Primitive Camping

Mammoth Lakes Area

Inyo National Forest

The Mammoth Lakes Area offers a variety of camping opportunities for visitors. In addition to developed campgrounds, other areas of the forest are available for *primitive* or *dispersed* camping.

Primitive camping is permitted at least 2 miles away from developed recreation sites. You bring your own camping gear and supplies, including water. Try to find a previously used site and minimize your impact on the forest. There are areas on the forest which are closed to camping or campfires, and areas not part of the Inyo National Forest may also have closures. Check maps or inquire at any Inyo National Forest Visitors Center for further assistance.

Areas open to primitive camping have a stay limit of 28 days camping per Ranger District per year. Please follow these rules so that other visitors can enjoy the area in the future.

- Select a campsite at least 100 feet from all water sources including lakes, streams, and ponds to reduce pollution and erosion.
- All dish washing and bathing must be done away from water supplies. Wash water and rinse water must be deposited at least 100 feet from any lake or steam to protect water quality.
- Bury human waste 6”-8” deep and at least 200 feet from any body of water to prevent contamination of water supplies.
- Don’t drive off established roads to camp.
- Pack It In – Pack It Out. Carry out all trash and check your fire ring for unburned refuse. Practice Leave No Trace principles at all times. Help keep your National Forest pristine.
- If you plan to use a stove, barbeque, or campfire outside of your vehicle, you must have a valid California Campfire Permit in your possession. Permits are available online & at all Ranger Stations and are free of charge. http://www.preventwildfireca.org/Permits/
- Gather only dead and down wood, please do not strip trees of their limbs.
- Don’t put out your fire with dirt as it can continue to smolder and may escape. Drown your fire with water, stir it, and feel the ashes to make sure they are DEAD OUT! Unsupervised campfires are the #1 cause of forest fires.

United States Department of Agriculture

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

Inyo National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/inyo

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All Are Welcome

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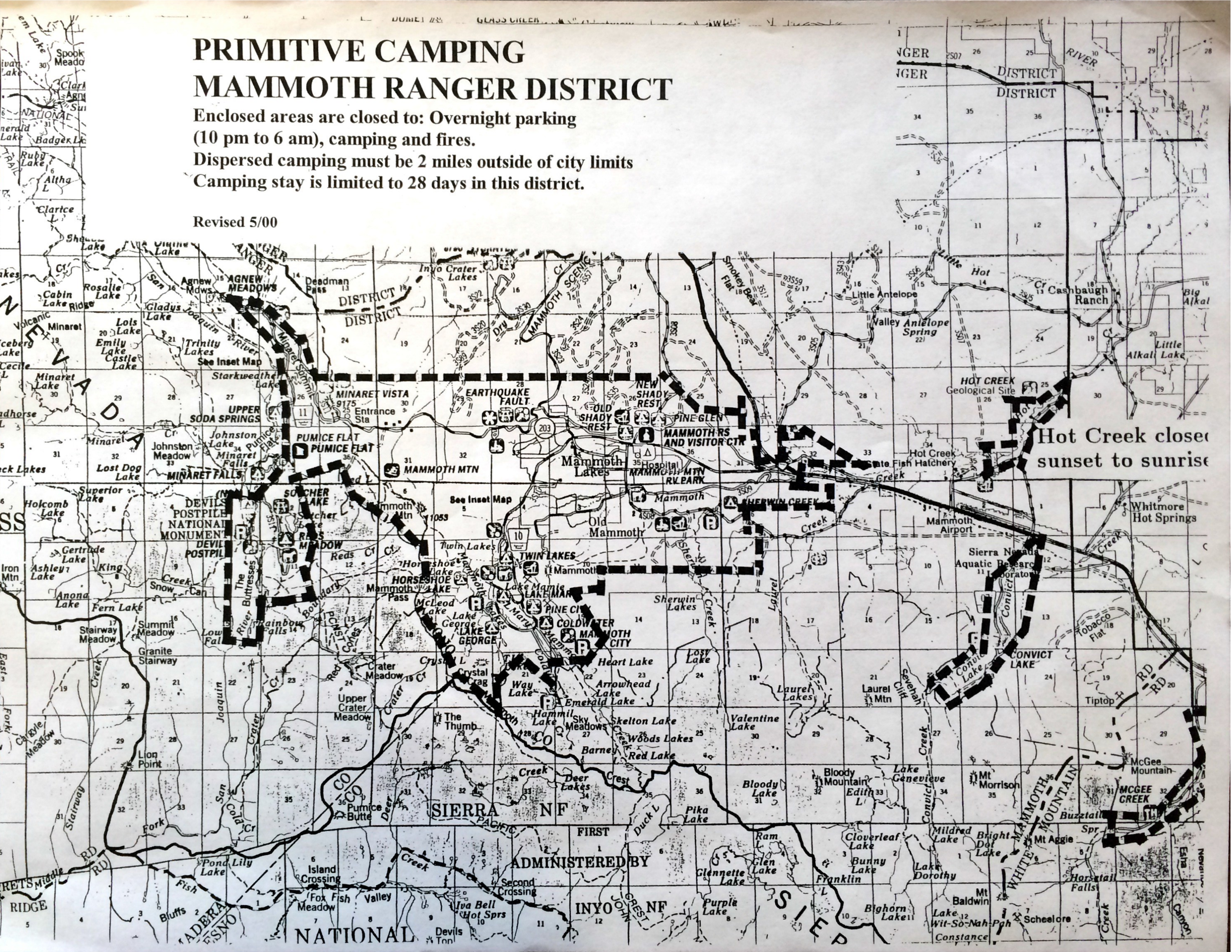
To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250 or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

PRIMITIVE CAMPING
MAMMOTH RANGER DISTRICT

Enclosed areas are closed to: Overnight parking (10 pm to 6 am), camping and fires.
Dispersed camping must be 2 miles outside of city limits
Camping stay is limited to 28 days in this district.

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