

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications**

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

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Matsutake Mushroom Season Opens September 8th

Bend – The 2009 harvest season for Matsutake mushrooms opens September 8th in the Deschutes, Umpqua, Willamette and Fremont-Winema National Forests in Oregon. The season runs through November 8, 2009.

Anyone picking Matsutake mushrooms on national forest system lands must first purchase a commercial harvesting permit. Permits cost \$200 for the season, or \$8 per day with a five-day minimum (picking days need not be consecutive). Also available is a \$100 permit for half season (31 consecutive days). Harvesters must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid identification issued within the United States in order to purchase a permit.

An informational sheet and map are included with each permit to show areas open to picking. Currently, areas closed to picking include Crater Lake National Park, Newberry National Volcanic Monument, HJ Andrews Experimental Forest, research natural areas, wildernesses, campgrounds and other posted closed areas.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Chemult Ranger District, 110500 Hwy 97 North, Chemult, OR., and 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Crescent Ranger District, 136471 Hwy 97 North, Crescent, OR. Permits are also available at other ranger district offices of the Deschutes, Umpqua, Willamette (from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday), and Fremont-Winema National Forests. Permits purchased at any one of these national forest offices are valid for the other national forests as well.

The U.S. Forest Service requires commercial pickers to have written permission from the agency to camp on national forests, except in camping areas already designated for this purpose. A campground for pickers has been established at Little Odell Camp near Crescent Lake Junction, Oregon. The cost of camping is \$7 per person per day, \$30 per week, \$75 for half season (31 days) or \$110 for the season (62 days). In addition there is a refundable \$20 per camp cleaning deposit. Water, garbage and toilet services are provided.

For more information about the Matsutake mushroom program contact the Chemult Ranger District at (541) 365-7001, Crescent Ranger District at (541) 433-3200, Middle Fork Ranger District at (541) 782-2283, or the Umpqua National Forest at (541) 957-3255.

Visit our website for more information on the mushroom permit process:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/general/passespermits/forestproducts/index.html>.