

Hunting and Shooting

Los Padres National Forest



The California Department of Fish & Game has primary responsibility for the management of wildlife in the State of California. State regulations control licensing requirements, hunting seasons, shooting hours, limits and other considerations. Copies of regulations are available through State Fish and Game offices, local sporting goods stores and licensing agents. Remember, a California state hunting license is required for hunting game in the forest. For more details about licenses visit California Department of Fish and Game website at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>. You can also visit the Los Padres National Forest website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres> for more information about the forest.

Big Game:

Big game that are found in the forest are deer, black bear, and wild boar. Columbian black-tailed and California mule deer account for the majority of big game in the forest. Not all species are available in all areas.

Small Game:

Quail, rabbits, band-tailed pigeons, dove, turkey and chukar are the small game species that are present in the forest. Tree squirrels may be hunted only in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. Waterfowl populations are very limited in both numbers and diversity due, in part, to limited available habitat.

Wild Pigs:

Some suggested hunting areas in the forest for wild pigs are: Chew's Ridge, Upper San Antonio and the Arroyo Seco River drainages on the Monterey Ranger District. For more information about these areas call (831) 385-5434.

The Pozo/La Panza area on the Santa Lucia Ranger District (805)925-9538 and the U.S. Army installation, Fort Hunter Liggett (831)386-2506 which is adjacent to the Forest in Monterey County, offer good prospects for wild pig hunting.

Help Protect Sensitive Wildlife

By using lead-free or reduced-lead ammunition, you can help protect endangered species and other wildlife that can be poisoned by eating lead particles left in carcasses. This ammunition has proven reliability, ballistic performance, and stopping power. Black Hills, Cloney Precision, Federal, PMC, Superior and Weatherby Ammunition using the "Barns X" bullet produce lead free ammo, and the Winchester produces a reduced lead round named "Failsafe." These special bullets are also available to reloaders. Barnes Expander MZ bullets are also available to muzzle loaders. Ask your ammunition supplier about availability. **If you still choose to use lead bullets please remove any slugs from carcasses and bury gutpiles to help protect nontarget wildlife.**

Hunting Zones:

Monterey Ranger District	Zone A	831-385-5434
Santa Lucia Ranger District	Zone A	805-925-9538
Santa Barbara Ranger District	Zone A	805-967-3481
Ojai Ranger District	Zone A, D13	805-646-4348
Mt. Pinos Ranger District	Zone A, D13	661-245-3731

Maps:

Los Padres National Forest is divided into two maps, which are 1/2" to the mile, (one map covers the Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and the northern portion of Santa Barbara counties and the other covers the southern Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Kern county portion of the forest). The maps show all major roads, trails, wilderness areas, recreation facilities and other important information. These maps, as well as topographical and other related maps, are available from the offices listed on this brochure.

Campfires:

Campfires and barbecues are only allowed in campgrounds and day use sites that are designated by the forest as "Campfire Use Sites." Visit the forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres> or call the Forest Supervisor's office or Ranger District office for current restrictions and a list of "Campfire Use Sites."

A campfire permit is required at all times of the year to have a fire or operate a gas stove, gas lantern, etc., in other than in "Campfire Use Sites." Fire permits are free of charge and are available from Forest Service, California State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or Bureau of Land Management offices. During extreme conditions, all open flame type fires may be prohibited in all areas of the forest. Check the website or with one of the Forest Service offices for current fire conditions in the area you are planning on visiting.

Firearms Closure:

Discharging of firearms is not permitted in certain areas of the forest year round. These include the Sisquoc and Sespe Condor Sanctuaries, as well as designated recreation areas. Other areas may be closed to firearms on a seasonal basis. Check with the Ranger District office nearest to where you wish to visit for additional information.

Shooting and Hunting Regulations:

The following rules apply when hunting in Los Padres National Forest:

- No discharging of a firearm within 150 yards of a dwelling or other building, campground, recreation site or other occupied area.
- No discharging of a firearm on or across a National Forest System Road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.
- Hunting on private land requires permission from the landowner.
- All Federal, State and local laws apply to hunters on Federal land.

Camping

Campgrounds in Los Padres National Forest include "Developed Campgrounds" and "Primitive Camps."

Developed Campgrounds have tables, fire rings and more modern vault or flush toilets. Access to Developed Campgrounds is from a paved road, and interior roads and spurs are usually paved or treated for dust control. Most Developed Campgrounds are also Campfire Use Sites. Some Developed Campgrounds do not have drinking water. Forest Service campgrounds do not have electrical hookups or waste stations.

Primitive Camps have a metal or concrete fire ring, *may* have tables and a primitive vault toilet, and do not have water. A few Primitive Camps are Campfire Use Sites.

Camping outside of Developed Campgrounds and Primitive Camps is allowed except within **Restricted Use Areas** (see forest visitor map) and within ¼ mile of a Developed Campground or Primitive Camp. Within **Restricted Use Areas** camping is allowed only in Developed Campgrounds and Primitive Camps.

All Primitive Camps and some Developed Campgrounds operate on a first come-first served basis with no reservations required. Some of the larger and more popular Developed Campgrounds and Group Campgrounds are on a reservation basis. Campground reservations may be made by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service at (877) 444-6777 or through their website at <http://www.Recreation.gov>

All camping in the Santa Lucia, Santa Barbara, Ojai and Mt. Pinos Districts is limited to 14 days within a 30 day period. The Monterey District has a limit of 14 days per year.

THINK SAFETY
FIRST!