

Purchasing of Christmas tree permits continues

CORVALLIS — Venturing into a national forest in search of the perfect Christmas tree is a long-standing family tradition for many.

The Siuslaw National Forest has begun issuing Christmas tree cutting permits at its offices in Corvallis, Hebo, Reedsport and Waldport.

Permits cost \$5 a piece or are free with a fourth-grader's Every Kid In A Park pass. EKIP passes are free to any student attending the fourth grade this school year. In addition to a free Christmas tree permit, the EKIP pass provides students and their families free admittance into national parks and day-use fee areas with other federal land agencies, such as

the U.S. Forest Service.

Before purchasing a Christmas tree permit on the Siuslaw National Forest, staff members advise buyers to have a specific tree or cutting location in mind.

"Searching for a suitable tree within the temperate rainforests of the Oregon Coast can be an exercise in frustration," said Courtney Schreiber, a resource specialist with the forest. "Trees on the Siuslaw grow very quickly, so it can be difficult to find one that fits inside a typical home."

Furthermore, Schreiber said that the dominant conifer species on the forest are Douglas-firs and Sitka spruces, as opposed to the generally pre-

ferred Noble firs or other high-elevation fir species.

Individuals wanting a fir species or smaller tree might consider purchasing a permit from a national forest with lands at higher elevations, such as the Willamette National Forests in the Oregon Cascades.

Permits must be purchased from the forest where the tree will be cut.

To purchase a Christmas tree permit for the Siuslaw National Forest, visit one of the following locations:

- Reedsport, 855 Hwy 101 (541-271-6000)
- Waldport, 1130 Forestry Lane (541-563-8400)

Christmas tree safety

Finding a tree may turn into an all-day outing, so be prepared. Winter weather also can make traveling along forest roads hazardous.

- Bring extra food, water, blankets, flashlight, a First Aid kit and survival gear

- Let family or friends know where you are headed and when to expect your return

- Carry tire chains and bring a shovel

Before cutting your tree, remember these rules:

- Ensure you're on national forest land. A map is provided with your permit.

- Take the entire tree – not just the top portion of a larger tree.

- Attach your permit to the tree immediately after cutting it.

- Do not discard your tree if later finding one you consider more desirable.

Saw or chop your selected tree within six inches of the ground.

Leave no limbs attached to the stump.

To keep the tree from drying out, leave it outside until you're ready to put it in a stand.

At that point, cut the trunk at an angle and keep it in plenty of water.

To learn more about the Every Kid In A Park pass program, visit www.everykidina.gov.



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Fishing from 1B

Fall Chinook fishing is producing fair results with a lot of fish moving to the upper tide water reaches and above. Trolling herring, spinners or bobber fishing can all be productive.

The wild coho fishery is closed for the season.

ALSEA RIVER: *Chinook, cutthroat trout*

The fall Chinook fishery is producing fair to good results for both bank and boat anglers. Recent rains have helped to move a lot of chinook into the good river bank access sections. Casting lures or bobber fishing is producing depending on the section and conditions.

The wild coho fishery is closed for the season.

SALMON RIVER: *Chinook, cutthroat trout*

The fall Chinook fishery is producing fair to good for both boat and bank anglers. Recent rains have moved a lot of fish out of tide water. Casting lures or bobber fishing tends to be the most productive this time of year.

SILETZ RIVER: *Chinook, coho, steelhead, cutthroat trout*

The fall Chinook fishery is producing fair to good results with recent rains moving a lot of fish out of tide water.

The wild coho fishery con-

tinues through Nov. 30 with a daily bag limit of 1 adult coho and seasonal limit of 2 adult coho (in aggregate with other areas with the same bag limit).

Summer steelhead fishing is fair to good in the upper river above Moonshine Park.

WILSON RIVER: *Steelhead, Chinook*

Fall Chinook fishing should be fair to good. Fish will be spread out from tidewater upstream. Anglers are reminded that the river above Jordan Creek is closed to all salmon fishing. Summer steelhead fishing should improve with better flows.

YAQUINA RIVER: *Chinook, coho, cutthroat trout*

Anglers are having fair to good results for fall Chinook Trolling herring or spinners during the incoming tide through the high slack typically. Recent rains have moved a good portion of fish to the upper tide water reaches and above.

The wild coho fishery is open through Nov. 30 with a daily bag limit of 1 adult coho and seasonal limit of 2 adult coho (in aggregate with other areas with the same bag limit).

COOS COUNTY LAKES AND PONDS: *Trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch*

Fall trophy trout were stocked in October in Bradley Lake. Anglers fishing from small boats or pontoons have

been catching several trout. About 50 large rainbow trout from Bandon Hatchery were stocked into Butterfield Lake.

These trout are leftovers that did not get used in family fishing events this past summer.

Fishing for largemouth bass has been good in many of the Coos County lakes. As the water cools down fishing for bass will be good throughout the day. Bass will be concentrated near drop-offs and structure like submerged logs.

Yellow perch fishing will start to pick up this month in lakes like Saunders Lake. Fishing a worm on the bottom in deep water should provide lots of bites for yellow perch.

COOS RIVER BASIN: *Dungeness crab, salmon, bay clams*

Streams in the Coos Basin are now closed for trout until May 22, 2016. A few dedicated salmon anglers have been trolling in the Coos River this past week. They have picked up a few chinook and coho salmon trolling cut plug herring behind a flasher.

The wild coho season in Coos Bay is open until Nov. 30. Anglers are allowed to keep one wild coho per day and two for the season. Coho fishing remains good in the lower Coos Bay.

A few steelhead should be moving into the rivers later this month.

The week of Thanksgiving is usually a good time to start steelhead fishing.

Crabbing continues to be very good in the lower bay. Crabbing has been good all the way up to the BLM Boat Ramp but the best crabbing will be near the jetties and close to slack tides. A few legal crabs have been caught off the Charleston docks.

Clamming is excellent during low tides near Charleston, off Cape Arago Highway, and Clam Island.

TENMILE BASIN: *Trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch, coho*

Streams in the Tenmile Basin are now closed for trout fishing until May 22, 2016.

Tenmile Lakes is open all year for trout but trout fishing has been slow.

Bass anglers have been catching several largemouth bass in Tenmile Lakes. Bass can be found this time of the year in shallow water near structure like logs or weed lines.

Yellow perch fishing has been very good for anglers in boats and from the fishing dock at the County Boat Ramp. A worm or piece of cut bait fished near the bottom works well for catching yellow perch.

Wild coho season is open in Tenmile Lakes until Dec. 31. The bag limit is 1 wild coho per day and 5 wild coho for the season in aggregate with all other wild coho fisheries in the NW and SW zones. A few coho entered the lake after last week's rain.

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: The South Umpqua is currently closed to all fishing until Dec. 1.

WINCHESTER BAY: *Bottomfish, perch, crab*

Fishing for bottomfish in the Triangle and South jetty has been successful. Crabbing has been productive, but Chinook and coho fishing has slowed in the ocean off of Winchester Bay and in the lower Umpqua River.

PACIFIC OCEAN and BEACHES: *Bottomfish, Dungeness crab,*

The ocean is now closed to

harvest of Dungeness crab through Nov. 30. With the exception of the Elk River Fall Chinook bubble fishery, open through Nov. 30, ocean salmon fishing is closed.

Pacific halibut fishing is closed.

Fishing for bottom fish is now open to fishing at all depths. Fishing for black rockfish continues to be very good from Charleston to Bandon. The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish and a separate daily limit for lingcod (two).

Anglers can only keep 3 blue rockfish and 1 canary rockfish as part of their daily limit and there will be no harvest of China, quillback, or copper rockfish. Retention of cabezon is now allowed at 1 fish per day and at least 16-inches long.

Bottom Fishing The ocean is open to bottom fishing at all depths.

Rough conditions last week continued to limit angling effort. Otherwise, winter is typically a good time to catch lingcod and rockfish.

Shellfish: Razor clamming along the entire Oregon coast, including bays, has been closed since spring due to elevated levels of domoic acid. The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture will test for shellfish toxins weekly as tides allow.

Crab: An Oregon Dept. of Agriculture health advisory is in effect for recreational crab harvested between Cape Arago (south of Charleston) and the Calif. border from the ocean, bays and estuaries. Due to high levels of domoic acid in their guts, or butter, crab should be eviscerated before being consumed.

Crab caught north of Cape Arago are not affected by this advisory. However, ODA recommends always taking a pass on consumption of crab guts.

Mussels: Recreational and commercial harvest is closed from the mouth of the Yachats River to the California border due to elevated levels of domoic acid; the closure applies to mussels on all beaches, rocks, jetties and bay entrances.

Bay clams: Recreational harvest is open (except for razor clams) inside estuaries along the entire Oregon Coast.

Scallops: Are not affected by closures.

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STEP from 1B

and giving back to its members' communities.

The December STEP meeting of the club will feature Lt. Laura Gallant with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration out of Newport.

Prior to her talk, the club will hold elections for the 2016 board of directors and hear an update about the hatchery improvements and the upcoming winter steelhead program.

For more information about the club, contact president Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.