

Agencies offer advice to Christmas tree cutters

By Lynn Medoff
Emerald Contributor

Grab your saw, bundle up, hop in your car, pop in a Bing Crosby Christmas tape and head for the trees ... the Christmas trees, that is.

Believe it or not, contrary to what the Christmas tree tags in the local supermarket parking lot say, it is possible to get a fresh, green fir tree for a mere \$3.

According to Judy Corbett, of Willamette National Forest, and Don Smurthwaite, of the Bureau of Land Management, both agencies are selling

Christmas tree cutting permits for \$3.

The Willamette National Forest has a limit of five permits and/or five trees per family, the BLM a three permit and/or three tree limit this year.

The BLM has only two weekends in which Christmas tree cutting is allowed - December 10-11 and December 17-18 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

To cut on these days, holiday loggers need to go to the BLM office, 1255 Pearl St., between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on a weekday to pick up a map to the cutting site where the permits are purchased.

There will be two different sites this year, one east and one west of Eugene, according to Smurthwaite.

The first weekend site is west of Eugene, nine miles out of Junction City, with the next located four miles northeast of Leaburg.

"All the trees are Douglas fir," Smurthwaite said. "You can find small trees around two feet tall for a table or larger trees to stand at seven, eight and nine feet tall." He added it is preferable if people do not cut trees over 10 feet tall.

The Willamette National Forest has seven tree-cutting sites to choose from.

The four closest sites to Eugene include the Blue River Ranger District and McKenzie Ranger District, 50 and 60 miles away on the McKenzie Highway. The Lowell, 20 miles away, and Oakridge, 50 miles away, ranger districts can be reached by following Highway 58.

Permits may be purchased at any of the Willamette National Forest Ranger Stations between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

"Maps and instructions on where and how to cut the trees are given out with the permits at the Ranger Stations," said Corbett, adding that on Dec. 10 at Smokey the Bear will be handing out treats at the McKenzie Ranger Station.

Woody Owl will join Smokey the same day at the Lowell station, handing out treats and cider to tree hunters at the Lowell station.

Calls should be made to ranger stations or the forest supervisor's office to check availability, Corbett said. The supervisor's number is 687-6521 on workdays or 687-6561 on weekends or after hours.

"Be sure to check the weather and road conditions before heading out because many of



Photo by Sherlyn Bjorkgren

Christmas trees are readily available for as little as \$3 at many sites around the area if proper permits are picked up from the Bureau of Land Management or Willamette National Forest offices.

the sites are likely to have snow," Corbett said. The weather number is 484-1200 and the road condition number is 1-238-8400. If there is a chance of snow, traction devices should be carried, she said.

A hand saw is recommended when cutting down Christmas trees as opposed to an ax.

"Cut the tree about 10 inches below the bottom group of branches so you have a handle to carry the tree out with," Corbett said.

Trees should be handled with care, shouldn't be dragged

if it can be helped. Dragging will cause the needles and bark to come off.

When the tree reaches the car and it won't fit inside or in the trunk, it should be wrapped in a tarp to protect it.

Once the tree is home, at least one inch should be cut off the bottom, and the tree placed in a stand with some water.

For more information call the BLM at 686-6600, Blue River Ranger District 822-3317, McKenzie Ranger District 822-3381, Oakridge Ranger District 782-2291 or Lowell Ranger District 937-2129.

UNIVERSITY TRAVEL

774 E. 13th
2nd Floor
(next to Smith Family Bookstore)

- *INSTANT EURAIL PASSES
- *INSTANT EURAIL YOUTH PASSES

\$70.00 OFF


COUPON

SPRING BREAK CRUISE

ON THE NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

Includes Air From Portland
Departs LAX 20 March
5 Days - 4 Nights
While Cabins Last

Branch of Greater Oregon Travel
683-5577



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

MBA PROGRAM

MBA DAY

The MBA program at the University of Oregon offers the opportunity to acquire skills to become an effective professional manager. Given today's job market, an MBA can offer the necessary competitive edge. Recent rankings place the University of Oregon Graduate School of Management among the best:

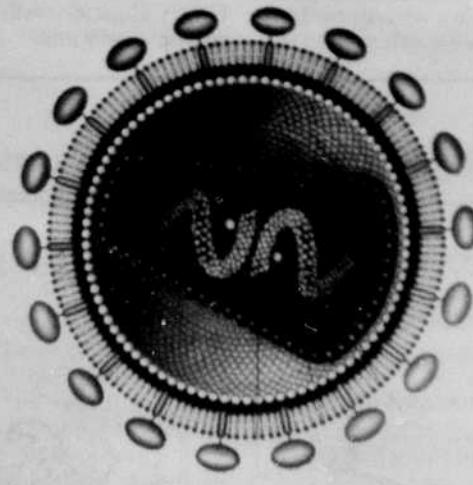
- * The MBA program is ranked 36th in the nation out of 463 accredited MBA Programs.
- * The program is ranked 17th in the nation and 4th in the west among state-supported institutions.
- * The management department is 6th in the nation in faculty and program excellence.
- * The marketing department is among the top 20 for faculty research and excellence.

Other general questions can be answered by the representatives from the University of Oregon Graduate School of Management at an informal session:

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1988
5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: GERLINGER LOUNGE
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Question: Do you know what this is?



Answer: THE AIDS VIRUS!

If you have questions or concerns about the AIDS virus, drop in for this informal information session held weekly at the student Health Center.

Time: 4pm Tuesday
Place: Medical Library,
Student Health Center