

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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It's not too early to cut your free Alaska-grown Christmas tree

(Anchorage, AK) – Worried about the expected national shortage of both real and artificial Christmas trees this holiday season due to supply chain issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Well, the Division of Forestry has good news. The Last Frontier is full of healthy, Alaska-grown Christmas trees available free to anyone who is willing to tromp into the woods to cut one down.

“Alaska’s natural resources not only sustain our economy and our communities, they can play an important role in our cultural and spiritual lives,” said Governor Mike Dunleavy. “This opportunity for Alaska families to cut down their own Christmas tree, for free, is another way we are supporting using our resources to benefit Alaskans.”

A Christmas tree is the focal point for many homes during the holidays, and news stories are circulating across the U.S. about the potential lack of trees on the retail market this season. But that’s not a problem in Alaska, where the Division of Forestry allows families to cut one spruce tree – either black or white – located on state land and no more than 15 feet high.

Households are limited to one tree, and no permit or fee is required. Maps and information on Christmas tree harvesting in Southcentral and Interior Alaska – as well as information about how to care for your fresh-cut tree – are available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/christmastree.htm>.

“Cutting an Alaska-grown Christmas tree is an annual tradition for many Alaskans, and we encourage people to continue that tradition and take advantage of this renewable resource,” said Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Corri Feige. “It’s a great opportunity to spend time together as a family, get some fresh air and save a few dollars.”

Cutting your own Christmas tree is a perfect COVID-19 activity, too. It's outside, it's easy to socially distance, and that facemask you wear against the cold will also help protect against the coronavirus.

Here are some guidelines for safe, legal cutting of Christmas trees on state public lands:

- Properly identify who owns the land where you intend to cut your tree. If you have any questions on land ownership, call the nearest Division of Forestry office.
- Cutting trees in state parks, experimental forests and commercial timber sales is prohibited.
- Maximum tree height is 15 feet.
- Christmas trees cut on state land are for personal use only and may not be sold.
- The division does not maintain forest roads and anyone traveling on them should be properly equipped to do so. Have warm clothing and appropriate equipment in case you get stuck, including tire chains, shovel and tow strap.
- Cut trees as low and close to the ground as possible.
- Do not litter, and be courteous to other tree cutters and residents.

For a directory of area forestry offices around the state, including addresses and phone numbers, go to <http://forestry.alaska.gov>. Answers to additional questions are available at the Department of Natural Resource's Public Information Centers in Anchorage (907-269-8400) or Fairbanks (907-451-2705).

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