Bear Habitat: Proper food storage is the law!

Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

Drivers
Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

Picnickers
Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

Lodge Guests
Remove food from your vehicles.

Campers
Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

Backpackers
Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable container. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent/buy a container at visitor centers or markets.

Everyone
Don't let bears approach you, your food, picnic area or campsite. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Your fees help the Parks & the Forest!

Most entrance fees get invested here on projects that enhance your experience, such as improving roads and visitor centers. On January 1, fees increased for the first time since 2006. Ask about free passes for 4th-graders and their families this year!

Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS) plus Hume Lake area of Sequoia National Forest (USFS):

• **7-day pass**: $30 per vehicle (private, non-commercial). $15 per person on foot, bicycle, bus, or motorcycle. Cost per motorcyle (not person) will be changing to $20.

• **12-Month Pass**: $50 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

Passes to All National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands:

• **Annual**: $80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

• **Annual Military**: Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173. Crystal Cave has its own fee, but offers a discount.

• **Seniors**: $10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over, Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

• **Accessibility**: Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

Wilderness 11

Over 800,000 acres of these parks are designated wilderness. They offer outstanding opportunities for you to enjoy both solitude and challenge.

Following minimum-impact restrictions helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant.

Permits are required for all overnight trips, and they are limited during the summer quota period (May 27 through September 24, 2016). The permit fee during that time is $10 plus $5/person. Permits can be reserved by mail or fax beginning March 1. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2).

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (USFS): Permits are not required but please complete a registration card at Jennie Lakes trailheads; information is used to manage the wilderness effectively. USFS requires a free fire permit for any open flame; downloadable from www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

Camping in the park's "frontcountry" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Learn more about wilderness and wilderness travel at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Open June into September, conditions permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) are taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See www.visitsequoia.com.

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SNHA):** Winter only. The hut sits high above Lodgepole at 9,200' elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.