



South Sierra Wilderness

Sequoia National Forest

Kern River Ranger District



The South Sierra Wilderness is beautiful, but remember that it is also *primitive*, and you will be on your own! Before going in, check with the local ranger station for latest conditions and hazards. Sign trailhead register before entering the wilderness area.

Location:

South Sierra borders Golden Trout Wilderness on its northern boundary and Dome Land Wilderness on the South. It is all within the South Fork of the Kern River watershed.

Eastside access is via Nine Mile Canyon Road (J41) from US Highway 395 to Kennedy Meadows Road. From the west, access is from Tulare County Road M99 via Sherman Pass Road (22S05). From Blackrock Information Center forest roads will take you to trails at Albanita, Broder, and Lost Meadows. The Monache Meadow area also has trails into the South Sierra from the north.

Description:

- Fragile meadowlands, diversity of flora and fauna between forested ridges, rolling hills, and craggy, steep peaks describe this wilderness.
- A relatively gentle terrain area of 24,650 acres on the Sequoia National Forest portion is ideally suited to family-oriented recreation.
- The more adventurous can frequent the 38,350 acres along the Sierra Crest on the Inyo Forest which completes the 63,000 acre South Sierra Wilderness.
- Exposed rock is mostly granitic with some volcanic features.
- Elevations range from 6,100 feet near Kennedy Meadows to the summit of Olancha Peak at 12,123 feet.

Campfire Permits

You may want a campfire for cooking, enjoying its warmth, and roasting marshmallows.



For campfires, stoves, lanterns or barbeques used outside a campground or recreational vehicle and some developed campgrounds, you need a campfire permit.

The permit is free, valid for a full year from January 1 to December 31, and may be obtained in person from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, CAL FIRE offices, or online at <http://www.preventwildfire.ca.gov/Campfire-Permit/>

Your responsibilities for building and putting out your fire safely are explained on the campfire permit. 36 CFR 261.52(k) PRC 4433.

Be aware that as fire danger becomes greater, campfires may be prohibited. Please check to find out if there are fire restrictions in the area where you intend to camp.

You are welcome to gather dead and down wood to use for your campfire, but not to take home unless you obtain a fuelwood permit.



Trails:

Trails extend 30 miles for horse and hikers, including the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). The trails leading out of Kennedy Meadows Campground into the South Sierra are the PCT and Wild Rose Trail.

Drinking Water:

Visitors should not drink from creeks and springs without properly treating the water. Recommended treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for 5 minutes or use a filter/purifying system that eliminates giardia and waterborne bacteria.

Fishing and Hunting:

Fishing and hunting is permitted under State regulations. There are over 25 miles of streams with unique South Fork Kern Trout-subspecies of the California Golden Trout.



Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Kern River Ranger District

P.O. Box 9

Kernville, CA 93238

[760-376-3781](tel:7603763781)

Inyo National Forest

Mt. Whitney Ranger District

P.O. Box 8

Lone Pine, CA 93545

[\(760\) 876-6200](tel:7608766200)

[\(760\) 876-5542 \(TDD\)](tel:7608765542)

Blackrock Visitor Center

Blackrock Rd.

(760) 376-3781 ex. 276 (Summer)

Forest Supervisor's Office

1839 S. Newcomb Street

Porterville, CA 93257

[559-784-1500](tel:5597841500)



Wilderness Regulations:

- All mechanized equipment and vehicles, including mountain bikes, are prohibited within the Wilderness area.
- A maximum group size of 15 people/25 head of stock per party has been adopted.
- A visitor permit is not required for entering the Wilderness, but a campfire permit is required for gas lanterns, stoves and campfires.
- Please check with a National Forest office for current information, conditions and regulations.

Wilderness Ethic:

- When selecting a campsite, camp at least 100 ft. from water and camp on bare hard ground.
- **Pack out what you pack in.**
- Body waste is to be buried 6 inches deep and 200 feet from water sources or camps.
- Bury or pack out all toilet paper, **Do not burn.**
- Keep fires small and put them out half hour before leaving by adding water and stirring the ashes.
- Don't use dirt to put out fires. They can smolder for hours and it makes the pit very difficult to clean out.
- Never wash directly in a water source; clothes, dishes or yourself.
- Carry water 100 feet from the source before washing.
- Biodegradable soaps pollute, dispose of them like any soap, well away from water.

Practice a Leave No Trace! Ethic.

When you leave your campsite,
Take all garbage, large and small.

PACK IT IN!
PACK IT OUT!