

NEWS ADVISORY
USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



Nov. 23, 2005

News Contact: Paula Nelson, (406) 329-3472 on Wednesday and,
Ed Nesselroad 329-3089 on Friday – or call the Lolo or Bitterroot forests

Christmas Tree Cutting Permits

One of the many traditions this time of year is the family outing to cut a Christmas tree. With a \$3.00 permit from the Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests, you can cut your own Christmas tree on nearly all of the national forests in western Montana.

On the Lolo NF, permits are for sale at the Missoula Ranger station in Building 24, at Fort Missoula from 7:30 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday, and from 8 am to 4 pm on the next three Saturdays (Nov. 26, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10). Permits are available during normal business hours at the Ninemile, Plains, Seeley Lake and Superior Ranger Stations. Permits are also available in Frenchtown at Bronc's Grocery. **Lolo NF information is available at 329-3814.**

In the Bitterroot Valley, permits are available at the Stevensville, Darby, West Fork, and Sula Ranger District Offices (Open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday). The Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office in Hamilton is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The historic Darby Visitor Center is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 to 4:30 and on Sundays from 12:30 to 4:30 until November 27th. After November 27th, the Center will be open on the following three Saturdays in December; the 3rd, 10th, and 17th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All of these offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. **Bitterroot NF information is available at 363-7100.**

Christmas tree permits are also available at several business locations throughout the Bitterroot Valley:

Stevensville - CHS Cenex
Corvallis –The Merc Fresh Market
Darby – Bud and Shirley's
Conner – Conner Store
Hamilton – Bob Ward's and Lone Pine Conoco

When you buy your Christmas tree permit, you will get an information sheet on tips for cutting and caring for your tree. Give yourself plenty of time to find your tree and return home safe and warm. Have a happy holiday season.

Information on how to cut and care for trees can also be found at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/passes/index-christmas-tr.shtml>

~end~