



## Forest Service News Release

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### Forest Guided Walks for Wildflowers and Lichens

**Hamilton, MT, May 3, 2023** — Hamilton, Montana -- The Bitterroot National Forest is offering a series of three, free walks this summer. Join us Saturdays to explore plants and lichens of the Bitterroot National Forest. We'll discuss our unique plant and lichen communities, as well as meet the common species. Plant/lichen checklists will be provided. Bring a snack, water and a hand lens (if you have one). Limit 12 people on each walk.

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – Wildflower Walk:** Join Naturalist Deborah Goslin on a wildflower walk near Stevensville for early spring flowers, from 9:30 am to noon. Expect a walk up to 1 mile.

**Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> – Wildflower Walk:** Join Naturalist Deborah Goslin on a wildflower walk in higher elevation. Expect a roughly 1.5-mile roundtrip walk. Meet to carpool at the Forest Service Sula workstation at 9:30 am. Bring lunch and water as this site has a longer drive.

**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> –Lichen Walk:** Join Laura Johnston, a Botanist for Bitterroot NF to explore lichens of the Bitterroot Valley. Expect an easy, slow-paced walk on the Bass Creek Nature Trail and along Bass Creek, if time allows. We'll meet in the morning and the program will run about 2 hours. We'll talk about the unique lichen communities of the Bitterroot Mountains, as well as meet the common species of the foothills and riparian areas.

**Pre-registration is required since group size is limited.** More details given to those on the list. To register: please email Deborah at [NatureSpeake@gmail.com](mailto:NatureSpeake@gmail.com) for wildflower walks, and [laura.johnston@usda.gov](mailto:laura.johnston@usda.gov) for the lichen walk.

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