# The Iconic Hikes: Mount Whitney, JMT, & PCT

## Mount Whitney

As the highest peak in the contiguous 48 states, Mount Whitney is an extremely popular destination. Inyo National Forest administers a lottery every February to allocate wilderness permits for both day hikes and overnight hikes starting from Whitney Portal. The 2012 Mt. Whitney lottery will be online at Recreation.gov starting February 1, 2012. Contact Inyo National Forest for details about the process at (760) 873-2483 or http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/passes-permits/recreation.

With tens of thousands of people in this fragile, alpine environment every year, human waste and toilet paper must be packed out! Pack-out kits are available at the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center in Lone Pine or along the High Sierra Trail near the Crabtree Ranger Station. For more details, visit http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5150055 and click on “Mt. Whitney Trail”.

Bear-resistant food-storage containers are required when camping on the east side of Trail Crest. All food, trash, and scented items must fit inside the container while in the Mount Whitney zone. See a map of this zone at http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE _MEDIA/stelprdb5347549.jpg

Permits obtained for the western trailheads from Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks are valid to climb Mt. Whitney and exit via the Mount Whitney Trail - no extra permits are required. Keep in mind that the hike is much longer. For example, if you start on the High Sierra Trail from Crescent Meadow, you must travel nearly 80 miles across the Sierra Nevada to exit at Whitney Portal.

## Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT)

Stretching from the Mexican border to beyond the Canadian border, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is one of our country's classic long distance trails. Of the PCT's 2,638 miles, nearly 100 miles pass through these parks.
As a thru-hiker, you must obtain a permit through the Pacific Crest Trail Association (www.pcta.org). As a section hiker, you obtain a permit from the agency who manages your starting trailhead. Both types of wilderness permits are valid for travel through these parks.
The PCT passes through the Rock Creek and Rae Lakes Loop bear-resistant food-storage canister requirement areas (described on page 18) where through-hikers are required to either use bear-resistant canisters or food-storage lockers located along the trail. You must use the bear-resistant canisters or lockers to store all your food, garbage, and scented items.

## John Muir Trail (JMT)

The same food-storage requirements described above for PCT hikers also apply to JMT through-hikers. From its northern terminus in Yosemite Valley, the JMT runs northeast, passing south of Half Dome and then on to Tuolumne Meadows. From there the trail turns south, through Yosemite National Park, Inyo and Sierra National Forests and Kings Canyon National Park, and ending on Mount Whitney in Sequoia National Park

## Food Resupply

### Rendezvous in the Field

Food drops are allowed only when you are there, in person, to receive the delivery **directly** from a friend or a commercial pack station. All food wrappers, empty boxes, and other trash must be carried out by the person meeting you. Food drops **CANNOT** be left in food-storage lockers or cached anywhere in the park. If food is found, it will be confiscated by rangers.

### Mailing Supplies to the Front-country

US Post Offices are open year-round in Lodgepole (559-565-3468) and Grant Grove (559-335-2499). Contact the postmasters at these locations for guidelines about mailing packages via general delivery.

# Wilderness Permits

## Trips Starting Inside Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

To protect the wilderness and preserve the wilderness experience for present and future generations, all overnight trips require a wilderness permit subject to daily entry quotas for each trail. Day hikes do not require a permit, except for Mount Whitney (see page 12 for more details). Wilderness permits are only issued at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead (see pages 6, 7-11). The trail descriptions in the previous pages detail where permits can be obtained and the daily entry quota for each trail.

### Inside the Quota Period

Daily entry quotas (the number of people who are allowed to start hiking on a trail each day) are in place from the Friday before Memorial Day weekend through late September every year. During this time, each permit incurs a $15 wilderness camping fee, regardless of the group size or length of trip.

### Outside the Quota Period

From late September to the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend, permits are not limited by quotas. Wilderness permits are still required; they are self-issued at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead and are free.

### Permit Reservations

Reservations for wilderness permits are available for approximately two-thirds of each daily entry quota, except for the Lakes Trail (toward Emerald and Pear lakes – permits are not available for reservation). Permit reservations are highly recommended for large groups, holiday weekends, and late summer weekends.

A permit reservation confirmation letter is NOT the same as a permit and is NOT sufficient for overnight travel. You must pick up your actual wilderness permit at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead (see pages 6, 7-11) on the afternoon before your trip after 1 p.m. or no later than 9 a.m. on the morning of your departure. For a late pickup, unless you notify the Wilderness Office by phone (559-565-3766) before the day of your trip, your reserved spot in the quota will be given away on a first-come, first-serve basis to those people physically waiting in line. Please note that the Wilderness Office receives a very high volume of calls at times around and during the permit reservation period. In order to make your plans with more ease, using all Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks resources found both online and in this planner before calling our offices will save you time. If you are still unable to find an answer, please e-mail us at SEKI_Wilderness_Office@nps.gov or call and leave a message at (559) 565-3766. Your inquiries will be answered as soon as possible. Calls are returned in the order in which they are received.

### Walk-up/First-come, First-serve Permits

Approximately one-third of each quota is available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting at 1 p.m. the day before departure, or on the day of departure at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead (see pages 6, 7-11 for typical permit issuing hours).

### Guests of Bearpaw & Sequoia High Sierra Camps:

Please read the box titled “Special Note for Guests of Bearpaw & Sequoia High Sierra Camps” on page 9.

# Wilderness Permits (continued)

## For Trails Starting Outside Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Inyo National Forest issues permits east of the parks. Most trails have quotas and reservations are accepted. Popular trails into the parks include Piute Pass, Bishop Pass, Taboose Pass, Sawmill Pass, Baxter Pass, Kearsarge Pass, Shepherd Pass, Trail Pass (Mount Whitney), Cottonwood Lakes, and Cottonwood Pass. For reservations, go to www.recreation.gov. For more information contact:
Inyo National Forest, Wilderness Office (760) 873-2483
Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center (760) 876-6222
www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild/.

Sequoia National Forest issues permits to the south and west of the parks, has no quotas, and only requires wilderness permits for the Golden Trout Wilderness (not for the Jennie Lakes Wilderness). Fire permits are required and can be found online at http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/passespermits/campfire_permit/campfire-index.html.
Common trails into the parks from the Golden Trout Wilderness include Forks of the Kern, Jerky, Fish Creek, Clicks, Summit, and Long Canyon. For more information contact:
Sequoia National Forest (559) 784-1500
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/passespermits/wilderness_permit/wilderness_index.html

Sierra National Forest issues permits to the north and west of the parks. Quotas exist and reservations are accepted. Common trails into the parks include Crown/Rancheria, Courtright, Deer Cove, Florence, and Mono Creek. For more information contact:
Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District (559) 855-5360
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/passes/getwildpermit.html

| Trailhead Name | From Whom to Get Wilderness Permits | Destination Inside Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks |
|---|---|---|
| Baxter Pass | Inyo National Forest | Baxter Lakes, Rae Lakes, Sixty Lakes Basin |
| Bishop Pass | Inyo National Forest | Dusy Basin, LeConte Canyon |
| Clicks | Sequoia National Forest | Kern Canyon, Mineral King |
| Courtright | Sierra National Forest | Goddard Canyon |
| Cottonwood Lakes | Inyo National Forest | Rock Creek, Miter Basin, Soldier Lakes |
| Cottonwood Pass | Inyo National Forest | Rock Creek, Siberian Outpost |
| Crown/Rancheria | Sierra National Forest | Tehipite Valley, Middle Fork Kings River |
| Fish Creek | Sequoia National Forest | Kern Canyon |
| Florence Lake | Sierra National Forest | Evolution Valley, Goddard Canyon |
| Forks of the Kern | Sequoia National Forest | Kern Canyon |
| Jerky | Sequoia National Forest | Kern Canyon |
| Kearsarge Pass | Inyo National Forest | Kearsarge Lakes, Charlotte Lake, Rae Lakes, Center Basin |
| Lamarck Lakes | Inyo National Forest | Darwin Canyon, Evolution Valley |
| Lewis Camp | Sequoia National Forest | Kern Canyon |
| Long Canyon | Sequoia National Forest | Hockett Plateau, Mineral King |
| Meysan Lake | Inyo National Forest | Miter Basin |
| Mount Whitney | Inyo National Forest | Hitchcock Lakes, Crabtree |
| North Fork, Lone Pine Creek | Inyo National Forest | Mount Russell, Tulainyo Lake, Wales Lake, Wallace Lake |
| North Fork, Big Pine Creek | Inyo National Forest | Dusy Basin, Palisades Basin |
| Piute Pass | Inyo National Forest | Evolution Valley |
| Sawmill Pass | Inyo National Forest | Woods Lake, Twin Lakes |
| Shepherd Pass | Inyo National Forest | Diamond Mesa, Tyndall Creek, Bighorn Plateau |
| South Fork, Big Pine Creek | Inyo National Forest | Palisades Basin, Dusy Basin |
| Summit | Sequoia National Forest | Hockett Plateau, Mineral King, Kern Canyon |
| Taboose Pass | Inyo National Forest | Bench Lake, Upper Basin |
| Wishon Reservoir | Sierra National Forest | Ionian Basin, Goddard Canyon |

National Park Service

# Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
# Wilderness Permit Reservation Application

## IMPORTANT TRIP INFORMATION - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In case your first choice is unavailable, list alternate entry dates and/or trails, in order of preference. The entry date is the date your entire party must actually start at the entry trail. **By submitting this application, you accept the conditions on the back of this form.**

**If you plan to start on the following trails, contact the Inyo National Forest for reservations:** Bishop Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Cottonwood Pass, Kearsarge Pass, Mount Whitney, and Piute Pass. Additional trails start on the Inyo National Forest that access these national parks. You may contact the Inyo National Forest by phone at 760-873-2483, and find their wilderness permit information at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo.

**Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks ONLY accept reservations for the following trails (Please print clearly in the table below):**

Alta, Atwell-Hockett, High Sierra, Belle Canyon (toward Seville Lake), Bubbs Creek (Rae Lakes Loop, counterclockwise), Copper Creek, Eagle Lake, Farewell Gap, Franklin Pass, Garfield Grove, JO Pass, Ladybug, Lewis Creek, Middle Fork Kaweah River, Mosquito/Mineral, Paradise Ridge, Redwood Canyon, Sawtooth Pass, Sugarloaf, Tar Gap, Timber Gap, Twin Lakes, White Chief, and Woods Creek (Rae Lakes Loop, clockwise - toward Paradise Valley). **Reservations are not accepted for the Lakes Trail (Pear & Emerald Lakes).** All permits for the Lakes Trail are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis at the Lodgepole Visitor Center.

| | Entry Date | Entry Trail | Exit Date | Exit Trail |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st Choic | | | | |
| 2nd Choic | | | | |
| 3rd Choic | | | | |

*(Include additional choices on a separate page, if necessary)*

**Number of People:** _____ **Number of Stock Animals:** _____

**Is this a GUIDED/ORGANIZED group? NO YES - Group name:**

**(To find out if your group requires a Special Use Permit (SUP) or a Commercial Use Authorization (CUA), go to www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/permits.htm. Additional fees are associated.)**

## MAIL OR FAX APPLICATIONS FOR WILDERNESS PERMIT RESERVATIONS

**MAIL TO:**
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Wilderness Permit Reservations
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271

**FAX TO:**
(559) 565-4239

**CALL FOR INFORMATION ONLY:**
(559) 565-3766

*TRIP LEADER INFORMATION – PRINT CLEARLY*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone ( ____) _____

E-mail _____

## PAYMENT

**Reservations require pre-payment of the $15.00 wilderness camping fee. Reservations are non-refundable** once they have been processed**.**

Please circle the method of payment:

**Visa** **Mastercard** **Check** **Money Order**

Make checks or money orders payable to the "National Park Service."

If paying by credit card, please provide the following:

Credit card# _____

Expiration date (MM/YY) _____ / _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Reservation applications are ONLY accepted from midnight (PST), **March 1 to September 10** of each calendar year by mail or fax. Applications received outside of these dates will not be processed. Applications must be received a **minimum of 2 weeks in advance** of a trip's start date. Pre-payment must accompany the application. **PLEASE READ OTHER CONDITIONS on the back of this form.**

# *Wilderness Permit Reservation Instructions*

***Step 1:* Fill out the application form**
Applications will be accepted by mail and fax from midnight (PST), March 1 to September 10 of each calendar year. Applications received outside of these dates will not be processed. Applications must be received by the Wilderness Office a minimum of 14 days in advance of your proposed start date.

***Step 2*: Include pre-payment with your application form**
Applications must include pre-payment of the $15.00 wilderness camping fee. This fee is the same for all reservations, regardless of the group size or the trip length. Payment may be made by credit card (VISA or MC only) or by check/money order payable to the "National Park Service." The $15.00 wilderness camping fee prepaid during the reservation process is not refundable, not transferable to other parties or future years, and is not available for re-sale. If you are unsuccessful in obtaining a reservation, your credit card will not be charged or your check/money order will be returned or destroyed.

***Step 3:* Submit your wilderness permit reservation application**
Applications are only accepted by mail or by fax. Mail to: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Wilderness Office, 47050 Generals Hwy # 60, Three Rivers, CA 93271.
Fax to: (559) 565-4239. Applications will not be processed over the phone. Submit only one application per group. Duplicate applications, even from different members of the group, may result in duplicate, non-refundable charges. Separate trips must be on separate applications with payment for each application.

***Step 4:* The Wilderness Office processes your application**
Application requests will be processed in the order they are received. No preference is given to one method of submission over another. A lottery system is not used.

***Step 5:* The Wilderness Office confirms the status of your reservation by mail**
All requests will receive a written response. Allow up to two weeks to receive your confirmation letter in the mail. Please thoroughly read the confirmation letter. After your reservation has been processed, one change (such as adding people, different entry date, or different entry trail) may be made without additional cost. Any additional changes will incur a $10 processing fee. Changes that add people, enter on a different trail, or enter on a different date must be made with one week of the start date you have already reserved. Changes that reduce people will be accepted at any time and never incur the processing fee.

***Step 6:* If necessary, make arrangements for a late pick-up of your wilderness permit**
If you will be picking up your wilderness permit after 9 a.m. on the morning of your departure, you must you notify the Wilderness Office by phone before the day of your trip. Reserved spots in the quota with no late pick-up arrangements will be given away on a first-come, first-serve basis to those people physically waiting in line.

***Step 7:* Bring your confirmation letter to pick up your wilderness permit at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead**
*Your confirmation letter is NOT a wilderness permit and is not sufficient for overnight travel*. You must pick up your actual wilderness permit at the visitor center or permit station closest to the trailhead on the afternoon before or by 9 a.m. on the morning of departure. Your confirmation letter will specify the visitor center or permit station where you must pick up your wilderness permit and detail its usual operating hours (which are subject to change due to emergencies or staffing reductions after the Labor Day holiday). If you come prepared with your estimated itinerary, you will greatly speed up the process of issuing your wilderness permit.

**Other Information for Reservations and Wilderness Permits Issued by Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks**
Permits are required year-round for all overnight wilderness trips. Daily entry trail quotas are in place from the Friday before Memorial Day through late September. Outside the quota period, permits are obtained on a self-issue basis at visitor centers or permit stations. Permits are not required for day hikes (except for Mount Whitney from the Whitney Portal trailhead near Lone Pine on the Inyo National Forest). The Lakes Trail is the only trail for which reservations are not accepted.

Your entire group must enter the **wilderness** on the **entry date** and **entry trail** specified in the confirmation letter. Each party must travel together throughout the trip. The maximum group size is 15 people and 20 head of stock. Parties with separate permits but sharing the same affiliation (school, church, club, scout group, family, friends, etc., or any combination thereof) may not travel or camp within ½ mile of each other if the total number of people exceeds 15.

For more wilderness information, including specific restrictions and requirements related to camping, campfires and portable bear-proof canisters, you may contact the Wilderness Office at (559) 565-3766 or visit our website at **www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm.** **Have a great trip!**

The U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital or family status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. USDI is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Leave No Trace

*Note: Italicized sections of text in this section are legal restrictions in these parks and offenses are citable.*

Each wilderness visitor has two important responsibilities. The first is to "Leave No Trace" of your passing. The second is to reduce the traces of other people's visits. Pack out your used toilet paper. Pick up that granola bar wrapper - it likely slipped out of a pocket unbeknownst to that backpacker. Help spread the message! We all need to do everything we can to preserve our wild places like the Wildernesses in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.
Leave No Trace is a national education program that promotes the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors. The National Park Service is just one of many partners encouraging everyone to practice the seven principles of Leave No Trace. For other tips and more details about Leave No Trace, visit www.lnt.org.

## Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the restrictions, regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit. Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies. Visit in small groups when possible. *Maximum group size is 15 people & 20 head of stock, 8 in some off-trail areas.* Select terrain, mileage, and elevation changes that match the skills and abilities of your group. Carry appropriate food, clothing, equipment, and water. Ensure you have the essentials. Repackage food to minimize waste.

## Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

*Never camp on vegetation, especially meadows. Camp on bare ground,* such as established sites, rock, gravel, or snow. Avoid camping beneath dead trees or overhanging dead branches. *Protect riparian areas by camping at least 100 ft. from water where terrain permits. Campsites must always be at least 25 ft. from water.* Good campsites are found, not made. *"Improvements" such as rock walls, trenches, or bough beds are prohibited. Building new fire rings is prohibited.*

## Dispose of Waste Properly

*Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.* Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. *Deposit solid human waste in cat holes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 100 ft. from water, campsites, and trails. Cover and disguise the cat hole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.* Bring plastic baggies solely for this purpose. *Never wash yourself, dishes, or clothes directly in a water source. Carry water for these purposes at least 100 ft. away from streams and lakes.* Scatter strained dishwater.

## Leave What You Find

Preserve the past. *Do not take or disturb cultural or historic artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.* Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species - brush off your boots and clean your trekking poles before and after your trip.

## Minimize Campfire Impact

*Follow the campfire restrictions detailed on page 4.* Campfires can cause lasting impacts. You create the least impact if you use only a stove for cooking and forego the campfire. *Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings. Do not build new ones or enlarge existing ones.* Keep fires small. *Only use dead wood from the ground that can be broken by hand. Always attend the fire. Completely extinguish campfires* by drowning with water (not dirt) and stirring until all heat is gone. Thoroughly sift through the ashes with a stick and *pack out plastic (when burned it emits toxic fumes), aluminum foil (foil does not burn), and all other trash.*

## Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow, disturb, or approach them. *Never feed animals.* Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators. Protect wildlife and your food by *storing food and trash securely*. See pages 18-19 for food-storage restrictions.

## Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

# Food-Storage & Bears

Eating well in the woods is an art. Keeping your food away from animals is a science. Help keep all wildlife wild by paying close attention to the techniques and restrictions discussed on this page and pages 3, 18-19.

Restrictions require proper food storage and prohibit feeding of any wildlife (violations can result in fines up to $5000). As guests in the black bears' home, don't let your carelessness destroy them.

Among the wide diversity of animal species here in the parks is the black bear. Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are the only species of bear in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and are an integral part of the Sierra ecosystem. They can be brown, blonde, gray, black, or colors in between. Bears naturally forage for food by digging up roots, ripping apart logs, and eating berries. When human food is made available to a bear, these intelligent animals quickly change their natural behavior in order to continue obtaining the high calorie items. They can become destructive and dangerous in their attempts to obtain human food. When that happens, for human safety, they must be killed. This change in behavior can happen quickly, so each encounter is an important opportunity for you to keep a bear wild and natural. By following all food-storage restrictions and suggestions you can better enjoy your trip knowing you are helping to save the life of a bear.

*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, tableware and cookware must be washed or stored as a food item.

## Mandatory Bear-Resistant Canister Areas

All wilderness visitors must carry and use portable bear-resistant food-storage canisters allowed by these parks within the Rae Lakes Loop vicinity, the Dusy & Palisades basins, and the Rock Creek drainage. This requirement is in effect from the Friday before Memorial Day through October 31. All garbage, scented items & food must be stored in the containers. PCT and JMT through-hikers may store all garbage, scented and food items in the metal food-storage lockers, instead of carrying canisters.

Where canisters are required, the techniques of counter-balancing, hanging food by other methods, or posting a guard to protect food are prohibited.

- Rae Lakes Loop & Vicinity: This area is accessed from Cedar Grove on the Bubbs Creek Trail or the Woods Creek Trail, from the John Muir Trail between Forester Pass and Sawmill Pass, and from the east via Sawmill Pass or Kearsarge Pass. The Inyo National Forest has an adjacent requirement in the Kearsarge Pass area that applies to all visitors.
- Dusy & Palisades Basins: This area includes Bishop Pass to the junction with the John Muir Trail in LeConte Canyon, Dusy Basin, and Palisades Basin. The Inyo National Forest has an adjacent requirement in the Bishop Pass area that applies to all visitors.
- Rock Creek Drainage: This area includes Miter Basin, Soldier Lake, Siberian Outpost, Rock Creek proper, and all cross-country routes. Specifically the area defined as the Rock Creek drainage west of Cottonwood and New Army Passes, south of Crabtree Pass, south of Guyot Pass, and north-northwest of the Sequoia National Park boundary and Siberian Pass. The Inyo National Forest has an adjacent requirement in the Cottonwood Lakes/Pass area that applies to all visitors.

For maps of areas described above that require canister use visit:

www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/bear_bc.htm
www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild/bear.shtml

## Best Idea: Carry and Use Food-storage Canisters

Food-storage canisters (also known simply as "canisters" or "bear canisters") are strongly encouraged throughout the parks and are required in several areas. All permit issuing stations inside the parks rent them. For the latest models allowed and rental prices, visit our website. Other ranger stations outside the parks, such as those in Lone Pine and Bishop, have these canisters available for rent. Also inquire at your local outdoor gear stores. Food-storage canisters allow for maximum freedom when choosing campsites—you can stop when you're tired or explore areas without food-storage lockers (also known as "bear boxes"). Do not store canisters in lockers. Your food is safe in a properly closed food-storage canister. Leave the space for people who need the lockers to properly store their food.

# Food-Storage & Bears (continued)

## Good Option: Use Food-Storage Lockers

When in working condition and used properly, the metal food-storage lockers (also known as “bear boxes”) are guaranteed bear-resistant. However, lockers are not completely reliable. Winter snows and trees can damage them. In popular areas at popular times, lockers may fill up. Thus, you should still carry rope in case the lockers are full and/or broken or you do not reach your intended destination. Remember: Lockers must be shared with others camping in the area and cannot be locked with your personal padlock. Food may NOT be cached in these lockers for future use. Rangers will confiscate cached food.

## Last Resort: Counter-Balance

Effective counter-balancing can be extremely difficult to achieve. The smart, persistent bears of these parks will get your food. This option is not a choice in treeless areas and only recommended as an absolute last resort. For illustrations and instructions to effectively counter-balance, be sure to visit: www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/bear_bc.htm

## Before Your Trip

- Inform yourself about the food-storage restrictions in the areas you plan to visit. See pages 3, 18-19 for details. If you will be outside the canister requirement areas, decide which method of food storage you will use (canisters are highly recommended everywhere).
- If you decide to use food-storage lockers, please keep in mind they must be shared with others and locking them is not permitted. Carry rope to hang food in case the locker is full or you don't camp where you intended.
- Don't leave food containers (e.g., ice chests, bags, cans), or scented items in your car at the trailhead. You must use the food-storage lockers where available. If there are none, contact a ranger for alternatives. Bears break into vehicles if they see or smell signs of food.
- Blacks bears are interested in your food, not you. No fatality due to bears has ever been recorded in these parks. When injuries have occurred, they have ALWAYS been associated with improper food storage.

## On the Trail

- Never leave scented items unattended or outside a canister - even for a short time, like a bathroom break.
- If you are considering a nap on the trail, make sure all your food is stored properly before falling asleep. In 2007, a napping hiker was bitten by a bear attempting to get the candy bar in his pocket.

## Around Camp

- Store soap, sunscreen, toothpaste, garbage, lip balm, and other scented items in the same manner as you will food. Bears are attracted to anything with an odor.
- If a bear comes into your camp, you can often scare it away by making loud noises (such as banging pots together). Be bold, but keep a safe distance and use good judgment.
- If a bear does get your food, NEVER attempt to get it back. You are responsible for cleaning up any mess, packing out the debris, and reporting the incident to the nearest ranger.

## After Your Trip

Please report all injuries, property damage, or unusual encounters with bears to a park ranger before leaving the parks. Your reports may help prevent future problems.

## Learn About Bears in the Sierra Nevada at:

www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/bears.htm

# Food-storage Locker Locations

## Kings Canyon National Park

Note: Food storage locker locations listed below are accurate at the time of this writing. Conditions can lead to their deterioration and ability to function.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bubbs Creek Drainage** | |
| Sphinx Creek (2) | 1 above Bubbs Creek trail east of crossing; 1 across creek on Avalanche Pass trail. |
| Charlotte Creek (1) | below trail, east of crossing |
| Lower Junction Mdw (1) | next to trail, just below meadow |
| Junction Mdw (East Creek) (1) | west of East Creek Trail, south of Bubbs Creek log crossing |
| Vidette Meadow (2) | 1 at Lower Vidette on south side of Bubbs Creek trail, west of JMT; 1 at east Vidette, on JMT above Bubbs Creek Junction, south side of trail |
| 9,900' Elevation/JMT (1) | on south side of JMT, approximately 0.2 mile below "No Fires Above Here" sign |
| JMT/Center Basin Trail (1) | below trail approximately 150 yards south of JMT/Center Basin junction |
| East Lake (2) | 1 at upper end of lake; 1 at lower end of lake |
| **Charlotte Lake Area** | |
| Charlotte lake (1) | at west end of lake |
| Kearsarge Lakes (3) | 1 at south end of upper small lake; 1 on north shore of largest upper lake; 1 on north shore of lowest small lake |
| **Copper Creek Trail** | |
| Lower Tent Meadow (1) | below creek crossing, east side of creek |
| **Lewis Creek Trail** | |
| Frypan Meadow (1) | on upper side of meadow in campsite |
| **Sugarloaf/Roaring River Area** | |
| Ranger Lake (2) | 1 on east side of lake; 1 on north end of lake |
| Seville Lake (2) | 1 on north side of lake (not functional at time of printing); 1 on west side of lake |
| Lost Lake (1) | in main camp area on north side of lake |
| Sugarloaf Meadow (1) | at south end of meadow near hitch rail |
| Roaring River RS (3) | 1 west of bridge; 1-100 yards north of Lackey cabin; 1-200 yards south of cabin, west side of river. |
| Comanche Meadow (1) | next to trail near lower east end. |
| **Woods Creek/Rae Lakes Area** | |
| Lower Paradise Valley (2) | 1 above trail; 1 below trail |
| Middle Paradise Valley (1) | above the trail |
| Upper Paradise Valley (2) | both below the river crossing |
| Woods Creek/JMT (2) | both on south side of foot bridge |
| Arrowhead Lake (1) | on east shore, next to trail |
| Lower Rae Lake (1) | non-functional at time of printing |
| Middle Rae Lake (2) | both east shore west of sign |

# Food-storage Locker Locations

## Sequoia National Park

Note: Food storage locker locations listed below are accurate at the time of this writing. Conditions can lead to their deterioration and ability to function.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Kern Canyon** | |
| Lower Funston Meadow (2) | 200 yards east of trail between northeast corner of meadow and river |
| Upper Funston Meadow (2) | 1 at northeast corner of meadow near river; 1-60 yards further south |
| Kern Hot Springs (2) | 1 between trail and river, 80 yards north of bulletin board; 1 in open pines 50 yards east of trail |
| Junction Meadow (1) | next to High Sierra Trail near southeast corner of meadow |
| **Little Five Lakes Area** | |
| Moraine Lake (1) | next to trail along east shore of lake |
| Cliff Ck/Timber Gap Jct. (1) | on east side of creek at trail junction |
| Pinto Lake (1) | on north side of trail |
| Little Five Lakes (1) | south of Blackrock Pass trail junction |
| Big Five lakes (1) | next to trail on northeast shore of lowest Big Five Lake |
| Big Arroyo Crossing (1) | on east side of Big Arroyo creek, southeast of trail junction |
| Lost Canyon/Big Five Jct. (1) | at Lost Canyon/Big Five trail junction |
| **Lodgepole/Twin Lakes/Bearpaw/Lakes Areas** | |
| Buck CK Crossing/HST (1) | on west side of creek |
| Bearpaw (4) | in main camp area |
| Mehrten CK Crossing/HST (1) | above trail on west side of creek |
| 9 Mile Creek Crossing/HST (1) | by trail on west side of creek |
| Upper Hamilton Lake (3) | 1 on west side of lake in open rocky area; 1-75 yards south of open rocky area; 1-200 yards west of lake, south of outlet stream |
| Emerald Lake (2) | between the trail and lake |
| Pear Lake (2) | on north side of lake (both damaged at time of printing) |
| Clover Creek Crossing (Twin Lakes Trail (1) | on north side of first Clover Creek crossing |
| JO Pass Trail/Twin Lakes Jct. (1) | at trail junction |
| Twin Lakes (2) | 1 at lower end of lake on trail; 1 at upper end of lake on trail (in need of repair at time of printing |
| **Mineral King Area** | |
| Monarch lake (1) | 100 yards northeast of lake outlet near some rock bluffs |
| Franklin Lake (2) | 1 below dam, west of trail; 1 east of dam by 0.4 mile, 200 feet above lake |
| **Rock Creek Area** | |
| Lower Rock Ck Crossing/PCT (1) | near trail on south side of crossing |
| Lower Rock Creek Lake (1) | north of trail on west end of lake |
| Lower Soldier Lake (1) | on rocky peninsula on south side of lake |
| **Tyndall/Crabtree Areas** | |
| Tyndall Ck Crossing/JMT (1) | west of trail, 350 feet north of creek |
| Wallace Creek/JMT (1) | west of trail, south of creek |
| PCT/Lower Crabtree Meadow (1) | south of Whitney Creek Crossing on west side of trail |
| Crabtree Ranger Station (1) | southeast of JMT, 100 yards south of ranger station |