Golden Trout Wilderness
Sequoia National Forest

The 303,287 – acre Golden Trout Wilderness (GTW) was designated by Congress in 1978. Of this total, 111,146 acres is on the Sequoia National Forest, and the remainder on the Inyo National Forest. The Golden Trout Wilderness was named for the brightly colored native golden trout (California State fish). Two subspecies are recognized; South Fork Kern golden trout and the Little Kern golden trout. Both are found in the GTW.

DESCRIPTION: On the Sequoia National Forest portion of the GTW, elevations range from 4,700 feet at the Forks of the Kern River to 12,432 feet on Mt. Florence, the highest peak on the Forest. Vegetation ranges from grey and pinyon pine woodlands at lower elevations; extensive Jeffrey pine forests at mid-elevations; and red fir, lodge pole and foxtail pine at higher elevations.

DRINKING WATER: Water is available but should be used after proper treatment. It is recommended that water be boiled for 5 minutes and/or filtered prior to use.

LOCATION AND ACCESS:
The GTW that lies within Sequoia National Forest is bordered in part by Sequoia National Park on the north, and Mountain Home State Forest on the west.

❖ Approximately 150 miles of trails for horses and hikers are located on the Sequoia National Forest portion.
❖ Summit, Clicks and Lewis Camp (Fish Creek) trailheads can be accessed from Hwy 190 near Quaking Aspen via Forest Service Road 21S50
❖ Jerkey and Forks of the Kern trailheads access through Lloyd Meadow Road (Rd 22S82)
❖ Shake Camp (Long Canyon) trailhead access from Balch park Rd to Mountain Home State Forest
❖ Blackrock trailhead access through Sherman Pass Rd or Hwy 395 via Nine Mile Rd.

WILDERNESS PERMITS:
Visitors to the GTW must obtain a Wilderness Permit if they plan on staying overnight. Campfire permits are also needed and you need to check for current fire regulations; restrictions may be in effect. These permits are FREE and can be obtained from the offices listed on the back of this page. Permits can be mailed or faxed in advance, if points of entry/exit and days of travel are known.

Permits for travel into the GTW from these trailheads - Cottonwood Lakes and Cottonwood Pass - must be issued by the Inyo National Forest, and quotas may be in effect. Call (760) 873-3773 for permit reservations.

WILDERNESS REGULATIONS:
All mechanized vehicles and equipment including mountain bikes are prohibited within the Wilderness. A maximum group size of 15 people / 25 head of stock per party has been adopted.

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.
CAMPING:

- Please stay on the trail; cutting switchbacks causes erosion. If you have to hike off trail, please hike on durable surfaces and avoid fragile areas such as meadows.
- Select a campsite on a hard dry surface such as rock, sand, gravel, or pine needle duff, not on vegetation or meadows.
- Make sure that your campsite is at least 100 feet from water sources and trails.
- Pack out all you pack in.
- Bury body waste at least 6 inches deep and 100 feet from rivers and streams.
- Keep fires small and make sure they're DEAD OUT when you leave.

Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Current information and required permits for all other trail heads are available at any of the following locations:

**Kern River Ranger District**
11380 Kernville Rd
Kernville, CA 93238
760-376-3781

**Western Divide Ranger District**
32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93265
559-539-2607

**Forest Supervisor’s Office**
1839 S. Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257
559-784-1500

PROPER USE OF STOCK:

**FEED:**
Avoid overgrazing in meadows, excessive trampling and polluting waterways. Between July 1 and October 1, good forage is usually available throughout the mountain meadows, but you need to pack in enough pellets or grain to provide daily supplements to green forage.

For trips before or after these dates, plan on packing in all feed requirements.

**SECURING STOCK:**
Utilizing a hard ground area, tie pack and saddle stock a minimum 100 feet from lakes, streams, trails or campsites.

Preferred method would be to construct a hitch line between two trees 8 inches in diameter or more, tying horses to the hitch line. Move hitch line daily.

Loose herding of stock is prohibited except in areas unsafe to tie together.

Scatter manure to prevent odor and fly problems.

Take proper precautions to prevent damage to trees, plants and soil from pawing and trampling.

FISHING AND HUNTING:

Special California Fish and Game restrictions apply in the GTW when fishing. www.wildlife.ca.gov

Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used; LIMITS VARY. Check current California Fish and Game regulations for specifics.

Fishing season in the GTW is open the last Saturday in April through November 15.

Hunting is allowed in season. Check current California Fish and Game regulations.