

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

*Working as One to Serve Central Oregon*  
[www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon)

**For Immediate Release: November 16, 2009**

**Contact: Cindy Glick, Special Forest Products Program Coordinator  
(541) 383-5495**

**Forest Service Christmas Tree Permits  
Available Starting Today**

*BEND*—Starting today, retail outlets and Forest Service offices throughout Central Oregon will begin selling permits to harvest Christmas trees from the Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests.

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.

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 Forest Service reminds permit holders that Oregon Department of Transportation Sno-Park permits are required to park on some highways and recommends that permit holders use national forest maps to stay oriented and off private property. Forest Service officials also encourage people to hike or cross-country ski at a safe distance from roads when collecting trees.

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.

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Christmas Tree Permits can be purchased this year at all Forest Service offices in Central Oregon and the following retail outlets:

*Madras:* BIMART 475-1394

*Prineville:* R + R Grocery 447-7231

*Bend:* Butler Market South, 393-0146

Bend Visitor and Welcome Center, 383-8048

*Redmond:* Cent Wise Hardware and Sporting Goods, Redmond- 548-2334

Big R, 548-4095

BIMART, 923-7220

*Sisters:* Camp Sherman Store, 595-6711

Luttons Ace Hardware, 549-8011

Sisters Mainline Station, 549-5400

*Terrebonne:* Terrebonne True Value Hardware, 548-8707

*LaPine:* Quik Stop, 536-2553

Corner Store, 536-0700

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