

A FEW GENERAL RULES TO FOLLOW:

- ✓ You are required to know the regulations affecting the area where you harvest. Know where harvesting is allowed.
- ✓ Due to the complex life cycle of mushrooms, there are a few things you can do to protect the species in your favorite areas: Leave some of the mushrooms you find.
- ✓ Do not collect mushrooms from previously harvested areas: leave the rest for seed (spores) and food for wildlife. 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.
- ✓ 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, though non-motorized traffic is allowed.
- ✓ 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.

FOREST OFFICES

Commercial harvesting permits are available **ONLY** at the **Darby, West Fork, and Sula Ranger Districts.**

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

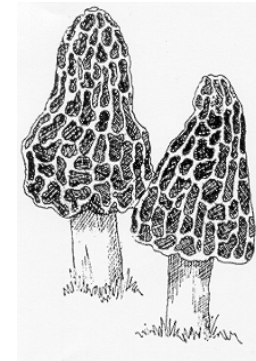
6735 West Fork Road
Darby, MT 59829
Phone: 406-821-3269

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

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

MUSHROOM GUIDE

2008



The fires of 2007 could 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.

Free Use harvesting permits are available at all Ranger District Offices on the Bitterroot National Forest. Commercial permits can only be obtained at Darby, West Fk, and Sula RDs.



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



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, West Fork, or Sula Ranger Districts**. Commercial harvesting will be permitted **ONLY IN THE ROMBO AND RAT MUSHROOM HARVEST AREAS AND WILL REQUIRE SEPARATE PERMITS FOR EACH AREA. (NO HARVESTING IN WILDERNESS).**

COMMERCIAL PERMIT FEES

All 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 guardian when collecting, transporting or selling mushrooms. Permit is good only on the **Bitterroot National Forest**. Depending on your length of stay, the following fees are required:

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

CAMPING PERMIT

Camping in the ROMBO Mushroom Area is allowed only in dispersed areas and a free

Camping Permit is required which can be obtained from the issuing Ranger Districts. **No camping is allowed in the RAT Mushroom Area.**

REMEMBER, WHILE ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS:

- ✓ Pack it in, Pack it out.
- ✓ Don't leave cigarette butts on the ground.
- ✓ Human waste may be disposed of by burying a minimum of 18 inches deep and 300 feet away from any water source or open road.
- ✓ Discharging firearms within campsites is prohibited.
- ✓ Do not block gates, roads or interfere with the use of trails.
- ✓ Encounters with logging trucks are likely, even on weekends.
- ✓ Understand the fishing regulations because several fishing areas are catch and release only.



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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 Rombo and Rat Mushroom Harvest Areas. **No harvesting in wilderness.** **Free use** permits are valid for anywhere on the Bitterroot National Forest except for Research Natural Areas or other designated areas. 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.

Have fun and be safe!

