



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

HELENA-LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST  
BELT-CREEK-WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT

OCCUPANCY AND USE PROHIBITIONS

Food Storage Order # 01-15-07-21-38

Pursuant to 16 USC 551, 36 CFR 261.50 (a), the following acts are prohibited on the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest in the Crazy Mountain Range on the Belt Creek-White Sulphur Springs Ranger District as described in this Order (the "Restricted Area").

**PROHIBITIONS:**

1. All food, refuse, or other attractants must be attended during daylight hours or otherwise acceptably stored in a bear-resistant manner. [36 CFR § 261.58(cc)]
2. All food, refuse, or other attractants must be acceptably stored during nighttime hours, unless it is being prepared for eating, being eaten, being transported, or being prepared for acceptable storage. [36 CFR § 261.58(cc)]
3. Any harvested animal carcass must be acceptably stored, unless the carcass is being field dressed, transported, being prepared for eating, or being prepared for acceptable storage. [36 CFR § 261.58(s)]
4. Camping or sleeping areas must be established at least ½ mile from a known animal carcass or at least 100 yards from a known acceptably stored animal carcass. [36 CFR § 261.58 (e)]
5. The responsible party shall report the death and location of livestock to a Forest Service official within 24 hours of discovery. Any Forest user finding dead livestock should contact the Forest Service. [36 CFR § 261.58 (s)]
6. Burnable attractants that cannot be completely consumed by fire (i.e., no post burning residue) must be packed out. [36 CFR § 261.58(cc), 36 CFR § 261.58 (e)]

Attached and hereby made part of this order is **Attachment A** – "Food Storage Forest Order Information and Definitions" which defines the terms used in this Order and further explains the above prohibitions.

**PURPOSE:**

This order is to protect health and human safety by reducing human-grizzly bear conflict.



**RESTRICTED AREA:**

All National Forest System Lands located in the Crazy Mountain Range on the Belt Creek-White Sulphur Springs Ranger District of the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest as shown on the attached Map titled “Attachment B: Food Storage Order.”

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

This order will be in effect from October 26, 2021, and shall remain in effect until October 26, 2023, or until the order is rescinded, whichever occurs first. This Order supersedes and replaces Forest Supervisors Order 01-15-07-18-05 invoked on July 24, 2018, which is hereby rescinded.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 C.F.R. Part 261, Subpart A.

**EXEMPTIONS:**

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following are exempt from this restriction:

1. Persons with a permit issued by the Forest Supervisor specifically exempting them from the effect of this order.
2. Any Federal or State officer placing baits to capture animals for research or management purposes as part of their official duties.

**VIOLATION:**

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both (16 U.S.C. §551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571(b)(6) and 3581(b)(7)).

**INFORMATION:**

Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at:

Belt Creek-White Sulphur Springs Ranger District offices, 204 West Folsom, White Sulphur Springs, MT, 59645, (406) 547-3361 and 4234 US Highway 89 North, Neihart, MT 59465, (406) 236-5100  
Helena-Lewis and Clark Supervisor office, 1220 38<sup>th</sup> Street North, Great Falls, MT, 59405 (406) 791-7700  
Helena District Office and Helena-Lewis and Clark Forest Supervisor’s Office, 2880 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT, 59602, (406) 449-5201.



**Forest Service**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Order Number 01-15-07-21-38**

Executed in Helena, Montana, this 26 day of October, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Avey", written over a solid horizontal line.

**WILLIAM AVEY**  
Helena-Lewis and Clark Forest Supervisor



Attachment A: Food Storage Forest Order #01-15-07-21-38  
Food Storage Order Information and Definitions

**UNDER THIS ORDER IT IS REQUIRED THAT:**

1. **Food, refuse and other attractants** means any substance, solid or liquid or refuse (excluding water, baled hay, or hay cubes without additives), which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal. Also includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, canned foods, pet foods, processed livestock feed and grains, personal hygiene products, and empty food and beverage containers. .
2. **Animal carcass** means the dead body or parts thereof, of any harvested mammal, bird, or fish, including the head or skull plate with antlers or horns and hide or cape of big game animals and any domestic livestock that may be found in the restricted area. Packaged or prepared animal carcass products transported into the restricted area for consumption, game birds, small mammals, or fish harvested for consumption in the restricted area are considered food under the previous definition.
3. **Burnable attractants** include items such as food leftovers, waste products, food grease or residue, food saturated containers or other substances that will not completely be consumed by fire. To be completely consumed, there must be no residual attractant on the surface of in the soil. These items shall not be buried, discarded or burned in an open campfire, unless placed in a suitable container (i.e. tin can or fire pan) to prevent leaching into the ground, and burned over an open campfire. Any remaining attractants unconsumed by burning shall be placed with other garbage, acceptably stored and packed out.
4. **Acceptably stored** means:
  - a) Stored in bear-resistant container and/or utilizing a method listed on the most recent Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Certified Bear Resistant Products List.
  - b) Stored in a closed vehicle, trailer or container where the storage compartment is constructed of solid, non-pliable material that, when secured, will have no openings, hinges, lids, or coverings that would allow a bear to gain entry by breaking, bending, tearing, biting, or pulling with its claws (any windows in the vehicle must be closed), or
  - c) Suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points and 4 feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole, or
  - d) Stored within a hard-sided residence, building, or storage container subject to the terms and conditions of a special-use authorization or operating plan, or
  - e) Stored by other methods approved in a permit issued by the Forest Supervisor responsible for the area where the method is proposed for use.
  - f) Animal carcasses must be acceptably stored (a. through e. above) when located 100 yards to ½ mile of a camping or sleeping area or within 200 yards of a Forest Road or Trail.
  - g) Animal carcasses more than ½ miles from a camping area and more than 200 yards from a Forest Road or Trail may be left on the ground.
  - h) Animal carcasses killed or harvested (and parts thereof) within ½ mile of any established camping area or sleeping area must be acceptably stored, possessed, or moved to a distance beyond ½ miles from any such camp or sleeping area by the party(-ies) responsible for killing or harvesting such animal.



5. **Acceptably possessed** means:
  - a) Possessed or attended during daytime by a person(s) that is physically present within 100 feet and direct sight of the accessible food, refuse or attractant or
  - b) Possessed or attended by such a person(s) for the purpose of field dressing lawfully taken animal carcasses, transporting any food or animal carcass, preparing any animal carcass or food for eating, or eating any food.
  
6. **Camping/sleeping area** means national Forest System Lands temporarily used for the purpose of overnight occupancy without a permanently fixed structure or lands temporarily occupied by unattended camping equipment.
  
7. **Daytime** means ½-hour before sunrise until ½-hour after sunset, Mountain Time.
  
8. **Nighttime** means ½-hour after sunset until ½-hour before sunrise, Mountain Time.
  
9. **Forest Road or Trail** means a road or trail wholly or partly within, or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.



Attachment B: Food Storage Order #01-15-07-21-38

