



FREE USE PERMIT TO CUT A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR PERSONAL USE IN THE SUNSHINE COAST DISTRICT



This Free Use Permit authorizes _____, under Section 48(1)(a.1) of the Forest Act to cut a Christmas tree (less than 5 metres in height) for their own personal use and transport it to _____

make sure it is the tree you want before you cut it. (Address)

This Free Use Permit is valid until December 31, 2011 subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Subject to Paragraph 2 below, the Christmas tree may only be cut from areas of Crown land (a) identified on the map provided by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, or (b) on BC Hydro power line right-of-ways (Crown land portions only), except areas where Christmas trees are being grown commercially, or (c) forest road right-of-ways and highway right-of-ways (outside the municipalities).

NOTE: Power line right-of-ways are defined by the cleared area immediately under the power line itself. Road right-of-way is defined as three 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: Forest plantations, harvested areas, private lands, research areas, parks, watersheds, juvenile spaced areas and any other area alienated or reserved for a special use
3. The Christmas tree cut under this Free Use Permit must not be offered for sale.
4. 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.
5. 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, or harvesting in areas other than those outlined in Paragraph 1 of this permit may result in the tree being seized and enforcement action being taken.

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

PERMITTEE TO SIGN

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER SUNSHINE COAST DISTRICT

INFORMATION ON CUTTING FREE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY

Please read the following instructions carefully before cutting your Christmas tree.

1. How many trees may be cut?

Permittee is allowed to cut one tree per family. The cutting of Christmas trees free of charge is strictly for personal use and you are not allowed to sell them. Failure to comply will be considered as trespass in accordance with Section 96(1) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*. Trespass cutting may be subject to prosecution under the Criminal code of Canada.

2. What species of trees?

Usually Douglas-fir on dry sites produces the best Christmas tree; however, lodgepole pine, spruce, balsam and other evergreen trees may be cut.

3. Before cutting your tree:

- Ensure you have chosen the best tree and the size you have in mind;
- Try to leave the bottom one or two branches on the stump of the tree, for future cutting; and
- **DO NOT** cut a big tree only to utilize the top portion. This may result in a fine.

4. After cutting your tree:

- Leave the area as clean as possible;
- Do not leave lower boles and branches of cut tree alongside roads or in the ditches. Lop them close to the ground and scatter, and
- Do not transport your tree outside of the Province.

Anyone transporting Christmas trees can be required to confirm the origin of the tree(s). Loads of more than five trees should be accompanied by documentation consistent with the Timber Marking and Transportation Regulations.

Careful cutting of Christmas tree(s) without unnecessary waste will ensure continuous crops of Christmas trees for future generations. Thank you for your co-operation.