



Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures for 2014 March 17, 2014

Temporary Grazing Restrictions

Stock parties may camp in areas that are closed to grazing, but are required to either hold and feed their animals or graze them in other sites in the area that are open to grazing. Only horses, mules, burros, or llamas are allowed.

- **Evolution Meadow** (33-1). Grazing limited to 112 stock nights.
- **McClure Meadow** (33-2). Grazing limited to 108 stock nights.
- **Colby Meadow** (33-3). Grazing limited to 61 stock nights by private parties only.
- **Darwin Meadow** (33-4.3). Temporarily closed to grazing; grazing is available at the adjacent pocket meadows.
- **Upper LeConte Canyon Meadow** (39-1). Temporarily closed (above 10,000 feet elevation) to grazing due to the potential for stock impacts on mountain yellow-legged frog habitat.
- **Big Pete Meadow** (39-2). Grazing limited to 50 stock nights by private and commercial parties only. Commercial users are requested to work with area ranger on grazing practices. Open to limited administrative grazing.
- **Upper Vidette Meadow** (65-3). Open to grazing by private parties only.
- **Junction Meadow** (Bubbs Creek) (66-3). Grazing of the upper portion is limited to private parties and 50 stock nights for the Cedar Grove Pack Station only. Hand grazing of up to 30 stock nights may be allowed in lower meadow.
- **East Lake Meadow** (67-1). Grazing limited to 30 stock nights.
- **Lackey Pasture** (69-4). Lackey Pasture is open for administrative use only.
- **Scaffold Meadow** (69-5.1). Limited to groups with 15-head or less and with a two-night stay limit.
- **Redwood Meadow** (77-5). The lower (north) section of Redwood Meadow is open to private and commercial grazing with a two-night stay limit. For commercial packers, grazing is limited to 32 nights. The upper (south) portion of the meadow is open for up to 65 nights of administrative grazing.
- **Wallace Creek Waterfall Meadow** (81-2.3). Open to grazing with a six-head, one-night grazing limit.
- **Upper Crabtree Meadow** (83-4). Grazing limited to 75 stock nights.
- **Lower Crabtree Meadow** (83-5). Grazing limited to 40 stock nights.
- **Lower Whitney Creek Meadow** (83-7). Grazing limited to 40 stock nights by private parties only.
- **Sandy Meadow** (83-8). Grazing limited to 200 stock nights.
- **Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow** (84-2). Grazing limited to 200 stock nights.
- **Upper Rock Creek area:** Two-night stay limit for all upper Rock Creek area; Nathan's Meadow and above.
- **Nathan's Meadow** (85-10). Grazing limited to 75 stock nights.
- **Lower Rock Creek Lake and Stringer Meadows** (85-8). Grazing limited to 50 stock nights.
- **Penned-Up Meadow** (85-4). Grazing limited to 40 stock nights.
- **Forester Lake Meadow** (89-5.2) and **Summit Lake Meadow** (90-18). Temporarily closed to grazing.
- **South Fork Meadow (Rock Camp)** (90-10). Grazing limited to 75 stock nights.
- **South Fork Pasture (Upper Camp)** (90-11). Grazing limited to 100 stock nights.

NOTE: The special grazing restrictions that follow are in place to prevent the spread of velvetgrass, an invasive weed, on the floor of the Kern River canyon (see Special Bulletin for additional information).

- **Kern Ranger Station to Laurel Creek:** Meadows between the park boundary at the Kern Ranger Station and Laurel Creek are closed to grazing. Administrative grazing of **Lewis Camp** (86-7) and **Kern Station Small Pasture** (86-8) is allowed with fencing to prevent the spread of seeds from infested areas. Meadows closed to all grazing include **Lower Funston Meadow** (86-5) and **Rattlesnake Camp/River Pasture** (86-6).
- **Laurel Creek to Kern-Kaweah River:** Grazing of meadows between Laurel Creek and the Kern-Kaweah River is limited to parties accessing the canyon from the west, north, or east. Parties entering the park from the south passing through USFS lands are required to pack in feed and hold their stock once velvetgrass begins flowering. Meadows affected include **Junction Meadow** (82-1), **Kern Bridge Camp** (86-1), **Upper Funston Meadow** (86-2), and **Twenty-one Inch Camp** (86-4). Grazing at **Upper Funston Meadow** (86-2) is for commercial and private users only.

Temporary Campfire Restrictions

Special closures allow for continued recovery of the down-wood resource. Several heavily used areas are closed to campfires due to a lack of dead and down wood and damage to standing and live trees resulting from firewood scavenging.

Kern River Drainage: Campfires are prohibited above 10,400 ft., and above 10,000 ft. at these specific locations:

Nine Lakes Basin, Big Arroyo area, and within ¼ mile of the food storage locker at Lower Crabtree Meadow.

These restrictions are in place to protect the valuable foxtail pine down-wood resource.

Temporary Food Storage Restrictions

Effective 5/01/2014 to 10/31/2014: To preserve the natural behavior of bears and to protect visitor safety, **portable, park-allowed, food-storage containers (backpacker or panniers), with the capacity to store all garbage, scent and food items are required** for all overnight parties entering and or exiting the following areas:

- **Rae Lakes Loop and Vicinity** – All area users must use portable, park-allowed, food-storage containers. Long distance through hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail & John Muir Trail with a valid wilderness permit, may use the food-storage boxes.
- **Dusy Basin Area** – All area users must use portable, park-allowed, food-storage containers.
- **Rock Creek Area** – All area users must use portable, park-allowed, food-storage containers. Long distance through hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail & John Muir Trail with a valid wilderness permit, may use the food-storage boxes.

The technique of counterbalancing or hanging food is prohibited in the above areas. These restrictions are in effect from May 1 through October 31. Outside this time period, counter-balancing of food is only allowed when snow prevents access to food-storage lockers. **Posting of “alert” guards as a food-storage technique is prohibited at all times.**

Off-Trail Group Size Limits

In 2014 the parks are continuing an off-trail group size limit in five specific areas. In the areas listed below, groups that travel ½ mile off maintained trails are limited to no more than 8 individuals (people and stock combined).

- **Lamarck Col, Darwin Canyon and Darwin Bench Area** – west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east of John Muir Trail; south of Mt. Goethe; north of Mt. Darwin.
 - **Dusy and Palisade Basin Areas** - west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east of John Muir Trail; south of Mt. Goode; north of Norman Clyde Peak.
 - **Sixty Lake and Gardiner Basin Areas** - west of John Muir Trail; east of Paradise Valley trail; south of Woods Creek trail; north of Bubbs Creek Trail (i.e. inside of Rae Lakes Loop).
 - **Sphinx Creek and Lakes, and Mt. Brewer Range Areas** – east of Reflection/East Lakes Trail (to Mt. Jordan); west of Avalanche Pass/Cloud Canyon Trail; south of Bubbs Creek Trail; north of Kings Canyon/Sequoia Park boundary.
 - **Mt. Whitney vicinity: Crabtree Lakes, Miter Basin, Mt. Langley, and Army Pass Areas** – west of park boundary/Sierra crest; east and north of Pacific Crest Trail; south of Mts. Russell & Young.
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Sixty Lake Basin - Temporary Restriction for Stock Parties - Day Use Only – No Grazing

Stock travel in Sixty Lake Basin is restricted to the established trail to a point approximately 1.8 miles from the junction of the John Muir Trail with the Sixty Lake Trail and is only permitted as a Day Use activity. Stock must be held in order to keep them from impacting wet areas (meadows and lakeshores) that are Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog habitat.

Rae Lakes Area – Temporary Restriction on camping nights

Camping in the Rae Lakes basin is restricted to one night per lake from Dollar Lake to Glen Pass.

Pear Lake & Emerald Lakes Basins - Temporary Camping Limit Restriction

Effective 5/23 to 9/28/2014. To reduce overcrowding, total overnight campers will be limited to 25 people per night per lake-basin at Pear and Emerald Lakes. All wilderness permits for the Lakes Trail to Pear and Emerald Lakes will be issued by the Lodgepole Trailhead Office. Permit reservations will not be taken for the Lakes Trail.

How to obtain additional wilderness information on Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

- Visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm for general information
- Visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/stockreg.htm for stock use restrictions.
- Visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/camp_bc.htm for campfire restrictions.
- Visit http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/bear_bc.htm for food storage restrictions.
- Phone the Wilderness Office at 559-565-3766 for questions and to request printed material.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting the wilderness of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Questions or suggestions regarding these restrictions should be sent to: SEKI_wilderness_office@nps.gov, or Wilderness Office, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, California 93271.