

## HELPFUL HINTS WHEN CUTTING YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE:

### Selecting Your Tree:

Please try not to cut single trees in forest openings—these trees are our future forest. Find a group of trees and select one from the group—this will promote the remaining trees to grow faster.

Remember, it will be very difficult to find a perfect tree out in the forest. If you want a perfect tree, it would be best to buy one from a Christmas Tree Lot.

Decide where you will put the tree before you go out and cut one. How tall is the ceiling in that spot? Measure! Trees look much shorter out in the forest.

Will the tree be against the wall? In a corner? It may be an advantage to find a tree that has one or two flat sides, especially if it will go against a wall.

### Cutting Your Tree:

The best tool for the job is a small hand saw or camp saw.

Clear away the snow from the base of the tree. Depending on the area, you may need to dig a few feet down to get to the base of the tree.

### Transporting Your Tree:

Horticulturists suggest wrapping your tree in an old blanket to minimize wind damage while driving home.



## HELPFUL HINTS CONTINUED:

### Caring for Your Tree:

Once you have your tree home, cut about 1 inch off the base of the trunk and place the tree immediately in water. Do not allow the base of the tree to dry out because the tree will seal over and will not take up water.

Regular tap water works great for prolonging the life of your tree. Check the water level several times a day during the first week and at least once a day until the tree is taken down.

Increase the air humidity around the tree by blocking off furnace outlets near the tree and misting the needles daily.

### Winter Travel Safety:

- Be aware of changing weather conditions when out in the forest.
- Dress appropriately—plan for cold and snowy conditions.
- Make sure your vehicle is equipped with tire chains, shovel and emergency supplies such as extra food, water and dry clothing.
- Be aware of fatigue and hypothermia symptoms.
- Leave your destination and time of return with a reliable friend. Do not rely on a cell phone. Many areas of the National Forest do not have adequate cell service.
- HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOUR NATIONAL FOREST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



## CHRISTMAS TREE

## PROGRAM

## WHITE RIVER

## NATIONAL FOREST

### **Eagle Ranger District**

125 West 5th Street

P.O. Box 720

Eagle, CO 81631-0720

Phone: (970) 328-6388

Fax: (970) 328-6448

### **Holy Cross Ranger District**

24747 U.S. Highway 24

P.O. Box 190

Minturn, CO 81645

Phone: (970) 827-5715

Fax: (970) 827-9343

## WHERE TO CUT YOUR TREE

MOST NATIONAL FOREST LAND WITHIN THE WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST IS OPEN FOR CUTTING **EXCEPT:**

- Wilderness areas & Proposed Wilderness Areas
- Developed Recreation Areas
- Administrative Areas
- Campgrounds & Ski Areas
- Glenwood Canyon
- Commercial Timber Sales where active logging is occurring
- Within 100 Feet of main roads
- Camp Hale Area of the Eagle/Holy Cross Ranger District
- Gunnison County Areas of the Sopris Ranger District
- Meadow Mountain (lower slopes) directly behind the Holy Cross Office



## PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES WHEN CUTTING YOUR TREE:

- Any conifer species may be harvested, but please avoid cutting **COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE** trees
- Aspen trees may be cut
- Harvested trees shall be less than 15 feet in height from ground level and 6 inches or less in stump diameter at ground level.
- Cutting the top off of large trees is prohibited
- Trees must be used for personal use and not re-sold
- Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible (stump height of 6 inches or less) and trim stumps clean of all green branches
- Attach your Christmas Tree Permit to the base of your tree before transporting
- One Christmas Tree Permit will be issued for each Christmas tree to be harvested
- All permit sales are final and payments are not subject to refund



## **!!WATCH OUT!!**

**FALLING TREES ARE ALWAYS A HAZARD WHEN TRAVELING IN THE FOREST.**

FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES WILL HELP RECREATIONISTS AVOID RISKS

- Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already in the forest when the winds kick up, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- When driving in remote areas of the forest, park close to a main road, rather than on a spur or one-way section. If trees fall across the road you may be trapped.
- Bring an ax, chainsaw, or hand saw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.
- Do not rely on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas of the National Forest

**REMEMBER, YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

*Disclaimer of Liability: With respect to the identification and removal of all tree hazards found in a forested recreation setting, neither the United States Government nor any of its employees makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained herein, or actions that may be taken by a visitor to the National Forest.*



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