

MUSHROOM PICKING

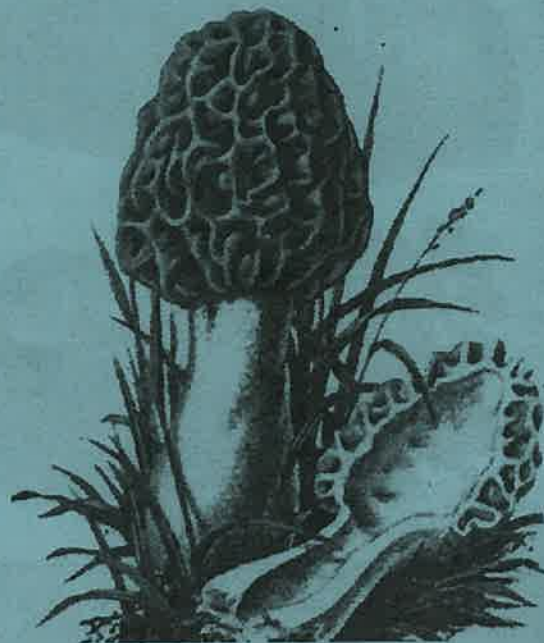
Lassen National Forest

Picking mushrooms is an enjoyable activity that takes no more than a simple basket, a knife, and knowledge of the forest and its fungi. To make it enjoyable for everyone, please consider the following tips:

- 🌲 Don't leave holes in the duff. It dries out the fertile ground underneath. Mushrooms are the fruit of a mycelium, an invisible web of threads that lives in the ground year round. Holes in the duff can dehydrate and shrivel the mycelium, which eliminates mushroom fruiting.
- 🌲 If you pick up duff to check out a promising mound or you leave a hole when you pick a mushroom, put the duff back when you're done. Please do not rake the duff to look for mushrooms; it's very damaging to the mycelium.
- 🌲 Carry your picked mushrooms in a basket, mesh bag, or bucket with holes drilled in it. A picked mushroom continues to drop spores. By carrying mushrooms in an open-air container, you help distribute spores so the mushroom can reproduce.
- 🌲 Carrying mushrooms in a closed container eliminates spore dispersal, closed containers will often ruin the mushrooms. A non-breathing plastic bag full of mushrooms can quickly turn into a bag full of mush!



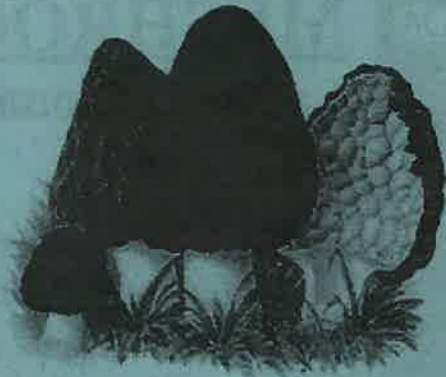
- 🌲 Don't uproot, overturn, or smash mushrooms that you don't want. If you pick a mushroom to examine it and decide you don't need it, put it back in the ground stem down so it looks like it was never picked and can continue to drop spores. Better yet, try to identify the mushroom by feel before you pick it.



- 🌲 A mushroom stands upright so that it can drop reproductive spores and protect its spore-bearing underside from the rain. An upside-down waterlogged mushroom is not a successful spore disperser, and it's ruined for anyone else who wants to examine it closely, photograph it, or eat it if it's edible.

- ✦ If you like to keep your favorite mushroom hunting site a secret bury your mushroom trimmings under the duff.
- ✦ Learn to properly identify mushrooms. There are poisonous look-alikes that can make you very ill or even kill you, so be careful.
- ✦ Don't pick every last mushroom. It is very tempting to want to pick them all but if you want mushrooms to return year after year you need to leave some behind to distribute their spores.

~Tips courtesy of Michael Bloom



An artful mushroom picker leaves no trace of their presence in the woods—a practice that helps the mushrooms, other pickers, and yourself.



NOTE: For those who are picking mushrooms for personal use, a free permit is required. For those who wish to pick mushrooms for profit, a commercial permit is required. Permits can be acquired from the Ranger District offices.

For More Information Contact:



Almanor Ranger District
 PO Box 767
 900 Highway 36 East
 Chester, CA 96020
 (530) 258-2141

Eagle Lake Ranger District
 477-050 Eagle Lake Road
 Susanville, CA 96130
 (530) 257-4188

Hat Creek Ranger District
 PO Box 220
 477-050 Eagle Lake Road
 Fall River Mills, CA 96028
 (530) 336-5521

Online: www.fs.usda.gov/lassen

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**Lassen National Forest
Mushroom Personal Use/Free Use
Mail-in Permit Request**

This Mail-in Request is for a Mushroom Collection permit to allow: Seasonal, Free Use, Unlimited Collection, Personal Use Mushrooms with exception of Morels and King Boletes that are limited to 5 pounds each species per day for a total combined 10 pounds per day.

Cost of the Permit: Free

Duration: for the entire season from March 1 through December 31

Individual requesting the permit, please provide both your physical and mailing addresses:

Name (print): _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone Number: _____ **Driver's License No.** _____

Upon receiving your mail-in permit: **PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED TO BE VALID.**

Mail this request to the office listed below that is closest to you:

Almanor Ranger District Mushroom Permit Request PO BOX 767 Chester, CA 96020	Eagle Lake Ranger District Mushroom Permit Request 477-050 Eagle Lake Road Susanville, CA 96130	Hat Creek Ranger District Mushroom Permit Request PO BOX 220 Fall River Mills, CA 96028
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Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

