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RECEIVED News Release

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Forest Service Map Prices to Increase in 2018

Hamilton, Montana (December 1, 2017) – For the first time in nearly a decade, increasing costs of production, printing, and distribution are driving the need for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s U.S. Forest Service to increase the price of its maps. Prices of paper and plastic coated maps will increase from \$10 to \$14 on January 1, 2018.

Bitterroot National Forest offices sell maps for our forest as well as for specific Wilderness and recreation areas. Many offices also sell maps for adjacent National Forests. All of these maps, currently \$10, will be impacted by the price increase beginning January 1. Other maps, such as Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) and Over-Snow Vehicle Use Maps (OSVUM), will still be available at forest offices free of charge. These maps identify which areas are open to motorized use, the types of vehicles allowed and any seasonal restrictions that apply.

You can also purchase maps for the Bitterroot and other National Forests and Grasslands from the National Forest Map Store by calling (406) 329-3024 or visiting www.nationalforestmapstore.com

The agency is also working to increase the availability of digital maps. Digital maps for mobile devices can be downloaded at <http://www.avenza.com/pdf-maps/store> or through the Avenza mobile app, available for iOS and Android. Digital maps cost \$4.99 each and provide information on recreational uses, trails, roads, streams, lakes, campgrounds, facilities and cultural features. The maps are geo-referenced with the user’s location appearing as a blue dot and can even be used when internet connections are unavailable as they track your specific location through GPS.

In an effort to help offset the pricing increase for volume sales, starting January 1, discount pricing will be made available on sales of 10 or more maps of the same title. Discounted maps are only available when purchased through the National Forest Map Store.

The U.S. Forest Service is dedicated to researching, producing, and distributing informative, accurate maps that help improve visitors’ experience on America’s National Forests and Grasslands.

For more information contact the Bitterroot National Forest office near you. Stay in touch with us through www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF and www.twitter.com/BitterrootNF.

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