



October 15, 2004

Here's the Fall Color Hotline report for the Northern Region of the USDA Forest Service for October 15, 2004. The Northern Region includes national forests and national grasslands in the states of Montana, northern Idaho, western North Dakota, and northwestern South Dakota.

Clearwater National Forest (northern Idaho)

Motorist traveling along Highway 12 will revel in large, eye-catching patches of yellow dogbane and fiery huckleberry brush. Bright orange elk browse and brown bracken carpet the forest floor, while crimson-colored sumac dot the mountain sides.

Flathead National Forest (northern Montana)

Fall color is coming to a close on the Flathead National Forest. Most of the leaves have fallen and are providing pretty color to the forest floor.

Helena National Forest (west central Montana)

Leaves are falling in the higher elevations, but the drive along Interstate 15, from Helena to Cascade, has a lot of color particularly on the shrubs.

Kootenai National Forest (northern Montana)

For a beautiful scenic drive Highway 56 east to Libby then north on Highway 37 you'll see a barrage of colors along the Kootenai River and Lake Koocanusa Scenic Byway.

Lewis and Clark National Forest (central Montana)

The trees are beginning to lose their leaves so hurry before they are all gone. Take the Teton Canyon Rd, 25 miles northwest of Choteau. This road is paved for the most part to Forest Service boundary, and then gravel. You'll spot the yellow of cottonwoods and aspen and the red and orange in ground cover.

Lolo National Forest

The leaves have already fallen off the brush and most of the broadleaf trees. The Western Larch are just about at their peak and should be wonderful to view for another week or so.

Sheyenne National Grasslands (North Dakota)

The fall color on the Sheyenne is in full-force. The cottonwoods are golden with the ash and aspen starting to yellow. The more subtle yellows, golds and reds of the warm season grasses makes a rich foreground for the trees of the river bottoms and the bur oak savannas.