

PERMITS, FEES & RULES

Personal Use: Harvesters may gather up to 5 gallons of morels or other mushrooms per day for personal use without a permit. There is no age limit on personal use mushroom pickers. Personal use mushrooms may not be sold or bartered.

Commercial Use: Each individual selling or bartering any mushrooms or gathering more than 5 gallons per day must have a valid Commercial Permit. They must have this permit in their possession while gathering and transporting mushrooms. When purchasing a permit, Commercial mushroom pickers are required to present an acceptable form of identification such as a Birth Certificate, Green Card, State ID, Passport, National ID, Tribal ID, or other identification issued by a Federal or State Government. Commercial Permits will not be sold to anyone under the age of 18 years old.

A 21-day commercial gathering permit costs **\$200**. Permits for longer or shorter time periods will not be sold.

Commercial use permits for the McCall and New Meadows Ranger Districts of the Payette National Forest may be purchased at their offices. Contact information is on the back of this brochure.

Commercial mushroom harvest is not allowed on the Council, Weiser, or Krassel Ranger Districts.

Contact Information

McCall Ranger District
102 West Lake Street
McCall, ID 83638
Phone: 208-634-0400

New Meadows Ranger District
3674 Highway 95
New Meadows, ID 83654
Phone: 208-347-0300



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PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

MUSHROOM GUIDE

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A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Read the conditions on your permit.
- ◆ Always carry your permit and your identification while harvesting.
- ◆ You are required to know where harvesting is allowed or not allowed.
- ◆ No mushroom harvesting is allowed in Wilderness areas.
- ◆ Motorized vehicles are not allowed on closed roads or off existing roads as shown on the current Payette National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map.
- ◆ Do not block trails, gates, or roads.
- ◆ Do not park in designated campsites and camping areas.
- ◆ Commercial pickers and buyers may not camp in developed campgrounds.
- ◆ Dispersed camping within five miles of the same site for a period longer than 18 days in any 30 consecutive days is prohibited.
- ◆ Discharging firearms in campsites is prohibited.
- ◆ Do not burn metal or tin foil in campfires and do not leave cigarette butts on the ground.
- ◆ Pick up and pack out your trash & anything you bring with you.
- ◆ Human waste may be disposed of by burying a minimum of 18 inches deep and 300 feet away from any water source or open road.
- ◆ Do not drink untreated water from a pond, lake, or stream. If you use surface water, use a water filter or boil water for 3-5 minutes.
- ◆ Understand fishing regulations because several fishing areas and species are catch and release only.

Mushroom gathering is best as soon as the snow melts in area that have been burned by fire within the past two years. Mushrooms emerge in the spring when moisture and temperature conditions are right. Most often the best location for mushrooms is in areas that were burned or the soil was disturbed the previous year. Sometimes there are mushrooms found two years after the burn, although not as many. In forested areas, beware of falling snags and stump holes, especially in burned areas.

For information about recent wildfires or prescribed fires, their location, and information about hazards in burn areas, contact your local Ranger District Office.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

◆ *Can I use my off-road vehicle to look for mushrooms?*

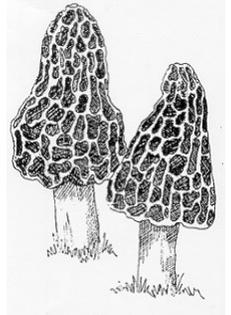
No. Vehicles (including ATVs, 4-wheelers, motorcycles, or bicycles) are not allowed off of Forest roads and ATV trails. This will provide protection to water resources and wildlife, and prevent soil erosion and damage to sensitive landscapes.

◆ *Can I purchase another 21-day commercial gathering permit after the first one expires?*

It depends on current conditions. Forest Officials will determine if capacity and other factors warrant the continuation of the commercial mushroom gathering season.

The Morel Mushroom

Many mushroom pickers on the Payette National Forest are searching for the ***Morchella*** species, commonly known as the edible morel, which looks similar to a pine cone perched on a stem.



The fertile cap (pine cone portion) is honey-combed with pits and ridges. The cap and stem are hollow, and the cap arises continuously from the stem. Stem color ranges from white to pallid brown, and the cap ranges from pale yellow browns to tan and brown and gray brown. The pits are typically the same color or darker than the ridges.

All morels are edible, but use caution the first time you eat them as some people may react adversely, especially when morels are consumed with alcohol.

Never eat morels raw. Avoid false morels and elfin saddles because they contain many poisonous species. They look similar to edible morels but are irregularly convoluted to brain-like, have solid stems, and lack the distinctive pitted and ridged pine cone cap of the true morels.

Edibility rules for morels:

1. When in doubt, throw it out!
2. If it ain't hollow, don't swallow!
3. If it's wavy, don't make gravy!
4. If it's reddish, you may be dead-ish!

(MushroomExpert.com "Edibility rules for Morels" by Michael Kuo)