



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Gallatin National Forest

Supervisor's Office
10 East Babcock
P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

File Code: 2720-2/5300

Date: February 23, 2007

Dear Gallatin National Forest Permittee,

Very soon I will be expanding the current "proper food storage" requirements to include all Gallatin National Forest lands. In addition to expanding the area covered in our current food storage regulations, I will modify the terms of those regulations. By complying with the new order adverse human-wildlife interactions will be reduced, thereby promoting human safety and the protection of wildlife. This order will apply to all recreation users, as well as those people, such as yourself, who occupy National Forest land under a special use permit.

For many of you this will be business as usual, as you've already been complying with food and refuse regulations under your current permit. However, there are some subtle changes and, for those of you to whom this is new, some new things you'll have to do to keep food, refuse and other attractants unavailable to wildlife.

Although the new regulation will not go into effect until March 1, I wanted to give you a summary of this information beforehand. Your permit administrator is the best person to contact with questions about the forthcoming food storage regulations. They will make sure that the proper information is incorporated into your operating plan. Please contact them if you have any additional questions or view this information on our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>.

Sincerely,

FOR

REBECCA LOCKETT HEATH
Forest Supervisor





Gallatin National Forest

February 2007



New and Expanded Food Storage Order Coming March 1, 2007

Gallatin National Forest managers will implement a new food storage order (FSO) in 2007. The new order is intended to reduce adverse human-wildlife interactions, thereby promoting human safety and the protection of bears and other wildlife species.

The new food storage order will focus on reducing adverse conflicts between humans and wildlife -- not just grizzly bears. The order will be implemented in 2007 and will be in effect from March 1 through December 1 on an annual basis. The order will require that unattended food, refuse, and attractants be stored in hard-sided vehicles or bear-resistant containers (or hung above the ground out of the reach of wildlife) at **all** locations in the Gallatin National Forest.

Portions of the Gallatin National Forest, primarily the Hebgen Lake and Gardiner Ranger Districts on the southern end of the Forest, have been covered by a food storage order since 1985. The current order also requires the proper storage of food, refuse or other attractants. Examples of these items include human food, deodorant, toothpaste, cosmetics, garbage, lotions, game carcasses, pet/livestock food, empty and full food and beverage containers, etc.

The new order defines appropriate methods for acceptably storing and acceptably possessing food, refuse and other attractants, including animal carcasses (i.e., hard-sided vehicles, hanging from a tree, use of Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee approved bear-resistant containers and methods, and appropriate methods for burning garbage).

The Gallatin National Forest is one of six National Forests in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) that has a food storage order in place. (Other GYA Forests include the Custer, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Shoshone, Caribou-Targhee, and Bridger-Teton National Forests.) Gallatin NF managers are currently informing forest users of the new order and will be installing equipment (such as wildlife-resistant garbage dumpsters) at designated developed and dispersed recreation sites.

In 2006, the Forest Service informed our employees, the public, elected officials, conservation groups, and other affected interests about the new food storage order to prepare for successful implementation. The Forest will continue purchasing and installing additional equipment and signing to prepare for implementation in 2007. In implementing the Food Storage Order the Forest will focus on working with our partners, user groups, and the public on an information and education campaign.

Contact Information: Gallatin National Forest Supervisor's Office (406) 587-6701
