



Greenhorn Mountain Winter Recreation

Sequoia National Forest

Kern River Ranger District



Welcome! - During the winter months, the Kern River Ranger District offers trails for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. Downhill skiing is available under a Forest Service permit at the Alta Sierra at Shirley Meadows Ski Area.

Winter snow enthusiasts will find many winter recreation opportunities on the Greenhorn Mountains less than a 1-hour drive from Bakersfield. Snow-covered forest roads provide great terrain for both Nordic skiers and snowmobile enthusiasts.

SNOWMOBILES - Trails are all accessible from Greenhorn Summit. Vehicles with snowmobile trailers should park at Greenhorn Summit. Developed snowmobile trails are marked with international symbols and orange diamond-shaped signs. There are also undeveloped and unmarked snowmobile trails available.

All snowmobiles are required to be registered with the state and have a valid "Green Sticker" affixed to the vehicle. Snowmobiling is not allowed in Wilderness areas or on trails designated for cross-country skiing only.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING - Trails are available from Greenhorn Summit, Alta Sierra at Shirley Meadows parking lot, or any of the trail connections along Rancheria Road from Greenhorn Summit to the Ski area (use caution when parking your vehicle). Developed ski trails are marked with international symbols and blue diamond-shaped signs.

SNOW PLAY AREAS - There are no areas designated for sledding, tobogganing, or tubing so please use caution when selecting a safe spot. Park well off the road in a safe place.

SHARING THE TRAILS – All snowmobile trails are open to skiers and snowshoers. Be courteous and respectful to allow all trail users to safely enjoy their winter travel.

Operate snowmobiles at minimum speed near skiers or snowshoers. Maintain minimum speed until you are well beyond those on foot. Snowmobiles are not permitted on some cross-country ski trails. Restrictions are posted, but check with the District Office for full information.

Skiers and snowshoers should realize that snowmobile operators are generally not able to hear approaching trail users. On steep terrain, snowmobiles are generally limited to the developed trail surface. Step out of the way to let the snowmobile pass.

LEAVE NO TRACE Litter can ruin the quality of a recreation experience, particularly when viewed against a mantle of snow. Help others enjoy winter travel by carrying out what you carry in. Whenever you can, make the extra effort to remove trash that less thoughtful people have left behind.

Avoid leaving human waste near a stream, watercourse, or trail.

Build warming fires off roads and trails.

TREAD LIGHTLY

- Travel on designated routes
- Respect the rights of others.
- Educate yourself.
- Avoid streams and wildlife.
- Drive responsibly.



SAFETY - Be aware of the hazards of winter travel. Harsh conditions of wind, cold, snow, or whiteout can turn an outing into a tragedy. Knowledge of the area, weather, travel routes and the limitations of your body and equipment, plus a little common sense can ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

KEEP IN MIND:

- Call the Ranger Station prior to your trip for current information on weather and road conditions.
- Most trails are Forest System roads, so be alert for gates, fences, and other hidden obstacles that may be under the snow.
- Before you leave, notify a responsible person of your planned route and your planned departure and return time.
- Be prepared for unexpected events by carrying a first aid kit, extra food and water, extra clothes and if traveling by machine, extra mechanical parts that may be necessary.

FIRST AID – Two potential hazards to be aware of are hypothermia and frostbite. Both can be avoided by wearing the proper clothing and being prepared for cold, wet weather. Clothing should be warm, water-resistant, and wind-proof.

Frostbite is caused by exposure of inadequately protected skin to freezing temperatures. Symptoms are loss of feeling and a dead white appearance of affected areas. Party members should periodically observe their companions for signs of frostbite particularly on nose, cheeks and fingers.

Hypothermia is caused by exposure to cold and is aggravated by wet, wind and exhaustion. It is the number one killer of outdoor recreationists. Symptoms include fits of shivering, vague, slurred speech and memory lapses, fumbling hands, lurching walk, drowsiness, exhaustion, and apparent unconcern about physical discomfort.

Party members should periodically observe their companions for these symptoms. Others usually notice symptoms before the victim is aware of them.

AVAILABLE SERVICES – Alta Sierra at Shirley Meadows Ski Area is located on Rancheria Road, 2 miles south of Highway 155 at Greenhorn Summit. Eight groomed runs ranging from beginner to advanced are served by two double chair lifts. Food service, ski and snowboard rentals and lessons are available at the area’s day lodge. For current conditions, call [\(760\) 376-4186](tel:7603764186).

Phone information – A pay phone is located at Greenhorn Mountain Park on Highway 155 below Greenhorn Summit at the Kern County Parks & Recreation facility.

Campfire Permits

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



For campfires, stoves, lanterns or barbeques 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 preventwildfireca.org. Your responsibilities for building and putting out your fire safely are explained on the campfire permit. 36 CFR 261.52(k) PRC 4433.

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:7603763781)

Forest Supervisor’s Office
1839 S. Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:5597841500)

