

As seen in

Transport Topics

The Weekly Newspaper of Trucking and Freight Transportation

Week of December 15, 2008

Montana Peterbilt Helps Deliver Tree To U.S. Capitol to Celebrate Christmas

Trucks from Montana Peterbilt, Missoula, Mont., participated in harvesting and delivering the 2008 Capitol Christmas tree to Washington, D.C.

The 78-foot-tall, 144-year-old subalpine fir was cut in the Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton, Mont., and as the first step in its journey to Washington, the tree was set in a custom-made cradle and on a trailer hauled by Missoula logger Leroy Christofferson in a Peterbilt model 389.

Gordy Grove of Grove's Moving, Langley, Wash., contracted through National Van Lines, hauled the tree to Washington from Montana with a Peterbilt model 387.

Along the way, the tree stopped in 22 communities, with



The tree was hoisted onto a Montana Peterbilt truck in the Bitterroot National Forest on Nov. 3.

celebrations for the tree in North Dakota, Missouri, Illinois, West Virginia and Maryland before it arrived in Washington on Nov. 24.

The tree was lit in a Dec. 2 ceremony with national and Montana state officials. More than 5,000 handcrafted ornaments adorn the Capitol's tree. Ornaments on the Capitol Christmas tree traditionally are made by the residents of communities from the state of harvest.

Congress has requested the Capitol Christmas tree from a different national forest and state each year since the tradition started in 1970.

— *Transport Topics*