Permit Requirements:

Step 1: Buy a permit and tag

The Christmas tree permit allows you to cut one tree on BLM land managed by the Tres Rios Field Office. You can purchase up to five permits to cut trees for personal use. This permit is **not valid** for US Forest Service land, state, tribal , or private land and expires on December 25th of the year purchased. Take both your Christmas tree tag and permit with you when you go cut your tree.

Step 2 : Choose your tree

Common trees on BLM land include pinyon pine, juniper and ponderosa pine.

Suitable Christmas Trees on BLM :

Pinyon Pine: This tree is found at lower elevations alongside juniper species. It has pairs of needles attaching to the stem and cones from 1-2 inches long.

Juniper : This tree is also found at lower elevations it has soft needles instead of leaves.

Unsuitable Christmas Trees on BLM:

DO NOT Cut Ponderosa pine.

Ponderosa pine is prohibited for cutting to promote forest regeneration and stand health.

Step 3: Select the Right Size

Remember to bring a tape measure and measure your tree before cutting it. Choose a tree close to the size you want ; do not "top" a tree either by cutting the top off a standing tree larger than 20 feet, or felling a larger tree and cutting the top off.

Step 4: Cut it Correctly

Take a shovel with you so you can dig down through snow to ground level. Cut the trunk off as close to the ground as possible.

Correct

Do not leave a stump higher than six inches above ground level, and do not leave branches on the stump.

Step 5: Tag your Tree

Attach the Christmas Tree tag to the trunk or branches before moving the tree. Removing an untagged tree from federal lands can result in a fine. Make sure the tag is clearly visible when you load the tree on or into your vehicle.

Safety Tips

- Be prepared there may be snowy conditions.
- Plan for winter conditions. Wear warm gloves, hat , and snow boots.
- Carry a BLM map of the area you plan to visit. It is your responsibility to ensure you are on BLM land.
- Start early, because winter days are short.
- Check road conditions before heading out .
- Carry emergency supplies in your vehicle.
- Be prepared with four wheel drive, snow tires, and/ or chains. BLM roads are not plowed for snow removal.
- Keep vehicles on open roads do not drive on closed roads.

Do Not Cut Trees:

- Within 100 feet of developed campgrounds. Bradfield CG, Boxelder CG or Dolores Overlook.
- In Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, National Monuments, or areas of Critical Environmental Concern;
- In active timber sales.

Specific Areas Off Limits:

- All areas identified as closed to fuelwood cutting and gathering.

Durango

- Animas City Mountain, Grandview Ridge, Skyline, Perins Peak, Mahan.

Cortez/ Dove Creek:

- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.
- Chutes& Ladders, Phil's World , Mud Springs, Spring Creek Herd Mgmt. Area , Willow Creek, Mesa Verde Escarpment.

Cutting Your Christmas Tree on Tres Rios Field Office BLM

For More Information

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