

What is a Moon Walk?

Once a month, as the full moon dictates, it seems safe to venture out into the dark while the moon makes shadows. You can still smell the flowers, feel the wind, hear the water, and sense the wildlife. The Bitterroot National Forest offers a "Walk By the Light of the Moon" series of interpretive walks during summer and fall. These walks are based on the book by Frances Hamerstrom titled "Walk When the Moon is Full", about her children and the nature walks they took every month under the full moon.

Their purpose is to provide a family oriented activity that introduces visitors to the cultural and natural history of the Bitterroot National Forest. Through this introduction we hope to foster an understanding and appreciation for these resources that will lead visitors toward stewardship of public lands.

A Typical Moon Walk Program

Moon walks are held on the night of the full moon or on a Saturday night close to the official full moon and begin at 7:00 p.m. Most Moon walks last from 1-2 hours. Please join our interpreters and naturalists for walks and presentations in the moonlight. Interpreters range from foresters, biologists, scientists, historians, poets, to storytellers, possibly everything under the sun, or— the moon.

Be Prepared

The Moon walk evening experience includes traveling to the site. Drive slowly and give yourself time to enjoy scenic forest vistas and wildlife.

The moonlight is for all ages to wander in. Check the schedule for dates, meeting spots and topics. Dress in layers because the weather in the forest is often different than it is in town. Pack water and snacks for the return trip. You may want to bring a lawn chair, a flashlight and a jacket.

All Moon Walk times and places are **subject to change** due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

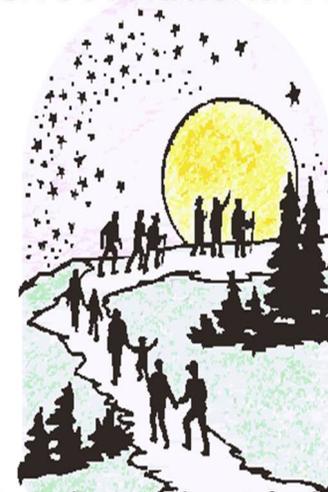


For More Information Contact:
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Bitterroot National Forest



Walk By The Light Of The Moon

A series of
Natural History
Walks During a
Full Moon

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2011 Moon Walk Schedule



**Wednesday, June 15th –
Wildlife Moon** presentation
at Lee Metcalf National

Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Refuge
Visitor Center. A central theme will
be wildlife myth and legend integrated
into a wildlife walk looking and listening
for crepuscular bird species.



**Friday, July 15th –
Nocturnal Fish Moon** at
Blodgett Canyon Campground and trail.

Trout are cold-blooded creatures that
are strongly influenced by light and
temperature. In mountain streams,
trout essentially have two seasons -
winter and summer. When trout
"winter" sets in, fish behavior
dramatically changes. We will learn
about these behavior changes from a
Fisheries Biologist from the Bitterroot
National Forest as we walk along
Blodgett Creek under the July moon.



**Monday, September 12th –
Aquatic Moon.** Location to be
determined. Join fisheries

biologists from Montana Fish, Wildlife &
Parks to learn about the Bitterroot River
and the aquatic life that it supports. The
importance of tributaries, how a fish
screen works and the cool genetics of
bull trout will also be discussed.



**Saturday, October 15th -
Ghost Moon** presentation at
the Larry Creek Group Camp,
Bitterroot National Forest. Join us
around a campfire to hear historical
Bitterroot Valley ghosts share stories of
their lives and untimely deaths.



**Saturday, August 13th –
Noxious Weeds and Native
Plants Moon** at Charles

Waters Campground, Bitterroot National
Forest. Learn about native plants,
noxious weeds and weed biocontrols
like the knapweed weevil from the
Ravalli County Weed District
Education Coordinator and high school
students from the Victor and Darby
Biocontrol Programs.

This program has been made possible
by the generous contributions of
numerous agencies, businesses, and
organizations located throughout
Missoula and Ravalli Counties.

Participants may collect "moon pins"
designed to reflect various walks. Pin
donations support the program.

Special thanks to Frances Hamerstrom
author of the book, *Walk When the
Moon is Full*, and to Hennepin County
Parks of Minnesota for their model
program.

**All Walks are held at 7:00 p.m.
Detailed directions to each program
and cancellation information can be
obtained from the local newspaper,
the US Forest Service number and
website listed on this brochure or by
becoming a member of the Moon
Walk email list.**