



## 2011 Minimum Impact Restrictions

### CONDITIONS OF WILDERNESS PERMIT

Preservation of wilderness values requires your personal commitment. All travelers are responsible for following these regulations.

**Wilderness permits are required for all overnight use.**

#### GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

- Maximum group size is 15 people, 20 head of stock.
- Redwood Canyon maximum group size is 10 people.
- Off-Trail group-size is 8 individuals for Lamarck Col, Darwin Canyon and Darwin Bench area; Dusy and Palisade Basin areas; Sixty Lake and Gardiner Basin areas; Sphinx Creek and Lakes, and Mt. Brewer Range areas; South of Mt. Whitney-Crabtree Lakes, Miter Basin, Mt. Langley, and Army Pass.  
Affiliated groups may not travel or camp within ½ mile of each other if the total group size exceeds those limits described above.
- Short-cutting trails is prohibited. Stay on trails to reduce erosion and preserve vegetation. Do not build rock cairns or other trail markers.
- Pets, wheeled vehicles, and motorized equipment are prohibited in the wilderness. Weapons and firearms are subject to state regulations. Discharge is prohibited.
- Pack out all trash, including used toilet paper.

#### SPECIFIC CAMPING RESTRICTIONS

- Bearpaw Meadow: Use designated campsites only.
- Bullfrog Lake: No camping within ¼ mile.
- Charlotte Lake: Two night camping limit.
- Eagle Lake: No camping between the trail and lake.
- Emerald & Pear Lakes: Use designated campsites only.
- Hamilton Lakes: Two night camping limit.
- Heather & Aster Lakes: Closed to all camping.
- Hockett Meadow: No camping between trail and Whitman Creek.
- Kearsarge Lakes: Two night camping limit.
- Little Claire Lake: No camping within 100 ft. of the lake.
- Mosquito Lake #1: No camping within ¼ mile.
- Paradise Valley: Use designated sites only. Two night camping limit within the valley.
- Rae Lakes: Two night camping limit per lake.
- Redwood Canyon: Two night camping limit.
- Timberline Lake: Closed to all camping.
- Upper & Lower Funston Meadow: Stock users only.

#### SELECTING A CAMPSITE

- Camping is not permitted within 2 miles of any trailhead.
- Camp at least 100 ft. away from water where terrain permits. Campsites must always be at least 25 ft. from water.
- Camp on durable surfaces (rock, sand, dirt, snow, etc.) - never on vegetation or in meadows.
- Do not construct rock walls, trenches, new fire rings (or add rocks), bough beds, furniture, etc.
- Do not camp under leaning trees or dead branches.

#### SANITATION

- Bury human waste 6" deep and at least 100 ft. from trails, camps, and all water sources. Pack out used toilet paper.
- Never wash directly in a water source - clothes, dishes or yourself. Carry water 100 ft. from the source before washing. Since biodegradable soap pollutes, use and dispose of it away from water sources.
- We recommend that you treat or filter all water.
- Wash your hands often. Most wilderness illnesses are attributable to poor hygiene.

#### FOOD-STORAGE RESTRICTIONS

It is your responsibility to prevent bears and other wildlife from obtaining your food. These parks are strongly recommending that all campers carry all food, garbage, and toiletries in a park-allowed bear-resistant food-storage container (canister or pannier). **Food items** are defined as food (human, pet, and stock), food-tainted garbage and recyclables (empty cans and bottles, food wrappers, etc.), toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, and cosmetics, and any creams, ointments, or lotions. Food containers such as ice chests and coolers shall also be considered "*food items*", unless they are completely empty and free of food particles. Dirty, non-disposable tableware and cookware must be washed or stored as a food item.

- Remove all *food items* from your car and store in the food-storage lockers at the trailhead.
- All *food items* must be stored properly at all times unless they are being used, prepared or consumed.
- Proper storage methods include:
  1. bear-resistant food-storage canisters – the best option
  2. food-storage lockers – another good option
  3. the counter-balance technique to hang your *food items* – the last resort.
- Portable park-allowed bear-resistant canisters **are required** in some areas (Rae Lakes Loop, Dusy Basin/Bishop Pass Corridor, the Rock Creek Drainage and many Inyo National Forest trails). They are highly recommended on any trip and a necessity if camping in an area without adequate trees or food-storage lockers.
- Some popular campsites (over 50 locations) have food-storage lockers. Ask the permit issuer for the specific locations along your intended route.
- Food-storage lockers are for immediate on-site use only. Caching food or gear within them is prohibited.
- Report wildlife-related injuries, property damage, or unusual encounters to a ranger (in person or by phone).

## CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

- Use ONLY existing fire rings. Do not build new ones or add rocks to existing fire rings.
- Use ONLY dead wood found on the ground. Do not chop live vegetation or remove dead branches from standing trees. Down and dead wood has ecological value. It provides habitat for many plants and animals as well as providing needed nutrients for soil and plant life. Please use it sparingly.
- Fires MUST ALWAYS be attended.
- Pack out plastic and foil - plastics emit toxic gases and foil does not fully burn.
- Put out fires with WATER ½ hour before leaving and stir the ashes. Do not use dirt to put out fires.
- During times of high fire danger, additional campfire restrictions may be implemented.

### KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

#### ***No campfires at the following locations:***

- Above 10,000 ft. elevation
- Granite Basin
- Redwood Canyon

### SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

#### ***No campfires at the following locations:***

#### **Kaweah River Drainage**

- Above 9,000 ft. elevation
- Hamilton Lakes Basin
- Mineral King Valley above the Ranger Station
- Pinto Lake

#### **Kern River Drainage**

- Above 10,400 ft. elevation
- Above 10,000 ft. elevation at these specific locations :
  - Nine Lakes Basin & Big Arroyo areas
  - At Lower Crabtree Meadow, within ¼ mile of the food storage locker

#### **Tule River Drainage**

- Summit Lake Basin
- Dillonwood Area

## FISHING REGULATIONS

A California fishing license is required. State regulations apply above 9,000 ft. elevation. Below 9,000 ft. elevation, native species (rainbow trout, Sacramento sucker, Kern rainbow, sculpin, and roach) must be released and only artificial lures or barbless hooks may be used.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE POLICY

Search and rescue actions are conducted on a discretionary basis. The level and necessity of the response is determined through evaluation of the situation by field personnel. Rescuer safety is ALWAYS our first priority. These parks expect visitors to exhibit a high degree of self-reliance and responsibility for their own safety commensurate with the difficulty of their chosen activities; that is, the higher risk the activity, the more you need to be prepared for dealing with emergency situations.

If you choose to carry a hand-held electronic signaling device, be familiar with its operation and limitations. Do not rely on it to summon rescue personnel.

If you find yourself in a true emergency, and have exhausted all means of self-rescue/help, contact a ranger in the field, or call Park Dispatch at 559-565-3195 with a cell (signals are inconsistent) or satellite phone. However you make contact, be sure to provide clear, concise information regarding the nature & exact location of the problem or injury, and the number of people involved. Be aware that help may be several days out, and your best preparation is to be ready to help yourself.

***I have read and assure that all party members will comply with the conditions set forth.***

Group Leader Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

NPS/USFS Permit Issuer Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## WILDERNESS INFORMATION

Feel free to contact us after your trip to report conditions or ask questions.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Wilderness Office

47050 Generals Hwy #60

Three Rivers, CA 93271

559-565-3766

559-565-4239 (fax)

[www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm)

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™