

Merry Christmas from the Williams Ranger District ***Christmas Tree Cutting Instructions***

Please be sure to carry your permit and place your tag on the tree as soon as it is cut. You may cut only tree species specified on your permit, and only in the area designated on your permit map. You may choose either cutting area this year so please refer to your maps. Your permit expires at midnight on December 25th. No refunds will be made, even if weather conditions prevent you from reaching your cutting area and cutting your tree.

Cut the tree as close to the ground as possible leaving a stump no more than 6 inches high. The tree must not exceed 10 feet in total height and do not cut just the top off a tree. Cut the entire tree; do not leave green branches protruding from the stump. Remember a tree standing in the woods looks smaller than it will in your home. Please remove all trash and litter resulting from your cutting activities. Scatter any slash left behind, making sure your slash piles are less than 2 feet deep.

Please cut your tree on National Forest Land only. Vehicle use in some areas may be restricted to driving only on established roads. Please consult the cutting area map you were given.

An armload of green branches for decorations may be taken along with your tree as part of this permit. These can be found where timber has been recently logged. You are also welcome to pick up pine cones for decorations if you wish.

Please be sure that everyone in your party reads the safety precautions in this message prior to leaving home. In the past, there have been some very serious accidents, even fatalities, resulting from failures to heed one or more of these safety measures.

Safety Precautions

Always notify friends or relatives where you intend to go and when you expect to return. Be prepared for bad weather and muddy and snowy roads. At a minimum, we suggest you take the following items with you:

- 1. Tire chains***
- 2. Shovel***
- 3. First Aid Kit***
- 4. Matches or Flairs***
- 5. Tow Chain***
- 6. Warm Clothing***
- 7. A little food and water***
- 8. Flashlight***
- 9. Blankets***
- 10. A full tank of gas***

Plan to leave the cutting area before nightfall. Remember, Winter storms can occur suddenly. If one comes up, start home as soon as possible. If you get caught in the storm, be cautious and stay on the main roads – avoid short cuts. Stay dry and avoid overexertion. If you get stranded, stay in your group and your vehicle. Keep a window slightly open while using the car heater.

Be aware that you are not the only forest user in the woods this time of the year. You may encounter other recreation users, firewood cutters, loggers, or even hunters. As a precautionary measure, you may want to consider wearing an article of brightly colored, highly visible clothing while walking in the woods. Please park your vehicle off the road so you do not interfere with other traffic.

Enjoy yourself and have a Happy Holiday Season!