

## Merry Christmas from the Bighorn National Forest, 2012

This permit is ONLY valid on the Bighorn National Forest. Please do not use this permit to remove trees from Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Wyoming State, or private lands.

An individual may purchase a maximum of five permits. Each permit is \$8.00 from Bighorn National Forest offices, and is good for one tree, less than 10' tall.

Most of the Bighorn National Forest is open to Christmas tree cutting. Trees cannot be cut within 300 feet of cabins, lodges, resorts, campgrounds, picnic grounds, administrative sites (such as Ranger Stations), or within 100 feet of State Highways, however, you MAY cut right next to Forest Roads.

In addition, tree cutting on the Powder River District is not allowed along Highway 16 from the eastern Forest boundary to the Hettinger Group Area sign. Trees **cannot** be cut in the **Cloud Peak Wilderness**.

Each tree must be tagged with a Christmas Tree Permit, R2-2430-14, **PRIOR TO TRANSPORTING**. Each permit is valid for ONE tree up to ten feet in height. Please attach the tag firmly and visibly to the stem of the tree.

Please cut stumps six inches or lower to the ground. Cut and scatter all limbs from the stump and unused portions of the tree. To avoid waste, please cut a tree that is close to the desired height. "Topping" a tree is prohibited.



Be prepared for deep snow and cold weather. The Bighorn National Forest does not plow snow off of Forest Service roads to allow access to Christmas tree cutting.

There are several conifer species available for cutting. The most commonly cut trees are sub-alpine fir, Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine.



### ←Please do not cut limber pine.

Limber pine grows 30-50 feet high, with a trunk diameter of 15-24". Needles are dark green, about 2 ½" long, and clustered in groups of 5, near branch ends. Cones are 3 to 10 inches long, cylinder shaped, with thickened scales and large seeds.

Recommended vehicle parking is in snowmobile or skiing turnouts. Park your vehicle in a safe location, off of the road so it is not a traffic hazard. Winter gear, including tire chains and a shovel are recommended equipment for your tree-cutting trip.

When you get home, place your tree in water (or in liquid from the recipe on the back of this page) as soon as possible to keep it fresh and green. It may take a day or so for it to thaw and begin to drink. Be sure to keep it watered throughout the season so the end of the trunk does not seal and prevent it from absorbing water.



## Fire Resistant Recipe for Christmas Trees

### Ingredients:

Two cups Karo syrup  
Two ounces liquid chlorine bleach  
Two pinches Epsom salts  
One/half teaspoon Borax  
One teaspoon chelated (pronounced key-lated) iron  
Hot water to fill 2 gallon bucket.

### Recipe:

1. Fill a two-gallon bucket with hot water to within one inch of the top, add remaining ingredients.
2. Cut an inch off of the bottom of the trunk of a recently cut or purchased tree. Try to make the cut as level as possible.
3. Immediately stand the trunk of the tree in the solution and leave for at least 24 hours. This will allow the tree to thaw out and begin taking up liquid.
4. Keep the remaining solution. Place your tree in a stand that contains a well for liquid.
5. When the tree is in it's final place, fill the well with some of the remaining solution.
6. Every day, top off the well with the solution.

### How does the solution work?

In a nutshell, the Karo syrup provides the sugar necessary to allow the base of the tree to take up water. Up to 1.5 gallons of water can be taken up by the tree over a two-week period. Boron in the borax allows the tree to move the water and sugar out to every branch and needle in the tree. Magnesium compounds in the Epsom salts, and iron from the chelated iron provide components for the production of chlorophyll to keep the tree green. The bleach prevents mold and odors from forming in the solution. A plastic sheet or some form of protection for your carpet is recommended.

While nothing will make your tree fireproof, with the additional uptake of liquid, your tree is less likely to catch fire. Some of the other beneficial side effects are that there are fewer needles dropping off of the tree, and an increase in natural evergreen fragrance.

Karo syrup, bleach, and borax (Boraxo soap is one name brand) can be purchased at any supermarket, Epsom salts at any drug store or pharmacy, and chelated iron at garden shops or plant stores.