

If you like to pick huckleberries, gather mosses, and harvest mushrooms or medicinal plants, you probably can continue doing so as you always have. However, there are limits to the quantities that can be harvested. Most forest products require a permit to help guide you with how and where to harvest and which plants are prohibited from collection. These guidelines are in place to prevent over-harvesting in order to provide sustainable forest products for the future.



Fern

To harvest some Forest Products from National Forest lands, a permit will be required.

For more information, check your local Forest Service Office

Supervisor's Office
650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, Montana 59901
406-758-5208

Tally Lake Ranger District
650 Wolfpack Way
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-758-5204

Swan Lake Ranger District
200 Ranger Station Road
Bigfork, MT 59911
406-837-7500

Hungry Horse/Glacier View Ranger Districts
10 Hungry Horse Drive
Hungry Horse, MT 59919
406-387-3800

Spotted Bear Ranger District
10 Hungry Horse Drive
Hungry Horse, MT 59919
406-758-5376 (summer)
406-387-3800 (winter)



Flathead National Forest

Gathering Special Forest Products (plants, boughs, wood, rock) from the Flathead National Forest



Beargrass

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United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service R1-10-10

Flathead National Forest

2011

What are Special Forest Products?

Special forest products are non-timber goods that can be found in the forest such as mushroom, beargrass leaves, fern greens, pine cones, evergreen boughs and huckleberries. Because many of these items have a commercial value, they may be over-harvested if not managed. In order to protect these



resources, yet make them available to the public, the Flathead National Forest has adopted collection

limits for these products. The forest has developed a Special Forest Products Plan to assure sustainable harvest of these resources into the future.

Why do I need to pay a fee, or obtain a permit for certain products?

All plants on National Forest Service lands, from tiny lichens to the largest trees, belong to the American Public. Just as the Forest Service sells timber, harvesting plant materials that are of value must be purchased for a fair market value with the proceeds going to the U.S. Treasury. Permits are sometimes required to provide guidelines for appropriate collection, make collectors aware of any restrictions in collecting and to display the appropriate fee.

Special Forest Products on the Flathead National Forest

Listed below are the limits, fees and permit requirements for most products available. All limits and fees are for **personal use only**, and apply to one adult per calendar year.

Personal Use Permit Required		Fee
	Huckleberries No permit or fee required up to 10 gallons. Amounts greater than 10 gallons requires commercial use permit.	\$0.00
✓	Fern Greens (fiddleheads and leaves only) Limit: 20 lbs. green weight. Free-use permit required which lists all species prohibited from collection.	\$0.00
	Seeds, Fruits and Berries (Other than huckleberries) No fees, limits or permits required.	\$0.00
	Beargrass Leaves (no collection of flowering or seed heads allowed) No permit or fees for up to 20 lbs. Amounts greater than 20 lbs. require commercial use permit.	\$0.00
✓	Firewood Permit required. \$5 per cord 4 cord minimum, 12 cord maximum.	\$20.00 min.
	Mushrooms No permit required up to 5 gallons, with a one gallon per day possession limit. Fee Permits are required in designated collection areas, such as recent burns. Check your local Forest Service office for the location of these collection areas.	\$0.00

Gathering any product to be sold is considered commercial harvesting. Some of these products may be harvested in greater quantities for commercial use, however, different permits and fees are required. For more information about commercial harvesting, and more details on the limits and permit requirements for these and other products, contact your local Forest Service office.

Personal Use Permit Required		Fee
✓	Transplants – Plants, Shrubs and Trees Limit: from 5-20 plants depending on species. Free-use permit required which lists all species prohibited from collection.	\$0.00
✓	Roots, Bulbs and Herbs Permit required for any collecting.	\$0.00
✓	Christmas Trees Limit: 2 trees per household.	\$5.00 ea.
✓	Mosses and Lichens Limit: 1 lb. dry weight. Free-use permit required which lists all species prohibited from collection.	\$0.00
	Evergreen Boughs No permit or fee required for up to 100 lbs. green weight (except for Pacific Yew which has a 50 lb limit). Amounts greater than 100 lbs (or 50 lbs. for Pacific Yew) requires a commercial-use permit.	\$0.00
✓	Native Plant Cuttings No fee, but free-use permits with quantity limits are required for certain species. Check with your local Forest Service office.	\$0.00
✓	Rock/Gravel or Sand Minerals permit required for up to 4 tons/year maximum. Use of hand tools only.	\$0.00