

# NEWS RELEASE



United States  
Department of Agriculture  
**Forest Service**

## Clearwater National Forest

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 21, 2008

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### Clearwater National Forest announces mushroom harvesting policy

*Orofino, ID*—The Clearwater National Forest has revised its mushroom harvesting policy for 2008. The updated rules: (1) prohibit commercial picking on lands administered by the Clearwater National Forest; (2) require free personal use permits in large-fire areas; and (3) allow for incidental use without a permit in all other Forest areas.

According to Special Products Coordinator Rick Kusicko, the Forest experienced two large fires during the summer of 2007—the Bridge Fire nine miles southeast of Powell, and the Boundary Junction Fire 15 miles southeast of Pierce. “Wildland fires often produce suitable conditions for mushroom growth in the spring and summer after the fires,” Kusicko explained. “The influx of people looking for mushrooms can cause resource damage. By requiring permits in fire areas, Forest personnel are able to monitor levels of use and discuss resource concerns with prospective harvesters.”

Personal use permits for the Bridge Fire area are available from the Powell Ranger District headquartered in Powell, Idaho. Permits for the Boundary Junction Fire area are available from the Lochsa Ranger District headquartered in Kooskia, Idaho. These permits entitle pickers to five gallons of mushrooms per day with a seasonal limit of 20 gallons. Mushrooms gathered for personal use must be cut in half when picked.

Individuals picking outside the two large fire areas don’t need a permit, and may pick “incidental” quantities of mushrooms. Kusicko said incidental harvesters are limited to one gallon or less in possession. Again, mushrooms must be cut in half when picked.

An information brochure and maps of the Bridge and Boundary Junction Fires are posted on the Clearwater National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/>. Questions can be addressed to Kusicko at the Forest Supervisor’s Office in Orofino (208-476-8374).

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