Elam Backcountry Camp

Hikers and equestrians can camp at Elam backcountry camp, with nearby access to Redwood Creek. Equestrian access via Orick Horse Trailhead only.

Camp Amenities

Camp for hiker & equestrian use  Seasonal water, trough, and corral  Food lockers, fire rings, & picnic tables  Shared pit toilet

Camper Checklist: What You Need to Know

Access
- When parking at trailhead, secure items of value and keep them out of sight; better yet, leave them at home!
- Lock vehicle doors, roll up windows, and engage anti-theft devices.
- ~6 miles to camp from Orick Horse Trailhead; trailhead parking fee required: $10 overnight; $5 day use.
- Hikers/backpackers only: ~3 miles to camp from Redwood Creek Trailhead. Note: Frequent vehicle break-ins at trailhead parking area.
- Hikers/backpackers only: ~6½ miles to camp from Tall Trees Trailhead.
- Pets (with the exception of service animals) and bicycles are not permitted on trails or in camp.
- Redwood Creek may be impossible to cross during the rainy season and/or during high flow stages; two bridges over Redwood Creek are only in place seasonally, usually June-September.

Designated Sites
- Three (3) campsites available; maximum of eight (8) people per site.
- Camp only in designated sites.

Traveling with Horses & Pack Animals
- Pack animals—horses, mules, ponies, burros, goats, and llamas—must be fed pelleted or certified weed free feed.
- Animals may not graze park vegetation and must be hobbled or tied to a hitching post when unattended.
- Maximum of twelve (12) pack animals allowed for overnight use.
- Corral, trough, and (seasonal) non-potable water available in camp.

Disposal of Garbage and Human Waste
- Pit toilets for human waste only—do not dispose of garbage in toilets.
- Pack out all trash/garbage when leaving camp.

Food and Garbage Storage
- Store food, garbage, cooking gear, and all odorous items in food storage lockers.
- When cooking and/or eating, do not let wildlife access food and/or garbage.

Never Feed Wildlife (that includes birds, too!)
- It’s illegal, and dangerous to you, other humans, and the fed animal.
- Keep a clean camp, store food and other smelly items responsibly, and properly dispose of all garbage—even crumbs!

Water
- No treated water source available—pack in drinking water or filter/purify water from Redwood Creek tributaries.

Fires and Firewood
- Campfires are restricted to designated fire rings, only.
- Up to 50 pounds of dead and downed wood (including driftwood) per day per campsite may be collected within ¼-mile of camp for campfire use only.
- Do not leave fires unattended or smoldering.
Elam Camp: At a Glance

- Free permit required.
- Nearest access: ~3 mi. to camp from Redwood Creek Trailhead (hikers/backpackers, only—profile above).
- Hazardous creek crossings during rainy season and/or high flow stages.
- Equestrian animal access via Orick Horse Trailhead only (~6 miles to camp).
- Max. 8 people per site.
- Max. 5 consecutive nights stay.
- No bicycles or pets (except service animals).
- Shared pit toilet, corral, and horse trough.
- Fire ring, food storage locker, and picnic table at each site.

Camp Activities

- Over 20 miles of horse-friendly trails
- Hike through old-growth forests
- Fish Redwood Creek (by CDFG regs)
- Redwood Creek swimming holes