



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Mushroom Permits Available for Flathead National Forest

Personal-use and commercial permits for picking mushrooms on the Flathead National Forest are available. For the 2008 season, a permit is required to harvest mushrooms anywhere on the forest.

Personal-use permits are free and allow an individual to harvest up to five gallons of mushrooms per day, totaling a maximum of 20 gallons of mushrooms per season. Resale of mushrooms is prohibited and mushrooms must be sliced lengthwise at the time of harvest. Personal-use permits are available at any Flathead National Forest Office.

Commercial permits are available for harvesting mushrooms **within the Brush Creek Wildland Fire area only**. Permits allow an individual to harvest any amount of mushrooms and sell them. A 14-day permit costs \$40 and a season permit costs \$100. Commercial permits are **only available** at the Tally Lake Ranger District Office in Kalispell, 650 Wolfpack Way. A trailer has been set up next to the district office to accommodate individuals purchasing commercial permits.

Commercial and personal-use permits may be obtained at this location Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 3:30pm, and on Saturdays, 8am to Noon.

Commercial harvesters wanting to camp on the national forest must purchase a commercial camping permit and camp in designated areas. These permits are available at the Tally Lake Ranger District Office.

Mushroom permits obtained from the Flathead National Forest are only valid on the lands administered by the Flathead National Forest. For information about harvesting mushrooms on lands other than the Flathead National Forest, please contact the respective National Forest or land management organization.

Mushrooms have not appeared on most of the forest because of weather conditions. It is anticipated that more mushrooms will appear in June, as temperatures warm and snow pack melts.

Anyone visiting the Forest to harvest mushrooms is reminded to beware of falling snags and stump holes, especially in burned areas. If harvesting in the area of the 2007 Brush Creek Wildland Fire, please be aware that the forest is treating some areas, specifically along roads, for noxious weeds. Please do not park in areas that are being sprayed. Use caution when driving in the fire area, as there is some truck traffic due to timber sale activity. There are some temporary road closures in the fire area and operation of heavy equipment. Please respect the temporary closures and use caution in the vicinity of the equipment. Firewood gathering is not allowed in the Brush Creek Wildland Fire area.

Mushroom harvesters are reminded that there are many types of mushrooms in the forest and it is important to properly identify each mushroom prior to picking. Some mushrooms are poisonous. When picking mushrooms it is encouraged to cut or break off the mushroom close to the ground. Do not pull mushrooms out of the ground. Mushroom guide books and identification books are available for purchase at all Flathead National Forest Offices.

For more information about harvesting mushrooms on the Flathead National Forest, please contact 758-5204 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead.

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