



2009 Minimum Impact Regulations

“Wilderness” is both a legislated area and a state of mind. Preservation of wilderness values for all users requires your personal commitment. All party members are responsible for following these regulations.

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight use.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- Maximum group size is 15 people, 20 head of stock. Affiliated groups may not travel or camp within ½ mile of each other if the total group size exceeds 15 people or 20 head of stock.
- Pets, weapons, wheeled vehicles, and motorized equipment are prohibited in the wilderness.
- Short-cutting trails is prohibited. Stay on trails to reduce erosion and preserve vegetation. Do not build rock cairns or other trail markers.
- Pack out all trash, including used toilet paper.

SELECTING A CAMPSITE

- Camp at least 100' feet away from water where terrain permits. Campsites must always be at least 25 feet from water.
- Camp on durable surfaces (rock, sand, dirt, snow, etc.) - never on vegetation or in meadows.
- Do not construct rocks walls, trenches, new fire rings, bough beds, furniture, etc.

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'.
- 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: Maximum group size is 10 people. Two night camping limit.
- Timberline Lake: Closed to all camping.
- Upper & Lower Funston Meadow: Stock users only.

SANITATION

- Bury human waste 6" deep and at least 100' 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' 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 REGULATIONS

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).

- Remove all food and scented items from your car and store in the food storage lockers at the trailhead.
- All scented items (food, soap, sunscreen, repellent, garbage, toothpaste, lotion) must be stored properly at all times. Proper storage methods include bear canisters (recommended as the best option), food storage lockers, and using the counter-balance technique to hang your scented items.
- Portable park-allowed bear 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.
- Report wildlife-related injuries, property damage, or unusual encounters to a ranger (in person or by phone).

CAMPFIRE REGULATIONS

- 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 necessary.

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

No campfires at the following locations:

- Above 10,000' elevation
- Granite Basin
- Redwood Canyon

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

No campfires at the following locations:

Kaweah Drainage

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

Kern Drainage

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

Tule Drainage

- Summit Lake Basin
- Dillonwood Area

CAMPFIRES IN KERN DRAINAGE

These parks strongly recommend that all campers in the Kern River drainage refrain from having campfires above 10,000' elevation. This will protect the foxtail pines and their ancient down-wood.

FISHING REGULATIONS

CA fishing license required. State regulations apply above 9,000' elevation. Below 9,000' 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 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 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.

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

General and site-specific regulations have been reviewed. The permittee acknowledges responsibility of informing all group members and understands that any failure to follow these regulations is a federal offense.

Group Leader Signature:

NPS Permit Issuer Signature: