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## Balsam Boughs Permits



### NRM Department Mission Statement

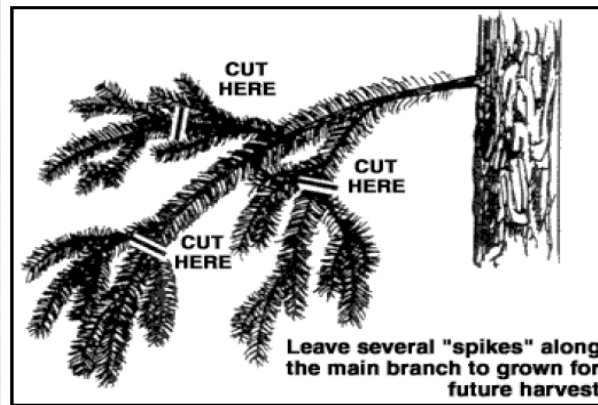
*Beltrami County Natural Resource Management's mission is to responsibly manage the approximate 147,000 acres of tax forfeited lands in Beltrami County in a sustainable manner that benefits the citizens of the County. The department is committed to a sustainable harvest and multiple use management of its lands. It also recognizes the impacts its activities can have on aesthetics, wildlife, riparian areas, cultural resources, soils, and water quality.*

## Balsam Bough Permits

- ◆ Permits are required for harvesting boughs on State-in-Trust, tax forfeited lands
- ◆ Permits are \$50 (minimum of 2 tons at \$25/ton)
- ◆ Maximum 4 tons per bough permit
- ◆ No harvesting of boughs within 50 feet of any road
- ◆ No cedar bough permits
- ◆ All permits are non-refundable
- ◆ Permits issued for no more than a 4 section area
- ◆ No more than 2 permits per section will be issued
- ◆ Minnesota DNR enforcement policies apply to all bough harvesting

## Sustainable Harvesting

- ◆ Harvest boughs from trees greater than 7 feet tall
- ◆ Harvest boughs from the bottom 1/3 of the tree only
- ◆ Boughs up to 36 inches in length are acceptable
- ◆ Harvested branch ends should be no larger than the diameter of a fat pencil
- ◆ Leave a portion of each pruned branch for regeneration. This ensures boughs for the future



## Why Balsam Fir?

Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) has flat, fragrant needles that make attractive wreaths. It grows in the forested regions of Minnesota, northern portions of Wisconsin and Michigan and throughout Canada. Boughs harvested from this tree species are used in 98 percent of the decorative wreaths manufactured in Minnesota and distributed nationwide for the holiday season.

In Minnesota, the balsam bough harvesting season begins in early October, after two or more hard frosts have "set" the needles on the branches. It continues until early December.

Source:

*Taking a Bough*  
*Minnesota's Balsam Bough Industry*

MN DNR, University of Minnesota Extension Service,  
and the Balsam Bough Partnership

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