



# NEWS RELEASE

## Lolo National Forest

United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Lolo National Forest  
Building 24, Fort Missoula  
Missoula, Montana 59804

[www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo)

**For Immediate Release**

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## Mushroom Permits Now on Sale

Missoula, MT. – The Lolo National Forest began selling mushroom permits Thursday, May 1 for Personal Use and Commercial Use. May 1 also marked the official beginning of the picking season which will run to September 30<sup>th</sup> this year. Although mushrooms have not yet appeared on most of the forest because of the heavy snow pack and cooler temperatures, a few of the warmer, south facing slopes are starting to display the fruiting bodies. The commercial mushroom harvest areas on the Lolo include almost 32,000 acres across the northern portion of the Chippy Fire on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District and approximately 4,500 acres of the Jocko Lakes Fire on the Seeley Lake Ranger District. Incidental and Personal Use picking areas are available across portions of these two fires, and other fires on the Forest.

The Forest solicited public comment on its proposal for allowing commercial harvest earlier this year and received very few comments on its original plans. In addition to Commercial and Personal Use permits, individuals may also pick mushrooms under the provision of free Incidental Use (up to five gallons) – which does not require a permit. The Personal Use permit is \$20 and allows the harvest of up to 20 gallons for the season. Commercial Use permits range from \$20 for seven days, to \$100 for the entire season. Personal Use and Commercial Use permits purchased on the Lolo National Forest are only valid on Lolo National Forest lands. Other National Forests and private land owners should be contacted before picking elsewhere.

Personal Use permits are available at all Ranger District offices. Commercial Use permits are being sold only at the Plains/Thompson Falls and the Seeley Lake Ranger Districts. Information packets, including maps and rules are also available to pickers at the Lolo's offices. It is important to note that people picking under the Incidental Use provision do not need to come to a Ranger District office to get a permit.

Mushroom harvesters will be required to cut in half lengthwise all mushrooms that are not harvested under a Commercial permit.

As in past years, the forest is anticipating an influx of mushroom pickers this spring for the morel mushroom season. The forest is asking all mushroom harvesters to abide by resource protection rules, especially the 14-day stay limit in place for camping, and leaving no trash behind.

The Lolo National Forest will be active in enforcing mushroom permit rules as well as the rules and regulations for resource protection and safety – including food storage requirements. An increased law enforcement presence at campgrounds and heavy use harvest areas will help the forest manage potential impacts.

Mushroom harvesters should be aware of the different types of mushrooms in the forest and be able to identify morels from other poisonous mushrooms. For information on mushroom identification the Western Montana Mycological Association has the following website: [www.fungaljungal.org](http://www.fungaljungal.org).

Additional forest information on permit fees and rules, as well as fire perimeter maps, is now available on the Lolo National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/>, under **Passes and Permits**.

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