

KERN PLATEAU

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE

Sequoia National Forest

Kern River Ranger District



Welcome to the Kern Plateau! The diversity of this area provides a unique opportunity for the off-road rider. Please help protect the natural resources of the area by following the rules listed in this guide.

DESCRIPTION

The Kern Plateau provides recreational opportunities for a variety of forest users. The area open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use contains more than 140 miles of trails and is almost completely surrounded by Wilderness. The Kern River borders the area on the west. The terrain varies from high rocky trails near Sherman Peak (elevation 9,909 ft.) to the open country of Monache Meadow (elevation 8,000 ft.), the largest complex of meadowlands in the High Sierras. Challenging rocky side hill type trails can be found in the Rattlesnake and Bonita Creek drainages. Enjoyable forest type trails can be experienced on the Jackass, Albanita and Blackrock Mountain Trails.

LOCATION AND ACCESS

Troy Meadow and Fish Creek Campgrounds provide centralized access to most of the trails found on the Kern Plateau. These campgrounds (elevation 7,800 ft.) are \$17.00 a night and are located approximately 54 miles northeast of Kernville via Mtn. 99 and Sherman Pass Road (22S05), or 33 miles west of Hwy. 395 via Nine-Mile Canyon Road (J41), and are open from June to November, depending on weather conditions.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV'S)

- State law requires a helmet to be worn for highway use.

STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS GREEN/RED/ STICKER PLACEMENT

- **MOTORCYCLES:** On the left fork leg, either horizontal or vertical, visible from the left.
- **ATV'S:** On the left rear quadrant on permanent plastic or metal frame members, visible to outside inspection.

- A valid State OHV "Green/Red Sticker" is required on all off-highway vehicles.
- Street legal registration and a valid driver's license are required on paved roads. In addition, the Sequoia National Forest requires street legal registration and driver's license when OHV's travel on highly used dirt Forest roads (Level III). It is the rider's responsibility to know the roads they will be traveling. Refer to the "Kern Plateau OHV Map" for descriptive road and trail information.
- All vehicles are required to have an approved muffler that does not exceed a decibel rating of 96 if manufactured on or after January 1, 1986, or 101 if manufactured before January 1, 1986. A spark arrester that is stamped "Forest Service" approved on the muffler/or make and model number.
- Motorized travel is NOT permitted in any Wilderness.

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs)

- For anyone under 14 years of age, the law requires that they be accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a parent, guardian or an adult authorized by the parent or guardian.
- The law requires **EVERYONE** to wear a helmet when riding an ATV.
- Only one rider is allowed on a ATV.
- ATVs are permitted only on the Sherman Pass Jeep and Monache 4-Wheel Drive Roads and must be transported to the entry points. ATVs must poses a valid State OHV "Green Sticker" and Forest Service approved spark arrester.

ETHICS AND REGULATIONS

- Within 50 feet of any campground or campsite the speed limit is 15 mph., unless posted otherwise. When riding trails, vehicle speeds should not endanger people, property or cause resource damage.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
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Pacific Southwest Region

Sequoia National Forest



- Cross-country travel is PROHIBITED. Use only designated roads and trails.
- Obey all posted "NO TRESPASSING" signs and respect private property.
- OHV's may travel in campgrounds ONLY to enter or leave their campsite or the campground.
- Careless or reckless operation of OHV's is not permitted. OHV operators may not drive in a manner which maliciously or unnecessarily damages vegetation, wildlife or property. When traveling on designated trails or roads, OHV riders must allow people on horseback enough time and space to find a safe position before passing. Sudden movements and excessive noise may scare the animal. Stock animals have the right-of-way.
- Always close gates after passing through them.
- When meeting a group of oncoming riders, use hand signals to notify them of how many riders are following in your group.
- Ride defensively and be cautious of oncoming riders. Use your headlight to alert approaching traffic.
- Keep to the right when cresting a blind hill or corner. Do not shortcut switchbacks.

TREAD LIGHTLY. Avoid hard breaking and fast acceleration which causes resource damage.

- Obey stop signs. Stop and proceed with caution at all road crossings. The trails cross roads in many places, some of which are heavily traveled.
- **REMEMBER**, as OHV users you are very visible and audible to others. Your actions reflect on all OHV users. A little bit of consideration can go a long way in building positive relations.

4-WHEEL DRIVE ROADS

The two major 4-wheel drive roads on the Kern Plateau are the Sherman Pass Jeep and Monache Jeep Roads. Sherman Pass Jeep Road is a narrow, rocky road not suitable for long wheelbase vehicles. Access to this road is off the Bonita Meadow Road (22S41) or (22S05) Sherman Pass Road approx. 8 miles from Mt. 99. The road continues toward the west and terminates at the Sherman Pass Road, approximately eight miles east of the Kern River.

The Monache Jeep Road provides access into the Monache Meadow area and the South Fork of the Kern River. This is an easy 4-Wheel drive road which starts approx. 1 mile N. Powell Meadow, on Road 21S36 and ends near Bakeoven Meadow.

BE CORDIAL, PATIENT AND HAVE FUN!

Practice the golden rule: Treat others with the same respect that you wish to receive.

INFORMATION:

Kernville Ranger Station
P.O. Box 9
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-3781

Lake Isabella Visitor Center
P.O. Box 3810
4875 Ponderosa Drive
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 379-5646

Blackrock Information Station
Sherman Pass Road (22S05)
at the intersection
(559) 539-2607 x276 (summer only)

California Off Road Vehicle Association
1601 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(800) 237-5436

VENDORS FOR NON-RESIDENT OHV USE PERMITS

Fred Cummings Honda-Suzuki-Seadoo 221 Chester Ave Bakersfield, CA 93309 (661) 3224-9695	Bakersfield Yamaha 3500 Wible Rd. Bakersfield, CA 93309 (661) 834-1011
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For further information on these permits call:
(916) 324-4442

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