CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING STIPULATIONS

These Special Stipulations are part of the permit and must be in Purchaser's possession when gathering and transporting forest products on public lands or roads. To ensure sustainable harvesting practices and minimize negative impacts on the environment, wildlife, and other resources on public lands, permit holders must follow all stipulations. **Failure to abide by the terms of the permit and attachments may cause permit cancellation and result in a fine and/or the refusal of the issuance of future permits for up to three years in accordance with the Government-wide Debarment and Suspension Regulations found in 43 CFR 12.100 to 12.510. Failure to abide by the terms of this contract may also result in trespass damages.**

Special Provisions:

1. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to:
    a. Check Christmas tree availability prior to purchasing permit. The BLM does not guarantee that suitable Christmas trees will be available. Please call the office if you have any questions about specific species availability.
    b. Verify that they are following all stipulations and prohibitions listed here, as required by the permit. Please call the office with any questions.
    c. Adhere to all instructional and regulatory signs posted on BLM lands.
2. Permits are non-refundable and non-transferable and are only valid on public lands administered by Bureau of Land Management Arcata Field Office within 50 feet of public roads in the areas specified on the map provided.
3. The Purchaser of the permit must be present during the collection and transport of the product and must have the permit, including these stipulations, in possession.
4. Securely attach the Christmas tree tag to the tree prior to transportation. The tag must remain on the tree during transport.
5. Purchaser agrees to hold the government harmless from any claim for damage or loss of property, personal injury, or death.

Allowable Cutting:

1. Cutting is allowed within 50 feet of the center line of all publicly accessible roads within the parcels shown on the included map.
2. Christmas tree cutting is allowed from Thanksgiving to December 24th of each year.
3. Permits are for conifers under 12 feet tall. No hardwood trees or conifers taller than 12 feet may be cut.
4. Harvesting is only allowed during daylight hours.

Equipment and Harvest Techniques:

1. Trees must be cut below the lowest living branch and as close to the ground as possible.
2. Stumps must be flush cut with the ground or cut less than 6 inches from ground level on the uphill side.
3. Motorized vehicles must remain on designated roads.
4. Ensure all power saws are equipped with an exhaust system and are in good condition. Each saw must have a spark arrester consisting of a wire mesh screen with a maximum mesh opening of .023 inches.

5. Slash (branches, stems, etc.) and unused vegetative material resulting from cutting must be removed from roads, fences, and other improvements and scattered on the ground at no more than 12 inches high.
6. Cutting debris must be removed from roadside ditches or other road drainage features that have the potential to impound flows or divert water onto the road surface.
7. **Prohibited** methods of harvest include:
    a. Using heavy equipment to cut and/or remove Christmas trees.
    b. End lining or pulling of material with cables or ropes unless using full suspension of material to avoid dragging and causing soil disturbance.
    c. Topping of large trees.

Restrictions:

1. Christmas tree cutting is not allowed:
    a. Along designated trails.
    b. In areas that are not shown on the map.
    c. During restricted times as listed in these stipulations.
    d. Past any locked gates.
    e. Within 30 feet of private property boundaries.
    f. Within 50 feet of the centerline of any flowing watercourse.
    g. Along a paved road or highway.
    h. Within campgrounds or day use areas.
    i. In wilderness areas. It is allowed along publicly accessible roads into the wilderness as shown on the included map (Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness).
    j. In active forestry or fuels projects.
    k. Along roads that show evidence of having been closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades or posted closures.
2. Any activities associated with Christmas tree collection must not:
    a. Cut, injure, or remove any live conifers greater than 12 feet tall, hardwoods of any size, standing dead trees, downed wood, or any trees outside of the designated collection area.
    b. Damage or remove burls.
    c. Damage, disturb, or remove any tree with evidence of wildlife use.
    d. Disturb sensitive natural and cultural resources (prehistoric sites, historic sites, artifacts, features, culturally modified trees, or archaeological and historic resources), which are protected by federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act, among others.
    e. Block traffic, including residential or recreational traffic, or impede fire and emergency vehicles.
    f. Create ruts or cause any other damage to the road, especially during periods of wet weather.

3. Littering or dumping trash or waste, including human waste, is prohibited.
4. Purchaser may not trespass on lands where no legal access is granted.

Sudden Oak Death:

Sudden oak death is a pathogen that is spreading throughout the counties in the BLM Arcata Field Office. The pathogen often kills trees, including bays, tanoaks, and black oaks, but can infect conifers and shrubs as well. It is transported primarily during the wet season via mud and plant materials. There are several precautions to take to help slow the spread of Sudden Oak Death to uninfected areas:

1. All chainsaws and equipment, including boots and vehicles, should be cleaned and free of mud and plant material prior to entering BLM lands and again after leaving BLM lands.
2. Avoid collection during wet periods whenever possible. If collecting during the wet season, minimize driving and parking in muddy areas.
3. Please call the office with any questions or visit suddenoakdeath.org for more information.

<u>Remember to always carry your permit and contact the BLM Arcata Field Office at (707) 825-2300 if you have questions or concerns.</u>

Open August 1st to January 31st	Open September 16th to March 23rd	Open all year
Butte Creek	King Range	Chemise Knob
Cahto Peak	Lost Coast Redwoods – Ólak Ólohtem	Lacks Creek
Elkhorn Ridge Wilderness		Lost Coast Headlands
Gilham Butte		
Lake Mountain		
Larabee Butte		
Little Dann		
Little Darby		
Mail Ridge		
Mina		
North Red Mountain		
Pilot Ridge		
South Eel River Parcels		
Tom Long Creek		