Section 3. Special Stipulations

CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING

(a) Your Permit

- Keep your original permit with you while cutting your tree. We do not accept photocopies or digital copies.
- Show your permit when any BLM staff or law enforcement officer asks to see it.
- Your permit expires at midnight on the end date or when you collect your full number of trees, whichever comes first. Permits cannot be extended or reactivated once expired.
- You cannot give or sell your permit to someone else.
- You cannot get a refund for your permit.
- The map that comes with your permit shows where you can cut trees. Stay within these areas.

(b) Safety Rules

- Check fire restrictions at www.blm.gov/programs/fire/fire-restrictions before starting any warming fires or campfires and follow them.
- Never leave a fire unattended. Make sure your fire is completely out before leaving.
- If you use tools that create heat or sparks, keep fire safety equipment within reach.
- Cut trees only during daylight hours when you can see clearly.

(c) Where You Can Cut

- Cut trees only on BLM lands that are open for Christmas tree cutting as indicated on your permit map. Contact the permitting office for any clarification on boundaries.
- Do not cut trees in:
    - 150 feet of any water body, including streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Look for signs like cattails, moss, or damp ground.
    - Wilderness areas and Wilderness Study Areas (protected natural areas)
    - Wild and Scenic River areas (specially protected waterways)
    - Developed campgrounds and picnic areas
    - Areas with active logging (look for equipment, fresh cutting, or warning signs)
    - Any area marked as closed to cutting on maps or signs.

(d) How to Cut Your Tree

- Pick a tree that's 12 feet tall or shorter.
- Cut the whole tree - don't just take the top part.
- Do not cut these trees:
    - Ponderosa pine (identified by: orange-brown bark with puzzle-piece pattern)
    - Five-needle pines (Whitebark or Limber Pine - look for needles in bundles of 5)
    - Trees with ribbons, paint, or markers
    - Trees with bird nests or animal dens
    - Very large, old trees (with thick trunks or gnarled bark)
    - Trees with special carvings or decorations
- Clear away any snow around the base.
- Cut the stump 6 inches or less from the ground.
- Cut up any branches left on the stump and scatter them in the area.

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(406) 683-8000

(e) Moving Your Tree

- Park where you won't block other vehicles or emergency access.
- Drive only on open roads and established trails.
- Don't drive on wet or muddy ground - you might make ruts.
- Leave gates exactly as you find them - if open, leave open; if closed, leave closed.
- Attach your load ticket to your tree before you transport it.

(f) Protecting the Land

- Protect historical items:
  - Leave old cabins, mining equipment, or Native American artifacts untouched
  - Take photos instead of souvenirs
- If you accidentally damage anything historical, tell BLM within 24 hours.
- Avoid damaging other plants while cutting your tree
- Take all your trash with you when you leave.

(g) Following the Rules

- You can only take the type and number of trees listed on your permit.
- If you need more trees, buy another permit at your local BLM office or at https://forestproducts.blm.gov/
- Follow all posted BLM signs and rules.

(h) Your Responsibility

- You are responsible for any accidents or damage that happen while cutting your tree.
- The U.S. government is not responsible for accidents, injuries, property damage, or loss of life.

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