



Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures for 2008

Temporary Grazing Restrictions

Stock parties may camp in areas that are closed to grazing, but are required to either hold and feed their animals, or graze them in other open sites in the area.

- As part of a trial rest rotation system for the three primary meadows of the Evolution Valley:
Evolution Meadow (33-1). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2008. The large camp at the western end of Evolution Meadow remains temporarily closed to all use for rehabilitation. Stock parties may camp at the administrative stock camp on the south side of Evolution Creek, but must hold and feed as no grazing is allowed.

McClure Meadow (33-2) and Colby Meadow (33-3) are OPEN to grazing.
- Darwin Meadow (33-4.3). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2008.
- Upper Vidette Meadow (65-3). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2008.
- Junction Meadow (Bubbs Creek) (66-3). Due to flooding in the lower portion, Junction Meadow will not open for grazing until the wettest part of the meadow is ready. At that time, grazing of the whole meadow is limited to private stock, and 100 nights for the Cedar Grove Pack Station only.
- Scaffold Meadow (69-5.1)/Lackey Pasture (69-4). Lackey Pasture is open to limited public use with a 3-head, 2-night limit. The 15-head, 2-night restriction for Scaffold Meadow is clarified such that these limits are combined to apply to the entirety of both Scaffold Meadow and Lackey Pasture.
- Redwood Meadow (77-5). The lower (north) section of Redwood Meadow is open to private and commercial grazing. Commercial packers are allocated 32 stock nights based on past use patterns. The upper (south) portion of the meadow is open to administrative use only, and restricted to 100 stock nights maximum.
- Wallace Creek Waterfall (81-2.3). This meadow is open to grazing with a 6-head, 1-night limit.
- Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2008.
- Lower Rock Creek Lake and Rock Creek Stringer Meadow (85-8). These two meadows are open for grazing in 2008. There is a two-night grazing limit for all of the upper Rock Creek area, Nathan's Meadow and above.
- Forester Lake Meadow (89-5.2) and Summit Lake Meadow (90-18). These two meadows are temporarily closed to grazing in 2008.
- South Fork Meadow (Rock Camp) (90-10). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2008.

NOTE: The special grazing restrictions that follow are in place to prevent the spread of velvet grass, an invasive weed, on the floor of the Kern River canyon (see Special Bulletin for additional information).

- Upper Funston Meadow (86-5). This meadow will be available for grazing to all parties only until the invasive velvet grass begins to flower. At that time, grazing will be prohibited to all parties arriving at the meadow from the south. Parties arriving from the south (lower Kern) would need to hold and feed. Parties arriving from the west (Mineral King), north (upper Kern), or east (Cottonwood or Trail Pass) will be allowed to graze through the season.
- Lower Funston Meadow (86-2). This meadow will be available for grazing to all parties only until the invasive velvet grass begins to flower. At that time, grazing will be prohibited to all parties arriving at the meadow; ALL parties will need to hold and feed.

Temporary Campfire Restrictions

Special closures allow for continued recovery of the down-wood resource. Several heavily used areas are closed to campfires due to a lack of dead and down wood and damage to standing and live trees resulting from firewood scavenging.

NOTE: In order to protect the valuable foxtail pine down wood resource, these parks are considering a change in the fire limitation in the Kern River drainage from 11,200' to 10,000'. In 2008 it is strongly recommended that campers not have campfires above 10,000'. It is anticipated that this restriction will become mandatory as early as 2009.

Temporary Food Storage Restrictions

Effective 5/23 to 10/31/08 for the areas listed below.

To preserve the natural behavior of bears and to protect visitor safety, portable, park-approved, bear-proof food canisters or panniers (with the capacity to store all garbage, scent and food items) are required for all overnight parties both entering and exiting the restricted areas below:

- Rae Lakes Loop & Vicinity – All area users with the exception of: Long distance through hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail with a valid wilderness permit must use portable, park-approved, bear-proof food canisters or panniers or camp at sites with food storage lockers and use the lockers.
- Dusy Basin Area – All area users.
- Rock Creek Area -- All area users with the exception of: Long distance through hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail with a valid wilderness permit must use portable, park-approved, bear-proof food canisters or panniers or camp at sites with food storage lockers and use the lockers.

The techniques of counterbalancing or hanging food by other methods, or posting a guard to protect improperly stored food, are prohibited in the above areas. These regulations will be in effect the Friday of Memorial Day weekend through October 31. Outside this time period, counter-balancing of food will be allowed only when snow prevents access to food storage lockers.

NOTE: In order to improve wilderness character by eliminating undesirable installations the above restrictions will apply to all (not just the three listed) wilderness areas in these parks beginning as early as 2009. A strategy of eliminating all food storage lockers from these parks over the next ten years will be implemented. In 2008, all wilderness travelers are strongly recommended to use park-approved bear-proof food canisters or panniers in areas where counter-balancing or a 24-hour alert guard are currently permitted.

60 Lake Basin - Temporary Restriction for Stock Parties - Day Use Only

Stock travel in Sixty Lake Basin is restricted to the established trail to a point approximately 2.0 miles from the junction of the John Muir Trail with the Sixty Lake Trail, and is only permitted as a Day Use activity. Regulating stock use in the Sixty Lake Basin to day use activities removes stock use from wet meadows, thus protecting important Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog breeding and egg-laying habitat (lakeshores and bog areas) from trampling. A viable alternative is to use the Baxter meadow forage area, located 6-7 miles away and outside the area of concern.

Pear Lake & Emerald Lakes Basins - Temporary Camping Limit Restriction, Trial Basis

Effective 5/15 to 9/30/08. To reduce overcrowding, total overnight campers will be limited to 25 people per night per lake-basin at Pear and Emerald Lakes. All wilderness permits for the Lakes Trail, to Pear and Emerald Lakes, will be issued by the Lodgepole Trailhead Office. No advance reservations of permits will be taken for the Lakes Trail during the effected time period. Camping in the area will continue to be at designated camping sites only.

How to obtain additional information on the above topics and other wilderness use guidelines

- Visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm
- Phone the Wilderness Office at 559-565-3766 for questions and to request printed material.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting the wilderness of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding these restrictions, please contact Gregg Fauth, Wilderness Coordinator, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, California 93271; (559) 565-3137.
