



FREE USE

CHRISTMAS TREE PERMIT

Authority to cut Christmas Tree(s) for personal use in the Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District.

Date of Issue: October 24, 2016

This Free Use Permit authorizes _____
to cut 3 Christmas Tree(s) under section 48(1)(a.1) of the *Forest Act* (less than 5 metres in Height) and to transport this tree(s) to: _____

Permittee's Full Address

This Free Use Permit is valid from October 24, 2016 to December 24, 2016, subject to the following conditions:

1. Tree(s) may be cut from the designated area(s) as described in "**Information on Cutting Free Christmas Trees for Personal Use**", which may be attached or may be found at: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dos/Dist_docs/CTP_preamble.htm . Please read this document carefully as it forms an integral part of this Free Use Christmas Tree Permit.
2. Tree(s) cut outside of these area(s) may be considered as unauthorized harvest and will be dealt with accordingly.
3. Tree(s) cut under this permit must not be offered for sale.
4. No waste portions of the tree(s) will be left on the area from which it was cut.
5. The Permittee agrees to indemnify the Crown against and save it harmless from all claims, demands, suits, actions, causes of action, costs, expenses and losses faced, incurred or suffered by the Crown as a result, directly or indirectly, or any act or omission of
 - (a) the permittee, or
 - (b) any other person who on the behalf of or with the consent of the Permittee engages in any activity under or associated with this Permit.
6. The Permittee must carry this permit while harvesting and transporting the Christmas tree(s) and must produce the Permit at the request of a Natural Resource Officer, a Natural Resource Official, a Conservation Officer or a Peace Officer. Failure to have this permit in your possession, the possession of more trees than is authorized under the permit or harvesting in areas other than those outlined in the attached "**Information On Cutting Free Christmas Trees For Personal Use**" may result in the tree(s) being seized and enforcement actions being taken.



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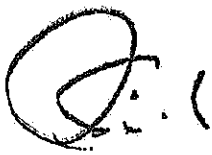
7. If you are planning to cut trees from B.C. Hydro easements please read and honour the following guidelines provided by B.C. Hydro for your safety and environmental protection:
- a) Do not cut or remove any trees that may be within 7 metres (20 feet) of an electrical conductor. All trees must be less than 4 metres (12 feet).
 - b) Take special care when travelling or cutting in the vicinity of electrical works such as towers, poles, transformers and guy wires. You are responsible for all damages.
 - c) Cut all trees off flat with the stump no higher than 4 inches (10 centimetres). Clean up and remove all debris and slash associated with your activity.
 - d) Leave all access roads in good condition.
 - e) You are fully responsible for yourself and anyone who is with you to cut and remove trees.

WARNING: Logging trucks are frequently on most roads Monday to Saturday and occasionally Sunday. Please exercise extreme caution when travelling on these roads.

Thank you for your co-operation.

I agree to abide by the terms of this permit

Signed: _____
Permittee

Signed:  _____
District Manager
Okanagan Shuswap
Natural Resource District

CHRISTMAS TREE INFORMATION ON CUTTING FREE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR PERSONAL USE

Please read this information carefully before you plan to cut a Christmas tree.

1. Who may apply for a Christmas tree?

Any person, who is 19 years or older and resides in British Columbia, is allowed to cut a Christmas tree free of charge from Crown lands after getting permission from a Forest Officer. This requirement does not pertain to persons having suitable Christmas trees on their private land(s).

2. Where can I apply?

Apply at any local forest district office, field office, or download the permit from the district web site in your area. http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/DOS/dist_docs/CTP_preamble.htm. Carry your letter of authorization with you as you may be asked to produce it.

3. Where do I cut a tree?

In most areas you can only cut a tree from areas designated for this purpose. These areas may be: the Crown land portion of the following:

- a) Hydro right-of-way (Crown land portion only) except areas where Christmas trees are being grown commercially.
- b) Logging roads (within three metres-ten feet- of the edge of the road).
- c) Open range lands.

Cut your tree from dry, rocky sites or slopes within the permitted areas. They produce better Christmas trees.

4. Are there areas where I must not cut Christmas trees?

Yes, you cannot cut a Christmas tree from:

- a) Private lands
- b) Plantations – Cut Blocks
- c) Research areas
- d) Parks
- e) Watersheds
- f) Juvenile-spaced areas
- g) Any other areas alienated or reserved for a special use.

5. How many trees can I cut?

You are allowed to cut the number of trees specified on the permit, at the time you pick it up, up to a maximum of **3 trees per family**. Cutting Christmas trees free of charge is strictly for personal use. You are not allowed to sell them. Failure to comply is an unauthorized harvest on Crown land under *Section 52 of FRPA*. Unauthorized cutting may be further subject to prosecution under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

6. What species of tree can I cut?

This depends on your location. Usually Douglas fir on dry sites produce the best trees. However, lodgepole pine, spruce, balsam and other minor species may be designated for cutting where Douglas fir is not available.

7. What should I do before cutting a tree?

- a) Make sure you have chosen the best tree and the size you want.
- b) Try to leave the bottom one or two branches on the stump of the tree, which may grow into another Christmas tree for future use.
- c) Do not cut a big tree only to use the top portion. This may be a waste of a future tree and the portion left on the area will create a fire hazard.

8. What should I do after cutting a tree?

Leave the area as clean as possible.

Do not leave lower boles and branches of the cut tree alongside roads or in the ditches. Lop them close to the ground and scatter. Do not transport your tree outside the province.

An orderly cutting of Christmas trees, without unnecessary waste, will help you to enjoy the holiday season and will ensure growing crops of timber for future generations.

Thank you for your co-operation.