

NEWS RELEASE



**USDA Forest Service
Ashley National Forest
355 North Vernal Avenue
Vernal, Utah 84078
(435) 789-1181**

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2008 CHRISTMAS TREE PERMITS GO ON SALE ON NOVEMBER 21, 2008

Vernal, Utah ... As snow returns to Utah so does the opportunity for families to experience a unique recreational outing by cutting their own Christmas trees on Utah National Forests.

The tree cutting program is carefully managed and permit holders must adhere to the following guidelines. Trees must always be cut close to the ground leaving the stump no higher than 6 inches. Trees up to 15 feet may be cut. A shovel will come in handy to dig through the snow to reach the base of the tree. Make sure your permit is attached to the tree before leaving the cutting area. **TREE TOPPING IS NOT ALLOWED.** No cutting within 200 feet of riparian areas (lakes and streams), campgrounds, picnic areas, administrative sites, summer home areas, or within designated closed areas shown on the tree cutting area maps.

Remember to always be prepared for winter weather. Be prepared for slick, snow packed roads and have chains, a 4-wheel drive vehicle or a snow machine available. Always let someone know where you are planning to go and approximate time you will return. Carry a cell phone; bring additional warm clothing, good warm gloves, boots, and a container of hot liquid, water, lunch or snack as it may take longer than expected. Carry a flashlight, chains, shovel, first aid kit, matches, a hatchet, ax or handsaw, and rope to secure your tree.

ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST: (435) 789-1181 - www.fs.fed.us/r4/ashley

Flaming Gorge Ranger District: (435) 784-3445 - Permits go on sale Friday, November 21, 2008. Permits will be available at the Flaming Gorge Ranger District Office, intersection Highway 43 & 44, Manila, Utah and the Green River Office, 1450 Uinta Drive, Green River,

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Wyoming from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Also, permits will be available at Flaming Gorge Resort. Cost of the nonrefundable permit is \$10.00 and there is a limit of one permit per household, one tree only.

Roosevelt and Duchesne Ranger Districts: (435) 738-2482 or (435) 722-5018

Permits go on sale Friday, November 21, 2008 - Permits may be purchased at the Duchesne Ranger District Office, 85 West Main, Duchesne, Utah, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday or the Roosevelt Ranger District Office, 650 West Highway 40, Roosevelt, Utah 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Permits may also be purchased at the Hanna Country Store, 40298 West State Route 35, Hanna, Utah (435) 848-5752 and at Steward's Market, 245 West Highway 40 in Roosevelt, (435) 722-5650. Permits are \$10.00 each, one permit per household, one tree only. The Roosevelt and Duchesne Ranger Districts receive 200 permits each for Christmas trees with additional permits for the Vernal Ranger District available at each office. Active logging is taking place along the first three and a half miles of Reservation Ridge Road, Forest Service Road 147. There will be logging trucks and heavy equipment alongside and on the road in this area which may delay access for short periods of time.

Vernal Ranger District: (435) 789-1181 - Permits go on sale Friday, November 21, 2008.

Permits may be purchased at the Vernal Office, located at 355 North Vernal Avenue in Vernal, Utah Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Permits may also be purchased at the following businesses; Davis Jubilee Store, 575 West Main, in Vernal, (435) 789-2001, LaPoint Country Store, Highway 12 in LaPoint, Utah, (435) 247-2365 and Kenneth's Catfishin', 377 North Vernal Avenue, (435) 781-2287. Permits are \$10.00, one permit per household, one tree only. Any species of tree can be cut except Ponderosa Pine. Individuals may purchase up to two additional permits on the Flaming Gorge and Vernal Ranger Districts and permits must be issued in the names and addresses of the person for whom the permits are purchased.