



Forest Rules You Need to Know

Tahoe National Forest

These regulations have been made by the Secretary of Agriculture to assure the enjoyment of recreation in the National Forests. They are meant to control actions that cause damage to natural resources and facilities or cause unreasonable disturbances for National Forest visitors.

These regulations (36 CFR 261) provide in part for regulating the occupancy and use of developed recreation sites. A violation of these regulations is subject to a penalty of not more than \$500 or 6 months imprisonment, or both.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions, which appear in 36 CFR 261.2, apply to all regulations quoted in this publication.

“Campfire” means a fire, not within any building, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle, which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or esthetic purposes. “Fire” includes campfire.

“Camping” means the temporary use of National Forest System lands for the purpose of overnight occupancy without a permanently-fixed structure.

“Camping Equipment” means the personal property used in or suitable for camping, and includes any vehicle used for transportation and all equipment in possession of a person camping. Food and beverage are not considered camping equipment.

“Damaging” means to injure, mutilate, deface, destroy, cut, chop, girdle, dig, excavate, kill, or in any way harm or disturb.

Developed Recreation Site” means an area which has been improved or developed for recreation.

“Forest Road or Trail” A road or trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.

“Forest Officer” means an employee of the Forest Service.

“Person” means natural person, corporation, company, partnership, trust, firm, or association of persons.

“Permission” means oral authorization by a Forest Officer.

Permit” means authorization in writing by a Forest Officer.

“State Law” means the law of any State in whose exterior boundaries an act or omission occurs regardless of whether State law is otherwise applicable.

“Stove Fire” means a campfire built inside an enclosed stove or grill, a portable brazier, or a pressurized liquid or gas stove, including a space-heating device.



PROHIBITED

The following is a partial listing of acts prohibited on National Forest lands. All of the regulations are published in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, available online and at Forest Service Offices.

Sanitation

- Depositing in any toilet, toilet vault, or plumbing fixture any substance which could damage or interfere with the operation or maintenance of the fixture. 36 CFR 261.11(a)
- Possessing or leaving refuse, debris, or litter in an exposed or unsanitary condition. 36 CFR 261.11(b)
- Placing in or near a stream, lake, or other water any substance which does or may pollute a stream, lake, or other water. 36 CFR 261.11(c)
- Failing to dispose of all garbage, including any paper, can, bottle, sewage, waste water or material, or rubbish either by removal from the site or area, or by depositing it into receptacles or at places provided for such purposes. 36 CFR 261.11(d)
- Dumping of any refuse, debris, trash, or litter brought as such from private property or from land occupied under permit, except, where a container, dump or similar facility has been provided and is identified as such, to receive trash generated from private lands or lands occupied under permit. 36 CFR 261.11(e)
- Cleaning or washing any personal property, fish, animal, or food, or bathing or washing at a hydrant or water faucet not provided for that purpose. *(In developed recreation sites.)* 36 CFR 261.16(c)
- Depositing any body-waste except into receptacles provided for that purpose. *(In developed recreation sites.)* 36 CFR 261.16(p)

Operation of Vehicles

- Placing a vehicle or other object in such a manner that it is an impediment or hazard to the safety or convenience of any person. 36 CFR 261.10(f)
- Failing to stop a vehicle when directed to do so by a Forest Officer. 36 CFR 261.10(m)
- Blocking, restricting, or otherwise interfering with the use of a road, trail, or gate. 36 CFR 261.12(d)
- Operating or parking a motor vehicle or trailer except in places developed or designated for this purpose. *(In developed recreation sites.)* 36 CFR 261.14(m)
- Operating a bicycle, motorbike, or motorcycle on a trail unless designated for this use. 36 CFR 261.14(n)
- Operating a motorbike, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle for any purpose other than entering or leaving the site. *(In developed recreation sites.)* 36 CFR 261.16(o)

Camping

- Occupying between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. a place designated for day-use only. 36 CFR 261.16(e)
- Failing to remove all camping equipment or personal property when vacating the area or site. 36 CFR 261.16(f)
- Placing, maintaining, or using camping equipment except in a place specifically designated or provided for such equipment. 36 CFR 261.16(g)
- Without permission, failing to have at least one person occupy a camping area during the first night after camping equipment has been set up. 36 CFR 261.16(h)
- Leaving camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours without permission. 36 CFR 261.16(i)

Fire

- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it.
36 CFR 261.5(d)
- Building, attending, maintaining, or using a campfire without removing all flammable material from around the campfire adequate to prevent its escape.
36 CFR 261.5(f)
- Building, attending, maintaining, or using a fire outside of a fire ring provided by the Forest Service for such purpose or outside of a stove, grill or fireplace. *(In developed recreation sites.)*
36 CFR 261.16(b)

Campfire Permits

You may want a campfire for cooking, enjoying its warmth, and roasting marshmallows.

For campfires, stoves, lanterns or barbeques used outside a campground or recreational vehicle and some developed campgrounds, you need a campfire permit.



The permit is free, valid for a full year from January 1 to December 31, and may be obtained in person from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or CAL FIRE offices, or online at www.PreventWildfireCA.org. Your responsibilities for building and putting out your fire safely are explained on the campfire permit. (36 CFR 261.52(k) PRC 4433)

Be aware that as fire danger becomes greater, campfires may be prohibited. Please check to find out if there are fire restrictions in the area where you intend to camp.

You are welcome to gather dead and down wood to use for your campfire, but not to take home unless you obtain a fuelwood permit.

Destruction of Property

- Cutting or otherwise damaging any timber, tree, or other forest product, except as authorized by a special-use authorization, timber sale contract, or Federal law or regulation.
36 CFR 261.6(a)
- Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States.
36 CFR 261.9(a)
- Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, or property.
36 CFR 261.9(g)
- Removing any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, property.
36 CFR 261.9(h)

Public Behavior

- Engaging in fighting.
36 CFR 261.4(a)
- Addressing any offensive, derisive, or annoying communication to any other person who is lawfully present when such communication has a direct tendency to cause acts of violence by the person to whom, individually, the remark is addressed.
36 CFR 261.4(b)
- Make statements or other actions directed toward inciting or producing imminent lawless action and likely to incite or produce such action.
36 CFR 261.4(c)
- Causing public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm by making unreasonably loud noise.
36 CFR 261.4(d)

Pets and Animals

- Bringing in or possessing an animal, other than a seeing eye dog, unless it is crated, caged, or upon a leash not longer than six feet, or otherwise under physical restrictive control.
36 CFR 261.16(j)
- Bringing in or possessing in a swimming area an animal other than a seeing eye dog.
36 CFR 261.16(k)
- Bringing in or possessing a saddle, pack, or draft animal except as authorized by posted instructions.
36 CFR 261.16(l)

Business Activities

- Selling or offering for sale any merchandise or conducting any kind of work activity or service unless authorized by Federal law, regulation, or special-use authorization.
36 CFR 261.10(c)

Audio Devices

- Operating or using in or near a campsite, developed recreation site, or over an adjacent body of water without a permit, any device which produces noise, such as radio, television, musical instrument, motor or engine in such a manner and at such a time so as to unreasonably disturb any person.
36 CFR 261.10(i)
- Operating or using a public address system, whether fixed, portable or vehicle mounted, in or near a campsite or developed recreation site or over an adjacent body of water without a special-use authorization.
36 CFR 261.10(j)

Fireworks and Firearms

- Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property as follows:
 - (1) In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or
 - (2) Across or on 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 in such discharge.
 - (3) Into or within any cave.
36 CFR 261.10(d)
- Discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive.
36 CFR 261.16(d)

Interfering with a Forest Officer

- Threatening, resisting, intimidating, or interfering with any forest officer engaged in or on account of the performance of his official duties in the protection, improvement, or administration of the National Forest System is prohibited.
36 CFR 261.3(a)

Abandoned Personal Property

- Abandoning any personal property.
36 CFR 261.10(e)

Other Prohibited Acts

Constructing, placing, or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure, fence, enclosure, communication equipment, significant surface disturbance, or other improvement on National Forest System lands or facilities without a special use-authorization, contract, or approved operating plan when such authorization is required.

36 CFR 261.10(a)

- Occupying any portion of the site for other than recreation purposes.

36 CFR 261.16(a)

- Use or occupancy of National Forest System land or facilities without special use authorization when such authorization is required.

36 CFR 261.10(k)

Additional rules may be established where determined necessary by the Regional Forester or the Forest Supervisor.

Such rules will be established by an order that is posted in such locations and manner as to reasonably bring the prohibition to the attention of the public.

All are Welcome

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.