

KIAVAH WILDERNESS

Kern River Ranger District Sequoia National Forest



Kiavah Wilderness was created by the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. It is a shared wilderness between Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS).

LOCATION

Kiavah Wilderness is located in Kern County on the Sequoia National Forest, with portions on the Bureau of Land Management. It is approximately 15 miles east of Lake Isabella and 15 miles west of Ridgecrest. This wilderness stretches from Walker Pass to Bird Spring Pass.

DESCRIPTION

Approximately 88,290-acres, comprise this wilderness which includes Federal, State and some private lands. This wilderness encompasses the eroded hills, canyons and bajadas of the Scodie Mountains -- the southern extremity of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A unique mixing of several different species of plants and animals occurs within the transition zone between the Mojave Desert and Sierra Nevadas. Desert plants such as creosote bush, Joshua tree, burro bush and shadscale may be found in close association with pinyon pine, juniper, canyon oak and grey pine.

The varied vegetation provides habitat for a great diversity of wildlife over a small geographic area. Species of note include raptors, the yellow-eared pocket mouse, a variety of lizards and a number of migrant and resident bird species.

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crosses the Kiavah Wilderness. You can access it at Walker Pass Trailhead and travel south through the Scodie Mountains to Bird Spring Pass.

TRAILS & ACCESS

PRACTICE LEAVE NO TRACE!

Never wash clothes, dishes, or yourself directly in a water source. Carry water 100 ft. from the source before washing. Bio-degradable soaps pollute. Dispose of them like any soap, well away from water.

WILDERNESS REGULATIONS

All mechanized vehicles and equipment, 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.

Trails & Access

Access this wilderness from the north via Kelso Valley Road from State Highway 178, east of Lake Isabella; or from the east via State Highway 14 and numerous routes into Cow Heaven (SC51), Sage Canyon (SC56) and Horse Canyon (SC65-BLM 27S11-FS), which are four-wheel drive only, and Bird Spring Pass Road (SC120). Off-highway vehicle use is allowed only on (SC65) BLM through 27S11 (FS) into McIvers Spring.

NON-FEDERAL LANDS

Private lands lie within the wilderness area. Please respect the landowner's rights by not using these lands without first having permission.

DRINKING WATER

Due to the arid environment and dry conditions, potable drinking water may not be available year round. Be sure to carry plenty of extra 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.

WILDERNESS ETHIC

Minimize impact by camping at least 100' from streams and trails. Pack out what you pack in. Bury body waste 6 inches deep and 200 feet from streams and camps. Keep fires small and leave them DEAD OUT by mixing ashes with water and stirring the ashes. Do not use dirt to put out your campfires.

Please call Forest Service office for current information, conditions, and regulations.

Maps of the Kiavah Wilderness are available at the following locations:

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

Bureau of Land Management
Ridgecrest Resource Area
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760) 384-5400



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service
Pacific Southwest Region

Sequoia National Forest



Areas to obtain water when hiking the Pacific Crest Trail from Walker Pass to Birds Spring Pass approximately 15 miles.

Walker Pass Campground, Pacific Crest Trailhead.

Potable water can be obtained at the Campground. We recommend calling one of the offices before traveling through this area.

McIvers Spring/Cabin

To access this water source from the PCT users will follow the McIvers Jeep Road (27S11) north approximately 2.5 miles. Where the PCT and the Road intersect continue to follow the road 3/4 mi to McIvers Spring. Return to the PCT by retracing your route. Nonpotable water is located at McIvers Cabin. Do not drink unless you use a filtration water filter or boil water. Access to the McIvers Spring Trail, user should refer to the topographical map of this area. (Not recommended for unskilled trail users.)

Yellow Jacket Spring/Cattle water trough.

Nonpotable water. To access this water source from the Pacific Crest Trail users will intersect the Scodie Trail, 36E04. Head west down the Scodie Trail approximately one mile to a drainage, which crosses the trail. Travel North up this drainage approximately a 1/2 mile to Yellow Jacket Spring water trough. (Experienced trail user should refer to their topographical maps to access this water source.

POISONOUS PLANT FOUND

Poodle Dog Brush (*Turricula parryi*).

This plant is strikingly beautiful, with a tall cluster of many leafy shoots capped by a long stem of bright, colorful, blue flowers. It can reach heights of up to 8 feet. It closely resembles the common chaparral shrub Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*) and grows in the same areas. It causes severe dermatitis and occurs almost exclusively after fires and is generally found in chaparral communities. So be sure you don't pick the flowers.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TED). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-76382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.” KR-24-02-06-Goldenrod