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## TM66 Forest Product Permit – Conditions of Use (Includes Foothills Regional Tree Cutting Conditions)

### Tree Cutting

#### General Conditions that apply to all Tree and Timber Cutting as Outlined under the TM66 Forest Product Permit

Those wanting to obtain a timber permit must

- o be over the age of 18
- o be a resident of Alberta
- o be in good standing with the Crown relating to timber, grazing and land use and not have any outstanding fines or dues

The permit authorizes the person named in it to harvest timber and shall state

- o legal description of the land where timber is being harvested
- o the period of time during which the timber may be harvested
- o the terms and conditions on which the permit is issued

- All harvesting operations are to be conducted in accordance with Alberta’s *Forests Act* and Timber Management Regulations.

Timber Management Regulation Clause that Applies to the TM66 Forest Product Permit	
67 (1)	On receipt of a <b>non-refundable</b> permit fee of \$5, the director may issue a Forest Products Tag in the TM 66 tag form to any person for the cutting and removal of up to the following quantities of primary timber products for use exclusively on land owned or controlled by that person or the spouse or adult interdependent partner or children of that person or jointly by 2 or more of any such persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 20 trees for transplanting, under 2.5 metres in height,</li> <li>b. 3 trees for use as Christmas trees, under 2.5 metres in height, or</li> <li>c. 5 cubic metres of roundwood timber.</li> </ul>
(2)	The Forest Products Tag is effective for a period of <b>30 days from the date of issue</b> and is exempt from the payment of timber dues.

**NOTE:** The forest products described above are for personal use by the person authorized and not for resale or commercial use.

- You must ensure you are in the proper area before you do any cutting. No cutting is permitted within one kilometre (0.6 miles) of a designated recreation area (campground). If you are caught cutting trees outside of the designated wood cutting area, you could be prosecuted.
- When taking primary forest products from public land, you must carry your permit with you at all times when harvesting and transporting the products, and comply with the conditions specified on the permit.
- You must fill out the back of the permit when hauling wood.
- Cutting of green standing trees is strictly prohibited (except for birch). Only dead standing or wind fallen trees may be cut for firewood unless otherwise specified (except for birch, which may be taken green).
- All trees harvested must be cut within 30 centimetres (12 inches) of the average ground level.
- All trees are to be utilized to 4 centimetres (1.6 inches) or less top. All unused tops and limbs must be slashed, limbed and made to lie flat on the ground.
- All trees you fell must be removed. All trees must be harvested progressively as felled.
- No debris from logging shall be left on road right-of-ways or in ditches.
- No garbage (lunch bags, oil cans, etc.) shall be left lying around the cutting area.
- Keep damage to any surrounding live trees to a minimum.
- No mechanical diggers allowed.
- All holes made by digging transplants must be filled in.

#### General Conditions for Christmas Tree Permits

Requests for specific areas of Christmas trees should be referred to Public Lands and Forest Division offices.

- Cutting activities are not to interfere with general roadway traffic.
- Delimb and scatter unused portion of trees.
- Trees harvested cannot be sold – they are for personal use only.
- Refrain from removing any trees with a stem diameter larger than 15 centimetres (6 inches).
- Topping of larger trees is not permitted.
- Stump heights are not to exceed 30 centimetres (12 inches).
- Removing trees from harvested cutblocks is not permitted. No cutting of trees off right-of-ways or in cutblocks (these have been replanted).
- All trees you fell must be removed. All trees harvested must be used.

# **SRD / TM66 Forest Product Permit – Conditions of Use**

## **Foothills Regional Conditions which apply to all Tree Cutting with a TM66 Forest Products Permit**

### **General Conditions**

- You must ensure that you are not in an area listed in “RESTRICTIONS” before you start to cut or dig. If in doubt, move to another location.
- If a map was provided with the permit, go to the areas outlined in the map.
- Possession of a TM66 does not authorize you to enter locked gates
- Keep your permit with you at all times while cutting and transporting. Fill in the back of the permit, after obtaining the product. Produce your permit upon request to any Forest Officer.
- Keep damage to any surrounding live trees to a minimum.
- Drive vehicles on designated trails and highlighted roads as per map. Road conditions are variable, a 4X4 vehicle is recommended. Do not block access on the road you are traveling. Do not park along Primary highway right-of-ways.
- You can walk as far as you like to cut or dig, as long as you don't walk into a restricted area.
- Trees cannot be sold; this permit is for personal use only.
- The permit is good for 30 days.

### **Restrictions**

Do not remove trees or wood from:

- Reclaimed sites, for example - areas around man placed rocks, large grassy areas that do not appear natural (Reclaimed sand and gravel sites), very steep slopes where the trees are helping to keep the soil in place, previously harvested sites that have been reforested etc.
- Facilities, such as ranger stations, viewpoints, etc.
- No cutting within one kilometre of recreation areas, town limits, campgrounds, Provincial Parks, Federal Parks, Private land,
- Grazing reserves, and natural areas.
- Cache Percotte Forest (near Hinton)
- Any fenced areas (e.g. arboretums or tree study areas)
- Pipelines (if transplants) or powerlines (if firewood)

### **Firewood**

- Only dead standing or wind fallen trees may be cut unless otherwise specified.
- Standing live trees may be harvested from designated Firewood Permit areas. There are maps for these locations and be sure the location is on your permit.
- When cutting down standing trees, ensure that the stump is cut level and no higher than 30 centimetres (12 inches) from the ground.
- Tree is to be used down to a 5 centimetre (or 2 inch) top. (i.e. if you are going to cut a tree down, take as much of the tree as possible).
- Woody debris left from cutting firewood should have the tops cut off and branches scattered. (Lopped and scattered).
- Do not remove wood from log decks (all decks belong either to a logging company, or is salvage belonging to an oil & gas company).
- Do not remove wood from previously harvested areas because standing and down wood is often purposely left on cutover areas for various ecological reasons. This excludes brush/debris piles left to be burned during the winter months.
- Wood cannot be removed from log decks unless specifically approved by a Forest Officer at the time of permit issuance.
- Permits issued online do not approve the individual to remove wood from a log deck under any circumstance and constitutes theft.
- This permit allows for up to 5 cubic metres of roundwood (approximately 2 pickup truck loads)

### **Transplants**

- Species: Aspen, Poplar, Spruce, and Pine.
- Maximum tree height allowed is 2.5 metres (8 feet).
- No mechanical diggers are allowed.
- Fill in the holes left from the removal of transplants as best you can.
- This permit allows for 20 trees for transplanting.

### **Christmas Trees**

- The permit is valid for 30 days and authorizes the holder to cut up to 3 Christmas Trees no taller than 2.5 meters (8 feet).
- Species: Spruce, Pine, Fir
- Cut trees 30 centimetres (12 inches) or less above the ground level.

**Useful Reminders**

- Be prepared for cold weather and snow conditions
- Always let someone know where you are going and the time you are expecting to return home.
- Take extra winter clothing and emergency supplies (blankets, food and water, candles, etc).
- Enjoy your Christmas tree outing and don't forget your saw or hatchet.
- Beware of your surroundings.

**Penalties for Non-compliance**

For non-compliance, the Minister may, with respect to a timber permit:

- suspend it indefinitely or for a fixed period
- cancel it or reduce its terms

Please contact the nearest Sustainable Resource Development office if you have any questions.

- Edson Area Office: 780/723-8265
- Hinton Area Office: 780/865-8267
- Grande Cache Office: 780/827-3626
- Cold Creek Office: 780/795-3940

## Recycle that Tree!

Once the holiday festivities are over and it is time to pack away all of the decorations, please give some thought to how you will dispose of your tree. Many communities now collect trees which are turned into chips and mulch for Town gardens and parks. Contact your local Town or Municipal District office to see if any tree collection programs exist in your area. Be sure to remove all the tinsel and decorations to assist in recycling. Please do your part!



- Permits are required for all cutting on Crown Lands (this includes firewood, all year round)
- Each permit entitles you to cut a maximum of 3 trees, each under 2.5 m (8 ft) in height
- You must have your permit with you while cutting on crown land
- You must be at least 18 years old to purchase a permit
- Permits are valid for 30 days after purchase
- Permits are \$5.25 (includes GST) and available at the locations below:

### EDSON....780-723-8265

- ◆ Edson Provincial Building, Rm 203 (cash only)
- ◆ Ron's Outdoor Source for Sports

### HINTON....780-865-8267

- ◆ Hinton Civic Centre, 3rd floor (cash only)
- ◆ Husky (formerly Speedy-Q Mohawk)

### GRANDE CACHE....780-827-3626

- ◆ Grande Cache Ranger Station (cash only)

### EVANSBURG....780-795-3940

- ◆ Cold Creek Ranger Station (cash only)

**Cutting your own  
Christmas Tree from  
Alberta's forests**



**The adventure of cutting down your own tree is an inexpensive and enjoyable family activity.**

**With a proper permit, you can get a tree from Alberta's Crown forest lands.**

## Getting Started

For nearly 200 years, families across Canada have celebrated the holiday season with brightly decorated coniferous trees. White spruce, Balsam fir, and Jack pine are some of the most popular holiday choices among our native trees.

A permit is required to remove up to 3 trees on Crown Land. Each tree must be no larger than 2.5 m (8 ft) in height. These trees are usually found by road right-of-ways or power line right-of-ways near your community.

With proper planning and attention, the selection, removal, transport and setup of your tree can be a very enjoyable family activity.

Remember that Alberta's forests belong to everyone. Make sure that you have a proper permit and that you are cutting a tree from a designated Crown forest area, and have not trespassed onto private property.

Permits are available at any Sustainable Resource Development office for a minimal fee.



## The Right Choice

The "perfect" tree is very much in the eye of the beholder. However, there are some things you should consider BEFORE you begin to cut down your tree.

1. Avoid trees which are growing on steep slopes or other difficult terrain. Your safety and that of your family should be the first consideration.
2. Pick a tree with a straight trunk and uniform, full shape. Check to make sure there are no broken branches or gaps hidden by accumulated snow.
3. The needles on pine or fir trees generally stay on the tree longer than spruce trees. Balsam fir is the most fragrant of the native trees.
4. A saw, such as a Swede saw, will give you a nice straight, even cut. A tree cut in this fashion will better fit the tree stand than a tree cut by an axe.
5. Ensure that your tree is properly wrapped (using burlap, twine, etc.) and secured to your vehicle before you leave the site. Place the tree on the roof with the trunk end facing forward. This will prevent wind breaking off branches while you are driving.



## Back Home



When you get the tree home, cut about 3-5 cm off of the butt end to open pores which have been clogged by sap. Quickly place the cut end into a container of plain water.

If the tree is not to be put up right away, store it in a protected, shady unheated area. Cut the end and place the tree in a bucket of water. When the tree is brought into the house, saw a slice off of the butt again to ensure proper water absorption.

Use a sturdy stand with a large water reservoir so the tree won't dry out. A fresh tree can use 1 to 5 liters or more of water a day, so water daily!

Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, TV's, or heating registers. Never have open flames on or near a Christmas tree.

When decorating, check electrical light cords for cracks or other spots of wear. Dispose of any old or worn cords as they may pose a fire risk.

How stable is your tree? With pets and small children running around, it is often advisable to tie one or two guide wires from the tree to the wall.

A freshly cut spruce, fir or pine tree, if watered daily, should last between 7-15 days before dropping most of its needles.

