



United
States
Department
of
Agriculture

Questions and Answers

Parking and Dispersed Camping on the Lassen

Parking –

Q: What are the rules for Parking a motor vehicle on the Lassen National Forest?

A: Forest visitors park along Forest roads for a wide variety of reasons, including access to hike, fish, picnic, horse ride, bicycle, OHV ride, swim, hunt, bird watch, snowmobile, snowshoe, etc. You may park your car or other motor vehicle within **one vehicle length** of the surface of a designated road, as shown on a Motor Vehicle Use Map.

Q: Where does this direction come from?

A: Nationally, the Forest Service set final policy in January 2009 which identified that the designation of a road or trail for motor vehicle use would include parking. This direction states that as roads and trails are designated, the Forest should specify either that the designation includes parking within one vehicle length, or within a specified distance up to 30 feet from the edge of the road surface (Forest Service Manual 7716.1) The Forest's road and trail designations allow for parking within one vehicle length.

Q: Why didn't the Forest allow for parking up to 30 feet off the road?

A: When the Lassen National Forest started the process of designating roads and trails for motor vehicle use, the national direction regarding parking had been proposed, but not finalized. This original direction allowed parking of the vehicle within one vehicle length of the route surface when it is safe to do so and when parking in this manner did not cause damage to NFS resources or facilities. In the Record of Decision for Travel Management on the Lassen National Forest, parking was restricted to one vehicle length off a road or motorized trail to minimize additional route proliferation and to reduce potential damage to other resources.

Who Does This Apply To?

This information applies to all Motorized vehicles including: cars, trucks, campers and RVs, four wheel drives, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), sand buggies, etc.

Q: How do we get things changed so that we can park further from the road?

A: The Lassen National Forest is willing to work with the public to identify areas where Forest visitors have parked further off designated roads or trails in the past and did not cause significant resource damage. Where such concerns are absent or can be prevented, the Forest is willing to consider broadened parking opportunities. To do so, we will need to complete additional site-specific environmental analyses for these locations in order to allow broader parking zones. Contact your local Ranger District to help with this process.

Q: Why is the parking regulation so restrictive?

A: As the Forest designated roads and trails for motor vehicle use, we included a number of short routes that have traditionally been used to access dispersed recreation areas. By officially adding these routes to our transportation system as roads or motorized trails (a process called "designation"), we have retained much of the access to important dispersed recreation sites that was enjoyed by the public before cross country travel was prohibited. Travel Management is a work in progress. Modifications will continue to be made as we fine-tune the balance between user needs and resource protections.

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region



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Lassen National Forest website: www.fs.usda.gov/lassen

Dispersed Camping –

Q: What is dispersed camping and where is it allowed on the Forest?

A: Dispersed camping is a form of camping where you are not in a developed campground and there are no amenities such as toilets, piped water, picnic tables, etc. Visitors can camp just about anywhere in the Forest unless it is specifically prohibited. The big change on the Forest, along with other National Forests, is that visitors cannot drive off of designated roads and trails, except where allowed by special use permit. The Forest designated a number of routes extending well into popular camping areas. Tell us if there are other camping locations where you would like to have greater vehicular access.

Q: Dispersed camping locations often have multiple very short spurs or loops that allow camps to be set up next to the vehicle. How will I know where I can park and where I can't?

A: Routes such as these have often proliferated with time and increased use. Some such spurs and loops are located in places that cause resource damage such as soil compaction, rutting, tree root damage, erosion into waterways or harm to plants. Some of these routes also led to natural features requiring protection from motor vehicles, such as meadows or areas important to wildlife. Resource damage was evaluated during the Route Designation process. The roads and trails that were added to our transportation system either had no such concerns or the problems could be resolved. As the Travel Management Decision is implemented over the coming years, signs and barriers will be placed in dispersed camping areas to further clarify where parking is allowed and where it is prohibited. The Lassen welcomes collaboration with volunteers and interest groups in this effort.

For more information, or to submit suggestions regarding parking or dispersed camping, please contact the appropriate Forest Service Office listed below:

Almanor Ranger District
900 E. Hwy 36
Chester, CA 96020
(530) 258-2141

Eagle Lake Ranger District
477-050 Eagle Lake Road
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4188

Hat Creek Ranger District
43225 E. Hwy. 299
Fall River Mills, CA 96028
(530) 336-5521

Lassen National Forest
Supervisors Office
2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-2151



For more information regarding motor vehicle use on the Lassen National Forest or to find a copies of the motor vehicle use maps, please visit our website at:

www.fs.usda.gov/lassen

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