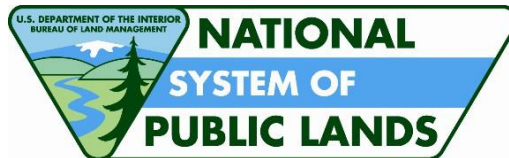




U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Christmas Tree Cutting Permits



P L E A S E R E M E M B E R

Harvest is limited to pinyon pine, Utah juniper, and white fir trees only.

Other species of trees on the district are unique and, or scarce. For this reason, the BLM Ely District prohibits cutting or removing other species of trees for any purpose.



Single-leaf pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*)



Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*)



White fir (*Abies concolor*)

For more information and photos on these tree species please visit, USDA Plants, <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/java/>



CHRISTMAS TREE TAGS

- * **SIGN YOUR TAG and TAG YOUR TREE as soon as you cut it TO VALIDATE YOUR TAG. TAGS EXPIRE DECEMBER 25.**
- * **Please be considerate of other public land users. Pack out your trash!**
- * **Drive only on established roads and trails.**
- * **Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible (6 inches or less) to prevent injury to wildlife. You may "top" trees only if they are less than 10 feet tall. After topping a tree, make a second cut and prune all the remaining branches as close to the ground as possible. Remove all live branches from stump.**

INFORMATION FOR CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTERS

Christmas tree cutting is permitted on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office, Nevada, except in Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, and some Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's).

Christmas tree tags cost \$5.00 each. An individual may purchase up to ten tree permits (tags) per year. Permits are for personal use only and no resale of the tree will be permitted.

If you are interested in harvesting Christmas Trees for commercial purposes, please contact the BLM Ely District Forester, at 775-289-1830.

Permits are available for purchase online 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the BLM Special Forest Products Online Permit Sales Pilot Program starting **October 1, 2024**. To purchase a permit online, go to <https://forestproducts.blm.gov/>. Click on Nevada, select Ely District, and select Christmas tree. Complete and submit the application. Enter your credit/debit card information. Your payment will be processed within minutes, and you may print your permit. Additional information, including stipulations and a map are available for download. All purchased permits are final, no refunds will be granted.

The offices will conduct over-the-counter sales starting November 1, 2024, through noon on Tuesday, December 24, 2024. The Ely District Office is located at 702 North Industrial Way, in Ely (775) 289-1800. The Caliente Field Office is located at 1400 S. Front Street, in Caliente (775) 726-8100. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Permits will also be available at Great Basin National Park. Please call (775) 234-7510 or (775) 234-7520 for more information.



STIPULATIONS

By purchasing a Christmas tree permit and harvesting a tree on BLM administered land, you are agreeing to the following stipulations:

- Travel on existing roads and trails only.
- Leave stumps no more than six (6) inches higher than ground level with no live branches.
- Personal permits are for your own use and not for resale or barter.
- No harvest is allowed within Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, or the following Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): Blue Mass Scenic Area, Highland Range, Lower Meadow Valley Wash, Mount Irish, Shoshone Ponds, and Swamp Cedar.
- Any slash from limbs must be scattered.
- Any cultural resource remains (prehistoric or historic sites and artifacts), which are encountered, are to be avoided. No artifacts are to be disturbed or removed from their original position. The Ely District Manager will be notified of any discovery of archaeological or historical remains.
- Permits may not be reassigned to another individual without prior permission from the BLM.

YOUR TREE AT HOME

1. For a fresher longer-lasting tree, cut off the base of the tree before placing the tree in your holder.
2. Place water in the base of the tree holder. Freshly cut trees will consume gallons of water in the first week. Check the water level often. A hydrated tree will last longer, smells better and is more resistant to burning.
3. For safety, do not place your tree near heating ducts or a heat source. **TREES DO BURN**

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Harvesting your own Christmas tree is an enjoyable experience for the whole family. However, please be prepared for the weather and conditions Christmas tree hunting in the winter may bring. At a minimum, each vehicle should be equipped with the following:

- Extra food and water
- Extra clothing
- Tire chains that fit your vehicle's tires
- First Aid kit
- Shovel
- Flashlight

Always let someone know where you are going and when you are returning.

Check the weather forecast prior to leaving.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Each year that "perfect" tree gets a little harder to find, but those willing to hike away from roads may have several trees from which to choose. No guarantee is made to the quality or quantity of available Christmas trees. The woodlands of this area are at elevations of 5,000-7,500 feet. White fir trees occur at higher elevations and are less accessible after the first snow. Road conditions will vary depending upon the weather. Be prepared for rain, snow, and muddy roads. Most of the Ely District is accessible by truck or 4x4 vehicles; only paved roads are recommended for passenger cars. Some popular access areas are described below.

Where to find white fir Christmas trees?

White fir Christmas trees are more difficult to find on the Ely District than pinyon and juniper. Growing at higher elevations, white fir can become nearly impossible to harvest after significant snow falls. Depending on the weather, good places to try include Telegraph Peak and higher elevations in the Snake Range. White fir often grows in and near quaking aspen stands. Scouting around your favorite aspen stand can often yield that perfect Christmas tree, in addition to improving the overall health of the aspen stand.

NORTHERN HALF (Ely District Office):

HORSE AND CATTLE CAMP LOOP

Located in South Steptoe Valley, just southeast of Ely, the Horse and Cattle Camp loop provides access to many acres of pinyon and juniper trees of all sizes and shapes.

MAJORS JUNCTION CHAINING (DALE CHAINING)

The chaining south of Majors Junction and west of Highway 93 has numerous 6 to 10 feet tall pinyon trees growing within the boundaries.

NORTH STEPTOE VALLEY

Between Ely and Cherry Creek, the bench slopes of the North Steptoe Valley have numerous pinyon and juniper trees within walking distance to a road. Please be mindful of private property within this area and only harvest on BLM land.

KERN MOUNTAIN CHAININGS

Several old chainings can be found in the Kern Mountain Range. These chainings were conducted in the 1960's and now have a wide range of saplings that make excellent Christmas Trees.

SACRAMENTO PASS CHAININGS

Several old chainings can be found north and south of Highway 50/6 near Sacramento Pass. These chainings were conducted in the 1990's and now have a wide range of varying size trees.

SMITH VALLEY

Smith Valley has some old chainings from the early 2000's and numerous pinyon and juniper within walking distance from the road. Access via Nevada State Highway 490, which turns into the Bothwick Road.



SOUTHERN HALF (Caliente Field Office):

CRESTLINE ROAD

Take Highway 319 east from Panaca for about nine miles. Turn right at the bottom of the small hill onto the Crestline Road. This road extends across the railroad tracks to the Utah border.

BEAVER DAM STATE PARK ROAD

Take U.S. Highway 93 north about six miles from Caliente and turn right onto the Beaver Dam State Park Road. The State Park is 28 miles from U.S.93. Cutting is not allowed in the park.

FIFE FLAT, BARNES CANYON, ELLY MOUNTAIN, EAST PASS

These areas can be reached by Barnes Canyon Road or by the Elly Mountain Road. Pick up the Barnes Canyon Road at the Nevada Caliente Youth Center, turn and follow the dirt road to the cutting area. Pick up the Elly Mountain Road on South Spring Street in downtown Caliente and follow the signs. Fife Flat and the area south of Barclay can be extremely muddy during rains.

HORSE THIEF CHAINING

From Pioche, go east on Highway 322 for about 10 miles, turn north (left) and go about 4 miles to the area. Several old chainings (removal of mature trees) are popular places to look for a tree.

OAK SPRINGS SUMMIT

Take U.S. Highway 93 south, towards Las Vegas. Crossing the summit just outside of town, make sure to pull safely off the highway before stopping. Approximately 8 miles from town is the turnoff for the Chief Mountain South trailhead, which offers a parking and picnic area. Another 3 miles on the Highway is the turnoff for the Oak Trilobite Site, an easy access parking area.

ATLANTA AREA

Take U.S. Highway 93 north from Pioche for 27 miles to Pony Springs. Turn east and go about 14-20 miles to a good area. The higher elevations of Highland Range are closed to prevent inadvertent cutting of trees other than Pinyon or Juniper