

Colorado is providing the Christmas tree for the U.S Capitol this year!



The tree that stands in front of the US Capitol Building in Washington, DC is known by two names – the US Capitol Christmas Tree or the “people’s tree.” This year the tree will come from the Blanco Ranger District out of the White River National Forest near Meeker, Colorado. This year’s theme is “Celebrating the Great Outdoors!” For more information, visit: <http://www.capitolchristmastree2012.com>

We need your help!

Along with the large tree, Colorado must provide 90 companion trees. These Christmas trees will go to many of the Washington DC offices. The Colorado State Forest Service is hoping you can help provide those trees!

Qualifications for a Colorado Christmas suitable for display at the U.S. Capitol include:

- Subalpine fir or Douglas-fir
- 7-8 feet tall
- Handsome shape, round in the middle and small and nicely pointed at the top
- No gaping Charlie Brown holes or random dead branches
- It needs to be a hearty, with most of its needles and free of illness

We also need the following trees:

- **Six 10-foot tall trees** (*these will be displayed in the Senate Buffet Dining Room, Senate Cafeteria, House Private Dining Room, Yates Reception Area, and the Capitol Power Plant*)
- **Two 10-12-foot tall tree** (*for Secretary Vilsack’s office and the U.S. Forest Service Chief’s office*)

These trees need to follow the same criteria above with the exception of height.

If you can help, please let Lisa Mason or Mike Hughes know as soon as possible. We would like get a count on the number of trees by Friday, October 5th.

Lisa Mason
970-491-4920
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DELIVER THE TREES:
The CSFS Foothills Campus
3843 LaPorte Ave.
Fort Collins, CO 80523-5060

The deadline for Christmas tree delivery is Monday, October 22nd.

The trees will begin their journey to Washington during the first week of November.

Thanks in advance for your participation in this tradition!

Background Information on the Capitol Christmas Tree Tradition

This annual gift to Americans across the country began its tradition in 1964.

A few years later in 1970, a new tradition began – each year’s tree would come from one of the country’s national forests. US Forest Service officials select a different national forest for each year, making their choice five years in advance, giving the US Forest Service time to select a suitable tree to represent the people of the United States at Christmas.

Colorado last received this honor back in 2000, and is proud to offer this gift to our nation next year. The birthplace of the 2012 “people’s tree” is the 2.3 million acre White River National Forest in central Colorado. White River National Forest staff selects a handful of trees to contend for the honor, leading up to the final selection by the Architect of the Capitol.

Once cut, Colorado’s gift to the country gets wrapped up on a flatbed truck and begins its journey across the country, stopping at various towns along the route on its way to Washington, DC. These stops allow citizens from all across the US to enjoy the tree, even if they cannot make it to the Capitol Building.