

Frequently Asked Questions- Whitney Portal Parking Pass 2016

Am I assigned a parking space with the parking pass?

No, the parking pass does not guarantee a parking space will be available when you arrive. The parking pass indicates what dates you are allowed to park at the portal if space is available.

The construction schedule is Monday through Thursday. Will roadside parking be allowed on weekends? Limited parking is allowed with a parking pass until the date on signage indicates no parking. *Once the no parking is in effect there will be no roadside parking 7 days a week.* Even though the crew will not be working on the weekend, the area will still be a construction zone and it is necessary to keep the areas clear.

Can I walk up the road?

People are not permitted to walk through the construction site. Steep terrain, loose material and many other hazards will be in the construction zone. The vehicle traffic lane will not have space for a safe walking lane. Hikers bypassing the area should use the National Recreation Trail.

Link to trail map http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd498743.pdf

Is there a daily schedule for shuttles?

No, there is no shuttle bus. Each group needs to make a reservation with a shuttle driver if they want to be shuttled to or from the portal.

How many parking spaces are at Whitney Portal?

There are 156 spaces in the Whitney Portal parking lots. In past years it was common to have as many as 200 cars parked roadside below the parking lots, so we are losing more than half our parking capacity when roadside parking is prohibited.

Link to parking map http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd495712.pdf

Are there parking spaces designated for the hikers walk in campground at Whitney Portal?

No, hikers using the walk in campground do not have an assigned parking space. Look for space in the overflow parking lot and display your hiker parking pass on the dashboard to park after 8pm.

Can I sleep in my car?

This is an active bear area and sleeping in your car at Whitney Portal is not permitted. While a solid car may seem more bear resistant than a tent, bear are accustomed to searching for food around the parked cars and food storage lockers. Any residual smell of food in your car may lead to a bear break in, which you do not want to experience from inside your car. Secure your food in the storage lockers and use the hikers' walk-in campsite.

Why are there signs saying NO STOPPING?

Rock fall hazard areas are signed No Stopping. Do not park or stop in these areas. Drive a safe speed and be alert, you may need to avoid large rocks in the roadway, or vehicles coming in the other direction avoiding rock fall debris.