



Mushroom Harvesting Guide

Shasta McCloud Ranger Districts

The Shasta-McCloud Management Unit of the Shasta Trinity National Forests is known worldwide as a productive and fun place to harvest mushrooms. Our visitors come from around the globe to hunt for and harvest many varieties of wild mushrooms that include Morels, Boletus (Porcini), Matsutake, Corals, Turkey Tail, Puff-ball, Shaggy Manes, and Chanterelles. Mushroom hunting can be enjoyed by all ages and is a fun-family experience. The community of McCloud sponsors a Mushroom Festival in the fall where one can experience live music and wild mushrooms in various dishes prepared by vendors, purchase dried or fresh mushrooms, or participate in a mushroom gathering workshop..

Seasons:

Spring: The Spring mushroom season begins sometime in late April to early May depending on many factors that include snow melt and temperature. It generally lasts into July.

Fall: The Fall Matsutake season begins in late September to early October and runs through November. The opening of the season is reliant on weather as well.

Helpful tips:

Dress according to the expected weather, it can turn quite cold during both of our mushroom seasons.

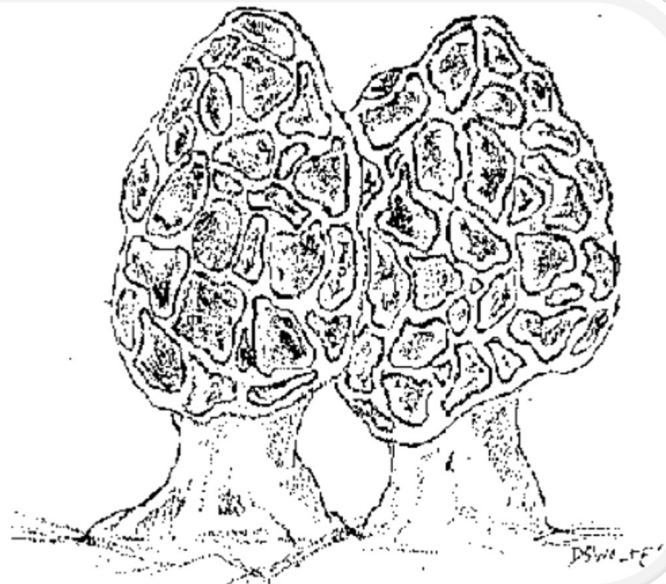
Bring with you a paper or cloth bag to carry your mushrooms, plastic holds in the warmth, does not allow ventilation and promotes decay.

Carry a pocket or belt knife to cut the mushroom from the stem and in half if required..

DO NOT touch any mushroom you are unsure about, it could sicken you.

Be Careful, Be Educated

While there are a number of varieties of edible mushrooms, there are an equal number of **poisonous** varieties out there as well. Please ensure that you are familiar with the identification of both toxic and edible mushrooms. To do this we recommend purchasing a book to help you, conduct research on the internet, and most of all go out with someone who is in the know.



Rules for Harvesting:

- The first rule of mushroom harvesting is each adult harvesting mushrooms must have a valid permit (see below)
- The second is **no raking**. This destroys the mushroom bed and the mycelia that are required to grow mushrooms.
- You may only use up to an 18-inch long x 1 inch wide harvesting device to pluck or cut mushrooms from the ground. We recommend cutting the mushroom over plucking it from the earth.
- Be light on the land, try not to disturb the ground, and do not drive more than one car length off the road.
- Please do not leave litter in the forest, if you pack it in, please pack it out.
- If you decide to camp for two days or more while mushrooming you must identify your camp on a map. Any Forest officer or law enforcement officer may ask to see your permit.

If you are found to be out of compliance, law enforcement may confiscate your permit, forest products, and possibly issue you a ticket. Read back of permit for additional rules and requirements. Remember that the SMMU permits are only valid on the Shasta-McCloud Management Unit and we do not honor adjoining Forests' harvesting permits.

Permits:

Anyone 18 yrs. or older wishing to harvest wild mushrooms are required to have either a personal use or a commercial use permit. The daily harvest record must be properly filled out when leaving one area for another or leaving the forest.

Personal Use Permits:

Free, one time issue in the spring only. This allows the permittee to gather up to 20 lbs. of mushrooms per person over the course of one month. It expires when one or the other is reached. You must quarter your mushrooms if the cap is 2" or bigger. **You may not sell your mushrooms with this permit.** No Personal Use permits during the fall season.

Commercial Permit:

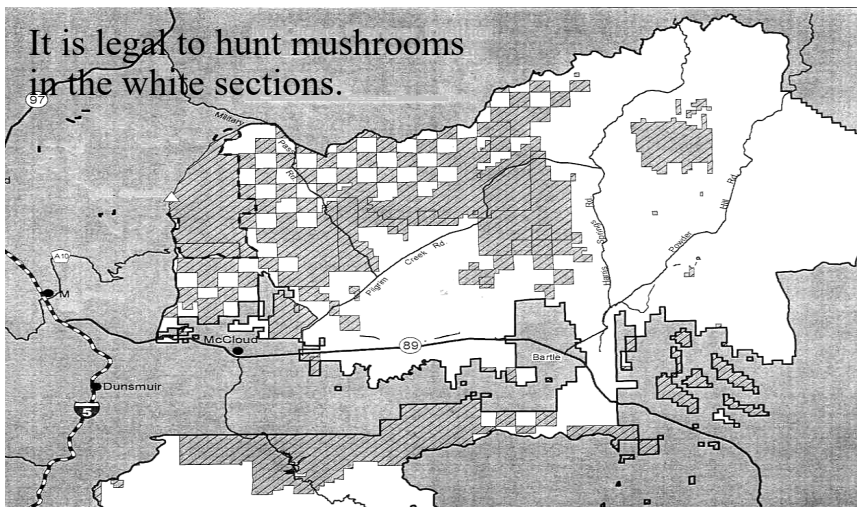
If you plan to sell your mushrooms, you are required to purchase this type of permit. The cost is \$5 per day/pound. There is a 4 day 20 lb. minimum for \$20. Each consecutive day is \$5 up to one month for \$150. You may get as many of these permits as you would like until the end of the season.

For further information please contact:

McCloud Ranger District Office
2019 Forest Road
McCloud, Ca. 96057
530-964-2184

Mount Shasta Ranger District Office
204 West Alma
Mount Shasta, Ca. 96067
530-926-4511

Office hours: 8-4:30 Monday-Friday
Closed on Holidays



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2019 Forest Road
McCloud, Ca 96057
530-964-2184

Need more information?

on the web at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf>

Shasta Trinity NF HQ
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, Ca 96002
530-226-2500



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