

Welcome tree cutters...

The holiday season is fast upon us, and for a growing number of people, a trip to the Forest to search for that perfect Christmas tree has become a family tradition. In order to preserve the scenic and resource values of your National Forest, we ask for your cooperation by complying with the regulations listed in this brochure. Thank you, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Eric Watrud
Forest Supervisor



Things to know before you go.

- ❄ Christmas tree permits sell for \$5 each. We request you purchase only one permit per household.
- ❄ Christmas tree permits can be purchased online at rec.gov. An additional \$2.50 fee will be charged for permits purchased online.
- ❄ Rec.gov tree permits must be printed to be valid.
- ❄ Printed permits purchased online cannot be used on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.
- ❄ Permits can be purchased by contacting a Umatilla National Forest office or at many local vendors (located on the back of the brochure).
- ❄ Christmas tree permits can also be used on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. *except passes purchased online at rec.gov.
- ❄ A minor amount of bough material, tree branches (up to 25lbs.) can be removed from the Forest for personal-use home decorating.

How to use your permit.

- ❄ Printed permits acquired through rec.gov must be placed on the dashboard of your vehicle.
- ❄ Wrap the permit around the tree trunk, between limbs, and secure ends together.
- ❄ Remember once the permit is connected it cannot be undone without invalidating the permit.
- ❄ Keep the permit attached to the tree while in transit or visible on the dashboard.

Be prepared for winter weather!

- ❄ Dress appropriately in warm, water-resistant socks, boots, coats, hats and gloves.
- ❄ Bring plenty of snacks and water.
- ❄ Have supplies available to build a fire if necessary.
- ❄ Make sure your vehicle is equipped for winter travel.
- ❄ Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be home.

Where can you cut a Christmas tree?

The 2025 Christmas Tree Cutting Program on the Umatilla National Forest remains simple and easy to follow. The permit is valid on all Umatilla National Forest lands. Please follow these simple rules:

- ❄ **Do not cut on private land**, in wilderness areas, designated campgrounds, or existing tree plantations.
- ❄ Clean up any trimmings or limbs.
- ❄ Leave stumps no higher than 10 inches. It is illegal to "top" a tree.
- ❄ Cut off any green limbs left on the stump. *these can be used later for decorating greens.
- ❄ The maximum height of a tree to be cut is 14 feet tall.
- ❄ Do not cut in active timber sales or areas that have been planted with new trees.
- ❄ Do not cut trees within 200 feet of Bluewood or Spout Springs Ski Area, summer home sites, Tollgate Work Center, or Forest Service Guard Stations.
- ❄ Christmas tree cutting in the Tollgate area on the Walla Walla Ranger District can be challenging after December 1, when most Forest roads close for the winter. After December 1, snowmobiling or snowshoeing will be your only access into areas off State Highway 204.
- ❄ Christmas tree cutting on the Pomeroy Ranger District is prohibited on Park and Cook Ridges, and in the Lick Creek area, including Sheep Creek, Cabin, Capehorn and Mud Springs ridges.

Helpful Hints...

- ❄️ Carry your tree carefully out of the woods. Dragging the tree will rub off needles and bark.
- ❄️ If the tree is too big to transport inside of your vehicle, wrap it in canvas to prevent wind damage.
- ❄️ Once home, cut the bottom of the trunk off and place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket of water. Replenish water.
- ❄️ If storing your tree outside for a few days before putting it in the house, keep it in an area protected from the wind, such as the north or east side of your house or under a shaded tree.

What about after Christmas?

There are many local non-profit groups (boy scouts, city clubs, etc.) that collect Christmas trees for a nominal fee or donation. Call your local Chamber of Commerce or watch your area newspaper for more details.

Permits are on sale at:

Oregon

Ace Hardware Hermiston
(541) 567-6816

Ace Hardware Boardman
(541) 616-2400

Athena Convenience Athena
(541) 566-2396

Bi-Mart Pendleton
(541) 276-7850

Dale Store Dale
(541) 421-3484

Elgin Food Town Elgin
(541) 437-2012

Heppner Mobil Heppner
(541) 676-5062

J&D's Food Mart Pilot Rock
(541) 443-3369

Rhode's Supply Ukiah
(541) 427-3008

Smitty's Outpost Hermiston
(541) 289-6817

Tollgate Crossing Store Tollgate
(541) 429-1277

Zip Zone 2 Milton-Freewater
(541) 938-3185

Washington

Pomeroy Food Center Pomeroy
(509) 843-3391

Schurman's True Value Clarkston
(509) 758-6411

Sportsman's Warehouse Kennewick
(509) 736-2200

Sportsman's Warehouse Walla Walla
(509) 394-9100

The General Store Dayton
(509) 382-1042

Forest Offices

Heppner District
(541) 676-9187

North Fork John Day District
(541) 427-3231

Pomeroy District
(509) 843-1891

Walla Walla District
(509) 522-6290

Pendleton Office
(541) 278-3716

Hells Canyon NRA
Clarkston, WA
(503) 758-0616



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



2025 Umatilla National Forest Christmas Tree Permits

