

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications**

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

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**Forest Service Christmas Tree Permits
Available November 17th**

BEND—Retail outlets and Forest Service offices throughout Central Oregon will begin selling permits to harvest Christmas trees from the Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests on Monday November 17th.

About 7,000 Christmas tree permits were sold in Central Oregon last year. More than half the proceeds from the sale of permits will be retained for use on the Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests.

The permits can be purchased for \$5 at Forest Service offices and at some retail outlets. A validated permit must be attached to each tree that is transported, with a maximum of five trees per household.

Permit holders can harvest any tree species shorter than twelve feet on national forests. They cannot cut trees within Forest Service nurseries and plantations, or within 150 feet of highways or 300 feet of streams.

Cindy Glick, Special Forest Products Program Coordinator for the Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests, advises that Oregon Department of Transportation Sno-Park permits are required to park on some highways. She recommends people use national forest maps to stay oriented and off private property that often abuts public land.

Forest Service officials also encourage people to hike or cross-country ski at a safe distance from roads when collecting trees.

Christmas tree harvesters can find pine trees near Bend and Sisters at lower elevations, and firs and cedars in higher country. Pines around Prineville grow on south and west slopes, whereas firs and cedars typically grow on slopes facing north or east.

The publication "Guidelines for Collecting Your Christmas Tree" and instructions printed on permits give additional information about Christmas tree harvesting. Forest Service officials also recommend the following:

- Check weather and road conditions before departing.
- Dress warmly, pack water, food, tools and a first-aid kit.
- Let friends know your travel plans and expected return time.
- Equip party members with a signal whistle and be aware of each other's location.
- Drive a well-maintained vehicle that is fully equipped for winter driving.

Christmas Tree Permits can be purchased this year at the following locations:

Bend: Deschutes National Forest Headquarters, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger Station, Joe's, Butler Market South, and Bend Visitor and Convention Bureau

Camp Sherman: Camp Sherman Store on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

Crescent: Crescent Ranger Station

La Pine: Quick Stop

Madras: Crooked River National Grassland office and Madras Bi-Mart

Paulina: Rager Ranger Station on the Paulina Ranger District and the Paulina Store

Prineville: Ochoco National Forest Headquarters and R&R Grocery

Redmond: Redmond Air Center Administration Office, Big "R" and Centwise Sporting Goods

Sisters: Sisters Ranger Station, Lutton's Ace Hardware and Sisters Mainline Station

Terrebonne: Terrebonne True Value Hardware