



Visit the Lolo National Forest Website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/lolo>

Follow us on Facebook:

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Contact Information

Find your local ranger station:

Before visiting a ranger station, please call ahead to ensure office hours and that someone will be available that day to sell permits.

Missoula Ranger District

24 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804
406-329-3814

Ninemile Ranger District

20325 Remount Road
Huson, MT 59846
406-626-5201

Plains-Thompson Falls Ranger District

408 Clayton Street
Plains, MT 59859
406-826-3821

Seeley Lake Ranger District

3583 Highway 83 North
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
406-677-2233

Superior Ranger District

209 West Riverside Avenue
Superior, MT 59872
406-822-4233

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Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Northern Region
Lolo National Forest

November 2025

Lolo National Forest

Christmas Tree Harvest Guide



Where can I get a permit?

Christmas tree permits go on sale November 13, 2025!

One Christmas tree can be harvested per permit for \$5/tree and up to three permits can be purchased per person.

Online: Purchase permits online at www.recreation.gov with a \$2.50 transaction fee. To purchase, users will need to create an account on Recreation.gov.

www.recreation.gov

Ranger Stations: Purchase permits at any Lolo National Forest ranger station.

Need more information? Visit the Lolo National Forest webpage or call your local ranger station!

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How do I cut a tree?

Guidelines and Regulations:

- This permit is good on the Lolo National Forest, as well as all other National Forests in Montana, and on National Forest lands in northern Idaho (Nez Perce-Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle National Forests).
- Make sure you cut your tree on public lands by checking National Forest Visitor Maps and following road restrictions on Motor Vehicle Use Maps.
- Do not cut trees in the Blue Mountain and Pattee Canyon Recreation Areas or the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area.
- Do not cut on private land, in wilderness areas, designated recreation sites, previously thinned areas, or existing tree plantations.
- Do not cut in active timber sales or areas that have been planted with new trees.
- Do not cut trees visible from major roads, within 150-feet of streams or creeks, or in other well-used areas.
- Please post your permit on your dashboard.
- Tree Height: 12 feet maximum
- Stump height: 6 inches maximum
- Take the whole tree. Cutting the tree top off is prohibited.
- If snow is on the ground, remove it from around the stump so you can accurately measure the stump and tree height.
- Cut branches off the stump and scatter them.

How do I care for my tree?

- Check weather and local conditions, roads may not be plowed.
- Tools you might want to consider bringing with you include a measuring tape, handsaw, gloves, boots, a tarp, and rope.
- Carry your tree carefully out of the woods. Dragging the tree will rub off needles and bark.
- Once home, cut the bottom of the trunk off and place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket of water.
- Use a stand with a water reservoir and keep it full. A flat, even cut is best for water absorption.
- Mist your tree with water periodically.
- Inspect all tree light cords for safety. A dry tree can burn in only 15 seconds.
- Use caution with fire near your tree. Locate it away from heat registers, fireplaces & stoves.
- Contact your local county for tree recycling information.