

# Get Christmas tree permits beginning Monday

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 will begin issuing Christmas tree cutting permits Monday, Nov. 23, 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-park.gov](http://www.everykidina-park.gov).



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# Wildlife Commission completes phase one of wolf delisting

SALEM — The Fish and Wildlife Commission recently voted to delist wolves from the state Endangered Species Act throughout Oregon earlier this week.

In a meeting that lasted from 8 a.m. to nearly 7 p.m., approximately 106 people testified and were limited to three minutes each.

"The Wolf Plan has been working well and you are all responsible for that," Chair Finley told the public. "We will remember the merits of the Wolf Plan and the next one will be as good or better. You can all help that happen."

With the commission's decision made, the rule was filed

with the Secretary of State Nov. 10. The filing removes wolves from the state ESA but has no other effect on wolf management at this time.

The Wolf Plan continues to provide protection of wolves into the future. Any take of wolves is tightly regulated in all phases of the plan. Non-lethal preventive measures to prevent wolf-livestock conflict are the first choice of wildlife managers in all phases of wolf management.

There is no general season sport hunting of wolves allowed in any phase of the Wolf Plan.

Wolves in western Oregon will continue to be managed

with ESA-like protections until they reach the conservation objective of four breeding pairs for three consecutive years. This is known as Phase 1 of wolf management.

Additionally, west of Highways 395-78-95 wolves are also still listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and the commission's action has no effect on their federal status.

Wolves in eastern Oregon moved to Phase 2 of management earlier this year. They will move to Phase 3 after ODFW documents seven breeding pairs for three consecutive years, which could occur as early as January 2017.

In Phase 3, while wolves are delisted, controlled take of wolves in situations of chronic depredation or wolf-related declines of prey populations (deer and elk) is allowed with commission approval.

The vote was not unanimous. Commissioner Greg Wolley voted not to delist while Commissioner Laura Anderson supported delisting only in the eastern part of the state and voted against the motion.

Other commissioners also expressed support for delisting in eastern Oregon only. However, they noted that Oregon ESA law does not allow for delisting in only a portion of the state.

Commissioners will be sending a note to the Oregon State Legislature asking that the law be changed so that listing and delisting would be allowed in only a portion of the state for other species in the future.

Commissioners also asked that penalties for unlawfully taking a wolf be increased. Currently, the maximum penalty is a \$6,250 fine and a year in jail and that penalty does not change with the delisting of wolves.

The Commission is the policy-making body for fish and wildlife issues in Oregon. Its next meeting is Dec. 4 in Portland.

# Domoic acid level like means delay to Dungeness crabbing season

SALEM — It's that time of year: Oregon Dungeness crab fishermen are stacking their pots near harbors and fixing their boats, preparing for a season that usually starts in December.

But this year, the catch phrase is "domoic acid," a naturally occurring neurotoxin that has plagued animals in several areas of the West Coast, thanks to an unusually large algae bloom in the ocean.

Domoic acid can concentrate in some fish and shellfish, causing sickness in the animals that eat them.

So what about us, the consumers?

Dungeness crab currently sold in supermarkets and restaurants is safe. All that delicious Dungeness Oregonians love is OK because it is from stock that was previously frozen or sourced from areas that have tested clean for domoic acid.

"Oregon's Dungeness crab industry strives to bring consumers the highest quality product possible," says Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission Executive Director Hugh Link. "We want everyone to enjoy the Dungeness crab eating

experience and you can be assured that product from Oregon that reaches the shelves has gone through rigorous quality control."

The start of Oregon's commercial crab season may be delayed due to a number of factors. For example, in addition to testing for domoic acid, Oregon officials and the industry test crab for quality to ensure the crab are full of meat.

The Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, fishermen, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Agriculture want to ensure the consumer gets only the best crab on the market.

"Our processors are commit-

ted to bringing you safe and healthy seafood," says West Coast Seafood Processors Association Senior Policy Adviser Rod Moore. "Consumers can rest assured the crab they buy is safe to eat."

Oregon officials are in the midst of testing crab for domoic acid. These tests will determine whether fishermen will be returning to the docks with fish holds full of crab on Dec. 1.

But for now, enjoy that Dungeness you just bought. It's safe. It's sustainable. It's delicious.

"Spread those newspapers, melt the butter, pour the wine and prepare to crack our crab," Link says. "It's an Oregon tradition."

# Siuslaw Volleyball Club tryouts Monday

Siuslaw Volleyball Club will host its second round of tryouts for girls ages 15 to 18 on Monday, Nov. 23.

Tryouts will take place at Siuslaw Middle School from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The club is entering its 13th

season and is open to all girls looking to learn and improve their volleyball skills as part of a team.

Practices are two to three times per week from late November through April.

Through the generosity of Siuslaw School District, the club uses the Siuslaw Middle School gym for practices.

Teams play in one to two tournaments each month, competing against teams from all over Oregon and Southern Washington.

These tournaments are usually one-day tournaments on a weekend that start at 8 a.m. and continues into the early evening.

Each team plays an average of five matches each day.

This year, the entire club fee has been reduced to \$125 per player. Fee covers all the tournaments, insurance for practices and tournaments, team sweatpants and jacket, backpack and T-shirt.

All athletes must preregister online with [www.cevaregion.org](http://www.cevaregion.org) and pay a \$10 tryout and deposit fee.

These fees are due at time of online registration; only players making team pay fees to club.

Bring a copy of registration or \$10 and the membership form to tryouts.

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