

Traffic Delays & Length Limits

Generals Highway Reconstruction

Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge (between Hospital Rock & Giant Forest). Expect delays through 5/2012:

Daytime: Delays up to 1 hour on weekdays through 10/28, then up to 2 hours through November.

Night: Possible night closures 9pm-6am Sunday night - Friday morning with one pass-through at 11:30pm. Traffic signals control 20-minute delays during non-working hours/weekends.

Vehicles longer than 22' long cannot travel between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum due to physical limitations of vehicles; long vehicles cannot make the tight curves in the one-lane construction zone. Construction schedules are on bulletin boards or www.nps.gov/seki.

Rebuild of Cedar Grove Bridge

Expect detours through 11/2011:
Between Hwy 180 and Cedar Grove Village. Village and lodge are accessible via detour on Northside Road. Use Lewis Creek Trailhead as turn-around for large vehicles/trailers.

Other Road Repairs

Through 10/2011:
Expect intermittent delays on weekdays in several park areas. 1-2 day closures may affect some single-lane roads, parking lots, & campgrounds. Bridge repair on Mineral King Road will prohibit access to the last parking lot on the road. Alternative parking is at Sawtooth Trailhead 1/3 mile away.

More road information - page 11

Wilderness Overnights

Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Know and follow restrictions, as they protect both the environment and your experience.

Permits

Required for overnights (not day hikes). Issued in summer (reservations available) and self-issued the rest of the year at trailhead locations near where you are hiking or riding.

Quotas & Permits: Each trail has a daily entry quota and a required wilderness camping fee (\$15) between late May and late September. Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within the quota season are accepted starting March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date. Permits must be picked up the afternoon before (starting at 1pm) or by 7am on the day of departure at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the permit.

If you don't have a reservation and the quota for your preferred trail is full, choose another trail for that day or another day to start. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS): Permits not required but the FS requires free fire permits for any open flame.

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.

See www.nps.gov/seki or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766
Fax 565-4239

Pear Lake Ski Hut

Operated by the SNHA, it sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole. At 9,200 feet elevation, in winter it is surrounded by glistening snowfields and icy rock walls. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. A great opportunity to experience winter in the High Sierra: 559-565-3759 (reservations required). Also check www.sequoiahistory.org for SNHA's winter travel seminars.

Proper Food Storage is the Law!

Bears often get unattended food and 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. The following reduces, but does 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.

Lodge Guests

Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page # for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit). 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 infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

Backpackers

Hanging food is not effective in these parks! Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets.

Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or your food. 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.

