

No Cutting Allowed:

- Within 100 feet of county roads and state or federal highways.
- Within 100 feet of any developed campground.
- In wilderness areas, recreation areas, and research natural areas.
- In tree plantation and active timber sales.

Specific Areas Off Limits:

DURANGO

- La Plata Canyon

PAGOSA SPRINGS— BAYFIELD

- Chimney Rock National Monument
- Williams Creek Research Natural Area
- Piedra Management Area

CORTEZ-DOLORES

- Sage Hen Wildlife Area
- McPhee & Lone Dome Recreation areas from the dam to Bradfield Bridge
- Narraguinnep Research Natural Area
- Within 1/4 mile of both sides of the West Mancos Road (FS#561) between the national forest boundary and transfer campground.

Safety Tips

Be prepared for winter conditions! Plan ahead & follow these tips:

- ◆ Check the weather forecast, and contact our offices for current road conditions.
- ◆ Be prepared for snow at higher elevations. National Forest roads are not snowplowed.
- ◆ If you drive up a narrow snow-packed road, you may not find a turnaround area ahead.
- ◆ Your vehicle should have a full tank of gas, 4WD, snow tires and/or chains.
- ◆ Stay on open roads. Never drive past a barricade or gate, or on a closed road.
- ◆ Consult a national forest map of the area you plan to visit.
- ◆ Carry emergency supplies in your vehicle, including a shovel.
- ◆ Be prepared for deep snow and cold temperatures with warm clothes, hat, gloves, and snow boots.
- ◆ Tell friends or family of your planned destination and time of return, and try not to go out alone.
- ◆ Start early! Winter days are short. Take advantage of limited sunlight.
- ◆ Avoid avalanche-prone areas.



San Juan National Forest

Holiday Tree Cutting Guide



San Juan National Forest Headquarters
Durango, CO (970) 247-4874

Columbine Ranger District
Bayfield, CO (970) 884-2512

Dolores Ranger District
Dolores, CO (970) 882-7296

Pagosa Ranger District
Pagosa Springs, CO (970) 264-2268

Telephone for the hearing impaired 711

www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan



2024



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Step 1: *Buy a Christmas Tree Permit*



A Christmas tree permit allows you to cut a tree on public lands managed by the San Juan National Forest. Permits and maps are on sale at agency offices and select local retail outlets. You can also buy a permit online at recreation.gov, <https://tinyurl.com/SJNFholidaytree>. You can purchase up to five permits for your personal use only. Not for resale.

National Forest permits are not valid for use on state, tribal, BLM or private lands. They are good only for the year in which they are purchased, and only on the Forest where they are purchased. Check with our offices for advice on the best areas to harvest trees.

Step 2: *Select the Best Tree for You and the Forest*

White Fir Friendly to the touch.

Perhaps the best Christmas tree! Flat, soft needles are fragrant, and thinning this species improves forest health.

Abundant at mid-elevations, fragrant and soft with a full crown. Flat, flexible blue-green needles attach separately to branches. Branch tips are gray and branches are flat. Cones grow upward but may be gone by winter.

Subalpine Fir Friendly to the touch.

Very similar to white fir, but found at higher elevations.

Spruce Prickly to the touch.



Found at higher elevations. Needles are stiff, square and sharp, and attach separately to branches. Cones hang down with thin papery scales.

The trees below cannot

be harvested as Christmas trees because of an inadequate number of young trees in these species. Help us retain these types of trees.

Do NOT Cut: Ponderosa Pine

Found at low to mid elevations. Long, round needles in clusters. Classic woody cones have thick scales. Scaled bark turns orange as tree matures.

Do NOT Cut: Douglas Fir

Found at all elevations on moist, north-facing slopes. Abundant in canyons. Short, 1/2" flat, green needles attach separately to branches with red-pointed tips. Cones hang down with little "tails" sticking out between scales.

Step 3:

Select the Right Size

The permit allows you to cut a tree up to 20 feet tall. Choose a tree close to the size you want. Never disfigure trees by cutting the top off a standing tree, or by cutting down a tree and taking only its top.

Step 4: *Cut It Correctly*

Take a shovel so you can dig down through the snow to ground level. Cut the trunk off as close to the ground as you can, leaving **no more than a 6 inch stump**. Do not leave live branches on the stump.

Step 5: *Tag your Tree*

Attach your permit to the trunk or branches before moving the tree. Taking an untagged tree from federal lands can result in a fine. Make sure the tag is as visible as possible when you load the tree on or in your vehicle.

Caution:
**USFS roads are not
plowed for
snow removal.**

