

Camping

Smith River National Recreation Area Six Rivers National Forest



Welcome Campers! Discover a very special place in the Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA) in northwest California. NRA campgrounds are along or near the picturesque Smith River, renowned for its crystal green waters and rugged rock canyons. The area abounds in scenic beauty: Redwood National and State Parks are close by and the Siskiyou Wilderness and Pacific Ocean are within 20 miles. This 305,337 acre National Recreation Area (NRA) was designated by Congress in November 1990 to protect the area's special scenic value, natural diversity, cultural and historical attributes, wilderness, wildlife, fisheries, and the Smith River watershed's clean waters. The Forest Service has been designated as the steward of the NRA to provide recreational opportunities and to manage this diverse area for all of its valuable resources.

This brochure describes primitive camping, developed campgrounds, and tips to ensure a pleasant camping experience. Detailed forest maps showing campgrounds, picnic areas, lakes, rivers and streams, roads and trails, may be purchased by mail, online or at any Six Rivers National Forest Office.

Weather in the Smith River NRA is very changeable. Temperatures in the winter may drop into the 30's and 40's with occasional snow. The rainy season normally runs from October through April with an average annual rainfall of 90+ inches. Summers are dry with warm 80-100° temperatures. For current weather information, call the Smith River NRA.

Recreational opportunities abound in the Smith River NRA. The beautiful Smith River offers fishing for steelhead, trout, and salmon. During the summer months, the pure, clear waters of the Smith River are perfect for swimming, rafting, or fishing and the forested mountainsides present occasions for hiking, bird watching, wildflower walks, or perhaps just lounging in the sun.

Campfire permits are not required within developed campgrounds and picnic areas; however, campfires are allowed only in designated fire pits. Permits are necessary if you plan to build a campfire or use an outdoor camp stove, gas lantern, or barbecue away from a developed campground. Permits are free and can be obtained at any Forest Service office.

PLEASE do not feed bears or other wildlife either intentionally or accidentally. Bears and other critters ordinarily become problems in campgrounds only when visitors are careless with food storage. Most large mammals avoid anything smelling like humans, but bears are an exception. Bears recognize ice chests (ICE CHEST = FOOD) and can rip a window right off a car to get to an ice chest! Store food items in the vehicle's trunk or inside the car. Car windows should be closed and food items covered to limit visibility to curious creatures. Bears consider all products with an odor as food: toothpaste, suntan lotion, insect repellent, even chewing gum should be properly stored. Along the trail, hang food from a line or tree branch at a minimum height of 12 feet to help safeguard your edibles.

Pets are welcome on the NRA. Pets must always be on a leash while in developed recreation sites. Please clean up after all pets, dispose of the waste properly, and be considerate of other campers.

Water that seems crystal clear can contain harmful microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, Giardia, and Cryptosporidium. Most developed campsites provide safe drinking water; however, remote sites without water will require visitors to bring their own. Water taken from above-ground sources such as lakes, springs, rivers, and streams should be purified prior to drinking. Treatment methods include boiling, mechanical filtration/purification; exposing to UV light, and adding chemicals (iodine, chlorine).

In campsites that provide water, please carry water back to your campsite for cleaning or washing (the pump area is not a kitchen sink!).

Where to dump? The nearest dump station is Hiouchi, seven miles west of Gasquet at the Hiouchi RV Park. (A fee will be charged.)

Campground hosts provide a warm welcome and information to campers. Please contact them if you have any questions. If you are interested in serving as a campground host, please contact any Forest Service office.

Passes Honored on the Smith River NRA:

Interagency Senior Pass: A lifetime pass for citizens or permanent residents of the U.S., age 62 or older. There is a one-time \$10 fee.

Interagency Access Pass: A lifetime pass free to citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who have a permanent disability, regardless of age.

Golden Age Passports and Golden Access Passports: No longer issued but still honored.

Holders of the above passes receive a 50 % discount on camping fees on the Smith River NRA and Six Rivers National Forest. The passes also cover access to and use of many other Federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

Obtain passes at national forest or grassland offices; or by mail through USGS—inquire at 1-888-275-8747 or online at fedrecpass@usgs.gov; or visit the USGS store at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>.

Primitive camping, sometimes called rustic, dispersed, or undeveloped camping, is for those who prefer to rough it. Most of the NRA is open for camping unless specifically prohibited. No services or amenities are provided for rustic campers and you must camp at least 1/4 mile from developed campgrounds. Dispersed camping is limited to thirty (30) days per Ranger District per calendar year within the Six Rivers National Forest.



Campers are reminded to:

- Pick up and pack out all trash so that those who follow you may enjoy a natural forest environment. Please do not dispose of trash by burning.
- Bury all human waste 6-8" deep and at least 100 feet from any river or stream.
- Obtain a campfire permit to use a campfire, gas lantern, barbecue, and/or camp stove. Permits are free and available at any Forest Service office.
- Always make certain your campfire is DEAD OUT before you leave.
- Store food properly (Remember the Bears!)

Developed campgrounds are located adjacent to rivers in forested areas. The ideal camping time in the Smith River NRA is May to October before the winter rains begin. Developed campgrounds are equipped with vault or flush toilets, fire rings, tables, parking for two vehicles, and drinking water, unless otherwise noted. All campgrounds have accessible restrooms. Sites will accommodate travel trailers (check length limit on table) but no electric, water, or sewer hookups are provided. Family campsites accommodate up to eight people per site, with a maximum of two vehicles. NOTE: A fee is charged for the second vehicle. A vehicle is: a motor-home towing another vehicle, a single car or motorcycle, or a vehicle towing a trailer. Campground fees vary depending on the services provided. See table for information on making reservations and fees for each campsite. No campground may be occupied for more than fourteen (14) days per calendar year by the same party. Campers must check out by 2 p.m.

| Campground | Season | # of Sites | Fee per Night | Extra Vehicle | Maximum Trailer Length (in feet)* | Toilets | River Access | Reservable** | Comments |
|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------|---|
| Patrick Creek | Summer to Fall | 13 | \$14 | \$5 | 35' | Flush | Yes | Yes | \$7.00 day use of campsite. |
| Grassy Flat | Summer to Fall | 19 | \$10 | \$5 | 30' | Vault | Yes | Yes | \$5 day use of campsite. |
| Panther Flat | Open all year | 38 | \$15 | \$5 | 40' | Flush | Yes | Yes | Coin-operated showers. \$7.50 day use of campsite. |
| Big Flat | Summer to Fall | 23 | \$8 | \$5 | 32' | Vault | Nearby | No | No water. \$4 day use of campsite. |
| North Fork | Open all year | 5 | \$8 | \$5 | 18' | Vault | Nearby | No | No water or garbage service. Pack-In-Pack-Out |

* Individual spur lengths available at Recreation.gov, phone 1-877-444-6777; or at www.fs.usda.gov/srnf; or phone 707-457-3131.

**Make reservations online at Recreation.gov or by phone at 1-877-444-6777; TDD 1-877-833-6777; INTL: 1-518-885-3639.

Patrick Creek Campground has a special charm, with its steps, rock walls, restrooms, and sunken campfire circle built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It's located 7.5 miles east of the Smith River NRA Visitor Center at mile post 22.0 on Highway 199. Patrick Creek Lodge is directly across the highway. Adjacent to the camp-ground is Patrick Creek Picnic Area, a no fee, day-use area with good river access. A paved, accessible 0.2-mile trail leads to a fishing platform at the confluence of Patrick Creek and the Middle Fork of Smith River.



Photo from the 1930's of Patrick Creek rock wall built by the CCC.

Grassy Flat Campground is located 4.5 miles east of the Smith River NRA Visitor Center at mile post 18.87 on Highway 199. It's near the Middle Fork of Smith River. A short but steep trail leads to a nice swimming hole and beach. Madrona River Access, a 1/2-mile drive east on Highway 199, offers a sandy beach and swimming hole with parking nearly at river level.

Panther Flat Campground, the largest and most popular Smith River NRA campground, is located 2.5 miles east of the Smith River NRA Visitor Center at mile post 16.75 on Highway 199. All campsites, restrooms, and showers are accessible. Just below the campground is Panther Flat Picnic Area, a no fee, day-use area, with picnic tables, grills, and water. It has a lovely view of the Smith River with access to swimming and fishing holes. Both the campground and picnic area are open all year.

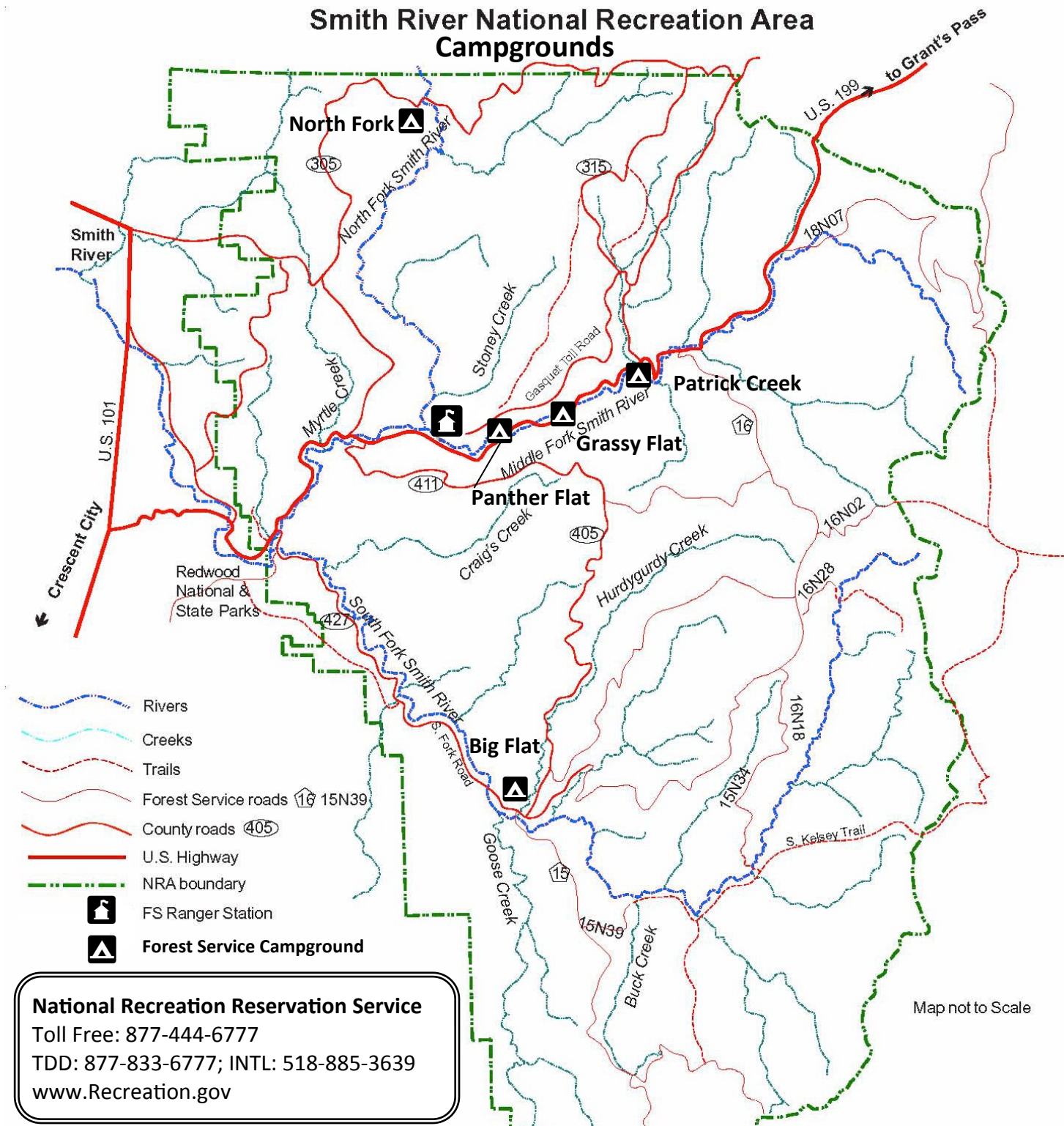
Big Flat Campground is a quiet, semi-shaded campground bordered by Hurdygurdy Creek—the perfect place to “get away from it all.” Several nice South Fork river access points are within a half mile. There is garbage service but no water.

Directions: From the Visitor Center travel west on Highway 199 7.2 miles. Turn left (south) on South Fork Road. Stay left past the second bridge and continue on South Fork Road to mile post 14.1. Turn left on County Road 405 for 0.2 mile and left again on Forest Road 15N59.

North Fork Campground is a quiet, semi-shaded, remote campground bordered by North Fork of the Smith River. This is a popular place to stay before rafting the Wild North Fork. There is no water or garbage service.

Directions: From the Visitor Center turn right and travel west on Highway 199 2.6 miles. Turn right onto Forest Road 17N49 and travel 7.7 miles. Turn right onto County Road 305 and travel east 15 miles to Forest Road 18N28 just past the North Fork Bridge. Follow 18N28 to campground.

Smith River National Recreation Area Campgrounds



Map not to Scale

National Recreation Reservation Service

Toll Free: 877-444-6777

TDD: 877-833-6777; INTL: 518-885-3639

www.Recreation.gov

Smith River National Recreation Area

Address: 10600 Highway 199/P.O. Box 228
Gasquet, CA 95543

Phone: 707-457-3131 (also TTY#)

Six Rivers National Forest

Address: 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: 707-442-1721 (also TTY#)

Internet: www.fs.usda.gov/srnf