossroads Blvd, Grand Junction: 970-242-8211

Gunnison District, 216 N. Colorado, Gunnison: 970-641-0471

Paonia District, 403 N. Rio Grande Ave, Paonia: 970-527- 4131

**Christmas tree permits may also be obtained at the following cooperating vendors:**

*Business Hours: times may vary, please call ahead*

Padilla's Mesa General Store, Mesa, CO - (970) 268-5484

11:30 am – 5:30 pm daily

The Creamery, Collbran, CO - (970) 487-3511

Weekdays 6:00am-7:30pm

Sat 9am-8pm

Sun 9am-5pm

*The Christmas Tree program is a Recreation Enhancement Act project. Funds collected are retained on the Forest for management of the Christmas Tree program.*

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Special Regulations by Ranger District

#### Tree Species Permitted to Cut by Ranger District

<i>Tree species</i>	RANGER DISTRICT				
	Grand Valley	Paonia	Gunnison	Ouray	Norwood
Subalpine fir	X	X	X	X	X
Engelmann spruce	X	X	X	X	X
Blue spruce	-	-	X	-	-
Lodgepole pine	N/A	-	X	N/A	N/A
Douglas-fir	-	-	X	X	X
Ponderosa pine	-	-	X	X	X
Pinyon pine	X	X	N/A	X	X
Juniper	X	X	N/A	X	X

X = Denotes tree species that are permissible to cut, by Ranger District.

#### **Special Regulations by Geographic Area – See applicable maps**

##### **Grand Mesa Area** =====

###### **Grand Valley District – see Map \_\_**

- **Closed Areas**: Powderhorn Ski Area; Skyway, County Line & Ward Nordic Ski Areas; Grand Mesa Visitor Center Developed Areas
- **Recommended Areas**: Fruita Area – good for spruce and subalpine fir; along U.S. Highway 65 from the Forest boundary to just before arriving on top of Grand Mesa – spruce and subalpine fir; Lands End Area (before Dec 1<sup>st</sup>) – good for Pinyon pine.

###### **Paonia District – see Map \_\_**

- None specific

##### **North Fork Area** =====

###### **Paonia District – see Map \_\_**

- **Recommended Areas**:
  - o Area north and west of U.S. Highway 133 and small parcel south of U.S. Highway 133 near McClure Pass.
    - Three routes access the area described above, and are as follows:
      - Stevens Gulch Road NFSR #701 – open to full-size vehicles and ATVs until snow conditions warrant closing or December 15, whichever is earlier. Open to snowmobile thereafter. A good cutting area is west of the powerline about 13 miles north of U.S. Highway 133 (see map).
      - McClure Pass U.S. Highway 133 – open to full-size vehicles.
      - Ragged Mountain Road NFSR #898 – open to ATV and snowmobile.

**Gunnison Basin Area** =====

**Gunnison District- no map prepared**

- Closed Areas:
  - o Cement Creek from U.S. Highway 135 to private land boundary above Deadman Gulch Trailhead (7 miles up Cement Gulch),
  - o Spring Creek from Harmels to junction with Deadman Gulch,
  - o Taylor Canyon from Almont to Taylor Reservoir,
  - o Fossil Ridge Recreation Area,
  - o Rambouillet natural snow tree fence.

**Northern San Juan Mountain Area** =====

**Ouray District– see Map \_\_**

- None specific

**Norwood District– see Map \_\_**

- None specific

**Uncompahgre Plateau Area** =====

**Grand Valley District– see Map \_\_**

- Recommended Areas: Dominguez Area – good for Pinyon Pine.

**Ouray District – see Map \_\_**

- Closed Areas: Along and adjacent to U.S. Highway 550 corridor.
- Owl Creek Pass will be groomed for snowmobile travel once snow depth permits (approx. 12 inches snow depth).

**Norwood District– see Map \_\_**

- Gate Closure schedule (approximate or snow depth dependent {SDD}):
  - o Dec 14 - Divide Road from near the Dave Wood Road to the Delta-Nucla Road
  - o SDD - Beaver Park Road
- Roads/routes open until increasing snow depth naturally closes them:
  - o Highway 90
  - o Delta-Nucla Road (25 Mesa Road – NFSR 503) – Nucla side of Columbine Pass
  - o Delta-Nucla Road up to Cottonwood Pass (3 ¼ mile past forest boundary)
  - o Houser Road - NFSR 603
  - o Sanborn Park Road – NFSR 510
  - o Hamilton Road – NFSR 607
  - o East Naturita Road – NFSR 642
  - o Road on east side of district: NFSRs 618, 622, 623, 627, 628, 632, 637
- Roads gated after November 14:
  - o McKee Draw Road – NFSR 608
  - o Thunder Road – NFSR 609
  - o Deadhorse Road – NFSR 515
  - o NFSR 526 (off of Sanborn Park Road – east of Deadhorse Rd)