



Dispersed Camping

Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Do you like to camp away from it all? You should try “Dispersed Camping.” Most of the national forest is open to camping free of charge. Dispersed camping is the term used for camping anywhere in the National Forest OUTSIDE of a designated campground. Dispersed camping means no services; such as trash removal, and little or no facilities; such as tables and fire pits, are provided.

While dispersed camping, you will need to plan for a number of differences from developed camping:

Fire Restrictions: When forest fire restrictions are in effect camp fires are not allowed. Gas stoves and lanterns are allowed by permit only.

Water: Some creeks, rivers and lakes could have Giardia or otherwise be contaminated and unsafe for humans to drink. Bring your own water or a purification kit.

Human Waste: Proper disposal of human waste is important. Leaving human waste in dispersed areas can spread disease, contaminate water supplies and soils, attract wildlife, and spoil a camping area. Portable eco-friendly human waste disposal systems, which allow you to safely ‘pack it out’ are commercially available and recommended. If you do not have one please find an area well away from camp and bury your waste at least 18 inches in the ground.

No Trash Service: Please Pack Out what you Pack in. Do not leave or burn your trash. You can be fined for littering or dumping of trash.

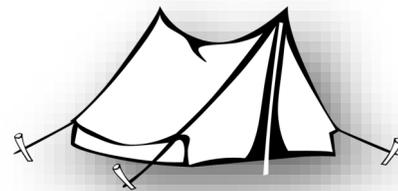
Stay Limit: The Dispersed Camping stay limits on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest is 14 days in one spot, 30 days total during the calendar year beginning with the first day of occupation.

Please Remember: You must camp at least 200 feet from springs and other bodies of water, roads, meadows and trails. You must also camp at least a quarter mile from designated campgrounds, picnic/day use areas, private property or state highways.

Areas where camping is prohibited: Some areas on the Shasta-Trinity have been designated as ‘No Camping’ Areas. There are a number of reasons such as sensitive ecosystems, experimental stations, plantations, meadows, hazard areas, or cultural sites among others. A few examples of no dispersed camping areas on the Shasta-Trinity NF are:

McBride Plantation area, McCloud River Loop, Bald Eagle nesting sites on Shasta and Trinity Lakes, adjacent to or near Pine Tree Hollow on the McCloud River, within 0.5 miles of the shore line at Castle Lake, Castle Lake day use area, and Lewiston Lake.

The beauty of the natural vegetation around your campsite is probably why you chose it in the first place. Keep it beautiful and healthy. Do not cut anything down or put nails into trees. Tread lightly. Keep all vehicles on designated roads to prevent resource damage. Your vehicle cannot be parked farther than one vehicle length of the edge of the surface of a designated road.



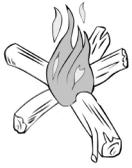
Practice a Leave No Trace! Ethic.
When you leave your campsite, take all garbage, large and small, with you.
PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!

Plan your route

There are hundreds of fine camping spots you can reach by paved and graded dirt roads, but there are some rough, steep, or narrow roads that are dangerous for the family car or larger recreation vehicles.

Ensure the road you plan to take is safe for your class of vehicle. You can do this by talking to the staff at your local Forest Service office.





Campfire Permits: Who doesn't enjoy gathering around a warm campfire to roast marshmallows or hotdogs, share stories or just ruminate? You may have a campfire outside of a developed campground or fires safe area by permit until the Forest goes into fire restrictions, at which time no campfires are allowed and you will need a permit to operate a gas stove, gas barbecue or gas lantern. Fire restrictions can be found on our forest web page (below). You may get a permit online at: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/campfire-permit/> There you will be prompted to watch a short video, answer a few easy questions, fill out the form and print.

You may also obtain a campfire permit in person at any Forest Service, BLM, or Cal Fire office or scan the QR code to the right. Permits are valid until the end of the calendar year and must be carried by at least one responsible adult in your party. Information detailing your responsibility for building and safely putting out your fire is explained on the back of the campfire permit. Many local stores carry firewood for sale or you may gather downed wood in the National Forest. Please do not bring firewood from outside the local area.



Traveling on National Forest Road Systems: The Shasta-Trinity National Forest has approximately 5,365 miles of roads designated for motorized vehicle use. You should plan your route accordingly before traveling. Road surfaces vary from paved, to gravel or dirt. Some forest roads may be steep or narrow and may only be accessed by high clearance or 4WD vehicles and would preclude the towing of trailers. The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) is a free map that shows the roads systems available for motor vehicle use within the Ranger District you are planning to visit. Motor Vehicle Use Maps and various forest maps are available at any of our Forest Service offices and can be also found on the internet at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf> available on Avenza as well..



Off-highway vehicles (OHV) such as dirt bikes, side by sides, or quads can be ridden mainly on designated dirt roads unless they are licensed for operation on paved roads. It is prohibited to operate any of these vehicles on national forest hiking trails, meadows, or "cross-country" /bush whacking. Use of a D.O.T. certified helmet and green sticker are required by California State Law. Please do not damage roadways or travel through muddy areas, tire marks you leave today will be remain for years. Practice being light on the land and leave no trace.



There are a number of **OHV areas** available on or near the Shasta-Trinity, they are: Bagley OHV Area on the Shasta Lake Ranger District, Hayfork and Trinity OHV trail routes for Basin Gulch, Dubakella, Kingsburry, Horse Ridge, and Hayfork Bally. Additionally, you may enjoy the Chappie-Shasta OHV area which is operated by the Bureau of Land Management. For information please call the Shasta-Trinity National Forest HQ at 530-226-2500 and ask for the OHV Coordinator.



Wildlife, Bees, Poison Oak: Don't forget that you will be surrounded by nature and all of the wildlife of the national forest. Bears are attracted by the smell of food or food scraps that are improperly stored or discarded. Small critters such as squirrels and raccoons like to forage your leftovers as well. Bury your scraps well away from camp in a hole at least 18 inches deep and cover with dirt. Commercial bear lockers or bear proof ice chests can be bought online. Do not attempt to feed or pet the wildlife. Wild animals may appear cute or docile, but can become aggressive if they don't get what they want or assume they are in danger. Wild animals are not tame, keep them wild for their safety if not yours.

If you are allergic to bees develop a rescue or emergency action plan, share with someone at home and carry your Epi-pen or anti-histamines. Don't forget that there is also poison Oak in many places below 2000 ft. elevation, identify the plant and avoid if allergic.



For information about dispersed camping on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest please call your local Forest Service Ranger District Office at:

USDA Service Center
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, Ca. 96002
530-226-2500

Hayfork Ranger Station
P.O. Box 159
Hayfork, Ca 96041
530-628-5227

Mount Shasta Ranger Station
204 West Alma
Mount Shasta, Ca 96067
530-926-4511

Yolla Bolla Ranger Station
2555 State Highway 36
Platina, Ca 96076
530-352-4211

McCloud Ranger District
P.O. Box 1620
McCloud, Ca 96057
530-964-2184

Shasta Lake Ranger Station
14225 Holiday Road
Redding, Ca 96003
530-275-1587

Weaverville Ranger Station
P.O. Box 1109
Weaverville, Ca 96093
530-623-2121



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Need more information?

on the web at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/stnf>



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
www.fs.usda.gov/r5

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