

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Tree Has Been Cut!

*Capitol Christmas Tree Cut Down & Brought to Jackson for WY's First
Community Celebration*

Jackson, Wyoming – The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree was cut down from Bridger-Teton National Forest on Saturday, November 6 with the help of Wyoming Landscape Contractors of Jackson Hole, Hemphill Trucking, Encana and the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Tree was then brought into the Town of Jackson where more than 1,000 residents showed up to celebrate Wyoming's gift to our nation's capital. The Tree begins its statewide tour on Wednesday, November 10.

Below are photographs of the cutting and Jackson celebration taken by photojournalist David Swift.



CAPTION: Dwayne Gibbons with the U.S. Forest Service was selected to cut the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.



CAPTION: Before the Tree was cut, it was suspended by a crane so that it could be lowered safely onto the truck.



CAPTION: The Tree is lowered onto the back of a truck before being brought into the town of Jackson.



CAPTION: The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree makes its way into Jackson passing the Teton Mountain Range.



CAPTION: Thousands of Jackson residents showed up to greet the Tree as it arrived on the Jackson Town Square for a community celebration. Carol Jensen of Jackson places a white rose in the boughs in remembrance of Sandra Seaton, the Forest Service employee to whom the Tree is dedicated.

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 thousands 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.

Follow the Capitol Christmas Tree on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/BridgerTetonNE
And Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Capitol-Christmas-Tree-2010/104904166232147>.

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