Welcome to the Stanislaus National Forest! Nestled between Yosemite to the south and Lake Tahoe to the north, you’ll find a scenic location where you can connect with nature and explore the spirit of the Sierra Nevada among sparkling mountain lakes, towering forests and canyons carved by cool rushing rivers.

Since I first arrived at the Stanislaus in 2017, we have seen an increase in the number of visitors to the Forest. We are thrilled to introduce new visitors to the wonders of the forest, many of whom will, like many returning visitors, come back year after year and make forest visits part of their family traditions.

While we enjoy welcoming more visitors, we also have seen a lot more trash being left behind. Please do your part to ensure that this beautiful ecosystem stays healthy and thriving! Pick up your trash, pick up some trails you find that might not be yours .... and please take it all with you when you leave and dispose of it properly.

In this issue of the Stanislaus Traveler, you’ll find maps of our ranger districts and where recreation sites can be found. There are also some useful tips from our Forest Service employees to help you and your family have a fabulous visit to the Forest. You’ll learn about where you can enjoy the many recreation activities, such as swimming, camping, fishing, and winter activities. You’ll also find important safety measures to keep you, your family and the forest safe. Inside you will find fun activities for kids to enjoy during and after your visit to the forest.

Enjoy your visit! Create some wonderful lifetime memories! My family and I invite your family to begin your family and the forest safe. Inside you will find fun activities for kids to enjoy during and after your visit to the forest.

—— Jason Kuiken

Message from Forest Supervisor - Jason Kuiken

Welcome to the Stanislaus National Forest! Nestled between Yosemite and Lake Tahoe to the north, you’ll find a scenic location where you can connect with nature and explore the spirit of the Sierra Nevada among sparkling mountain lakes, towering forests and canyons carved by cool rushing rivers.

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—— Jason Kuiken
**Fire Safety**

**Fire Restrictions**

Fire Restrictions help land management agencies reduce fire risk and prevent wildfires during periods of high or extreme fire danger. There are different levels of fire restrictions based on how likely a wildfire is to start. These restrictions change throughout the year. There are **Low, Moderate, and High hazard areas** in the forest based on elevation. These areas may have differing fire restrictions.

- **No wood fires, no charcoal fires**. Gas grills and stoves ok with permit.
- **Permit Required**: For campfires, grills, stoves, lanterns, tiki torches, candles, mosquito coils—anything with a flame spark or ember requires a campfire permit.
- **Further Restrictions by Forest Order**: No wood fires, no charcoal fires, no gas grills, no smoking, no target shooting, no power equipment, area closures… to list a few.
- **Most Restrictive**: The Forest is closed to all use. If you still want to camp, you’ll have to go to a privately owned campground.

**Fire Restrictions**

- **Permits are required for open fires**, such as campfires, barbecues and portable stoves.
- **Get your California Campfire Permit** at [https://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/)

**FIRE HAZARD AREAS**

- **Forest Boundary**
- **Deer Hunting Zones**
- **Low Fire Hazard Area**
- **Moderate Fire Hazard Area**
- **High Fire Hazard Area**

For a short period of time, the Stanislaus National Forest was closed to all use and had other camping restrictions later.

---

**Wildfire Preparedness**

You may not plan on a wildfire interfering with your visit to the National Forest, but you should always be prepared. Know your way out. If a wildfire starts while you’re in the forest…

**Dont’s or L.A.T.E. to evacuate!**

- **Locate** family, pets, and belongings in that order. Things are replaceable, people are not.
- **Alert** others of the dangers if you can do so without further endangering yourself. Activate emergency services, call 911.
- **Travel** safely: A car accident can cause injury or death and will delay wildfire response.
- **Evacuate** before it’s too late.

**Wildfire Preparedness**

Despite the restrictions and limited resources, firefighters suppressed 5 wildfires caused by campfires, 7 wildfires caused by debris burning and 9 windmills or kite’s human caused fires. The Forest Service prevented many more wildfires by extinguishing 156 illegal campfires occupied by campers and 102 abandoned campfires. An illegal campfire in the National Forest is a federal misdemeanor. The violator risks a citation of up to $5,000, six months in jail or both. If a person is found guilty of starting a wildfire, they can be held liable for the suppression costs and face further criminal prosecution.

Thank you to those who followed restrictions and protected the land.

---

**Sanitation - Forest Visitor Etiquette**

Last summer season with more people than usual visiting the Stanislaus National Forest, came more trash. Even with trash receptacles available in places like Pinecrest Lake, litter abounded. Countless garbage bags were left on the sides of roads where bears, cows and other wild animals could get into them. Many people burned their trash in campfires. Burning trash not only pollutes the air, burnt plastic poisons the water. Broken glass left in a campfire ring can cause serious injury to the next person who cleans the mess. There is no garbage service in the general forest area. If you pack it in, you can pack it out to dispose of properly.

With huge crowds at places like Rainbow Pool, and limited toilet facilities available, you can imagine the odor in the summer afternoons. If a toilet facility is not available, go at least 200 feet from any water source. Dig a hole 9 inches deep, bury feces and toilet facilities available, you can imagine the odor in the summer afternoons. If a toilet facility is not available, go at least 200 feet from any water source. Dig a hole 9 inches deep, bury feces and toilet paper. Pack out wipes, and never burn toilet paper.

Help keep your forest looking and smelling beautiful!

---

**Message from Fire Prevention Team: Looking Back to Fire Season 2020**

Fire season 2020 was the worst recorded in modern California history. 9,639 wildfires burned 4,397,809 acres. The Stanislaus National Forest set some of its own records in 2020. When summer recreation opportunities were limited by COVID restrictions nationwide, the Stanislaus National Forest received approximately four times the visitation as usual. Throughout fire season there was a lack of locally available firefighters due to their responding to wildfires across California and other states. As weather conditions presented extreme wildfire potential, the Stanislaus National Forest moved through all levels of fire restrictions. First, open fires were restricted. Next came a ban on all fires, gas grills, target shooting and smoking. For a short period of time, the Stanislaus National Forest was closed to all use and had other camping restrictions later.

---

**Campsites in the Forest - Be Prepared**

If you are planning to visit the Stanislaus National Forest and want to have a campfire, a barbecue or use a gas stove:

1. Find out what level of fire restrictions are in effect before your trip: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/stanislaus/home](https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/stanislaus/home)
2. After you’ve checked what level of fire restrictions are in effect, and determined that campfires are currently allowed, there’s a few items required to bring with you: California Campfire Permit, a shovel, and a container of water. A rake is not required but can be very helpful for making cleaner campfires.

If you don’t have water, don’t light a fire!

---

**Fire Restrictions**

- Clear all flammable material away from the fire’s edge 5 feet in all directions to prevent escape of the fire.
- Have a shovel and water available at the campfire site for preparing and extinguishing campfires.
- Have a responsible adult in attendance at all times.
- Extinguish campfires with water, using the drown, stir, and feel method.

Permits are required for open fires, such as campfires, barbecues and portable stoves.

---

**Enjoy your Campfire while Preventing Wildfires and ALWAYS:**

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**Fire Safety**

- **DROWN** No wood fires, no charcoal fires. Gas grills and stoves ok with permit.
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---

**Wildfire Preparedness:**

Don’t be L.A.T.E. to evacuate!

- Locate family, pets, and belongings in that order. Things are replaceable, people are not.
- Alert others of the danger if you can do so without further endangering yourself. Activate emergency services, call 911.
- Travel safely: A car accident can cause injury or death and will delay wildfire response.
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Help keep your forest looking and smelling beautiful!

---

**LEARN**

Check local offices, bulletin boards, websites and visitor centers for current fire restrictions.

---

**DROWN**

No wood fires, no charcoal fires. Gas grills and stoves ok with permit.

---

**STIR**

Stir the remains, add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been put out cold.

---

**FEEL**

Feel materials with your hand. If it is hot to touch, it’s too hot to leave!
Mokelumne of your wilderness permit includes a complete list of regulations. As a result, group size is limited in fragile environments. Other regulations exist to help ensure an outstanding experience for visitors to wilderness. We remove campsites that are too close to water and haul out hundreds of pounds of trash. We find and remove everything - even baby wipes (which are plastic and don't biodegrade)! Any time you choose a campsite far from water or haul out trash you find, you are helping us and helping the wilderness. So thank you for all you have done and all you will do to take care of this place we love.

What is Wilderness?
Wilderness is special lands, designated by Congress to provide the American people opportunities to experience undeveloped lands which retain their primitive character and are mainly shaped by the forces of nature. Here, visitors can experience solitude while engaging in simple recreation that leaves the area preserved for future generations. Visiting wilderness takes effort and requires a higher level of self-reliance inherent in these remote, wild areas. The reward is that visitors are taken back to a time when transportation consisted of horses or our own two feet, when motorized equipment was absent, when natural sounds prevailed, and when the forces of nature dominated the landscape.

Help Keep Wilderness Wild:
• Learn and practice Leave No Trace principles.
• Learn and follow wilderness regulations.
• Participate in a wilderness stewardship project with the Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers.

For more information about this outstanding group of citizens visit: stanislauswildernessvolunteers.org

Why are there Wilderness Regulations?
Regulations are in place to keep wilderness wild, focusing on preventing environmental degradation from human activities such as camping too close to water or collecting firewood in fragile alpine environments. Other regulations exist to help ensure an outstanding experience for visitors to wilderness. As a result, group size is limited to 15 people and activities such as target shooting, use of motorized equipment, or riding mountain bikes are strictly prohibited. The back of your wilderness permit includes a complete list of regulations.

What Do You Need A Wilderness Permit?
Permits are required, but free for all overnight trips into wilderness on the Stanislaus National Forest. Getting a permit gives you a chance to connect with our staff about current conditions and wilderness regulations for the area you plan to visit. Your permit also plays a vital role in the Forest’s ability to manage wilderness for all to enjoy. If your wilderness plan includes leaving the Stanislaus boundaries, you’ll need to call us for a permit. Otherwise, wilderness permits can be obtained online, at our ranger stations, or by calling us a day or two ahead of time. Our phone numbers and web address are listed on the back page.

When do you need a Wilderness permit?

It’s Up to Us – Leave No Trace
Following the seven principles of LEAVE NO TRACE (LNT) can guide your decision-making in the outdoors enabling you to reduce resource damage, increase your safety, and ensure other visitors will enjoy an unspoiled wilderness experience. Visit LNT.org for more information.

• PLAN AHEAD and prepare.
• TRAVEL & CAMP on durable surfaces.
• DISPOSE of waste properly.
• LEAVE what you find.
• MINIMIZE use/impact of fire.
• RESPECT wildlife.
• BE Consistent of other visitors.

Wilderness Hikes

Featured hike on the Summit Ranger District:
BURST ROCK, EMIGRANT WILDERNESS
Start at the Gianelli Trailhead (at the end of the Crabtree Road at 8,600 feet in elevation.) A moderate climb of 1.2 miles tops out at the Burst Rock with fine views over a large portion of the Emigrant Wilderness. If you want a longer hike, walk another mile to Powell Lake or continue an additional 1.5 miles to Chewing Gum Lake.

Featured hike on the Groveland Ranger District:
KIBBE RIDGE & LOOKOUT POINT, EMIGRANT WILDERNESS
Take the Shingle Springs Trailhead that starts east of Cherry Lake. At about ½ mile, take the left fork and continue climbing a moderate slope through brush and pines. After about 2½ miles, visitors will come to Lookout Point, which offers a majestic view of the exposed granite Cherry Creek Canyon some 1600 feet below and extending for many miles upstream. Continuing the hike, the trail crosses briefly into Yosemite and back to the Emigrant, eventually leading overnight hikers to areas like Lord Meadow, Boundary Lake, and even Huckleberry Lake. This relatively low elevation ridge can be hot in summer, so is best enjoyed in spring or fall.

Featured hike on the Calaveras Ranger District:
BALL RUN LAKE, CARSON ICEBERG WILDERNESS
From the Stanislaus Meadow trailhead past Lake Alpine, hike through open forest and granite outcroppings to a rocky bowl containing scenic Ball Run Lake. Round trip distance to Ball Run Lake: 6.8 miles. Total elevation gain: 600 feet.

Wilderness Permits Online:
ONLINE PERMITS: 
https://www.fs.usda.gov/attmain/standislaus/specialplaces

Wilderness Maps Online:
Stanislaus National Forest Map
Burst Rock, Emigrant Wilderness
Carson-Iceberg Wilderness
Bull Run Lake, Carson Iceberg Wilderness

Wilderness Hikes

Wilderness Hikes

Cherry Creek Canyon from Kibbie Ridge – Emigrant Wilderness
Bull Run Lake – Carson Iceberg Wilderness • Photo by Steve Keagy
Burst Rock with fine views over a large portion of the Emigrant Wilderness. If you want a longer hike, walk another mile to Powell Lake or continue an additional 1.5 miles to Chewing Gum Lake.

Featured hike on the Groveland Ranger District:
Kibbe Ridge & Lookout Point, Emigrant Wilderness
Take the Shingle Springs Trailhead that starts east of Cherry Lake. At about half a mile, take the left fork and continue climbing a moderate slope through brush and pines. After about 2 1/2 miles, visitors will come to Lookout Point, which offers a majestic view of the exposed granite Cherry Creek Canyon some 1600 feet below and extending for many miles upstream. Continuing the hike, the trail crosses briefly into Yosemite and back to the Emigrant, eventually leading overnight hikers to areas like Lord Meadow, Boundary Lake, and even Huckleberry Lake. This relatively low elevation ridge can be hot in summer, so is best enjoyed in spring or fall.

Featured hike on the Calaveras Ranger District:
Ball Run Lake, Carson Iceberg Wilderness
From the Stanislaus Meadow trailhead past Lake Alpine, hike through open forest and granite outcroppings to a rocky bowl containing scenic Ball Run Lake. Round trip distance to Ball Run Lake: 6.8 miles. Total elevation gain: 600 feet.
**Points of Interest:**

**Columbus of the Giants:** Hike along an easy half-mile trail to view a striking rock formation similar to the Devil's Postpile. Few people know that a similar geological wonder – stark, columnar cliffs formed of basalt lava flows – exists on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada offering hikers the amazing symmetry of this natural phenomenon. Located off Hwy 108 near Piön Flat Campground. Handicapped Accessible.

**Donnell Vista:** A ¾ mile interpretive trail leads to an overlook with sweeping views of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River Canyon and Donnell Reservoir. Handicapped Accessible.

**Sonora Pass:** Experience the grandeur of nature on this scenic drive offering magnificent vistas and recreational opportunities. From Kennedy Meadows on the west to Lovett Meadow on the east it is NOT ADVISABLE for large RVs and trailers to travel this portion of Hwy 108. The winding road has no shoulder, narrow lanes, and grades as steep as 26 percent. Adjacent to the summit of the pass is a trailhead for the Pacific Crest Trail that also serves as a day-use picnic area. Your visit in late July and August provides spectacular alpine wildflower displays.

**Trail of the Gargoyles:** This moderately level ½ mile walk has sweeping views of Daley Peak and access to the forest for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Several volcanic events that were formed by several volcanic events that shaped the Sierra Nevada created these towering rock columns. Easy half-mile trail to view a striking rock formation similar to the Devils Postpile. Few people know that a similar geological wonder — stark, columnar cliffs formed of basalt lava flows — exists on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada.

**Camping:**

**Campground Reservations:** Reservations are recommended for Pinecrest and Pioneer Trail Group Campground and can be made 6 months in advance for Pinecrest and 360 days in advance for Pioneer Trail Group. Online reservations: www.recreation.gov or toll free: 877-444-6777. All other campgrounds are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Length of stay is no longer than 14 consecutive days.

**Picnic Sites • Day Use Areas:**


**Camping with Horses:**

There are several horse camps in the area. Crabtree and Kennedy Meadows trailheads allow one night stays for campers and stock entering the Emigrant Wilderness. Vault toilets are available. Eagle, Kerrick, Herring, Clark Fork, Coyote and Pine Valley horse camps are rustic camps with few amenities and no fee. Plan to be self-contained.

**Highway 108 Activities**

**STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST • MI-WOK & SUMMIT RANGER DISTRICT • HIKING TRAILS**

**Hiking Trail • Trailhead Directions**

**Effort** | **Mileage** | **Highlights** | **Notes**
--- | --- | --- | ---
**Clark Fork River Trail**
Trail begins at the start of Clark Fork Reservoir. Follow the river to the Clark Fork Trail Head. Here you will find a easy to moderate hike along Clark Fork River.
Easy to Moderate | 5.2 (round trip) | Beautiful views of “The Iceberg” at Hacienda Park. Bring your fishing poles.
**Relief Reservoir**
Kennedy Meadows Trailhead: From Summit Rd, drive 27 miles east on Hwy 108 to Kennedy Miles. Take fork right. Drive 3 miles to Trailhead Parking sign and left to parking lot.
Easy | 6 (round trip) | Meadow on top of Ultraviolet Gain. Meadows, waterfalls, wildflower swimming. Bring your fishing poles.
**Sand Bar Flat River Trail**
The trail begins in the Chinese Day Use parking area below the Bridge Camp. Walk downstream past the After Bay Reservoir to the Sand Bar Flat Campground.
**Stanislaus River Trail**
The trail begins at the Chinese Day Use parking area below the Bridge Camp. Walk downstream past the After Bay Reservoir to the Spring Gap powerhouse. M. Fork Stanislaus River.
**Sugar Pine Railway**
Hwy 108 to 4000. Trail begins 1.5 miles from 108 at the bridge on the south side of 5. Fork of the Stanislaus River.
Easy | 3% (round trip) | Spring wildflowers. An interpretive trail is available at 5. Fork of the Stanislaus River.
**West Side Railroad Grade**
Begins at intersection of Bauerschmi Mine & Mitus Mine Roads, one mile east of Tuolumne City.
Easy | Flat | Tuolumne River canyon views, spring wildflowers. An interpretive trail is available at Valeta Station.
**HIGHWAY 120 CAMPING & HIKING**

**HIGHWAY 120 RECREATION & VISITOR ACTIVITIES**

Welcome to the Groveland Ranger District!

A wide range of activities are offered to appeal to every interest. There are opportunities for wildlife and wildflower viewing, hiking, biking, photography, camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, and hunting.

Enjoy your visit! Create lifetime memories! Stay safe, and please help keep the forest healthy and clean.

---

**TUOLUMNE WILD & SCENIC RIVER**

**Online Permits Now Available!**

Grab life by the paddles and gear up for one of the most celebrated whitewater experiences in the world on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River!

Designated as a Wild and Scenic River in 1984, it is renowned worldwide for its remote class IV to V whitewater and scenery. Whether you’re a highly experienced boat operator looking for a thrilling one-day Class V run or looking to take on an 18 mile one- to three-day Class IV run, with careful preparation and knowledge, you’ll have a wonderful river adventure and memories to last a lifetime.

Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River permits will be available for advanced reservation on Recreation.gov starting January 1st through 12 a.m. Pacific Time (midnight) the day prior to your desired launch date. Permits holders must have a front and back copy of the permit (print or digital) to show agency staff.

Don’t let this wild and scenic opportunity pass you by. Paddle over to Recreation.gov to learn more about Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River permits: https://www.recreation.gov/permits/621750

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**FERRETTI NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL SYSTEM**

Pedal away to amazing opportunities and experiences. After 5 years of planning and one year of active volunteer work, the Ferretti Non-Motorized Trail (Ferretti NMT) – is off to a great ride. Above the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Canyon – the Ferretti NMT is planned to provide up to 16 miles of multi-use trails.

The opportunity emphasizes a Mountain Bike experience and includes 13 miles of brand new trail, in multiple loops to provide for all experience levels. In addition, the project will restore and bring to standard existing trails.

In partnership, with local stakeholders, businesses and non-governmental organizations and under agreement with the Stanislaus National Forest; the Groveland Trailhead (grovelandtrailheads.org) completed the development of approximately 1.3 miles of new trail and cleared and restored an additional 4.7 miles of existing trail.

To learn more and to join in the development and maintenance opportunities, meet new people, and become a steward of the land contact the:

Groveland Trail Heads
Visit their Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/GrovelandTrailHeads/
Winter provides a whole new realm of recreation opportunities on the Stanislaus National Forest. Whether your idea of winter fun is downhill or cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, or snow play, the Stanislaus National Forest has many areas for winter sports.

**Snowshoeing, Skiing & Cross-Country Skiing**

Three ski areas operate under special use permits on the Forest: Bear Valley Resort and Bear Valley Adventure Company on Highway 4, and Doody Ridge on Highway 108. Several cross-country ski trails, of varying difficulty, exist on the Summit Ranger District near Pinecrest, and on the Calaveras Ranger District, near the Bear Valley-Lake Alpine area. Snowshoers allow visitors to enjoy venturing out into the snow on off trails.

**Plan Your Trip**

Plan your winter recreation trip before you leave home. Have an idea of where you want to go, know how to get there, and carry a good map and compass. Tell someone back home of your travel plans. It’s easier than you think to lose your sense of direction out in the woods. The middle of your journey isn’t the best time to discover you weren’t prepared. Make a checklist. Here are some items to consider.

- Weather changes can be sudden during winter. Before you leave, phone CalTrans 800-GAS-ROAD (427-7623) for up-to-date road conditions.
- Carry tire chains, shovel, ice scrapers, flashlight, matches, and be sure your car has enough anti-freeze and a full tank of gas.
- Include blankets and extra warm clothes.
- Pack some high energy non-perishable food and water.
- Have rain gear and emergency blanket or shelter just in case.
- Make sure to carry a whistle or walkie-talkie for communication.
- Don’t forget first aid for you and your gear.

**SNOWMOBILE RIDING ON THE STANISLAUS**

There are three California Sno-Parks on the Calaveras Ranger District - Highway 4 and one on the Summit Ranger District - Highway 108. A single day permit costs $5.00 and is good for the date issued. A season permit costs $25.00 and can be used at any Sno-Park on the Stanislaus National Forest during the entire winter season. Sno-Parks are administered by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks.

Calaveras Ranger District: (see map on page 8)
- Lake Alpine Sno-Park - Located at the winter closure gate on Hwy 4.
- Spicer Sno-Park - Located on the south side of Hwy 4 at Spicer Rd.
- Round Valley Sno-Park - Left on Highway 207 (the entrance to Bear Valley Mountain).

Summit Ranger District: (see map on page 10-11)
- Hwy 108 Sno-Park - Located at the winter closure gate on Hwy 108.

**Snowplay**

While the serious skiers and boarders in the group go off to comb the lofty heights, the less experienced folklore can have a good time tossing snowballs or deciding down hills. Snowplay is allowed on National Forest lands anywhere along highways and roads as long as parking is not restricted and there is room to park completely out of the lane of traffic.

**Calaveras Ranger District:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arnold Rim Trail Association</th>
<th>Bear Valley Trail Stewardship</th>
<th>Groveland Trail Heads</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Greg Novecek</td>
<td>Contact: Mike Cooke</td>
<td>Contact: Dwight Follmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:greg@arnoldrimtrail.org">greg@arnoldrimtrail.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mike@bearvalleymtn.org">mike@bearvalleymtn.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwight@grovelandtrailheads.org">dwight@grovelandtrailheads.org</a></td>
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**Mi Wok & Summit Ranger District:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers</th>
<th>Pinecrest Mountain Bike Association</th>
<th>Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Jeff Hawley</td>
<td>Contact: Dave wetzel</td>
<td>Contact: John Buckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:president@swv.org">president@swv.org</a></td>
<td>dave_wetzel@pinecrestbushome</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnb@cserc.org">johnb@cserc.org</a></td>
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</tbody>
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**Groveland Ranger District:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuolumne River Trust</th>
<th>3-Forests Interpretative Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.tuolumne.org/">https://www.tuolumne.org/</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.3forests.com/">https://www.3forests.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact: Byron Keempl</td>
<td>Contact: Danny Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:byron@tuolumne.org">byron@tuolumne.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@3forests.com">info@3forests.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center**

https://www.cserc.org/
Contact: John Buckley
johnb@cserc.org

**3-Forests Interpretative Association**

https://www.3forests.com/
Contact: Danny Jones
info@3forests.com

**Tuolumne River Trust**

https://www.tuolumne.org/
Contact: Byron Keempl
byron@tuolumne.org

**Groveland Trail Heads**

http://grovelandtrailheads.org
Contact: Dwight Follmer
da@grovelandtrailheads.org

**Winter Wonderland**

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Three ski areas operate under special use permits on the Forest: Bear Valley Resort and Bear Valley Adventure Company on Highway 4, and Doody Ridge on Highway 108. Several cross-country ski trails, of varying difficulty, exist on the Summit Ranger District near Pinecrest, and on the Calaveras Ranger District, near the Bear Valley-Lake Alpine area. Snowshoers allow visitors to enjoy venturing out into the snow on off trails.

**Plan Your Trip**

Plan your winter recreation trip before you leave home. Have an idea of where you want to go, know how to get there, and carry a good map and compass. Tell someone back home of your travel plans. It’s easier than you think to lose your sense of direction out in the woods. The middle of your journey isn’t the best time to discover you weren’t prepared. Make a checklist. Here are some items to consider.

- Weather changes can be sudden during winter. Before you leave, phone CalTrans 800-GAS-ROAD (427-7623) for up-to-date road conditions.
- Carry tire chains, shovel, ice scrapers, flashlight, matches, and be sure your car has enough anti-freeze and a full tank of gas.
- Include blankets and extra warm clothes.
- Pack some high energy non-perishable food and water.
- Have rain gear and emergency blanket or shelter just in case.
- Make sure to carry a whistle or walkie-talkie for communication.
- Don’t forget first aid for you and your gear.

**SNOWMOBILE RIDING ON THE STANISLAUS**

There are three California Sno-Parks on the Calaveras Ranger District - Highway 4 and one on the Summit Ranger District - Highway 108. A single day permit costs $5.00 and is good for the date issued. A season permit costs $25.00 and can be used at any Sno-Park on the Stanislaus National Forest during the entire winter season. Sno-Parks are administered by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks.

Calaveras Ranger District: (see map on page 8)
- Lake Alpine Sno-Park - Located at the winter closure gate on Hwy 4.
- Spicer Sno-Park - Located on the south side of Hwy 4 at Spicer Rd.
- Round Valley Sno-Park - Left on Highway 207 (the entrance to Bear Valley Mountain).

Summit Ranger District: (see map on page 10-11)
- Hwy 108 Sno-Park - Located at the winter closure gate on Hwy 108.

**Snowplay**

While the serious skiers and boarders in the group go off to comb the lofty heights, the less experienced folklore can have a good time tossing snowballs or deciding down hills. Snowplay is allowed on National Forest lands anywhere along highways and roads as long as parking is not restricted and there is room to park completely out of the lane of traffic.
Message from Woodsy Owl: Lend A Hand – Care For The Land!

Hello! I'm Woodsy Owl. I hope you will join me to learn how to “Lend a Hand – Care for the Land!”

Do you know what that means? It means that if we all work together, the Earth will be a healthy place to live for trees and plants, fish, animals and birds like me!

Oh, and it also means it will be clean for you, too! So, let’s get started!

It’s Someone’s Birthday! Whoo! Woodsy Owl – That’s Who!

Celebrating Woodsy Owl’s 50th Birthday

For the last 50 years, Woodsy Owl has been America’s original and official environmental icon. Woodsy has been an anti-pollution symbol and taught us to, “Give a hoot, don’t pollute!” Since his creation in 1971, Woodsy has been instrumental in helping teachers and parents inspire children to care actively for the environment.

Curious, friendly, and wise, Woodsy is a whimsical mentor to youngsters. His new message, “Lend a Hand – Care for the Land!” is positive, easily understood, and generates an interest in the stewardship of natural resources. As Woodsy flies across the land, he invites children to see the world around them and explore their surroundings. Woodsy builds on his original message of, “Give a hoot, don’t pollute!” by inviting children to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE & ROT!

In honor of Woodsy’s 50th Birthday do your part by: Picking up trash “50” times & earn a PRIZE!

Document the Date & Place of collecting trash 50 times & send this documentation along with your Name & Address to: Woodsy Clean-Up Crew, 1 Pinecrest Lake Road, Pinecrest CA, 95364

The 4 R’s
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot

Do you know what the 4R’s are? They add up to 4 ways everyone can lend a hand every day.

REDUCE: This means to cut down on the amount of stuff you use every day to reduce your daily garbage or reduce your water and electricity use.

REUSE: This means to use the same thing more than once. Draw pictures on the back of printed paper. Reuse plastic bags from the grocery store.

RECYCLE: Recycling is a way of taking something old and turning it into something new again. Paper can be recycled into fresh, clean paper. That saves trees!

ROT: A natural way to turn leftover fruit and vegetables into really good plant food is called compost. A pile of old broccoli, banana peels, fall leaves and grass clippings will turn into dark, moist compost in just about a year.

Count the ways you can use the 4R's at home and in school. I promise it will add up to a cleaner, healthier planet!

Activity Ideas for Home:

1. Draw a picture of ways that you can conserve water and electricity. Post it where your family will see it.

2. Decorate a cardboard box with markers or paint. Label it “Reusable Paper”. Place it next to a garbage can so that your family members can place paper that has only been used on one side so that the paper can be used again.

Identify Plants & Animals

Take your nature knowledge up a notch with Seek! Seek is geared to encourage outdoor exploration of local biodiversity. Use the power of image recognition technology to identify the plants and animals all around you. Earn badges for identifying different types of birds, amphibians, plants, and fungi and participate in monthly observation challenges.

• Get outside and point the Seek Camera at living things.
• Identify wildlife, plants, and fungi.
• Earn badges for observing different types of species and participate in challenges.

Open Your Camera and Start Seeking!

Scan the environment with the Seek Camera to identify organisms using the tree of life. Add different species to your observation list and learn all about them in the process! The more observations you make, the more badges you’ll earn!

Do you need some help in identifying every plant along the trail? Download the FREE App to your Smart Phone “Seek” by iNaturalist.

Message from Visitor Services - Ranger Genie:

Hi Kids! Welcome to the Stanislaus National Forest! We are so glad you decided to bring your families to the mountains. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are a very special place. I have fond memories of hiking, skiing, and backpacking in the mountains with my friends and family when I was young and I am happy to continue to explore this magical place with my own children. I encourage you to learn about and experience the forest. Notice the trees, rocks, lakes, and streams that surround you! Close your eyes, and listen to the rustle of the wind as it blows through the leaves of the trees, and smell the fresh dew on the ground in the morning. Look up at the stars shining brightly above you at night, and during the day sit on a granite rock and feel the warmth of the sun! Most importantly have fun exploring this beautiful forest with your friends and family.

Seek by iNaturalist

Free App to Identify Plants & Animals

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Do you need some help in identifying every plant along the trail? Download the FREE App to your Smart Phone “Seek” by iNaturalist.

Test Your Knowledge: Can you identify the magnificent forest bird, plant, insect & animals on this page? Answers found down below.
**Leave No Trace – Enjoy the Outdoors Without Disrupting Nature**

Say hello to the great outdoors! Now that you’re here, you are invited to help keep these places healthy and beautiful. As people are getting outside in record numbers the need to put Leave No Trace skills and ethics into action to minimize our collective impact is more important than ever.

The idea behind the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace is to leave nature as unchanged by our presence as possible, so that future generations can enjoy it too. Earth is home to incredible beauty and spectacular wildlife. These natural wonders are available for everyone to enjoy, and should be cherished and protected.

For more detailed information on Leave No Trace: [lnt.org](http://lnt.org/)

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**Caring for our Forest**

**Message from Recreation Ranger Dave:**

Welcome to the Stanislaus National Forest! Our Recreation staff works hard every day out in the field to ensure you have a safe and welcoming experience to the forest. I have been working at the Stanislaus National Forest for the past 40 years! It is not only the place that I work but it’s my home too. Even though we work hard every day, with an increase in visitation, we have had an increase in trash left behind. We need your help! Do your part to ensure that this beautiful ecosystem stays healthy and thriving by throwing away trash in the trash can or better yet take it home with you. If you find that a trash can is full, please bag up your trash and take it home with you at the end of your visit. This will not only ensure that other visitors don’t have to see ugly trash strewn about the forest, it also helps the mammals, birds, and other wildlife that can be injured or harmed by the trash. Enjoy your visit to the forest!

**Illegal Garbage Dumping**

Littering, garbage dumping, not properly disposing of human waste, are illegal, and can carry fines and even jail time depending on the severity of the violation. Resource damage, illegal parking or camping also carry criminal penalties.

Please do your part to ensure that the forest stays healthy and thriving. Pack it in - Pack it out. Take your trash home at the end of your visit.

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**Leave No Trace – Plan ahead and Prepare**

1. **Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you’ll visit.** Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.

**Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**

2. **Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow. Camp at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites. Good campsites are found, not made.**

**Dispose of Waste Properly**

3. **Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6-8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails.**

**Leave What You Find**

4. **Pack out all trash. Leave only footprints. Preserve the past: do not touch cultural or historical artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.**

**Minimize Campfire Impacts**

5. **Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings. Keep fires small. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely with lots of water.**

**Respect Wildlife**

6. **Observe wildlife from a distance. Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health and alters natural behaviors. Control pets at all times.**

**Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

7. **Be courteous to other users on the trail. Let nature’s sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.**