

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



2014 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 and 20 head of stock, except in Redwood Canyon (where group size is limited to 10 people).
- Party size is limited to 8 individuals (people and stock combined) when traveling off trail in the following areas: Lamarck Col; Darwin Canyon and Darwin Bench; Dusy and Palisade Basin; Sixty Lake and Gardiner Basin; Sphinx Creek and Lakes; Mt. Brewer Range; South of Mt. Whitney-Crabtree Lakes; Miter Basin; Mt. Langley; and Army Pass.
- Affiliated groups may not travel or camp within ½ mile of each other if the total group size exceeds the limits described above.

CAMPSITE SELECTION

- No camping within 25ft. of water. From 25 to 100ft. from water, camping is only allowed in previously well-established campsites.
- Camp on durable surfaces (rock, sand, dirt, snow, etc.) or in designated campsites. Do not camp on vegetation or in meadows.
- Do not construct rock walls, trenches, new fire rings (or add rocks to existing fire rings), bough beds, camp furniture, etc.
- Do not camp within 2 miles of trailheads, except in Redwood Canyon (where camping is not permitted within 1 mile of trailhead).

Area Specific Camping Restrictions:

Lakes Trail -No camping at Aster Lake or Heather Lake -Camp only in designated sites at Pear and Emerald Lakes.	Atwell/Hockett Trail -No camping between the trail and Whitman Creek
High Sierra Trail -Camp only in designated sites at Bearpaw Meadow -Two night camping limit at Hamilton Lakes	Rae Lakes Loop area -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
Eagle/Mosquito Trails -No camping between the trail and Eagle Lake -No camping within ¼ mile of first Mosquito Lake	
Redwood Canyon -Two night camping limit	Mt. Whitney/Crabtree area -No camping at Timberline Lake

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 for human or stock consumption; food-tainted garbage and recyclables 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 approved 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: 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, and many Inyo National Forest trails.
- Food-storage boxes are for immediate on-site use only. Caching food or gear 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.

Kings Canyon National Park	Sequoia National Park Kaweah and Tule River Drainages (West of the Great Western Divide)	Sequoia National Park Kern River Drainage (East of the Great Western Divide)
-No fires above 10,000 ft. -No Fires in Granite Basin -No fires in Redwood Canyon	-No fires anywhere above 9,000 ft. -No fires in Hamilton Lakes Basin -No fires at Pinto Lake -No fires in Mineral King Valley above the ranger station -No fires in Summit Lake Basin -No fires in the Dillonwood area	-No fires anywhere above 10,400 ft. -No fires above 10,000 ft. at: Nine Lakes Basin, Big Arroyo, and within ¼ mile of the food-storage box at Lower Crabtree Meadow

Other campfire requirements:

- Where fires are allowed, use existing fire rings. Do not build new ones or 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.
- Put out fires with water ½ hour before leaving your campsite and stir the ashes. Do not use dirt to put out fires.

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.

FISHING REGULATIONS

A California fishing license is required. Below 9,000 ft. elevation, native species (Rainbow Trout, Sacramento Sucker, Kern Rainbow, Sculpin, and Roach) must be released and only barbless artificial flies or lures are authorized. State regulations apply above 9,000 ft.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- Do not camp under leaning trees or dead branches.
- Most wilderness illnesses are attributable to poor hygiene. Wash your hands often.
- We recommend that you boil, treat, or filter drinking water.

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 field 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 the risk of 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, 559-565-4239 (fax)

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Wilderness Office

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www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm

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