



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



WILDERNESS

Wilderness is the wildest of the wild. It has no roads, no development. A great trip involves planning and preparation to be safe and enjoyable.

.01 KNOW CURRENT FIRE RESTRICTIONS



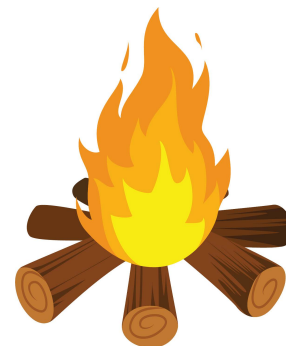
What is the current fire danger?

Are there any fire closures or restrictions in the area?

Does the area you are visiting allow campfires?

If campfires are not allowed, do you have a camp stove or other alternative to provide a fuel/heat source?

If campfires are allowed, is there sufficient wood available?



.02 WHAT PERMIT DO YOU NEED? IS THERE A GROUP SIZE LIMIT?



Do you have the correct recreation pass?

What wilderness permit will you need?
Does it need to be reserved in advance?

Is there a group size limit?

.03 LEAVE AT HOME: BIKES, DRONES, & FIREWORKS



.04 HELP IS NOT A SIMPLE CALL AWAY



Have a plan and communicate it.

Know current conditions and your limits when choosing a location.

Plan for emergencies.

Don't rely on your devices. Cell reception is not reliable in wilderness areas. If you rely on GPS for navigation, always have a paper map and compass as a backup.

.05 GEAR UP



Do You Have The Ten Essentials?
These items are considered to be the minimum amount of gear that should be carried on any trip.

Be Bear Aware: Be prepared to store food securely from wildlife.

Pack It In, Pack It Out: Make sure you have adequate supplies to pack out trash and human waste.

Motorized and mechanized equipment is prohibited in Wilderness areas including: vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles/ATVs/OHVs, motorboats, chainsaws, carts or wagons, and drones.

Possession and/or use of fireworks or other explosives is prohibited on National Forest lands.

.06 CANINES & EQUINES



Know if dogs are allowed and what the rules are.



The use of certified weed-free feed is required for stock animal use.

.01 KNOW CURRENT FIRE RESTRICTIONS

WHAT IS THE CURRENT FIRE DANGER? Are there current campfire restrictions in place? During times of high wildfire danger, campfires may temporarily be prohibited.

ARE THERE ANY FIRE CLOSURES OR RESTRICTIONS IN THE AREA? During or after a wildfire, temporary closures may be in place. Closed areas may have unstable soils, falling-rocks, or fire-weakened trees.

DOES THE AREA YOU ARE VISITING ALLOW CAMPFIRE? Campfires are prohibited in many high-use, sub-alpine and alpine Wilderness areas. If campfires are not allowed, understand the alternatives to wood campfires. Do you have a camp stove or other alternative to provide a fuel/heat source?

.02 WHAT PERMIT DO YOU NEED? IS THERE A GROUP SIZE LIMIT?

DO YOU HAVE THE CORRECT RECREATION PASS? Many trailheads require recreation passes. You can purchase passes online, at most Forest Service offices, or from private retailers.

WHAT WILDERNESS PERMIT WILL YOU NEED? DOES IT NEED TO BE RESERVED IN ADVANCE? Research and request the proper Wilderness permit. Wilderness permits may be required for day use or overnight camping. Most permits are free and can be filled out at the trailhead. However, for some popular Wilderness areas permits must be reserved in advance.

IS THERE A GROUP SIZE LIMIT? Generally, groups are limited to no more than 12 people and 12 head of stock. Check the specific area you are traveling to for group size limits. If you have more than 12 people, groups must be totally separated (out-of-sight and sound) from the other group at all times.

.03 LEAVE THE FOLLOWING AT HOME: BIKES, DRONES, FIREWORKS, FIREARMS

LEAVE YOUR BIKES, DRONES, AND MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT AT HOME. The use of motorized and mechanized equipment is prohibited in Wilderness areas. This includes: vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles/ATVs/OHVs, motorboats, chainsaws, carts or wagons, and drones. Persons requiring wheelchairs are allowed to use non-motorized equipment for mobility.

LEAVE THE FIREWORKS AT HOME. Possession and/or use of fireworks or other explosives is prohibited on National Forest lands.

.04 HELP IS NOT A SIMPLE PHONE CALL AWAY, DON'T RELY ON YOUR DEVICES

HAVE A PLAN AND COMMUNICATE IT. Make sure that more than one responsible person knows your plans. They need to know where you are going, parking and hiking; which vehicle you are taking; who is with you; and most importantly when you plan to return.

KNOW CURRENT CONDITIONS AND YOUR LIMITS WHEN CHOOSING A LOCATION. This includes evaluating physical strength and stamina, time available, difficulty of terrain, elevation gain, time of year, and trail conditions.

PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES. Do not rely on a rescue. A rescue may be difficult or impossible due to weather conditions or terrain. Carry first aid gear and other emergency or self-rescue equipment.

DON'T RELY ON YOUR DEVICES. Cell reception is not reliable in wilderness areas. In an emergency you may not be able to call for help. If you rely on GPS for navigation, always have a paper map and compass as a backup. Know how to read the map and use the compass to know where you're going and how to get there.

.05 GEAR UP & BE PREPARED TO PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN

DO YOU HAVE THE TEN ESSENTIALS? These items are considered to be the minimum amount of gear that should be carried on any trip: extra clothing, extra food, topographic map of the area, compass (know how to use it!), flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries, sunglasses and sunscreen, pocket knife, matches in waterproof container, candle or fire starter, firstaid kit. Expand this list based on location, time of year, and length of trip.

BE BEAR AWARE - STORE FOOD SECURELY. If required, make sure you have equipment such as a bear canister or hang bag and rope to keep food safe from wildlife. Cook and store food and scented items (such as toothpaste and sunscreen) away from sleeping area.

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT. Carry plastic bags to haul out your trash. Plan meals to avoid generating messy, smelly garbage.

WHEN NATURE CALLS - POOPING IN THE WILDERNESS. Make sure you have adequate human waste and hygiene supplies. Be prepared with a small garden trowel to bury waste or WAG-type bags, toilet paper or wipes. Bring sealable plastic bags to pack out toilet paper, wipes, and feminine hygiene products. In some wilderness environments, all solid human waste must be packed out.

.06 HAY IS FOR HORSES & PETS IN WILDERNESS

THE USE OF PELLETIZED OR CERTIFIED WEED-FREE FEED IS REQUIRED FOR STOCK ANIMALS. All hay, cubed hay, straw, mulch, and other such products used or stored on national forest lands be state certified as weed free.

CAN I BRING MY DOG? Generally speaking, dogs are welcome, as long as they are leashed or under voice control. Leashes must be no more than 6 feet in length. Popular areas, trails and destinations may be closed to dogs, or leashes may be required.