

KERN PLATEAU PUBLIC PASTURES

Sequoia National Forest Kern River Ranger District

The Kern Plateau offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast including horse and stock accommodations. Six public pastures are available for overnight use, each offering a variety of facilities to suit the backcountry stock users needs. Eastside public pastures include Beach Meadow and Paloma Meadow, west side public pastures are Big Meadow North, Big Meadow West, Cannell Meadow and Manter Meadow, and all are available on a first-come first-serve basis.

DESCRIPTION & TRAILS

Adjacent to each of these public pastures are over 400 miles of scenic trails that meander through lush forests, along serene streams, past granite dome rocks, and through a diverse array of flora and fauna. The many connecting trails offered can take you from the quaint town of Kernville all the way up to Jordan Hot Springs in the Golden Trout Wilderness and beyond. Elevations range from 2800 feet in Kernville to 9300 feet at Sirretta Pass on the Sirretta Trail (34E12), averaging 7500 to 8000 feet at the pastures.

Be advised, all forest trails are explored by hikers, as well as backpackers and occasional llama users. Trails outside the wilderness areas are enjoyed by mountain bikers. Many are designated for off-highway vehicle use.

ADOPT-A-PASTURE PROGRAM

Under the Adopt-A-Pasture Program, various clubs and organizations are volunteering two weekends a year to help maintain public pastures. These groups are responsible for building and maintaining fences and gates on designated public pastures. The Forest Service provides technical assistance, materials, special tools if needed, and a sign indicating the name of the group that has adopted and is maintaining each of these pastures.

Beach Meadow has been adopted by Valley Riders of Ridgecrest, California. Back Country Horsemen of California, Kern Sierra Unit, has adopted Big Meadow North, and Manter Meadow. Big Meadow West is adopted by Back Country Horsemen of California, Santa Ana River Unit. Cannell Meadow has been adopted by Back Country Horsemen of California, Kern Valley Unit: and Paloma Meadow has been adopted by the Mojave River Unit of the Back Country Horsemen of California.

RULES FOR PUBLIC PASTURES AND CAMPS

- Do not tie stock to trees.
- Use high lines with trees saver straps to protect trees.
- Turn stock out into public pasture whenever possible or contain stock in your own corral.



- Make sure you clean up manure in all camping areas not just in public pasture camps.
- Do not feed stock in the public pasture.
- You are encouraged to use weed free hay.
- Keep a clean camp at all times.
- Pack out all trash and garbage.
- Catch corrals are for catching stock from the open pasture, not for continuous use.
- If you tie your horses to your trailer or a picket line to feed or saddle clean up all manure and/or hay. Do not place it in the public pasture.

WILDERNESS & BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL ETHICS

Three wilderness areas are accessible from the public pastures and Manter Meadow is located in the Dome Land Wilderness. A wilderness permit is required when staying overnight in the Golden Trout Wilderness only. There is a limit of 15 people and 25 head of stock in the wilderness.

Minimum Impact and **Tread Lightly** are terms depicting a philosophy of wilderness travel and resource protection.

Practicing a **LEAVE NO TRACE** ethic is very simple: make it hard for others to see or hear you.

Scatter manure 200' from public pasture camps to aid decomposition, discourage flies, and as a courtesy to others.

Do not tie horses to trees. Hitching rails are available at all public pastures. Use hitch lines and hobbles to constrain pack animals, when stock are not contained in a public pasture.

Also, there are free cattle ranging in many areas.

In early spring and late fall you may be required to bring your own feed. Before traveling to one of the public pastures, you are encouraged to check with the district office at (760) 376-3781, for specific conditions and detailed information.

SAFETY TIPS

Purify all water from natural sources by boiling for 3-5 minutes or use a filter that eliminates giardia and other waterborne bacteria. The only exception is Beach Meadow where potable water is provided.

All public pastures are in fire safe areas and campfire permits are required for gas lanterns, stoves, BBQ's and campfires. Keep fires small and leave them DEAD OUT by mixing ashes with water until cold. DO NOT bury the fire under dirt. It can smolder for hours and makes the pit difficult to clean out. Be aware, especially during the spring, that trees may have fallen across the trails and could create a hazard when using stock in the backcountry. If you encounter any hazard please contact the local Forest Service office. For specific information please call Cheryl Bauer at (760) 376-3781, ex 630.



United States
Department of
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Service
Pacific Southwest Region

Sequoia National Forest



FACILITIES & INFORMATION

PUBLIC PASTURE	CANNELL MEADOW	BIG MEADOW WEST	BIG MEADOW NORTH	MANTER MEADOW	PALOMA MEADOW	BEACH MEADOW
Potable Water	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Stock Water	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Fenced Pasture Acres	YES 8	YES 8	YES 4	YES 10	YES 6	YES 18
*Holding Corrals	NO	YES 1	NO	NO	YES 1	YES 2
Hitching Rails	YES (3)	YES (3)	YES (3)	YES (1)	YES (4)	YES (6)
Toilets	NO	YES (1)	YES (1)	NO	YES (1)	YES (2)
Trails	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Camp Units	YES 5	YES 8	YES 4	YES 6	YES 4	YES 8
Fire Rings	YES (5)	YES (8)	YES (4)	YES (6)	YES (4)	YES (8)
Tables	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Barbecue Grills	NO	YES (1)	NO	NO	NO	NO
*Catch Corral	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO
Trailer Parking	YES (5)	YES (8)	YES (4)	N/A	YES (4)	YES (8)
Boil Drinking Water	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Wilderness Area	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Trailhead Information	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Open for season (Tentative)	JUNE 15	JUNE 15	JUNE 15	JUNE 15	JUNE 15	JULY
Closes for season (Tentative)	1st SNOW	1st SNOW	1st SNOW	1st SNOW	1st SNOW	1st SNOW

*Holding Corral - First come, first serve basis.

*Catch Corrals - Are to be used for catching stock only, not for holding stock permanently.

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