



Winter Sports Kern Plateau Sequoia National Forest



The Kern Plateau, located approximately 26 miles northeast of Kernville via the Sherman Pass Road (22S05), offers a unique and adventurous winter sports area for Nordic skiing, snowmobiles, and snow play. Snow levels on the Kern Plateau usually begin around 6,500 feet elevation.

Description & Location:

Winter recreation trails on the Kern Plateau are primarily snow covered forest roads. Winter weather conditions are variable, ranging from crisp, sunny days to raging snowstorms. Snow is often present from late November to early June. The average snow depths range from 5 to 15 feet. Normal winter temperatures range from 20 to 50 degrees F.

To access the Kern Plateau from Kernville. Travel from Kernville north on Mtn. 99 approximately 20 miles. Turn east on the Sherman Pass Rd. (22S05) traveling approximately 12 miles. This will provide you access to approximately 100 miles of snowmobile and cross country ski trails.

Minimum Impact:

Litter and debris can mar the quality of a recreation experience. Help others enjoy winter travel in the National Forest by **Packing In What You Pack Out!**

Avoid leaving human waste near a stream, water, course, or trail.

Build warming fires off paved roads

Parking on the Sherman Pass Road is very limited. Make sure to park off the road, avoiding blocking traffic or impeding access to trails. Emergency vehicles must be able to access all roadways.

Respect the property and privacy of others.

Vegetation can be damaged if you travel over small trees, bushes or wet meadows. Wildlife will also be disturbed. **Please stay on designated trails and roads.**

Things To Do:

Nordic Skiing

Cross-country skiing is a very popular activity on the Kern Plateau and skiers are not limited to any one particular area or trail.

Oversnow Vehicles (OSV)

OSV trails are marked at each trailhead with orange diamonds and reflective white numbers. These signs give the difficulty rating of the trail and a trail map at each intersection. Trail maps are located at each trailhead. Forest regulations prohibit motorized vehicles within wilderness areas. **Avoid riding on snow survey courses**

Green Stickers are required on Snowmobiles.

Snow Play

Tobogganing, sledding, and snow play areas are not designated. Use caution when selecting a safe spot.

Facilities:

There are restroom facilities located at Blackrock and Paloma Meadow. Also there is a warming hut at Paloma. There is an emergency phone located at the Blackrock Station. The nearest pay telephones and stores are located at McNally's on Mt. 99.

Practice a Leave No Trace! Ethic.

When you leave your campsite,
Take all garbage, large and small.

**PACK IT IN!
PACK IT OUT!**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Campfire Permits

You may want a campfire for cooking, enjoying its warmth, and roasting marshmallows.



For campfires, stoves, lanterns or barbecues used outside a campground or recreational vehicle and some developed campgrounds, you need a campfire permit.

The permit is free, valid for a full year from January 1 to December 31, and may be obtained in person from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, CAL FIRE offices, or online at <http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/>

Your responsibilities for building and putting out your fire safely are explained on the campfire permit. 36 CFR 261.52(k) PRC 4433.

Be aware that as fire danger becomes greater, campfires may be prohibited. Please check to find out if there are fire restrictions in the area where you intend to camp.

You are welcome to gather dead and down wood to use for your campfire, but not to take home unless you obtain a fuelwood permit.

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Kern River Ranger District
11380 Kernville Rd.

Kernville, CA 93238
[760-376-3781](tel:760-376-3781)

Forest Supervisor's Office
1839 S. Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)



Safety Tips:

Be prepared for unsettled **weather conditions**. Call ahead for updated weather reports.

Hypothermia - It is caused by exposure to cold and aggravated by wetness, wind and exhaustion. Symptoms include shivering, vague slurred speech, memory loss, drowsiness and exhaustion. Prevent it by avoiding over exposure to cold, wind and moisture. Know your body's limitations and wear proper clothing. Down filled or wool clothes are very effective against the cold. Eat properly and carry quick energy foods. Don't drink alcohol.

Hidden Obstacles - Most of the winter sports trails on the Kern Plateau are snow covered forest roads. Be alert for gates, road paddles, fences and other hidden obstacles.

Going Alone? - If at all possible, never travel alone. Always leave an itinerary with a family member or friend back home. Cell phone service is very limited. Bald Mtn. and Sherman Pass Vista.

Always carry the following essential items when traveling into the high country:

- **Chains** - When heading to the mountains always carry tire chains. Road conditions can change rapidly with sudden snowstorms or afternoon ice.
- **Shovel** - Very handy tool if you need to dig yourself out of the snow.
- **First Aid Kit** - Size it to the activity and number of people traveling with you.
- **Blanket** - Carry an adequate number for the number of people traveling with you.
- **Water, Food & Survival Kit** - Carry an emergency supply in case your trip is delayed while away from facilities.
- **Flares, Tool kit & Jack** - For the extra security that could be needed in an unusual predicament.
- **Extra Warm Clothing** - A good idea, especially if the clothes you are wearing get wet.