

PERMITS AND FEES

INCIDENTAL USE – No permit required. Individual can have up to 1 gallon in Possession and can harvest up to 5 gallons for the season.

FREE PERSONAL USE - On the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, a FREE PERSONAL USE permit allows you to harvest up to 20 gallons (50 lbs.) for the season.

Personal use permits are required for all harvesters over 12 years old. Individuals age 12-17 must have their permits signed by a parent, guardian or adult sponsor and must be accompanied by an adult while harvesting.

Forest products obtained under these permits are for personal use and cannot be sold or exchanged (36 CFR 261.6(f)).

This permit and activities hereunder are subject to all applicable Federal statutes and regulations and State and local laws. In case of conflict, Federal statutes and regulations shall take precedence.

Permits are not transferable and only valid on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Permits will Expire 09/30/2021.

WHILE ENJOYING THE HELENA-LEWIS AND CLARK FOREST REMEMBER

- *Beware of falling snags and stump holes in burned areas.
- *Motorized vehicles are not allowed off existing roads that are open to the Public.
- *Permittee parking shall not block traffic or impede fire or emergency vehicles.
- *Pack-it in, pack-it out.
- *Discharging firearms in campsites is prohibited.

KNOW YOUR MUSHROOMS

Properly identifying mushrooms and determining whether they are edible is your responsibility.

Guidebooks can help you identify mushrooms. Several field guides and keys are available at local bookstores. Also libraries, county extension office, and mycological societies are good sources of information. The western Montana Mycological Association has a web site that may help: www.fungaljungal.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Be sure you know the regulations affecting the area where you intend to collect.

Mushrooms must be *cut at ground level* to reduce impacts to the fungus and must be *cut in half lengthwise* at the time of collection. Raking, digging, and other ground disturbances are not allowed. Please follow the rule of thumb – collect no mushrooms smaller than an average adult thumb.

Also, remember the boundary between private land adjacent to public (Forest Service) land may not be well marked. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to identify ownership boundaries.

FOREST OFFICES

Personal use permits and additional information are available at:

Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor's Office, Great Falls (406) 791-7700

Rocky Mountain Ranger District, Choteau (406) 466-5341

Belt Creek Ranger District, Neihart, MT (406) 236-5511

Judith Ranger District, Stanford, MT (406) 566-2292

Musselshell Ranger District, Harlowton, MT (406) 632-4391

White Sulphur Springs Ranger District, WSS, MT (406) 547-3361

Helena National Forest Supervisor's Office, Helena, MT (406) 449-5201

Lincoln Ranger District, Lincoln, MT (406) 362-7000

Townsend Ranger District, Townsend, MT (406) 266-3425

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MUSHROOM GUIDE 2021



With the limited number of wildfires on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest during the summer of 2020, we don't anticipate an abundance of mushrooms on the forest. We will be issuing Free Personal Use mushroom permits for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.

This guide explains the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest's mushroom policy and gives some general information about mushrooms.



USDA
Forest Service
Helena-Lewis and Clark National
Forest

Permit Conditions

1. **HARVESTING.** A permit is required to harvest mushrooms on all National Forest System (NFS) lands. Proof of identification is required for issuance of all permits. All harvesters 12 years of age or older are required to have a permit, and must be signed by an adult. The permit must be kept with the permittee when collecting or transporting mushrooms and they must be accompanied by an adult. No raking or other ground disturbance is allowed when collecting mushrooms.
2. **PERMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY**
Signature of this Permit by the person shown on the line labeled "PERMITTEE" constitutes the commitment that they the Permittee and those accompanying them shall indemnify and hold the USDA Forest Service harmless from any claims, loss, cost, injury, expenses, attorney's fees, damages or liability caused by or arising out of the exercise of this permit.
3. **CAMPING.** Personal use harvesters may camp on National Forest up to 16 days; see local Forest Order. Camps shall be located at least 300 feet away from all water sources. Shall be on hardened sites. Camps should be kept clean and orderly. Permittee shall not damage vegetation, put nails in trees, cut live trees, or other disturbance to the natural environment.
4. **FOREST TRAVEL PLAN RESTRICTIONS APPLY** Motorized travel is restricted to open motorized trails and roads only. Motorized cross country travel is prohibited. Please visit the forest website for travel plan restrictions.
(<https://www.fs.usda.gov/hlcnf>).
5. **FIRE REGULATIONS** Fire precautionary periods are normally from May 1 through September. Permittee must obey all applicable federal, state, and county fire prevention and control regulations. If Permittee elects to have a campfire, use an established camp ring or he/she shall clear the area down to mineral soil for a distance of at least one (1) foot around the fire and shall remove all overhanging branches or other combustible material. The fire must be attended at all times. If the fire is to be left unattended, it must be COMPLETELY extinguished first. Permittee shall not burn materials containing nails, staples, other sharp objects or non-combustible items such as glass, foil or cans.
6. **SANITATION** Human waste must be disposed of at least 300 feet from any stream, lake, or other body of water or any recreational site, facility, or special use permit area and must be buried at least eight (8) inches deep. If campers have self-contained toilets, their contents will be properly disposed of off National Forest System lands at an approved location in accordance with applicable local and state health standards.
7. **FOOD STORAGE /GARBAGE/BEAR ATTRACTANTS** Permittee shall abide by Food Storage Orders present on all parts of the forest. These Orders are to ensure activities by humans do not attract bears. Human and pet food, mushrooms, garbage, grease, dirty dishes or other bear attractants shall be stored according to the Food Storage Order. Exposed attractants must be attended. This means a person 18 years of age or older is within 100 feet during the day or 50 feet at night of the attractants. If attractants are unattended, they must be contained in approved bear resistant containers (ie. metal boxes with latches, inside vehicles, hard-sided camper or surrounded by an approved electric fence). Pack all garbage, food, etc. out of the woods and dispose refuse in approved receptacles. Do not burn garbage. Coolers are not bear resistant. Placing bear attractants including coolers and garbage within your tent or soft-sided camper violates the Food Storage Order.
8. **VIOLATIONS** Violations of conditions of this Permit can result in confiscation of mushrooms, cancellation of Permit and /or legal action.
9. **FIREARMS** Discharging any firearms is prohibited in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or across or on a National Forest System road, or body of water.