



United
States
Department
of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northern
Region

Bitterroot
National
Forest



Food Storage Requirements

Bitterroot National Forest

Special Food Storage Requirements

Are in effect on all National Forest System lands within the Montana portion of the Bitterroot National Forest from March 1 - December 1 annually. Bear populations are increasing within the Bitterroot Ecosystem and it is important for human and wildlife safety that everyone helps prevent bears from becoming habituated to human food and attractants.

What Is Required?

In the Daytime - All attractants must be acceptably stored or attended. Attended means that someone is within 100 feet and has a direct line of sight to accessible attractants.

At Night - Unless being transported, eaten or being prepared, all attractants must be attended by a person who is awake or be properly stored.

Acceptable Methods Of Storage

To be properly stored, attractants must be:

- ◆ Stored in an enclosed and locked hard-sided vehicle (including pick-up camper shells or enclosed horse trailers) with all the windows closed;
- ◆ Stored in a bear food storage box or other approved bear-resistant container that is locked, bolted, or secured according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- ◆ Suspended at least ten feet clear of the ground at all points and four feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole; or
- ◆ Enclosed within certified bear food storage electric fencing.

Attractants Include

Bears will investigate anything that has a scent, including food, drinks, alcoholic beverages, sealed food and drinks, trash, empty food and beverage containers, coolers, BBQ grills, cookware, pet food, fish bait, livestock feed and grain, personal and hygiene products (e.g. toothpaste, deodorant, lip balm, bug spray, etc.). Remember that water and hay are not considered attractants.

**FOOD
STORAGE
REQUIRED**



Camping Tips

Whether camping in a campground or in the backcountry, make your campsite a bear avoidance campsite by:

- ◆ Always keeping a clean camp.
- ◆ Keeping your sleeping area, tent, and sleeping bag free of food and odors.
- ◆ Not sleeping in the clothes that you wore while cooking or handling fish or game.
- ◆ Cleaning barbecue grills and storing them so they are unavailable to bears.
- ◆ Not burning garbage with food smells.
- ◆ Using bear-resistant trash receptacles and food storage lockers where available.
- ◆ Keeping pets under supervision and control at all times and feeding them inside.

For additional Food Storage Order information please visit the Bitterroot National Forest website www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot. For bear information and a list of certified bear-resistant products visit <http://igbconline.org>

Notes:

FOOD & ODORS ATTRACT BEARS

For public safety and wildlife protection, all food and wildlife attractants, when unattended, must be properly stored:



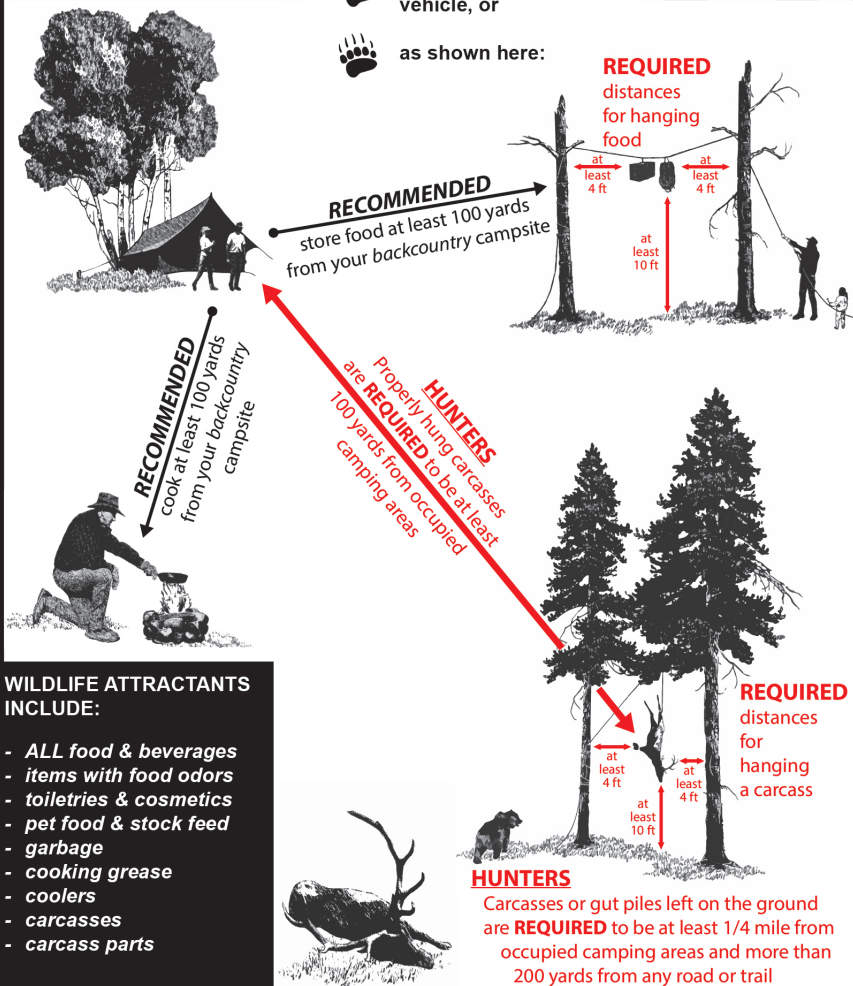
using a certified food storage method, or



in a hard-sided vehicle, or



as shown here:



WILDLIFE ATTRACTANTS INCLUDE:

- ALL food & beverages
- items with food odors
- toiletries & cosmetics
- pet food & stock feed
- garbage
- cooking grease
- coolers
- carcasses
- carcass parts



Violations of the Food Storage Order are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. Refer to www.igbconline.org for a list of certified bear-resistant food storage products.

For more information contact one of the following offices Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bitterroot National Forest

Supervisor's Office
1801 N. First Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-363-7100

Stevensville Ranger District

88 Main Street
Stevensville, MT 59870
406-777-5461

Darby-Sula Ranger District

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

West Fork Ranger District

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

www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot

Discover Bitterroot NF



Additional Information for Hunters

Any harvested animal carcass, including all parts, must be acceptably stored.

- ◆ It is prohibited to store a carcass within 100 yards of a known occupied camping area;
- ◆ Carcasses or carcass parts located between 100 yards and 1/4 mile from a known occupied camping area or within 200 yards of a Forest Service road or trail must be moved or stored using an approved storage method; and
- ◆ Carcasses or carcass parts may be left on the ground if more than 1/4 mile from a known occupied camping area and at least 200 yards from a Forest Service road or trail.