

Winema National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment 6

Matsutake Mushroom Management

MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Matsutake mushrooms will continue to be provided for commercial collection.

Free recreational harvest opportunities will be provided.

Commercial collection of matsutake mushrooms shall be carried out in a manner compatible with existing and expected general public use.

The number of permits issued, permit fees and permit sale process will be designed to accommodate a wide range of forest users.

Develop simple but effective policies and practices to manage special forest product resources, so that communities are encouraged to understand, participate in, and support the management of these resources.

Management objectives blend the long term needs of people and environmental values so the land will support diverse, productive ecosystems and sustainable ecosystem processes.

Existing Land and Resource Management Plan Goals and Objectives, and Standards and Guidelines will be considered prior to designated matsutake harvest within established Management Areas.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The following standards and guidelines include existing management direction in the Deschutes and Winema Land and Resource Management Plans and management direction that was developed by an the interdisciplinary team. The interdisciplinary team developed these additional management requirements to preclude or impose limitations on resource management activities for the purposes of environmental protection and public safety .

These standards and guidelines were developed for the purpose of managing the matsutake mushroom program. Where applicable these standards and guidelines may also be applied to the management of other special forest product collection.

Customer Service

The number of commercial users permitted should not exceed the ability of management to provide services to the public, These services include but are not limited to, Fire Management, Law Enforcement, Recreation, Permit Administration and Customer Service.

Cultural Resources

Locate, Evaluate and protect cultural resources where ground disturbing activities are likely to occur.

Harvest methods which limit/minimize ground disturbance will be required.

Activities associated with the collection of matsutake mushrooms, such as camping will be located away from known cultural, historic and prehistoric sites.

Affected tribes shall be consulted to develop appropriate survey strategies and mitigation measures to locate, evaluate and protect cultural resources where harvest activities will occur.

Where monitoring indicates cultural resources are being adversely affected by harvest related activities, these activities will be discontinued.

Monitoring

Activities associated with the commercial collection of matsutake mushrooms shall be monitored, to determine if adverse effects to resources are occurring.

If monitoring determines that adverse effects are occurring, management actions will be taken to eliminate, reduce or offset adverse effects.

When additional research results and scientific information become available, harvest activities and intensities will be evaluated. Some restrictions may be appropriate.

Recreation

The commercial collection of special forest products should not occur in management areas designated primarily for recreational use.

Commercial activities should not exceed 50% of the social carrying capacity. The carrying capacity is based on the appropriate number of social encounters identified for each Recreational Opportunity Spectrum Classification. Where there is additional social carrying capacity not being utilized by the general public, additional commercial use may be permitted.

Commercial use may be limited during periods of high recreational use.

Camping in developed recreational facilities by persons engaged in commercial activities on National Forest Lands should not be permitted.

Camping by persons engaged in commercial harvest activities will be permitted only in authorized camping areas. These activities will be consistent with resource management objectives.

Industrial camps will be located in areas where conflicts with other users are avoided.

Industrial camps will not be located in areas with known cultural resources, PETS species, special or unique features.

Industrial camps shall be located away from streams, lakes, riparian areas and meadows.

Measures to ensure sanitary conditions, such as toilets and garbage services shall be required at industrial camps.

Prior to establishing new industrial camping areas, site specific analysis shall be conducted.

Native American Use

Activities which adversely affect the ability of tribal members to exercise their treaty rights within former reservation boundaries of the Klamath Tribes shall not be permitted.

Adequate opportunities for traditional, cultural, religious, and treaty guaranteed uses by Native Americans will be ensured by limiting commercial permits in areas where commercial use will conflict with or displace traditional Native American use.

Where such use is adversely affected within former reservation lands or is otherwise guaranteed by treaty.

For activities guaranteed by treaty rights, the Forest Service will not regulate these activities through the permit process.

Forest Managers will consult with Tribal Officials to identify and resolve conflicts.

Prior to designating areas for commercial harvest within former reservation lands of the Klamath Tribe, consultation will occur with the Tribe regarding the location, duration and intensity of use, to ensure cultural resources, subsistence and traditional uses are not adversely affected.

Matsutake Sustainability

Harvest techniques and tools used should minimize disturbance to the mycelium, host species, moss, organic layer, duff, down wood material and soils.

Harvest intensities should be limited to disperse harvesters and to reduce the frequency in-which the mushroom beds are visited.

Areas may be closed if monitoring indicates damage is occurring to mycelium beds or host species.

Mushrooms less than 2 inches in height or mature mushrooms greater than 7 inches in width should not be harvested.

The commercial harvest of matsutake mushrooms should not occur before September 1.

Harvest Areas

Areas for personal collection should be designated to reduce conflicts between other user groups.

Areas appropriate for commercial collection will be designated prior to issuing permits.

Maps identifying commercial harvest areas will be available for commercial harvesters and the general public.

PETS Plants

Commercial harvest in areas with known PETS (Proposed, Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive) plants may be authorized only after a biological evaluation has determined that there would be no adverse affect.

Areas of concentrated use (designated campsites, known areas of intense harvest, etc.) shall have surveys of all potential PETS habitat and a biological evaluation to determine the effects prior to authorized use.

Any personal use or commercial use permit within areas of newly located PETS or otherwise sensitive plant species shall be evaluated.

If research and/or monitoring indicate that the PETS habitat or PETS species is adversely affected by commercial activities, these activities shall be discontinued.

PETS Wildlife

Commercial harvest of matsutake mushrooms shall not be authorized within Late Successional Reserves (LSR) unless an LSR evaluation has determined that the activity will not have significant effect on late successional habitat. Restrictions may be appropriate in some cases.

Commercial harvest of matsutake mushrooms shall not be authorized in areas of critical, unique, or sensitive habitat, unless a biological determination finds there would be no adverse affect.

Commercial harvest of matsutake mushrooms within riparian areas should be evaluated. Where activities have been determined to have an adverse affect to the riparian areas, this activity should not be permitted.

If research and/or monitoring indicates that an adverse affect to proposed, endangered, threatened or sensitive species or their habitat is likely to occur as the result of the commercial harvest of matsutake mushrooms, this use shall be discontinued.

Vehicle Use

Educational materials and or training programs may be provided for the purpose of teaching safe driving practices on forest roads.

A portion of the permit cost shall be collected and used for additional required road maintenance.

Permits should require that road use be suspended during wet and saturated road conditions.

Fire Management

Fire prevention education will be provided through educational materials, training and positive customer contacts.

During periods of high fire danger, commercial activities may be suspended or additional precautionary measures may be imposed.

Education

Educational materials and training programs may be provided to address proper techniques for matsutake mushroom harvesting.

Forest use concerns such as litter, harvest and non-harvest area locations and designations, proper harvest tools, and basic mycology information will be addressed through the use of educational materials, visual aids and positive customer contacts.