



for the greatest good



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service



# News Release

**U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree**  
USDA Forest Service, Colville National Forest  
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114

## **Capitol Christmas Tree Project Launches Statewide Art Competition**

*Selected art will become part of national collection*

**Colville, WA** – As part of Washington's U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree 2013 project, the Colville National Forest, Choose Outdoors and the ArtsWA (the Washington State Arts Commission) are sponsoring a statewide art competition to select an official painting of a Tree for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree effort.

Every year since 1970, a Christmas tree has been presented to the United States Congress from a national forest and is known as "The People's Tree." In honor of this occasion, the Colville National Forest will host a statewide, juried art exhibition to select an official artwork to represent the 2013 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree (CCT).

"We encourage Washington artists to submit an entry. The selected artwork will receive exposure throughout the state as well as nationally. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Washington's talented artists!" said Laura Jo West, Colville National Forest Supervisor.

Traditionally, the official CCT artwork is presented to the Chief of the Forest Service and will hang in his office for one year. The artwork will ultimately be exhibited in "The Tree Gallery" adjacent to the Chief of the Forest Service's office in the Yates Building, as part of the Forest Service's permanent national collection of previous CCT art winners. The winning artwork will be honored at Capitol Christmas Tree festivities in Washington D.C. in the beginning of December.

The theme of this year's CCT is "Sharing Washington's Good Nature." Artists are encouraged to consider the theme to conceptualize the vision of a 88-foot tall Engelmann Spruce destined for the Nation's Capitol Building.

**-MORE-**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*(continued)*

This year there will be three categories that artist can submit from:

- Professional
- Emerging
- Youth

The eligibility and guidelines are as follows:

- Open to all Washington State artists
- Any medium may be used (including but not limited to: acrylics, oil, watercolor, textile, metals, photography, stained glass, etc.).
- Finished artwork should be between 25-35 inches high by 20-30 inches wide.
- Finished artwork may be framed or unframed, but must be designed to hang on a wall.

Applications must be received by September 30, 2013. A panel of jurors will review submissions and select artwork for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Exhibited artworks will be eligible for the one of several awards and selected by the juried panel. Detailed information can be found on the Capitol Christmas Tree website at <http://capitolchristmastree.com/2013-art-contest/>

### **ABOUT THE CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT**

The Capitol Christmas Tree will grace the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol in December 2013. The 88-foot tall tree will come from the Colville National Forest in northeastern Washington State. In early November, the tree will tour across the state of Washington before heading east to the U.S. Capitol. In late November, the tree will be delivered to the U.S. Capitol, where it will be lowered into 5-foot deep hole, decorated with lights and thousands of handcrafted ornaments made by Washingtonians from across the State. In December, the Speaker of the House, along with one Washington State student, will light the tree and showcase Washington's historical, cultural and natural beauty.

Through the holiday season, the tree will be lit at dusk, where it will be enjoyed by people from across world. The theme of Washington's tree is "Sharing Washington's Good Nature" For more information on the Capitol Christmas Tree for 2013, please visit [www.capitolchristmastree.com](http://www.capitolchristmastree.com) contact [jenniferknutson@fs.fed](mailto:jenniferknutson@fs.fed), or call Jen Knutson at 509-684-7254. Follow the Capitol Christmas Tree on Twitter and Facebook.

**-END-**