

## A FEW GENERAL RULES TO FOLLOW:

- ✓ You are required to know the regulations affecting the area where you harvest. Know where harvesting is allowed.
- ✓ Do not collect mushrooms from previously harvested areas: leave the rest for seed (spore) and food for wildlife. In the areas which you do harvest, consider leaving some mushrooms as well. Don't harvest more mushrooms than you need.
- ✓ Minimize the impacts to the actual fungus by not disturbing the ground habitat. Raking or other ground disturbances are not allowed when collecting mushrooms. Use a knife to cut the mushrooms or break the stem off at ground level.
- ✓ To minimize the spread of noxious weeds it is highly recommended to wash your vehicle before entering National Forest Land. Also check clothing for and remove weed seeds.
- ✓ Leave the area you use cleaner than you found it!
- ✓ Some roads have been closed to protect wildlife and sensitive land resources, provide for public safety, and reduce user conflicts. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on closed roads or off of existing roads. OHV are not allowed off of designated trails.
- ✓ Do not drink untreated water from a surface water supply such as a pond, lake, or stream. Bring water from a safe source or bottled water. If you use surface water, use a water filter or boil water vigorously for 3 to 5 minutes.
- ✓ Before you go out looking for mushrooms, tell someone where you are going. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them.



**Remember, it is everyone's  
responsibility to practice good  
natural resource harvesting!!**

## FOREST OFFICES

Commercial harvesting permits are available **ONLY** at the Darby Ranger District & the Supervisor's Office in Hamilton.

Free use permits are available at any of the following Bitterroot National Forest Offices.

### **Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office**

1801 N First  
Hamilton, MT 59840-3114  
Phone: 406-363-7100

### **Darby Ranger Station**

712 N. Main  
Darby, MT 59829  
Phone : 406-821-3913

### **Stevensville Ranger Station**

88 Main  
Stevensville, MT 59870  
Phone: 406-777-5461

### **Sula Ranger Station**

7338 Hwy 93 S.  
Sula, MT 59871  
Phone: 406-821-3201

### **West Fork Ranger Station**

6735 West Fork Road  
Darby, MT 59829  
Phone: 406-821-3269

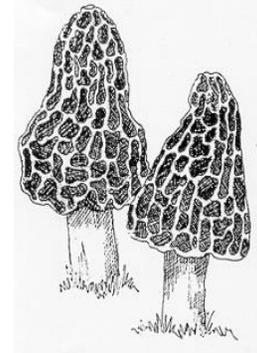
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot/passes>



## BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

# MUSHROOM GUIDE

2010



Fires can have a dramatic effect on the population of mushrooms in burned areas across the Northern Region of the Forest Service.

This guide will serve to inform you about the forest mushroom policy as well as offer some general information about mushrooms.

*In forested areas beware of falling snags and stump holes, especially in burned areas. For information about hazards in burn areas, contact your local Ranger District Office.*

***Have fun and be safe!***

United States  
Department  
of Agriculture



Forest  
Service

Bitterroot  
National  
Forest

# PERMITS, FEES, AND REQUIREMENTS

## TYPES OF PERMITS AND FEES

**FREE USE:** Allows an individual to harvest up to 5 gallons of mushrooms/day (approximately 2 grocery bags). This permit will be provided free at all Bitterroot Forest offices. Permit is valid for 20 gallons for the entire season and the permittee can harvest anywhere on the Bitterroot National Forest except for Research National Areas or other non-designated areas. *Permit is required. Mushrooms harvested under this permit must be cut lengthwise at the time of harvesting and are not to be resold commercially.*

**COMMERCIAL USE:** Allows the individual to harvest a certain quantity of mushrooms to be sold commercially or to buyers. Each commercial harvester will be required to purchase a permit available at the Darby R.D. office and at the Supervisor's Office. Commercial harvesting will be permitted **ONLY IN THE GIRD END MUSHROOM HARVEST AREA. (NO HARVESTING IN WILDERNESS)**

## COMMERCIAL PERMIT FEES

Commercial harvesters 12 years of age and older will be required to **purchase** a Commercial Mushroom Permit. Parent or Guardian's name will be included on the minors permit and accompanied by an adult when collecting, transporting or selling mushrooms. Permit is good only on the **Bitterroot National Forest**. Following are the fees depending on your length of stay:

7 day permit=\$20    14 day permit=\$40  
21 day permit=\$60    30 day permit=\$75  
Season permit=\$100

## CAMPING

Dispersed camping regulations will be enforced on the Bitterroot National Forest.

## REMEMBER, WHILE ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS:

- ✓ Pack it in, Pack it out.
- ✓ Don't leave cigarette butts on the ground.
- ✓ Human waste must be disposed of by burying a minimum of 8 inches deep and 300 feet away from any water source or open road.
- ✓ Discharging firearms within 150 feet of campsites, recreation areas, residences, buildings, and on or across a road or body of water is prohibited.
- ✓ Do not block gates, roads or interfere with the use of trails.
- ✓ Encounters with logging trucks are possible, even on weekends.
- ✓ Understand the fishing regulations. Several areas are catch and release only, or require bait restrictions.
- ✓ Forest rules and regulations exist to protect your natural resources. Know and follow them.



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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD) The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# KNOW YOUR MUSHROOMS!

Each year interest grows in harvesting wild mushrooms from National Forests. Proper identification and determination of whether a mushroom is edible is the responsibility of the harvester. *Many forest mushroom species are poisonous.* There are many guide books available to assist with identification. Some National Forests offer field guides for sale. Your local library, county extension office and local Mycological Society are good sources of information. Our word to the wise is: **WHEN IN DOUBT...LEAVE IT IN THE WOODS!**

## Questions and Answers:

*Where can I harvest mushrooms?*

- **Commercial** harvest is permitted only within the Gird End Mushroom Harvest area. *No harvesting may occur in wilderness or research natural areas..*
- **Free use** harvest is permitted anywhere on the Bitterroot National Forest except for Research Natural Areas or other designated areas. Free use harvest in designated wilderness is OK. Check with the Ranger District for any specific information and restrictions.

*Can I use my OHV to look for mushrooms?*

**No.** Vehicles (including ATV's, 4-wheelers, motorcycles, or bicycles) are not allowed off of Forest Developed Roads. This closure is to provide resource protection to help watershed stabilization and vegetative recovery, to provide security to wildlife populations, and to prevent excessive soil erosion.

*I bought a permit, then decided not to harvest.*

*Can I get my money back?*

No. Sorry, permit fees are non-refundable.