News Release

Umatilla National Forest
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CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS NOW AVAILABLE

Christmas tree permits are now available at all offices of the Umatilla National Forest and will be available at several local businesses beginning next week.

Permits can be purchased for $5.00 each and are limited to one per household. Permits are valid on Federal Forest Service lands only and do not authorize tree cutting on private, State or other federally managed lands.

Christmas Tree Permits and forest maps can be purchased during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, at the Supervisor's Office in Pendleton, Oregon, and at the four Ranger District offices in Ukiah and Heppner, Oregon; and Walla Walla and Pomeroy, Washington. Local businesses will be set up to sell permits beginning Monday, November 24.

Permits may be purchased through local businesses at: (EDITOR'S NOTE: please use the businesses listed below that are located in your general area.)

OREGON	WASHINGTON
Dave's 12th St. Chevron, Pendleton	**Columbia Grain and Feed**, Pasco
Southgate Mini-Market, Pendleton	**Farmer's Exchange**, Kennewick
Ace Hardware, Hermiston	**Conoco General Store**, Dayton
Mentzer and Elliott, Pilot Rock	**The Last Resort**, Pomeroy
PGG, Athena	**Pomeroy Foods**, Pomeroy
Tollgate Store, State Highway 204	**PF Express,** Pomeroy
Tamarack Inn B&B, State Highway 204	**Schurman's True Value**, Clarkston
Rhode's Supply, Ukiah	**Hells Canyon NRA Office**, Clarkston
Granny's Store, Ukiah	
Heppner Shell, Heppner	
MCGG – Green Feed, Heppner	
PGG, Milton-Freewater	
Lazy Wolf Resort, Spray	

Additional Information:

Regulations for cutting Christmas Trees on the Umatilla National Forest:

✳ Christmas Tree Permits sell for $5.00 each. We request you purchase only one permit per household.

✳ Permits can be purchased at any Umatilla National Forest Office or at many local area vendors.

✳ Wrap the permit around the tree trunk, between limbs, and snap or connect ends together.

✳ Keep the permit on the tree while in transit.

✳ Cut your tree at least 50 feet away from the road.

✳ Clean up any trimmings or limbs and leave stumps no higher than 10 inches. It is illegal to "top" a tree.

✳ Cut off any green limbs left on the stump (can be used for greens).

✳ Maximum height of tree to be cut is 14 feet tall.

✳ Do not cut on private land, in wilderness areas, designated campgrounds, active timber sales or existing tree plantations.

✳ Do not cut trees within 200 feet of Bluewood or Spout Springs Ski Areas, summer home sites, Tollgate Work Center, or Forest Service Guard Stations.

✳ Christmas tree cutting in the Tollgate Area on the Walla Walla Ranger District can be challenging after December 1, when most Forest roads close for the winter. After Dec. 1, snowmobiling or snowshoeing will be your only access onto most roads off Hwy 204.

✳ Christmas tree cutting on the Pomeroy Ranger District is prohibited on Park and Cook Ridges, and in the Lick Creek area, including Sheep Creek, Cabin, Capehorn and Mud Springs ridges. You may encounter road closures in the School Fire area during logging operations.   Please abide by these closures.

Be Safe, Be Prepared for Winter Weather!

✳ Dress appropriately in warm socks, boots, coats, hats & gloves

✳ Bring plenty of snacks and water

✳ Have supplies available to build a fire if necessary

✳ Make sure your vehicle is equipped for winter travel

✳ Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to be home

Helpful Hints:

✳ Carry your trees carefully out of the woods. Dragging the tree will rub off needles and bark.

✳ If the tree is too big to transport in the trunk of your vehicle, wrap it in canvas to prevent wind damage.

✳ Once home, cut the bottom of the trunk off and place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket of water. Replenish water frequently.

✳ Store your tree in an area protected from the wind, such as the north or east side of your house or under a shaded tree.