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# Gallatin National Forest News Release



For Immediate Release  
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## Forest Managers Implement New Food Storage Order

Beginning today, a new, forest-wide food storage order for all of the Gallatin National Forest will go into affect. The new order is designed to reduce adverse human-wildlife interactions, thereby promoting human safety and the protection of bears and other wildlife species.

“The new food storage order focuses on reducing adverse conflicts between humans and wildlife,” said Becki Heath, Gallatin Forest Supervisor. “The order will be in effect from March 1 through December 1 on an annual basis.” The order requires 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, are currently covered by a food storage order. Although the existing food storage order has been effective in minimizing human-bear encounters in areas currently covered by the order, problems exist outside those areas. “The new, expanded order recognizes that undesirable human-wildlife interactions are occurring, and that the Forest has the responsibility to promote human safety and to ensure healthy, viable wildlife populations,” said Heath. “In addition, the Forest has documented threatening or damaging human/wildlife encounters in several campgrounds and areas not covered by the existing order. We believe that implementing this forest-wide order will be a step in preventing these occurrences and addressing forest visitor safety concerns.”

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<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>

The order defines appropriate methods for acceptably storing and possessing food, refuse and other attractants, including animal carcasses (i.e., hard-sided vehicles, hanging from a tree, use of bear-resistant containers, and appropriate methods for burning garbage). Individuals who do not comply with the new food storage order can be fined.

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 spent 2006 working with partners increase information and education efforts and installing infrastructure (such as bear-resistant garbage dumpsters) at designated developed and dispersed sites.

For further information about the Order please contact the Gallatin National Forest, 10 E. Babcock, P.O. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771, 406-587-6701. Information can also be found on the Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin>.

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