

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest
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Well over 5,000 Ornaments Wyoming's Success! 5,500 and counting...

Kids, Families, Seniors in the Cowboy State make more than enough ornaments to decorate Wyoming's US Capitol Christmas Tree

Jackson, Wyoming – Success!

Wyoming people submitted more than enough ornaments needed to decorate Wyoming's US Capitol Christmas Tree.

With many, many more boxes of submissions to open, Forest Service officials in Jackson applauded the kids, families, teachers, seniors and more who all sent ornaments to decorate the first tree Wyoming has ever sent to Washington, DC for the US Capitol lawn.

The ornament count was 5,500 this morning as the deadline for submissions ends later Friday. That is well over the 5,000 needed to decorate Wyoming's US Capitol Christmas Tree.

"Thank you wonderful Wyoming people – the ornament program is a total success," said the tree project coordinator Mary Cernicek.

"The ornaments submitted are not only ample, they are fantastic – innovative and beautiful," she added. "What a great state and great people."

This is the first time in the nation's history that Wyoming has been selected to send a tree to Washington for the US Capitol Christmas Tree. Along with the tree selected, a 67-foot Engelmann Spruce, 5,000 ornaments were required to decorate it.

On Wednesday, October 27th in the Jackson Town Square, the Mayor of Jackson will draw from the names of students who submitted a handmade ornament for an all expense paid trip to Washington,

DC to be the one to flip the switch to turn the lights on Wyoming's US Capitol Christmas Tree. The Lighting Ceremony for the US Capitol will be held December 7 in Washington.

The Tree Cutting Ceremony will be held on November 6 with members of the Northern Arapaho tribe blessing the tree and a celebration on the Jackson Town Square later that afternoon. Beginning November 10, the Tree will make a 20-day trek across Wyoming and the nation to Washington, DC with celebration stops in communities all along the way.

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. This is the first time in the nation's history that Wyoming has been selected to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree.

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 that 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 Wyomingites 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 the 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, you can also contact CapitolChristmasTree2010@gmail.com, or call Mary Cernicek at (307) 739-5564.

Follow the Capitol Christmas Tree on:

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