



## Minimum Impact Restrictions Terms and Conditions of Wilderness Permit

### GENERAL TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

- Wilderness permits are required for all overnight travel.
- A signed permit must be in the permittee's possession and must be presented to an authorized person upon request.
- To prevent erosion and preserve vegetation, do not short-cut trails.
- Do not build rock cairns or other trail markers.
- Pets are not allowed in the wilderness.
- Pack out all trash, including toilet paper.
- All wheeled vehicles and all motorized equipment are prohibited in wilderness per the Wilderness Act of 1964.
- Discharge of any firearm or weapon is prohibited. Possession of weapons, including bear spray, is prohibited. Possession of firearms is subject to state regulations

### PARTY SIZE LIMITS

- Maximum party size is 15 people on-trail; 12 people off-trail, and in these specific areas the limit is 8 people off-trail: Colony Mill Road Trail; Darwin Canyon/Lamarck Col (includes Class 1 area); Don Cecil Trail; Dusy Basin; Mt. Whitney Management Area/Mt. Langley (includes Class 1 area); Sixty Lake Basin; and Sphinx Lakes
- "Off-trail" is ½ mile from a maintained trail for overnight use, and 100 yards from a maintained trail for day use areas.
- Affiliated groups may not travel or camp within ½ mile of each other if the total group size exceeds the limits described above.
- If traveling with stock separate restrictions apply, please inform ranger if traveling with stock for more information.

### CAMPSITE SELECTION

- Camp as far from water as possible, never camp within 25 feet of water. Always try to camp further than 100 feet from water.
- Camping within 25-100 feet of water is only allowed in well-established campsites.
- Camp on durable surfaces (rock, sand, dirt, snow, etc.) Do not camp on vegetation or in meadows. Use previously impacted areas.
- Do not construct rock walls, dig trenches, make new fire rings (or add rocks to existing fire rings), bough beds or camp furniture.
- Do not camp before reaching the first camping area for your specific trailhead, a list of these can be found in the wilderness trip planner.

#### Area Specific Camping Restrictions:

<b>Lakes Trail</b> -No camping at Aster Lake or Heather Lake -Camp only in designated sites at Pear and Emerald Lakes. -3 night limit (combined)	<b>Eagle/Mosquito Trails</b> -No camping between the trail and Eagle Lake -No camping within ¼ mile of first Mosquito Lake <b>Atwell/Hockett Trail</b> -No camping between the trail and Whitman Creek <b>Columbine Lake</b> -No camping within 100 feet of the lake
<b>High Sierra Trail</b> -Camp only in designated sites at Bearpaw Meadow -One night camping limit at Hamilton Lakes	<b>Rae Lakes Loop area</b> -Camp only in designated sites in Lower Paradise Valley -Two night camping limit in Paradise Valley -One night camping limit per lake between Dollar Lake and Glen Pass -No camping within ¼ mile of Bullfrog Lake -Two night camping limit at Charlotte and Kearsarge Lakes and Along JMT from Woods Creek Crossing to Vidette Meadow
<b>Redwood Canyon and other Kings Trails</b> Don Cecil Trail, Dusy Basin (basin-wide), North Dome -Two night camping limit -10 person party size limit in Redwood Canyon	<b>Mt. Whitney/Crabtree area</b> -No camping at Timberline Lake -3 night camping limit at Lower and Upper Soldier Lakes -2 night camping limit at Crabtree/ Whitney Creek area and Guitar lake
Camping will be allowed in specific areas close to the front country (e.g., Colony Mill Trail, Don Cecil Trail, and North Dome) Camping is prohibited on these trails prior to the listed first-camp locations. Please call the wilderness office for more information	

### SANITATION

- Human waste must be buried at least 6" deep and 100 ft. from trails, camps, and all water sources. Pack out used toilet paper.
- All soap, including biodegradable soap, should be used and disposed of away from water sources. Carry water 100 ft. from the source before washing. This includes washing clothes, dishes, and yourself.

### ADDITIONAL SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

**Wilderness is a place where self-reliance and preparedness is essential. Be prepared for a wide variety of hazardous situations.**

- Many wilderness illnesses are attributable to poor hygiene. Wash your hands often.
- We recommend that you boil, treat, or filter drinking water.
- Before setting up camp carefully look for dead or dying trees, trees with dead branches or leaning trees. Do not camp under dead or dying trees, trees that are leaning or have dead branches.
- Drowning is a leading cause of death in National Parks. Be extremely cautious when considering crossing rivers, wading or swimming. Cold water, swift currents and unstable footing contribute to making swimming and wading dangerous and potentially deadly.

## FOOD STORAGE RESTRICTIONS

Properly store food items when not in use to prevent bears and other wildlife from becoming conditioned to human food. Report any wildlife-related injuries, property damage, or unusual encounters to a ranger.

**Food items include:** any food meant for human or pack stock consumption; garbage, recyclables and trash, such as empty cans, bottles, or food wrappers; any equipment with food residue or odor; toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, ointments, and lotions.

**The only proper food storage methods are:** using an allowed portable animal-resistant food-storage container; using a permanent animal-resistant food-storage box; or using the counter-balance hanging technique. When camping in an area without food storage boxes or adequate trees for hanging food, you must carry an animal-resistant food-storage container.

### Other food storage requirements:

- Portable park-allowed animal-resistant food-storage containers are required for storing all food items in the following areas: North Dome, Rae Lakes Loop (including the Woods Creek drainage south from Pinchot Pass, the Bubbs Creek drainage north of Forester Pass, and the Kearsarge Lakes area), Dusy Basin/Bishop Pass Corridor, Rock Creek Drainage, Pear and Emerald Lakes.
- Food-storage boxes are for immediate on-site use only. Caching food or gear or abandoning items within food-storage boxes is prohibited.
- All food items must be removed from your car and stored in the food-storage boxes at the trailhead including containers such as ice chests unless they are completely empty and free of all food residue.

## CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Note that during times of high fire danger, additional campfire restrictions may be implemented. Campfire restrictions also apply to the use of wood-burning camp stoves. (E.g. Biolite or “Zip stoves”)

Kings Canyon National Park	Sequoia National Park Kaweah and Tule River Drainages (West of the Great Western Divide)		Sequoia National Park Kern River Drainage (E. of the Great Western Divide)
-No fires above 10,000 ft. -No Fires in Granite Basin -No fires in Redwood Canyon	-No fires above 9,000 ft. -No fires at Pinto Lake -No fires in Summit Lake Basin -No fires in the Dillonwood area	-No fires in Hamilton Lakes Basin -No fires in Mineral King Valley above the ranger station	-No fires above 10,000 ft.

### Other campfire requirements:

- Where fires are allowed, use existing fire rings. Do not build new ones. Do not add rocks to existing fire rings.
- Use only dead wood found on the ground. Do not chop live vegetation or remove dead branches from standing trees.
- Fires must be attended at all times.
- Do not burn trash. (Plastic and foil must be carried out)
- Put out fires with water ½ hour before leaving your campsite and stir the ashes. Do not use dirt to put out fires.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE POLICY

Search and rescue actions are conducted on a discretionary basis. The level and necessity of the response is determined through evaluation of the situation by park personnel. Rescuer safety is always our first priority. These parks expect visitors to exhibit a high degree of self-reliance and responsibility for their own safety, commensurate with the difficulty of their chosen activities. The higher risk the activity, the more you need to be prepared for dealing with emergency situations.

If you choose to carry a hand-held electronic signaling device, be familiar with its operation, limitations, and frequency of failure to transmit. Do not rely on it to summon rescue personnel or notify family you are “OK.”

If you find yourself in a true emergency, and have exhausted all means of self-rescue/help, contact a ranger in the field or call Park Dispatch at 559-565-3195. There is little to no cell reception in most areas of these parks. When you make contact, provide clear, concise information regarding the nature and exact location of the problem or injury, as well as the number of people involved. Be aware that help may be several days out. Be prepared to help yourself.

**I have read and understand the above policies and assure that all party members will comply:**

**Group Leader Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NPS/USFS Permit Issuer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### WILDERNESS INFORMATION

Feel free to contact us after your trip to report conditions or ask questions. 559-565-3766  
 Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Wilderness Office  
 47050 Generals Hwy #60  
 Three Rivers, CA 93271

[www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm)

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