



Monarch Wilderness

Sequoia National Forest

Giant Sequoia National Monument

Hume Lake Ranger District



About:

The Monarch Wilderness is located in the northeast corner of the Hume Lake Ranger District. Beautiful and dramatic, this extremely rugged 45,000 acres of wilderness rises from 2,000 feet elevation at the South Fork of the Kings River to over 11,000 feet at Hogback Peak and provides amazing views of the Kings River canyon. The vegetation ranges from chaparral to sub-alpine. There are mountain meadows, lakes and spectacular geological formations.

The Monarch Wilderness spans two National Forests and is divided by Hwy 180 Scenic Byway. The Hume Lake ranger District of Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument manages the central and southern portions while the northern portion is managed by the Sierra National Forest.

Access to the central portion of the Monarch Wilderness to Deer Cove Trailhead is via eastbound Hwy 180 Scenic Byway and is approximately 82 miles from Fresno airport. In the southern portion, Kennedy Meadows trailhead via General Highway/Hwy 198 and Burton Pass Road (13S23) is about 68 miles from Fresno airport while Deer Meadows Trailhead via General Highway/Hwy 198 and Big Meadows Road (14S11) is about 73 miles.

Trails:

Three main trailheads provide access to the Monarch Wilderness and several of the trails also connect to Kings Canyon National Park backcountry. Visitors can enjoy overnight stays or a day hike into a less populated, more secluded wilderness and find outstanding opportunities for solitude. Due to the ever-changing rugged terrain, most trails are not maintained and hikers may come across large obstacles such as down trees and rockslides. For more information, contact the district office or the Wilderness Ranger.

Central Monarch:

The one main access to the central portion of the Wilderness is through Deer Cove Trailhead. Be aware that these trails are not regularly maintained. The trail climbs 3,000 feet elevation in about four miles. The trail is on a south facing slope and receives lots of sun exposure. Be sure to carry plenty of water when hiking this trail. Common destinations from this trailhead are Wildman Meadow, Grizzly Lakes and the backcountry of Kings Canyon National Park. Access is closed during winter months.

Southern Monarch:

Two trails lead into the southern Monarch Wilderness: the Deer Meadow Trail, and the Kanawyer Trail from Kennedy Meadows Trailhead. Be sure to carry detailed topographical maps of the area covered for your trip. Both trails pass through less traveled and hidden Giant Sequoia Groves of the district. Deer Meadow Trail passes near the Deer Meadow Sequoia Grove and the Kanawyer Trail passes through the Evans Complex Sequoia Grove. Access is closed in winter due to snow.



Trailheads:

Deer Cove: Trail head located on Hwy 180 Scenic Byway 1.5 miles past Grizzly Falls picnic area. The hiking trail (30E01) provides access into the wilderness via a steep and strenuous ascent to many junctions and vista points. Various out and back routes are possible from this trailhead.

Kennedy Meadow: Trailhead located off of Burton Pass Forest Road (13S23) and 7 miles off of General's Highway/Hwy 198. Follow Burton Pass Road and turn left on Forest Road (13S26) and follow signs to Kennedy Meadow Trialhead for 1.5 miles. The Kanawyer Trail ends at Hwy 180 near Cedar Grove in 11 total miles.

Deer Meadow: Trailhead Located off of Big Meadows Forest Road (14S11) and 12 miles off of General's Highway/Hwy 198. Follow Big Meadows Road (13S26) and turn left on Forest Rod (13S39). Continue for 1 miles to an unmarked trailhead. The Deer Meadow Trail (30E05) provides access to the wilderness and the nearby Deer Meadow Grove in about 2 miles. The Kanawyer Trail Junction is 4.9 miles.

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:

Hume Lake Ranger District
35860 East Kings Canyon Road
Dunlap, CA 93621
[559-338-2251](tel:559-338-2251)

Forest Supervisor's Office
1839 S. Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)



Wilderness Regulations:

All mechanized vehicles and equipment are prohibited within the Wilderness. A maximum group size of 15 people/ 25 head of stock per party are permitted. A wilderness permit is not required for entering the Monarch Wilderness, but **Leave No Trace** backcountry ethics are required. Overnight stays in the National Park require a wilderness permit from the Park Service available at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center or from Cedar Grove Ranger Station.

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 permit.preventwildfiresca.org. 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.

Practice a Leave No Trace! Ethic.

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

PACK IT IN!
PACK IT OUT!