USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Christmas Tree Cutting

Colville National Forest

Authorization – No Cost to Public

There is no permit necessary to harvest Christmas trees in the Colville National Forest. The United States Code of Federal Regulations 36 § 223 Subpart A allows timber that is designated by forest officers to be cut and removed for personal use for domestic purposes. Commercial harvest or reselling Christmas trees harvested from the Colville National Forest is not permitted. Harvesting Christmas trees from designated areas may help improve forest health and resilience by removing small trees from overstocked stands of timber; thereby reducing ladder fuels and wildfire risk.

Please follow the guidelines listed below as you search for that special Christmas tree:

- Please **remove the entire tree**, not just the top. Leave no more than a 6 - inch stump.
- Only cut trees at or less than 4" Diameter Breast Height (4.5 ft)
- If there are any live limbs still attached to stump after tree is felled, cut them from the stump.
- Only park at Sno-Parks if you have a valid Washington State Sno-Park permit displayed in your vehicle.
- Cutting whitebark pine is not authorized.
- Each household may harvest two Christmas trees per season.

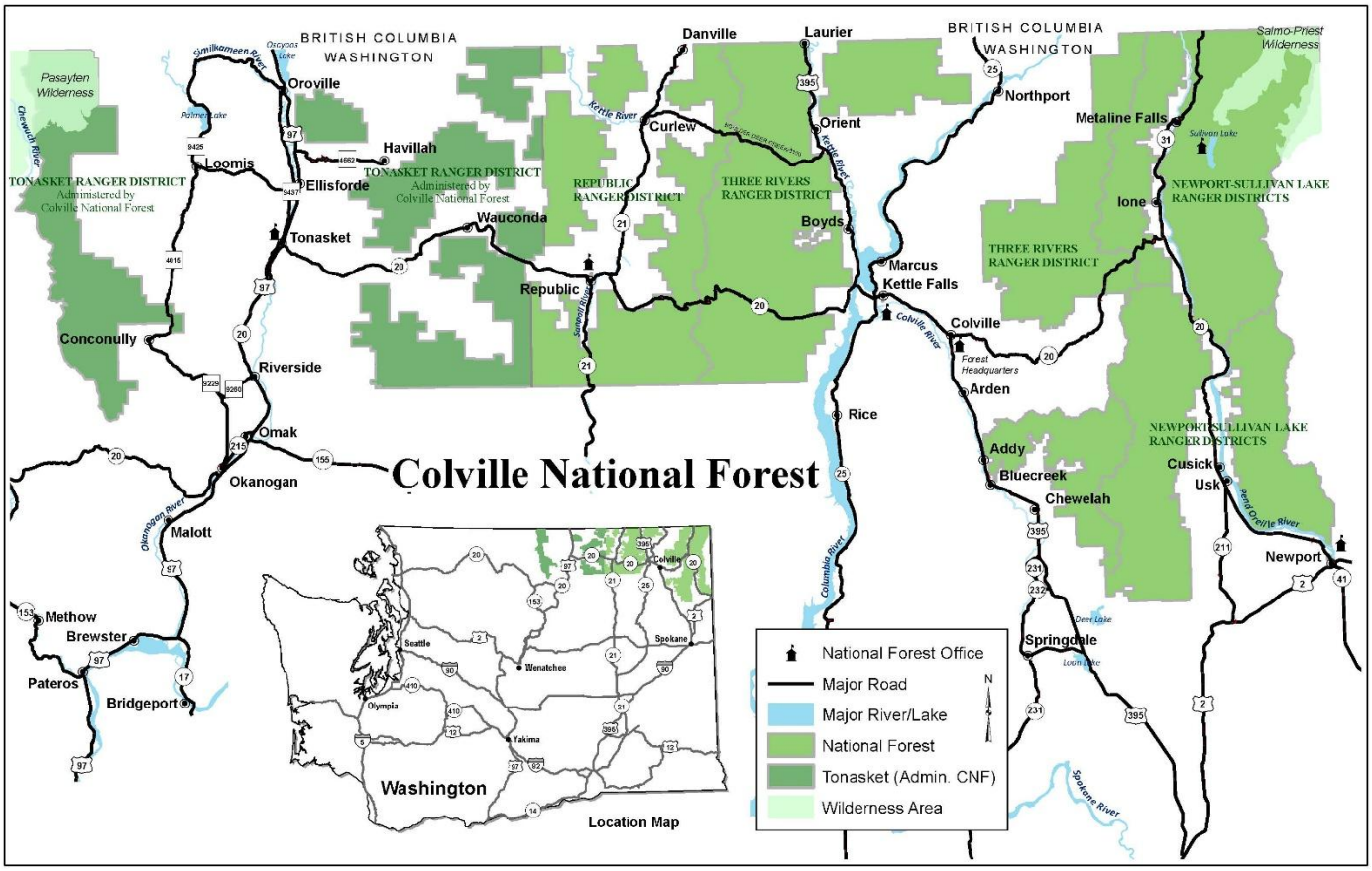
AREAS WHERE TREES CANNOT BE CUT

- Designated Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness Areas, Research Natural Areas, and Fire Closure Areas. Maps of these areas are available on the Forest's website at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/colville Contact local Forest Service offices for information on specific closure areas.
- On privately owned and state managed land within the Colville National Forest boundary.
- In tree plantations, campgrounds, administrative sites, or other areas where specifically posted.

TREE CARE AND TRANSPORTATION

- If a tree is obtained early in the season, it should be kept in a cool place, out of the wind, in a bucket of water. Remember, a tree that is dry is an extreme fire hazard.
- Carry the tree carefully out of the woods. If the tree will not fit in the vehicle, wrap it in a tarp to prevent windburn and needle loss during transportation.
- When you get your tree home, make a fresh cut on the butt to open up the pores which have been clogged by sap. Cut off at least one-half inch. If you do not make a fresh cut, the tree will not be able to drink water. After the cut is made, put the tree in water as soon as possible. An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day.

- Avoid placing the tree next to fireplaces, heaters, television sets, or other heat sources.
- Forest road conditions can change rapidly this time of year. For current information, please contact the local Ranger District office.
- Be sure to properly dispose of your cut tree after the holidays. Most waste disposal companies offer special pick up times. Never try to burn the tree in your fireplace or woodstove - a chimney fire could result.



Newport Ranger District: 315 North Warren, Newport, WA 99156, (509) 447-7300

Three Rivers Ranger District: 225 West 11th, Kettle Falls, WA 99114, (509) 738-7700

Republic Ranger District: 650 E Delaware Ave, Republic, WA 99166, (509) 775-7400

Tonasket Ranger District: 1 W Winesap, Tonasket, WA 98855, (509) 486-2186

Colville NF Headquarters: 765 South Main, Colville, WA 99114, (509) 684-7000

Website: fs.usda.gov/r06/Colville

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).