



**FREE USE PERMIT TO CUT A CHRISTMAS
TREE FOR PERSONAL USE IN THE
OKANAGAN SHUSWAP NATURAL
RESOURCE DISTRICT**

This Free Use Permit authorizes _____ (*full legal name*)
under Section 48 (1) (a.1) of the *Forest Act* to cut 1 Christmas tree (**less than 5 meters in height**) and
transport it to: _____
(*full home address, city*)

This authorization is only for the **Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District Office** within the
Thompson- Okanagan Natural Resource Region.

This Free Use Permit is valid from **NOVEMBER 1, 2024** until **DECEMBER 25, 2024**, subject to
the following conditions:

1. Subject to paragraph 2 below, the Christmas tree may only be cut from areas of Crown land:
 - (a) on power line rights-of-way or forest road rights-of-way.
Note: Power line rights-of-way are defined by the cleared area immediately under the power line itself.
Road rights-of-way are defined as 3 metres (10 feet) beyond the edge of the ditch or excavated
portion of the road bank or fill slope.
2. **NO CUTTING** of Christmas trees is permitted in the following areas:
 - (a) Forest plantations in harvested areas, or
 - (b) Juvenile spaced (thinned) stands.
3. This Free Use Permit authorizes the Permittee to **cut 1** and **only 1** Christmas tree for their own
personal use. Make sure it is the tree you want before you cut it.
4. A Christmas tree cut under this Free Use Permit must not be offered for sale.
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 behalf of or with the consent of the Permittee engages in any activity
under or associated with this Free Use Permit.
6. The **Permittee must carry** this Free Use Permit while harvesting and transporting the Christmas tree
and must produce the Permit at the request of a Forest Officer, a Forest Official, a Conservation
Officer or a Peace Officer. Failure to have this Free Use Permit in your possession, the possession of
more than 1 tree per permit, or harvesting in areas other than those outlined in Paragraph 1 of this Free
Use Permit may result in the tree(s) being seized and enforcement actions being taken.

SIGNED:

PERMITTEE

I agree to abide by the terms of this Free Use Permit.

RAY CRAMPTON
District Manager

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, can 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. 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(powerline) (Crown land portion only) except areas where Christmas trees are being grown commercially.
- b) Logging roads (within three metres(10 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 without Landowners permission
- b) Plantations – Cut Blocks
- c) Research areas
- d) Parks
- e) Watersheds (creeks and streams)
- f) Juvenile-spaced areas
- g) Any other areas alienated or reserved for a special use

5. How many trees can I cut?

You can 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 and 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.