

Bear Precautions for Houseboating & Camping

Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Every visitor to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest needs to be aware of the potential for bear encounters. There are some very specific do's and don'ts when visiting bear country and most of them have to do with how WE handle our food.

There have been recent problems with bears learning to associate houseboats with food, due to people feeding the bears or leaving their ice chests and food in plain sight. This behavior has been established and will only be changed with your help.

When you encounter a bear

1. DO NOT get in between the bear and its food or a food source.
2. Vacate the area or boat and, if feasible, back boat to deeper water.
3. If a bear approaches, try to scare it away by shouting or making noise.
4. If you see unattended food or other potential hazards in a campsite, let the campground host know so they can help keep your camping experience a safe and happy one. Please report all bear problems to the US Forest Service or the California Department of Fish and Game.

While houseboating within the National Recreation Area

1. Put garbage cans inside and close the doors.
2. Keep barbecue grills clean.
3. After preparing food (BBQ, etc.), consider moving to a new cove.
4. Conceal ice chests with a tarp or blanket on the back deck of the houseboat so they are not visible to bears .
5. Use trash bins at public boat ramps to dispose of your garbage as often as possible.

While camping

1. Hang all food/ice chests in trees at least 10 feet above the ground and 5 feet away from the tree trunk or use bear safe containers if available.
2. Keep the food preparation and eating area well separated from the sleeping area.
3. Use bear proof garbage bins if available.
4. Do NOT take any food, drinks or cosmetics into your sleeping area.
5. Store pet food the same as human food, out of reach from bears and other animals.

While enjoying your stay on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, please follow all necessary precautions and

DO NOT FEED THE BEARS!

(Calif. Code of Regulations 251.3 - "Prohibits feeding of big game mammals."
Punishable by \$1,000 fine and/or 6 months in jail or both)

For more information, contact:

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
3644 Avtech Parkway
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(530)226-2500 (voice) or
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or check our website: www.fs.usda.gov/stnf



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
www.fs.fed.us/r5/

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
www.fs.usda.gov/stnf

Revised: 4-11

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