National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Pinnacles National Park

# Superintendent's Compendium updated 03/31/2016

Of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements and Other Restrictions Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved:

Karen Bypln-Dom 3/31/16

Superintendent Date

5000 Hwy. 146, Paicines, CA 95043 Phone: 831-389-4486 FAX: 831-389-4489

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Pinnacles National Park. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

## 36 CFR §1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

### (a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established:

Hours of Operation:

- Pinnacles Visitor Center (East Side) is open daily from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.
- West Pinnacles Visitor Contact Station is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.
- Inbound access to the Westside is open from 7:30 am to 8:00 pm.

*Certain parts of the park may have restrictions on access due to staffing shortages, road improvements, or under emergency conditions. The Visitor Center or Contact Station may be closed due to staffing shortages or holidays. The automatic gate at the western boundary allows access to the park during day time hours. Those visitors in the park after 8:00 pm can activate the gate to leave, but the gate will not open to those outside the park.*

Park Administrative Buildings:

- All persons entering buildings accessible to the public are required to wear shirt, shoes, and pants/skirt/dress/shorts (as appropriate).

*This measure is required in order to maintain a healthy environment for visitors and employees.*

Public Use Limits:

**Roads**

**Motor vehicle traffic on the following roads is restricted to administrative use or by permit only as noted:**

- Unpaved roads within the Bottomlands area are restricted to specific administrative use or by permit as an easement/access for local landowner.
- Unpaved South Wilderness road, from East Entrance road to Shooting Range and beyond to include Grassy Canyon Road (administrative use only).
- Unpaved road from "Double Gates" (located on the West Entrance road, 1.0 mile from the West Entrance) to the west boundary (administrative use, and by permit as an easement/access for local landowners).
- North Chalone Peak road (administrative use only).
- Condor Gulch service road (administrative use only).
- All water tank service roads (administrative use only).
- West side residential and maintenance area (administrative use only).
- East side residential and maintenance area (administrative use only).

**(a)(1) Emergency Closure**

None.

**(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:**

**Technical Rock Climbing**

Technical rock climbing is allowed anywhere other than as provided below and with the following restrictions:

- Stretching climbing ropes across Park hiking trails to the point of restricting hiker access is prohibited (not to include climbing access trails).
- The use of powered devices to drill or fashion rock to facilitate climbing is prohibited.
- Travel to and from designated climbing areas is limited to designated trails marked by a sign with the symbol of a carabineer.
- There is a maximum group size of 12 people each at Uppercrust, Lowercrust, Toprope Wall, and Tourist Trap.

*Climbing gear and ropes create a tripping hazard and block trails used by other visitors.*

*There have been significant impacts to Uppercrust, Lowercrust, Toprope Wall, and Tourist Trap due to heavy use. Group size limits have proven to be an effective mitigation to resource damage.*

Closures:

**Bear Gulch Cave Closures**

All or portions of the Bear Gulch Cave system will be closed according to the following schedule:

| | |
|---|---|
| July 15 through May 15: | Upper 1/3 of the cave closed |
| May 15 through July 15: | Entire cave closed |
| 0-4 weeks mid spring (March): | Entire cave may be open |

| | |
|---|---|
| 0-4 weeks mid fall (October): | Entire cave may be open |
| High water events | Entire cave closed |

This schedule is subject to modification based upon monitoring the bat colony by Pinnacles National Park resource management staff. The opening is based on bat populations and the closing is set on the last day of the month in March and October.

*To provide protection for a nesting colony of Townsend's Big-Eared Bat, the Bear Gulch Caves are open on the preceding schedule. The schedule is subject to modification based on monitoring of the bat colony by Pinnacles National Park resource management staff.*

**Balconies Caves**

Entry during high water events is prohibited. Balconies Cave gates may be closed during periods of heavy rain or high water as a safety precaution.

**Off Trail Hiking and Rock Climbing:**

Off trail hiking and rock climbing may be restricted in areas so designated for protection of park resources. These areas will be posted with signs and printed material will be made available to visitors at the entrance station, visitor centers and website (www.nps.gov/PINN).

*When it has been determined by the park's resource staff that there is a need to protect raptors or other wildlife during critical periods, specific areas will be restricted to visitor use. This is not an actual closure – just an advisory!*

**Stock Use**

All trails are closed to stock use except for park administrative use.

*It has been determined that using stock on the current trails at PNP creates conflict with other users as the trails are not designed to meet the demands of hikers and horse users safely, helps minimize the introduction of non-native invasive plants, and reduces trail degradation.*

**Condor Release Site**

The following areas are closed to prevent unnecessary human interactions with the endangered California condor. The size of the area, about a one-half mile radius around the site, provides a visual and aural buffer from human disturbance for the animals.

The following areas, based on the Mount Diablo Meridian, San Benito County, and within the boundaries of Pinnacles National Park, CA, are closed to public access, use of fire, and smoking:

1) Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Section 5, approx. 651 acres.
2) Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Southern 3/4 of Section 6, approx. 480 acres.
3) Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Northern 1/4 of Section 7, approx. 160 acres.
4) Township 17 South, Range 8 East, Northern 1/4 of Section 6, lands 1200 feet above sea level altitude and southeast of Highway 146, approximately 140 acres.
5) Township 16 South, Range 8 East, Southern 3/4 of Section 31, lands 1200 feet above sea level altitude and southeast of Highway 146, approximately 150 acres.

These areas are discernable on the USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps North Chalone Peak, CA and Topo Valley, CALIF. See Appendix 1 for a map of these areas.

## Unmanned Aerial Systems

Launching, landing or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Pinnacles National Park is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent.

- Definition: The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quad-copters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

*Unmanned aerial systems are already prohibited from most of the park by the Wilderness Act. It has been determined that their use in the remainder of the park would have an unacceptable impact on the endangered California Condor and other protected species within the park.*

## 36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

**(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the superintendent is required:**

- §1.5(d) The following activities related to Public Use Limits:
  Cutting, collecting, and transporting firewood from designated wood lots when an excess of downed wood is declared by the Superintendent.
- § 2.4(d) Carrying or possessing a weapon, trap, or net.
- §2.5(a) Specimen collection (Take plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals).
- §2.10(a) The following camping activities:
  - Unless permitted by the Superintendent, all areas of Pinnacles National Park are closed to overnight parking and camping.
  - The purchasing of a campsite within Pinnacles Campground is considered a permit to camp, but only within the site purchased.
- §2.12 Audio Disturbances:
  - (a)(2) Operating a chain saw in developed areas.
  - (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas.
  - (a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51.
- §2.17 Aircraft & Air Delivery:
  - (a)(3) Delivery of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means.
  - (c)(1) Removal of a downed aircraft.
- §2.23(b) The following special recreation activities (per 36 CFR Part 71):
  - 36 CFR, Part 71, §71.13(d) Organized tours or outings conducted for educational or scientific purposes, pursuant to a permit or "fee-waiver" issued by the superintendent.

- §2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods or services (Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit issued under §2.50, §2.51, §2.52).
- §2.38 Explosives:
  - (a) Use, possession, storage, or transport of explosives, or blasting agents.
  - (b) Use or possession of fireworks or firecrackers.
- §2.50(a) Conduct a sports event pageant, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, and similar events.
- §2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views.
- §2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printed matter allowed with a permit provided that the printed matter is not solely commercial advertising.
- §2.60(b) Livestock use.
- §2.61(a) Residing on federal lands.
- §2.62 Memorialization:
  - (a) Erection of monuments (Requires approval from Regional Director).
  - (b) Scattering ashes from human cremation.
- §4.11(a) Exceeding established vehicle load, weight, and size limits.
- §5.1 Advertisements – (Display, posting, or distribution).
- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (Requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations).
- §5.5 Commercial Photography/Filming:
  - (a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings or crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television.
  - (b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising.
- §5.6(c) Use of commercial vehicles on park area roads (The Superintendent shall issue a permit to access private lands within or adjacent to the park when access is otherwise not available).

§5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, paths, structures, etc.

## 36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**a)(4) Using or possessing wood gathered from within the park area is prohibited, except that dead wood on the ground may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the park in the following areas:**

- No areas are currently designated for wood gathering.
- The Superintendent may authorize gathering and burning of wood in campfires, for fuels reduction and wildland fire safety.

**§2.1(a) Collecting natural materials from the park is generally prohibited. However, pursuant to §2.1(c), the following fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or possession and consumption restrictions:**

- The collection of fruit, nuts, berries, and the fruiting bodies of fungi from any edible species for personal consumption while in the park is permitted.

*Park biologist have determined that the gathering or consumption of fruits, nuts, berries, or the fruiting bodies of fungi (mushrooms) will not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of any plant species, or otherwise adversely affect park resources.*

## 36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

**(e) The following areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light:**

- All areas of the Park are closed to viewing of wildlife with an artificial light without a permit. This includes the use of infrared lighting/beams.

## 36 CFR §2.3 - FISHING

- All park waters are closed to fishing.

## 36 CFR §2.5 – RESEARCH SPECIMENS

**(a) Taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals is prohibited except in accordance with other regulations of Chapter I of 36 CFR or pursuant to the terms and conditions of a specimen collection permit.**

For further information on Scientific Research and Collecting Permits and procedures for applying visit the following website: https://irma.nps.gov/rprs/Home or contact the park's Natural Resource Manager at (831) 389-4486.

## 36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE

**(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted.** A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:

- Camping is allowed for not more than a total of 30 days in any calendar year provided that during the period from February 1 through June 1, inclusive, camping is limited to not more than a total of 14 days.

- The 30 days can be waived for employees in active employment status. This waiver must be obtained by a written request to the Chief Ranger and a signature of the Superintendent.

- Pinnacles Campground is the only authorized camping in the Park.

- When a person pays a camping fee, occupies a campsite, or registers in a campground, the conditions established in this section of the compendium are in effect as the conditions of a camping permit. Under 2.10(b), violating these conditions is prohibited, and under 2.10(c), the permit may be suspended or revoked for violating these terms.

[Note: Camping is defined in 36 CFR 1.4)

- Check out time in the campground is 11:00 AM on the day of departure.
- In addition to the above limits, the following restrictions also apply:

1. A maximum of two vehicles, per site are allowed in the tent sites of Pinnacles Campground. Extra vehicles MUST be left in the overnight parking lot.
2. Where parking pads are provided, vehicles must be parked with all wheels on the pad, and may not extend into the traffic lane or into the campsite.
3. Reserving or holding campsites operating under a first come first-served is prohibited. Campsites must be paid for within 30 minutes of occupant's arrival.
4. Generator use is prohibited (due to the availability of electric hook ups in specified sites).
5. Food, garbage, and equipment used to cook or store food must not be left unattended and must be kept sealed in a vehicle or in a container that is constructed of solid, non-pliable material. These storage conditions are in effect in all parts of the Park. This restriction does not apply to food that is being transported, consumed, or prepared for consumption.

## 36 CFR §2.11 – PICNICKING

Conditions for Picnicking:

- Picnic table availability is first-come, first-served and may not be set aside for later use, or "reserved" in any manner.
- Conditions for the storage of food, as noted in section 2.10a, are in effect in all picnic areas.

## 36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES

**(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:**

Designated Areas:

- Moses Springs, Peaks View, Bear Gulch and Chaparral picnic areas.
- Employee residential housing areas.
- Pinnacles Campground in designated fire pits.
- Parking lots.

Receptacles Allowed:

- Government-provided grills and fire pits.
- Visitor-provided gas stoves, hibachis, or portable barbecues.

Established Conditions for Fires:

- During periods of high or extreme fire danger, and throughout the fire season, the Superintendent may designate limitations or prohibition of charcoal and/or wood fires, or require the use of gas stoves only.
- Hot contents of fire pits (charcoal, wood, etc.) must not be disposed of in trash receptacles or on the ground.
- Peaks View Picnic area: fires in visitor-provided gas stoves, charcoal hibachis, or charcoal barbeques only. No wood fires.
- Fires will be constantly monitored while burning and completely extinguished after use.

**(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:**

- All fires must be completely extinguished with no burning material remaining. If a portable barbecue grill is used, all ashes/coals must be thoroughly extinguished and cooled.
- Fires will be considered out when all burnable materials are cool to the touch.
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**36 CFR §2.14 – SANITATION and REFUSE**

**(a)(2) The use of government refuse receptacles or facilities for dumping household, commercial or industrial refuse, brought as such from private or municipal property is allowed under the following conditions:**

- Park employees in park housing or authorized contractors, in trash facilities approved by the superintendent.

**(b) All person must dispose of human waste by making use of toilet facilities where available. In backcountry areas lacking toilet facilities, human waste must be buried in a small hole dug in soil at least six inches deep and at least 200 feet from any trail, campsite or water source. All trash must be carried out; burying or burning of toilet paper is prohibited.**

**36 CFR §2.15 – PETS**

**(a)(1) The following structures and/or areas are closed to the possession of pets:**

- All areas of the Park are closed to the possession of pets except developed picnic areas, within 10 feet of paved or gravel roads and parking areas, the gravel road from the Campground to the Bacon Homestead area, and within the boundaries of the campground.

*Dogs can chase, scare, and transmit diseases to wild animals. They leave behind a predator scent typical of all wild canines like coyotes. This scent can linger in the area for long periods of time and can disrupt or alter the behavior of the native animals this park protects. Pets may also dig or trample fragile vegetation. Dogs can bite humans and some people are very uncomfortable around them; park visitors should be able to enjoy native wildlife in their natural environment without disruption from other people's pets.*

**(a)(3) Pets may be left unattended and tied to an object in the following areas, under the conditions noted:**

- Pets must not be left unattended and tied to an object in the park. Please note exception listed in section 2.15(e).
- Pets must not be left or confined in violation of 18 USC 13; California Penal Code § 597.7 which reads "No person shall leave or confine an animal in any unattended motor vehicle under conditions that endanger the health or well-being of an animal due to heat, cold,

lack of adequate ventilation, or lack of food or water, or other circumstances that could reasonably be expected to cause suffering, disability, or death to the animal."

*Note: When outside temperatures exceed 75 degrees Fahrenheit temperatures inside vehicles can often exceed 100 degrees, thereby endangering the health of pets left in a vehicle. Temperatures usually exceed 75 degrees from April through September and occasionally during the winter months.*

**(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions:**

- Solid pet excrement must be collected and deposited in trash receptacles at the time it occurs.

**(e) Pets may be kept by park residents under the following conditions:**

- Park residents may keep pets in accordance with the established Pet Policy, within the Housing Management Policy, for Pinnacles National Park.
- Pets may be tethered near the occupants' residence. This is an exception to section 2.15(a)(3).

## 36 CFR §2.17 – AIRCRAFT and AIR DELIVERY

**(c)(1)** The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof is subject to procedures established by the Superintendent through written authorization.

## 36 CFR §2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVISES

**Using roller skates, skateboards, roller skies, coasting vehicles or similar devices is prohibited, except in designated areas.**

- Devices are permitted in the campground by registered campers and their guests.
- Residents and their guests are permitted use in the residential areas.

*Note: California vehicle code § 21212 requires all persons under 18 years of age to wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet.*

## 36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

**(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking, to include electronic cigarettes and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), as noted:**

- All park structures, caves, and fuel/hazardous materials storage areas. The exception to smoking in structures is if you reside in a permanent, single occupancy residence.
- The superintendent may prohibit smoking along Park trails and other areas during periods of high or extreme fire danger and during the fire season.

## 36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

**(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours in the following areas and under the following conditions:**

- By written permission of Superintendent.

## 36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES

**(b) Recreation fees, and/or a permit, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:**

- Pinnacles National Park is an established fee area and is posted as such at the east and west entrances.
- Entrance fees for both sides are $15.00 per vehicle or $10.00 per person (over the age of fifteen) on foot, bicycle, or motorcycle, $100 per bus, and $30 for the Pinnacles Annual Pass.
- Campground fees are set by the Concession and approved by the Superintendent.

**36 CFR §2.38 – EXPLOSIVES**

**(b) Fireworks and firecrackers may be possessed and/or used in the following areas, under the conditions noted:**

- All areas of Pinnacles National Park are closed to the possession and use of fireworks and firecrackers.

**36 CFR §2.51 – PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES , MEETINGS**

**(e) The following areas are designated for the purpose of demonstrations and/or the distribution and/or sale of printed matter:**

- Bear Gulch administrative area next to public restroom.
- Chaparral parking area next to public restroom.

**36 CFR §3.8 – BOATING OPERATIONS**

**(a)(2) Launching or operating a vessel is prohibited except at one of the following launch sites:**

- There are no designated boat launch sites.

*Bear Gulch Reservoir is closed to boating. Boating may negatively affect sensitive species that habitat the body of water.*

**36 CFR §3.21 – SWIMMING AND BATHING**

**(a)(1) The following areas are closed to swimming and bathing:**

- Bear Gulch Reservoir.
- Any natural body of water.

*Swimming and bathing may negatively affect sensitive species habitat.*

**36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES**

**(a) Park roads, open for travel by motor vehicle are those indicated below, and/or as indicated in the following publication or document:**

- Pinnacles Campground.
- East Entrance-Pinnacles Road.
- Chalone Creek Road.
- HQ/Moses Spring road.
- West Entrance road between park boundary and Chaparral Ranger Station.

**36 CFR §4.21 – SPEED LIMITS**

**(b) The following speed limits are established for the routes/roads indicated:**

- 5 mph Pinnacles Campground Bridge
- 10 mph Pinnacles Campground
- 15 mph in the Chalone Creek Housing/Maintenance Area.
- 25 mph on Chalone Creek Road to Old Pinnacles Trailhead.
- 15 mph on the Chalone Creek Bridge.
- 15 mph from Bear Gulch to Moses Springs.
- 15 mph in the West District Developed Area.
- 25 mph from the Bear Gulch to East Fee Booth.
- 30 mph from the East Fee Booth to the Campground.
- 35 mph from the Campground to Highway 25.
- 25 mph on West side roads.