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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## **Nominations Requested for State's Largest Trees**

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The Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) is asking tree stewards and outdoor enthusiasts for their help in locating the state's largest trees. Currently, Nebraska lays claim to one nationally verified champion (as recognized by American Forests), an eastern cottonwood near Beatrice. The NFS hopes that by opening the nomination process, more unique and large trees will be discovered around the state.

"Every few years we like to put out a call for nominations to help us gauge the condition of our mature and aging trees," said John Erixson, Deputy State Forest with the NFS. "We've found state champion trees in all areas of Nebraska, and it's extremely helpful to have folks on the ground acting as our eyes to get preliminary measurements."

While large trees are usually noticeable from roads or sidewalks, it's important that anyone nominating a tree respects property rights. If you think you've spotted a champion, here's what you need to know in order for the tree to be considered as a Nebraska State Champion:

1. Verify the tree's location
  - Always obtain necessary permissions before approaching any tree
2. Verify the species of tree and retrieve the following measurements (see how to measure, below)
  - Tree's circumference
  - Tree's height
  - Tree's average crown spread
3. Calculate total points by using the following formula
  - 1 point for every inch of circumference
  - 1 point for each foot of height
  - ¼ point for each foot of average crown spread
  - Add the three point totals together to get the unofficial total
4. Compare against Nebraska's Champion Tree Register
  - If the tree's total points are somewhat close or larger than current champion, submit an official nomination form

Anyone interested in sending in a nomination should first review the Champion Tree Nomination Guidelines as well as the state's Champion Tree Registry. Not all trees can be champions, but we can all be tree stewards!

**How to Measure and Guidelines:** <http://nfs.unl.edu/championtreereguidelines>

**Registry:** <http://nfs.unl.edu/championtreeregistry>

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