

NEWS RELEASE

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‘Cowboy Christmas Tree’ Released as Official Song of Capitol Christmas Tree
Bryan Ragsdale Pens Official Tree Anthem, Teams Up with WY Youth to Produce CD

Green River, Wyoming – When Wyoming songwriter Bryan Ragsdale decided to craft an anthem for the 2010 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree being gifted by Wyoming, he chose not only to pen a western song, but also to enlist Wyoming schoolchildren to produce an entire album to mark the historic occasion.

Ragsdale wrote ‘Cowboy Christmas Tree,’ the official song of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. In the tradition of the Tree program, the state gifting the tree selects an accompanying anthem.

Wyoming’s 2010 song highlights the natural beauty of the state and embodies the theme of the Tree, ‘Forever West.’ Additionally, Ragsdale decided to engage Wyoming’s youth to produce an entire CD for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Project. Ragsdale teamed up with students from fifteen schools across the state to produce an additional thirteen songs, resulting in a quintessential Wyoming Christmas CD.

“This is the greatest project I have ever been a part of,” Ragsdale said. “The CD represents Christmas through the eyes of children big and small. It represents their wants, their needs, their love, and their passion. The songs are real and true just like the people of Wyoming.”

Ragsdale will be touring the state throughout the month of November and December and accompanying the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree at a number of stops across Wyoming and the nation. Included on Ragsdale’s tour are the fifteen schools that helped write the songs on the CD, libraries, senior centers and town squares across Wyoming. In addition, Ragsdale will be performing at the tree cutting celebration in Jackson and at the Governor’s residence in Cheyenne.

“Bryan has captured not just the spirit of the ‘2010 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, but the spirit of Wyoming itself,” said U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Coordinator Mary Cernicek. “We are delighted to have ‘Cowboy Christmas Tree’ serve as the official song of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree and look forward to hearing his tune at stops across the state.”

Proceeds from the sale of the CD will go to the schools which helped write the songs for the album as well as the Wyoming Arts Alliance and the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Project. To produce the CD, Ragsdale worked with students at schools in Glenrock, Gillette, Wright, Evanston, Mountain View, Fort Bridger, Fort Washakie, Lander, Dubois, Green River, Rock Springs, Cheyenne and Thermopolis.

To hear the official song of the Tree, ‘Cowboy Christmas Tree,’ please visit the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree website at www.capitolchristmastree2010.org. For more information on Ragsdale, his tour schedule or to purchase the CD, please visit Ragsdale’s website at: www.bryanragdale.com. Interested media can request a CD or schedule interviews with Bryan by emailing bryanragdale@gmail.com

ABOUT THE CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT

The Bridger-Teton National Forest, at the request of Senator John Barrasso, is leading the State of Wyoming in the delivery of the Capitol Christmas Tree for 2010.

The Capitol Christmas Tree will grace the west front lawn of the U.S. Capitol in December 2010. The Architect of the U.S. Capitol has already selected a 67-foot Engelmann spruce from the Bridger-Teton National Forest which will be cut, loaded, covered and prepped for travel in November to Washington, D.C.

In mid-November, the tree will be toured across the state of Wyoming before heading east to the U.S. Capitol. In late November, the tree will be delivered to the U.S. Capitol, where it will be lowered into a 5-foot deep hole, strung with lights, and decorated with more than 5,700 of handcrafted ornaments made by Wyoming people from across the State. In December, the Speaker of the House, along with one Wyoming student, will light the tree and showcase Wyoming's historical, cultural and natural beauty.

Through the holiday season, the tree will be lit at dusk, where it will be enjoyed by people from across world. The theme of Wyoming's tree is "Wyoming-Forever West."

For more information on the Capitol Christmas Tree for 2010, please visit www.capitolchristmastree2010.org, contact CapitolChristmasTree2010@gmail.com, or call Mary Cernicek at (307) 739-5564.

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