



# 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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## Lolo N.F. Designates Commercial Mushroom Harvest Area

Missoula, MT. – The Lolo National Forest is proposing to allow commercial mushroom harvest for the northern section of the Chippy Fire perimeter on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District as well as a portion of the Jocko Lakes Fire perimeter on the Seeley Lake Ranger District and has invited public comment on that proposal. A scoping letter was released this week announcing the plan. On other areas across the forest, the public will be able to pick mushrooms under the provision of free Incidental Use (up to five gallons), or by purchasing a Personal Use permit for \$20. A Personal Use permit allows the harvest of up to 20 gallons for the season. Commercial harvest permit fees range from \$20 for seven days, to \$100 for the entire season.

Personal Use permits will go on sale at the beginning of the mushroom harvest season and will be available at all Ranger District offices. Commercial harvest permits will be sold only at the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District and the Seeley Lake Ranger District.

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. Depending on local weather conditions, the season may run from April through July. 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 that protect resources. 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, will be available in the coming weeks on the Lolo National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/>, under **Passes and Permits**. Mushroom harvesters should also note that mushroom permits are not transferable across National Forest boundaries, so a permit must be used on the National Forest from which it was purchased.

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