



## Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures for 2011 March 1, 2011

### 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:
  - **Colby Meadow** (33-3). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2011.
  - **McClure Meadow** (33-2) and **Evolution Meadow** (33-1) are OPEN to grazing.
- **Darwin Meadow** (33-4.3). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2011 with grazing available at the adjacent pocket meadows.
- **Upper LeConte Canyon Meadow** (39-1). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2011 due to the potential for stock impacts on mountain yellow-legged frog habitat.
- **Big Pete Meadow** (39-2). The meadow is open to grazing by private and commercial parties. Commercial users are requested to work with area ranger on grazing practices. Closed to administrative grazing.
- **Upper Vidette Meadow** (65-3). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2011.
- **Junction Meadow** (Bubbs Creek) (66-3). Due to flooding, the lower portion of Junction Meadow is closed to grazing. Grazing of the upper portion of the meadow is limited to private stock, and 50 grazing 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 defined 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 with a two-night limit. Commercial packers are allocated 32 grazing nights. The upper (south) portion of the meadow is open for up to 100 nights of administrative grazing.
- **Wallace Creek Waterfall Meadow** (81-2.3). This meadow is open to grazing with a 6-head, 1-night limit.
- **Upper Crabtree Meadow** (83-4). This meadow is temporarily closed to grazing in 2011.
- **Lower Crabtree Meadow** (83-5). This meadow is open for grazing in 2011, with use limited to 47 grazing nights.
- **Upper Rock Creek area:** There is a two-night grazing limit for all of the upper Rock Creek area, Nathan's Meadow and above.
- **Lower Rock Creek Lake and Stringer Meadows** (85-8). These meadows are temporarily closed to grazing in 2011.
- **Nathan's Meadow** (85-10). Due to past dry conditions, grazing will be limited to 75 nights in 2011.
- **Forester Lake Meadow** (89-5.2) and **Summit Lake Meadow** (90-18). These two meadows are temporarily closed to grazing in 2011.
- **South Fork Meadow** (Rock Camp) (90-10). This meadow will be limited to 75 grazing nights in 2011.
- **South Fork Pasture** (90-18). This meadow will be limited to 100 grazing nights in 2011.

**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** (86-2). This meadow will be available for grazing to all parties only until the invasive velvet grass begins to flower on the US Forest Service lands to the south. 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** (86-5). This meadow will be closed to grazing in 2011. All parties camping at the meadow 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. **Campfires in the Kern River Drainage:** Campfires are prohibited above 10,400'. Campfires are also prohibited in the Nine Lakes Basin and Upper Big Arroyo area above 10,000'; and within ¼ mile of the food-storage locker at Lower Crabtree Meadow on the John Muir Trail. These restrictions are in place to protect the valuable foxtail pine down-wood resource.

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## Temporary Food-Storage Restrictions

Effective 5/27/2011 to 10/31/2011 for the areas listed below. To preserve the natural behavior of bears and to protect visitor safety, **portable, park-allowed, bear-resistant food canisters or panniers (with the capacity to store all garbage, scent and food items) are required** for all overnight parties entering and or 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-allowed, bear-resistant 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-allowed, bear-resistant food canisters or panniers or camp at sites with food-storage lockers and use the lockers.

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

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## Change in Off-Trail Group Size Limits – NEW in 2011!

In 2011 the parks are enacting a new off-trail group size limit in five specific areas. As more large groups have ventured off developed trails, impacts have increased, including trampling of vegetation and erosion. In the areas listed below, groups that travel ½ mile off maintained trails are limited to no more than 8 individuals (people and stock combined).

- **Lamarck Col, Darwin Canyon and Darwin Bench Area** – west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east of John Muir Trail; south of Mt. Goethe; north of Mt. Darwin
- **Dusy and Palisade Basin Areas** – west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east of John Muir Trail; south of Mt. Goode; north of Norman Clyde Peak
- **Sixty Lake and Gardiner Basin Areas** – west of John Muir Trail; east of Paradise Valley trail; south of Woods Creek trail; north of Bubbs Creek trail (i.e. inside of Rae Lakes Loop)
- **Sphinx Creek and Lakes, and Mt. Brewer Range Areas** – west of Reflection/East Lks. trail (to Mt. Jordan); east of Avalanche Pass/Cloud Cyn. trail; south of Bubbs Ck. trail; north of Kings Canyon/Sequoia Park boundary
- **South of Mt. Whitney: Crabtree Lakes, Miter Basin, Mt. Langley, and Army Pass Areas** – west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east and north of Pacific Crest Trail; south of Mts. Russell & Young;

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## 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. This restriction keeps stock from impacting wet areas (meadows and lakeshores) thus protecting mountain yellow-legged frog breeding and egg-laying habitat. Baxter Meadow, located 6-7 miles away, is a viable alternative grazing area.

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

Effective 5/15 to 9/30/2011. 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 affected time period. Camping in the area will continue to be at designated camping sites only.

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## How to obtain additional wilderness information on Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

- Visit [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm) for general information
- Visit [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/stockreg.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/stockreg.htm) for stock use regulations
- Visit [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/camp\\_bc.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/camp_bc.htm) for campfire regulations
- Visit [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/canisters.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/canisters.htm) for food-storage regulations
- 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.