



**ANOTHER MEETING CHANGE
* BACK TO WEDNESDAY –
(APRIL 3rd)
BUT, STARTS AT 6:00 PM ***



The USFS will be hosting the Bear Education Specialist at Montana Wild to promote bear safety and education to the LCBCH. This training and education will include information on the Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest’s new Food Storage Orders, bear interaction and safety use of bear spray. They will be doing bear spray practice on a simulator that will charge you at up to 20 plus mph and you will have the chance to practice drawing your bear spray from your holster and shooting the “charging bear”.

Sara Sylte is the new Bear Education Specialist and has years of wildlife knowledge and has been a USFS employee and is very versatile in her knowledge of the new food storage orders and how to protect yourself from an unwanted bear encounter.

Please join us for this evening training and education event before the LCBCH monthly meeting.

Also, the USFS trails coordinator will be there to discuss 2019 operation plans and go over some new information on certifications and the new USFS targets and directives.

Buying Bear Spray: Purchasing Guide

strength: spray should have a minimum concentration of 0.857% capsaicin

container size: spray should be at least 225 grams or 7.9 ounces of net weight

type of sprayer: spray pattern should be in a cloud/cone pattern

length of spray: spray should last at least 8 seconds

range: spray should have a range of 5 meters or about 16 feet

type: not all “pepper sprays” are the same: ensure that you are using a bear deterrent spray, not a personal defense product (where legal), like mace, designed for use on people or dogs

number: try to carry at least two canisters per group

shelf life: should have a shelf life of 4 years after initial purchase

We will be focusing on updating all the certifications before the work season starts. Certifications are: S-212, Crosscut saw, Chainsaw, First Aid, Defensive Horsemanship, Bear Spray training.

Marcus McDowell of the Forest Service will be going over some of the projects the FS needs help with in 2019, before the April meeting.



UP COMING DATES OF INTEREST

MAY 11 - FREEZE BRANDING

MAY 21-26 -BISHOP MULE DAYS

JUNE-1- NATIONAL TRAILS DAY -

JUNE 7-8 & 9– MONTANA MULE DAYS

July 25 –AUGUST -1 - BMWF INDIAN MEADOWS PACK

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PROJECTS LCBCH HAS SLATED FOR THIS SUMMER , SO FAR. NO PROJECT ORGANIZERS AND NO DATES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED. THESE WILL BE UP FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING.

- ~ **SIGN INSTALLATION – ELKHORN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT**
- ~ **GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS TRAIL CLEARING**
- ~ **HIGH DIVIDE TRAIL WORK AT KADING**
- ~ **BMWFI-INDIAN MEADOWS WEED PACK (need someone to head up)**



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