



# Happy Holidays

## Christmas Tree Cutting Information



Due to the East Troublesome and Williams Fork wildfire closure areas, the Sulphur Ranger District will have reduced tree cutting areas in Grand County this year. The Christmas tree cutting areas in the Elk Creek area near Winter Park and Fraser will be opened; however, to encourage social distancing and limit crowds the Sulphur Ranger District will not be hosting organized events as there have been in the past. Christmas tree cutters are encouraged to follow social distancing protocols and, to reduce crowd sizes, and disperse the hunt for that perfect tree across open areas on the Sulphur Ranger District.

Weekday cutting is encouraged to avoid the larger weekend crowds. Christmas tree permits go on sale beginning November 23rd, 2020 – January 6th, 2021. Permits are \$20/each with a maximum of 5 permits per person.

### CUTTING GUIDELINES THROUGHOUT THE SULPHUR RANGER DISTRICT

Tree trunk size is six inches or less in diameter at the base (strictly enforced).

Cut tree six inches or less from ground.

No topping of trees

No cutting trees within 75 feet of any road, trail, and all bodies of water

Handsaws are best; chainsaws are not permitted.

Pack out your own trash.

No trespassing on private property.

Permits must be visible on the tree for easy checkout.

Dogs must be on a leash



### **Prohibited**

Chainsaws or other power saws, all-terrain vehicles, other off-road vehicles and cutting trees marked with blue paint. Snowmobiles are allowed in much of the Sulphur Ranger District when the snow level is 6 inches or greater. Most Forest Service roads are gated to wheeled vehicles after November 15<sup>th</sup> every year, snow depth permitting.

### **AREAS OPEN TO CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING - [Map Attached](#)**

- Vasquez Road, CR 7 (first ¾ mile is open for public access)
- Little Vasquez Road, Arapahoe Road (limited parking)
- Elk Creek Meadows, CR 72 (gates closed, can walk, snowshoe or ski in)
- Meadow Creek, CR 84 (just over 3.5 miles to the snowmobile parking area)
- Cottonwood Pass, CR 55 (access from Hot Sulphur Springs, 4 miles to parking area at the Big Meadows (FSR 253) intersection)

### **AREAS CLOSED TO CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING**

- The Fraser Experimental Forest, accessed by CR 73 (NFSR 160)
- Indian Peaks, Never Summer, Vasquez Peak and Byers Peak Wilderness Areas
- Within ¼ mile of any highway, the Winter Park/Mary Jane Ski Areas & above to Berthoud Pass
- James Peak Protection Area
- Developed recreation areas, such as a campground or picnic area
- No cutting allowed in the Williams Fork or East Troublesome Fire closure areas

### **Recommended**

Wear appropriate winter clothing: water proof pants and jackets (ski or snowmobile type clothing), warm fleece or wool layers, snow boots, mittens or gloves, hats, and sunglasses. Have a full tank of gas. Four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive is recommended. Bring food, extra water, a shovel, sleds, tarps and twine for loading and tying down your tree, a blanket, first aid kit and a warm drink. We recommend bringing a spare set of keys and a mask and use if you are within six feet of another group. We recommend that pets are left at home since walking through deep snow is exhausting for them.



## Safety Note

The forest will likely have two or more feet of snow. Temperatures drop quickly after dark, often down to zero degrees or colder. Weather can change quickly during the daytime. Please plan accordingly for cutting your tree. Do not wander too far from your vehicle; always know the direction back to your vehicle. Return to your vehicle by 3:00 pm to allow time to load your tree. Watch the weather and keep your group together at all times.

## CAUTION:

Due to the recent mountain pine beetle epidemic, before you head into the forest to cut your Christmas tree, look up – look down – look around! Avoid standing dead trees. Stay out of recently burned areas. Be aware that trees can fall at any time and use extra caution on windy days. For the most current information on road or trail conditions and closures, please check in with either the Sulphur Ranger District at (970) 887-4100 or our website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/arp> when planning your trip.

Permits are available at the following locations: [\*\*PURCHASE A TREE ONLINE\*\*](#)

<b>Country Ace Hardware</b> 627 W. Agate, Granby, CO 80446 Monday-Saturday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Sunday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Fireside Market and Eatery</b> 78337 US Highway 40, Winter Park, CO 80482 Sunday – Saturday: 7:00 am – 9:00 pm
<b>Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply</b> 541 Zerex St., Fraser, CO 80442 Monday – Saturday 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Sunday: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm	<b>Winter Park &amp; Fraser Chamber</b> 78841 U.S. Highway 40, Winter Park, CO 80482 Sunday – Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Online at: <a href="https://recreation.gov/tree-permits/arp">https://recreation.gov/tree-permits/arp</a> <b>You are required to print the permit and have with you when you cut your tree</b>	

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## Snow Mountain Ranch, YMCA of the Rockies

Over the river and through the woods, to [Snow Mountain Ranch](#) we go! Make holiday memories with us in our annual Christmas Tree Cutting Experience. Come cut down your Christmas tree with us starting on December 5, 2020 through December 17, 2020. Once you've gotten your tree, get the Christmas creativity flowing with special holiday-themed crafts! All tree-cutting tickets include two special crafts that will be offered in the craft shop or as a take-n-make craft.

Start planning your holiday getaway now! [Stay with us](#) in a cozy cabin or lodge room and cut your tree for free! Or, make it a day trip. Day visitors can purchase a \$25 tree-cutting ticket. When you make your reservation, be sure to mention that you are coming for the Christmas Tree Cutting Experience.

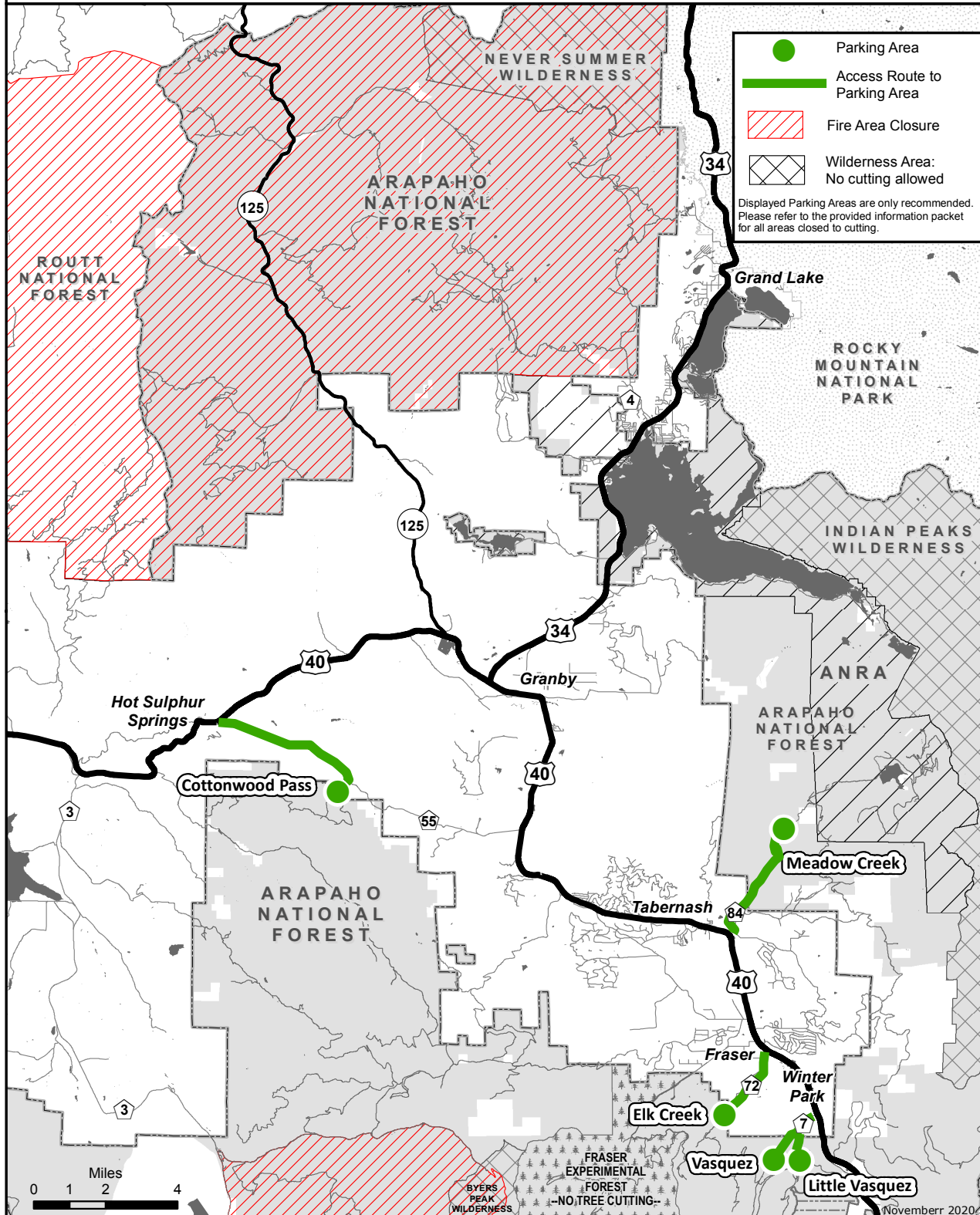
## CUTTING INFORMATION

- Trees that are off-limits will be marked. Please do not cut down marked trees. If you have questions about a tree, please ask the Snow Mountain Ranch staff.
- Snow Mountain Ranch will provide handsaws and ropes.
- Guests must tie their own trees down.
- Guests are welcome to bring their own tools however, chainsaws and any electric equipment ARE NOT PERMITTED.
- The cutting area will be in the forest between the library and the dog park. Guests are welcome to park in the Library parking lot.

## TREE CUTTING TICKET

- Guests will receive a tree cutting ticket upon lodging check in or upon the purchase of a \$25 tree cutting ticket. The purchase of a ticket also covers one [activity day pass](#).
- Guests must check in with Snow Mountain Ranch Staff at the Program Building.

# Christmas Tree Cutting Forest Access Routes



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