



Forest Service

Inyo National Forest



Golden Trout Wilderness

Golden Trout Wilderness (GTW) is named after California's brightly colored state fish. The GTW is traversed by several hundred miles of trails and two wild and scenic rivers (North and South Forks of the Kern River). East of the Kern River, small streams meander and tree-rimmed meadows. Elevations range from 4,800 feet at the Kern River to 12,900 feet at Cirque Peak. Golden Trout Wilderness is adjacent to Sequoia National Park, and the Pacific Crest Trail Runs along its western edge.

Wilderness

Golden Trout Wilderness was designated by Congress in 1978. Wilderness areas are designated to provide the public with opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. They are affected primarily by the forces of nature. Within them, the earth and its communities of life remain untrammelled by man.

Golden Trout

Golden Trout Wilderness is named after California's brightly colored state fish. The golden trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*) is a subspecies of the rainbow trout that is native to Golden Trout Creek, Volcano Creek and the South Fork Kern River. It is closely related the Little Kern golden trout (*O. m. whitei*) and the Kern River rainbow trout (*O. m. gilberti*), which are native to the Little Kern and Kern Rivers. Together, these three trout form what is sometimes referred to as the "golden trout complex". In addition to golden trout, other native and non-native species of trout inhabit the various waters of Golden Trout Wilderness, including rainbow and brown trout, suckers and pikeminnows.

Forests

Lower elevation forests are dominated by gray pine, pinon pine, oak and chaparral. At higher elevations foxtail, lodgepole and western white pines, as well as white fir, incense cedar and juniper are common.

Wildlife

Deer, bears, coyotes, raccoons, cougars, bobcats, martens, fox, skunks, weasels and various rodents and reptiles call Golden Trout Wilderness home. Various owls and raptors also inhabit the area. Rattlesnakes and scorpions are not uncommon.

Cattle Grazing in Golden Trout Wilderness

Cattle grazing is a permitted practice in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Some visitors enjoy the "old west" flavor provided by cattle grazing, while others seek a type of experience that is not compatible with livestock. Visitors who wish to visit areas that receive little or no livestock use may contact their local Forest Service office for assistance.

Permits

Wilderness permits are required for overnight visits to Golden Trout Wilderness. Obtain permits from any Sequoia or Inyo National Forest ranger station or visitor center.

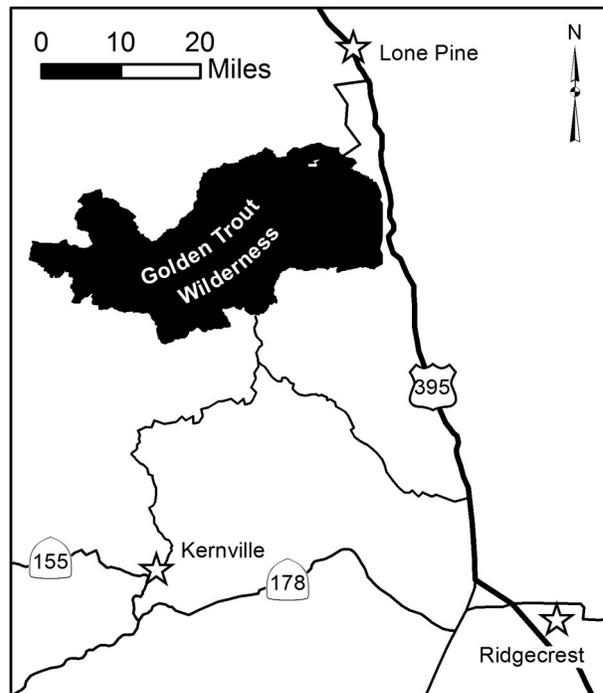
Suggested Maps

Tom Harrison: Golden Trout Wilderness

To purchase maps and guidebooks go to <http://www.esiaonline.org/shop-online>.

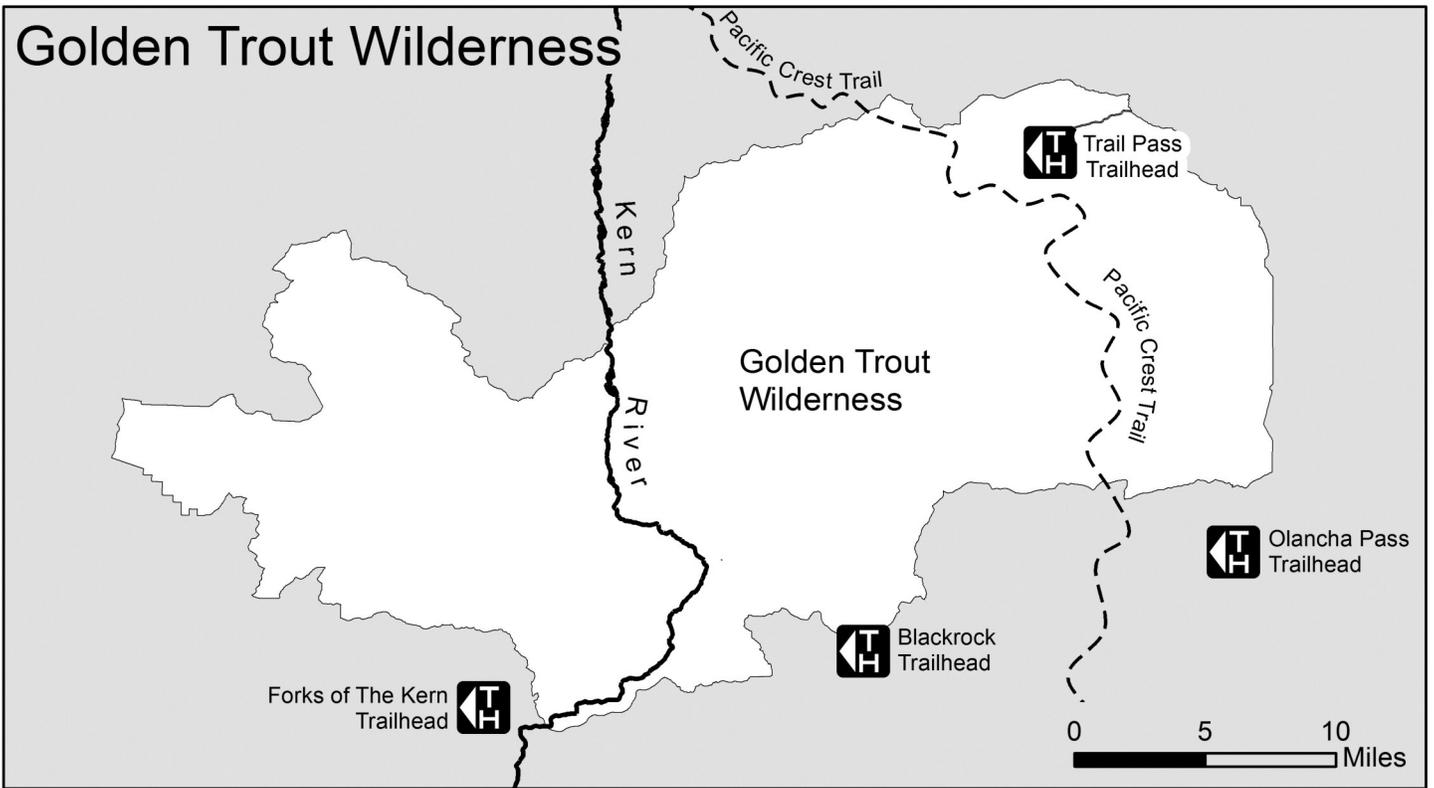
Information

For more information go to <http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo> or call 760-876-6222.



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Leave No Trace Principles

- 1. Plan ahead and prepare.
- 2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- 3. Dispose of waste properly.
- 4. Minimize use and impact of fires.
- 5. Respect wildlife.
- 6. Leave what you find.
- 7. Be considerate of other visitors.

Need more information?

On the web at:
www.fs.usda.gov/inyo

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P.O. Box 8
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