
Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release

Contacts:

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Gallatin National Forest Christmas Tree Permits Are Now Available

For many people in local communities, cutting your own Christmas tree is an enjoyable family tradition.

Permits for cutting a Christmas tree on the Gallatin National Forest are now being sold at Forest Service Ranger District offices in Big Timber, Livingston, Gardiner, Bozeman, and West Yellowstone, and by these local businesses:

- Owenhouse Ace Hardware (bicycle shop) in Bozeman
- Lee & Dad's Grocery in Belgrade
- Gateway Exxon in Gallatin Gateway
- Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply in Bozeman

The cost of a national forest Christmas tree permit is \$5, with a limit of **three** permits per household. A permit can also be purchased for gathering boughs.

Permits, maps, forest road access updates, and tree species identification guides are available at the ranger district offices.

People with a permit may cut a Christmas tree anywhere on the Gallatin National Forest except in campgrounds, trailheads, wilderness areas, plantations and administrative sites. Also, no tree cutting is allowed within 50 feet of streams or within



10 East Babcock Ave., PO Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

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100 feet of roads. However, due to the extensive wildfires in 2006, opportunities for Christmas tree cutting on the Big Timber Ranger District are very limited.

Guidelines for cutting a Christmas tree on the Gallatin National Forest:

- Trees help protect watersheds, provide habitat for wildlife, and contribute to beautiful scenery. Keep these values in mind when selecting a tree.
- Limit your selection to trees less than 12 feet tall.
- Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible and below the lowest live limb. A remaining stump height of 6 inches is ideal.
- After cutting your tree, attach the purchased permit to a lower limb near the trunk for transporting home.
- "Topping" trees, or cutting the top off trees, deforms any future growth and leaves a visual eyesore. Take the entire tree or choose another one.
- On the Hebgen Lake Ranger District in West Yellowstone, no wheeled vehicles are allowed on groomed snowmobile trails after December 1.
- Yellowstone National Park does not authorize tree cutting.

Outlets for Gallatin National Forest Christmas tree permits:

Big Timber Ranger District
225 Big Timber Loop Road
Big Timber, MT 59011
Hours: Weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(406) 932-5155

Livingston Ranger District
5242 Hwy. 89 South
Livingston, MT 59047
Hours: Weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
December 2 & 9 (Saturdays): 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(406) 222-1892

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Gardiner Ranger District
Hwy. 89 South
Gardiner, MT 59030
Hours: Weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(406) 848-7375

Bozeman Ranger District
3710 Fallon St., Suite C
Bozeman, MT 59718
Hours: Weekdays: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(406) 522-2520

Hebgen Lake Ranger District
331 US Highway 191 North
West Yellowstone, MT 59758
Hours: Weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(406) 823-6961

Owenhouse Ace Hardware (Bike Shop)
25 S. Black Ave.
Bozeman, MT
(406) 587-5404

Gateway Exxon Market
Gallatin Gateway, MT
(406) 763-4463

Lee & Dad's Grocery
205 West Madison Ave.
Belgrade, MT
(406) 388-4116

Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply
2275 N 7th Ave.
Bozeman, MT
(406) 586-8466

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