



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Harvesting Mushrooms

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest



Morel mushrooms often fruit prolifically in the years after an area has been burned by wildfire.

Mushrooms are considered a “forest product.” Various types of permits, both personal use and commercial use, may be required for collection.

Mushroom Harvest Season

The harvest season generally runs from the beginning of May through the end of September, weather permitting. Please check with the local office.

Incidental Use

Picking five gallons of mushrooms or less for the season is considered incidental use and does not require a permit. Mushrooms picked under incidental use must be cut in half lengthwise and cannot be sold. Incidental use is allowed across the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Personal use Permit

A Personal Use (Free) permit allows an individual to pick up to 5 gallons of mushrooms per day, up to 20 gallons total (per season). Mushrooms picked under personal use must be cut in half lengthwise and cannot be sold.



Know Your Mushrooms

Proper identification of mushrooms is the responsibility of the harvester. Some mushrooms are poisonous. Field guides and website resources should be consulted before harvesting. The western Montana Mycological Association web address is: www.fungaljungal.org.

Age requirements

Children under the age of 12 are restricted to incidental use.

Personal Use (over the age of 12 only)

- Permit required for picking more than five gallons
- Those who are between the ages 12 and 17 do not need to have their permit co-signed by an adult

Traveling on Forest roads and motorized off-road or cross country travel

- Motorized cross country travel is not allowed on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Please see the forest visitor map (available at Ranger District offices) for designated trail and road information.
- Avoid areas where logging activity or road construction is taking place.
- Do not block gates or travel behind locked gates.
- Seasonal road closures for spring conditions may be in effect. Contact the local Ranger District office for current information on open and closed roads.

Forest Service
Northern Region



R1-18-20

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Know Where You Are – And Harvest Only Where Allowed For Your Permit

Make sure that you are on National Forest Lands. You must obtain permission from private land owners to harvest on their property. National Forest Maps may be purchased at each Ranger District Office.

Resource Protection – please follow these rules when harvesting mushrooms on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

- Minimize the impacts to the actual fungus by not disturbing the ground habitat, and by cutting, not pulling the mushrooms from the ground.
- No raking or other ground disturbances are allowed when picking mushrooms.
- Avoid streamside and wetland areas to minimize impacts.
- Do not leave trash on the forest or at campgrounds. Pack out what you pack in.
- Use sanitation facilities, or dispose of human waste in a hole at least eight inches deep and 300 feet from water or open roads.
- Do not discharge firearms in or around campsites, near private homes, or over bodies of water.
- Keep dogs under control when on the forest.

Food storage

- Mushroom harvesters and campers must abide by the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF food storage strategy.
- Be aware of local food storage requirements.
- Prevent encounters with bears and other wildlife by storing food properly.

Campfires

- Use established fire rings and clear an area around the outside perimeter of the fire.
- Do not leave a campfire unattended.
- Completely extinguish your campfire before leaving it.
- Do not burn food or trash, use designated trash facilities.



For more information or to acquire a permit, contact one of the following offices Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Headquarters and Dillon Ranger District

420 Barrett Street
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 683-3900

Butte Ranger District

1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-2147

Madison Ranger District

5 Forest Service Road
Ennis, MT 59729
(406) 682-4253

Pintler Ranger District

88 Business Loop
Philipsburg, MT 59858
(406) 859-3211

Sheridan Work Center

402 S. Main
Sheridan, MT 59749
(406) 842-5432

Wisdom Ranger District

PO Box 238
Wisdom, MT 59761
(406) 689-3243

Wise River Work Center

PO Box 100
Wise River, MT 59762
(406) 832-3178

*Open May—Late November

Web: www.usda.gov/bdnf

Twitter: [BvrhdDrldgeNF](https://twitter.com/BvrhdDrldgeNF)

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