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Glenwood Springs Welcomes 2016 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree on Nov. 17 with Free Public Event

“People’s Tree” will make cross-country journey from Idaho to Washington D.C.

Glenwood Springs, Colo. – Nov. 10, 2016 – The City of Glenwood Springs and the White River National Forest are excited to welcome the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree on Nov. 17 with a free event at Centennial Park between Grand Avenue and Cooper Street on 9th Street. The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, an 80 foot Englemann spruce, is visiting Glenwood Springs from the Payette National Forest in Idaho on its way to Washington D.C.

“Glenwood Springs looks forward to being part of the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree tradition,” said Glenwood Springs Mayor Michael Gamba. “We are honored to celebrate the tree as it travels to Washington, D.C. and to celebrate the season with our community.”

Event activities include, a welcome from the Mayor and the Symphony of the Valley Brass, the Sunlight Mountain Resort Tunnel of Lights, a crosscut saw demonstration, a selfie-photo booth, ornament decoration, Junior Snow Ranger programming, live music, Forest Service building tours, and a showing of Elf at the Glenwood Springs Library. The event is open to the public and free for all to enjoy and will also kick off the Giving Season with many local nonprofits.

Schedule of Events:

- **4:00** Symphony in the Valley Brass
- **4:25** Welcome from City of Glenwood Springs!
- **4:30** Lighting of the Sunlight Tunnel of Lights
- **5:00** Glenwood Springs High School Jazz Band
- **5:45** Thank you from the Forest Service & Jim Deeming on Guitar (made from the 2012 US Capitol Christmas Tree)
- **6:00** Sleepy Justice, local band
- **6:30** Movie at the Library – Elf

For more than 50 years, a Christmas tree has graced the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol for the holiday season. The Payette National Forest in partnership with nonprofit Choose Outdoors will bring this special gift from Idaho to Washington, D.C. for the 2016 season, involving more than 25 communities along the way, including an appearance in Glenwood Springs. The tree will make two other Colorado stops in Grand Junction and Denver before continuing its journey onto the U.S. Capitol.

“Many people might remember that in 2012 the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree came from the White River National Forest near Meeker, CO,” stated Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor. “The People’s Tree carries with it a rich tradition and history of what public lands have to offer. We are happy to support this year’s Payette National Forest tree in partnership with the City of Glenwood Springs.”

The tree was cut Nov. 2 near McCall, ID and prepared for the 2,000-mile expedition. With great fanfare, the tree left the Payette National Forest on Tuesday Nov. 8 followed by a caravan of caretakers for the journey to the U.S. Capitol. Smaller companion trees also will be provided by the Idaho Christmas Tree Growers to decorate offices inside of the U.S. Capitol building and other sites throughout Washington, D.C., along with 8,000 ornaments designed and created by residents throughout the state of Idaho.

The Glenwood Springs Capitol Christmas Tree event is made possible by the City of Glenwood Springs, Roaring Fork Events, Sunlight Ski & Bike Shop, Bay Equity, The Post Independent, the Glenwood Springs Library and the Bank of Colorado.

Associated costs for the Capitol Christmas Tree are paid for in part by the U.S. Forest Service, while costs for the tree's transportation and special events are covered by in-kind services, donations and overall support both locally and nationwide, including major 2016 supporters KTVB TV 7, Idaho Potato Growers Association, Skybitz, Kenworth, Hale Trailer, Gary Amoth Trucking, Alaska Airlines, Seid Crane Service, Truckload Carriers Association, Eaton, University of Idaho, Meritor, Bass Pro Shops, and BrINC.

For more information on the Glenwood Springs tour stop, visit the event website at: <http://www.roaringforevents.com/> or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1050068195109675/> .

For questions please call the White River National Forest Supervisor’s Office at (970)-945-2521 or Roaring Fork Events at 816 -812 -9882.

For related news, events and tour information, and to track the tree cross-country, visit www.capitolchristmastree.com and on Facebook @ USCapitolChristmasTree and #capitolchristmastree.



About the Payette National Forest

The Payette National Forest offers the visitor over 2.3 million acres to enjoy. Everything from the deep recesses of Hell's Canyon to peaks reaching elevations of almost 9,500 feet. Dry desert grasslands compliment heavily forested acres. Gateways to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness lead the visitor to experience the solitude of seldom traveled trails. To the west is the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area, the deepest river gorge in North America. Stand on the canyons east rim and in some places you gaze down 8,000 feet to the Snake River that carved this canyon. Gaze across the ten-mile wide chasm into the neighboring state of Oregon. Located entirely within Idaho, the Payette NF shares lands with Adams, Idaho, Valley, and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/payette.

About the U.S. Forest Service

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land; provides assistance to state and private landowners; and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. For more information, see www.fs.fed.us.

About Choose Outdoors:

Choose Outdoors works to increase all American's enjoyment, appreciation and support for outdoor recreation activities that connect them to our public lands. These connections will ensure that our public lands will always be there for future generations to cherish. www.chooseoutdoors.org.

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