

7/25/2010

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center
Visitor Services/Wilderness Permits
Hours: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm/Daily
Junction Highway US 395 & SR136 (1 mile south Lone Pine)
Lone Pine, CA 93545
760-876-6200

Campgrounds

Campground Name	Open/Closed	Comments
Lone Pine Forest Service Campgrounds		
Cottonwood Lakes walk-in	Open	Water, trash, 12 sites, \$6.00/night
Cottonwood Pass walk-in	Open	Water, trash, 18 sites, \$6.00/night
Horseshoe Meadow Equestrian	Open	Water, trash, 10 sites, \$12.00/night
Lone Pine	Open	Water, trash, 43 sites, \$15.00/night
Lone Pine Group	Open	Water, trash, 1 site, \$45.00/night
Whitney Portal	Open	Water, trash, 43 sites, \$17.00/night
Whitney Portal Group	Open	Water, trash, 3 sites, \$55.00/night
Whitney Portal Backpacker	Open	Water, trash, 12 sites, \$8.00/night
Independence Forest Service Campgrounds		
Gray's Meadow (Lower)	Open	Water, trash, 52 sites, \$14.00/night
Gray's Meadow (Upper)	Open	Water, trash, 35 sites, \$14.00/night
Onion Valley	Open	Water, trash, 29 sites, \$14.00/night
BLM Campgrounds		
Goodale Creek	Open	No water, \$ 5.00/night, long term permit available
Tuttle Creek	Open	No water, \$ 5.00/night, long term permit available

Inyo County Campgrounds		
Diaz Lake	Open	Water,\$10.00/night
Independence Creek	Open	Water,\$10.00/night
Portagee Joe	Open	Water,\$10.00/night
Taboose Creek	Open	Water,\$10.00/night
Tinemaha Creek	Open	Water,\$10.00/night

Some Forest Service campgrounds are reservable through recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days in advance.

Bears

The largest of the Sierra mammals, the Black Bear is found in and around the Inyo National Forest. There are an estimated 25,000 to 35,000 Black Bears in California. Bears are located throughout most of California where suitable habitat exists. Black Bears range in color from blonde to black, with cinnamon brown being the most common color. Black Bears are omnivores. A typical wild bear diet consists of berries, plants, nuts, roots, honey, honeycomb, insects, larvae, carrion and small mammals. As winter approaches, bears will forage for food up to 20 hours a day, storing enough fat to sustain them through winter. Black bears are wonderful to observe in the wild and we hope you will have a chance to do so while visiting the forest. Bears in the wild will seek to avoid confrontation with humans. If encountered, always leave them an escape route.

However, when bears and humans get too close, the result can be disastrous--for you or the bear. It is important to remember that bears will change their behavior if they become habituated to humans (get used to our presence) which will happen if we crowd them or observe them too closely. Bears also change their behavior if they obtain human food--even just one time. They begin to break into cars, tents, and cabins and may become aggressive. If a bear becomes a safety hazard, they sometimes have to be destroyed by wildlife managers. Other habituated and food-conditioned bears are killed by cars because they spend more time along roads and in campgrounds.

Camping with Bears

- All **food** must be stored properly DAY AND NIGHT!! Store food in bear-proof canisters or bear-proof lockers (if provided). Never leave food, toiletries and/or anything with a scent in your tent, sleeping bag or car. The trunk of your car and coolers are not bear-proof!
- Check for local regulations and recommendation regarding bears.

- Clean everything after preparing a meal.
- Dispose of garbage properly. If a bear-proof dumpster is not available, store your garbage in bear-proof lockers often provided at campgrounds, until it can be disposed of properly.
- Report all bear incidents.

Food includes food, trash, recyclables, toiletries, candles, first-aid kits, window cleaner, pet food, dirty dishes, dirty diapers, baby wipes, scented tissue, air freshener, bottled and canned beverages, canned food, coolers (full or empty), mosquito repellent, lipstick, tobacco products, and any other items with a scent.

Dispersed Camping

Dispersed primitive camping is tent or self-contained RV camping in undeveloped areas. Visitors may access camping points along any public dirt road within BLM or Forest Service property. Campsites should be 2 miles outside of any established campground, recreation area, wilderness area, or town limits. Dispersed camping is not permitted along Whitney Portal or Onion Valley roads. A California Campfire Permit is required for the use of a cook stove or campfire outside of established campgrounds. These permits are free and available at Visitor Centers. Please be extremely careful with stoves, fires, and cigarettes. Be aware that we do have black bears in the Lone Pine and Independence areas, and that proper food storage is necessary. Please take measures to minimize food smells and its visibility.

Campfire Permits

Campfire Permits are available free-of-charge at offices of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center.

On National Forest Land: With a valid Campfire Permit, you may have a wood fire, a charcoal fire or use a portable gas stove. The permit holder must:

1. Clear all flammable material away from the fire for a minimum of five feet in all directions to prevent escape of the fire
2. Have a shovel available at the campfire site for preparing and extinguishing campfires.
3. Have a responsible person in attendance at all times.
4. Extinguish campfire with water, using the drown, stir, and feel method.

Special Regulations: Some areas have special rules regarding campfire use. It is your responsibility to find out what these limitations are. The best way to do this is by contacting a local agency office in the area you intend to visit. Throughout the year, as fire danger increases, additional fire restrictions may be put into effect. Strict compliance with fire restrictions is required.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed in recreation areas unless posted. They must be on a leash when in a developed site. Including your pet on a travel trip can enhance enjoyment of the experience for both parties! As you are packing up for your hike, camping trip, or other outing, please consider what would happen if you became separated from your dog. Be sure to have accurate identification on its collar, and consider obtaining a microchip in case its collar is lost.

Don't forget your dog should be in good physical condition for forest adventures. If your dog hasn't walked anywhere but in your yard or around the block lately, it will need to adjust to the altitude, the physical effects of extra exercise and walking on rocky trails. Dogs can injure their sensitive paws and become unable to walk while hiking long distances. Be aware of the distance from your vehicle, and consider whether you could carry your dog back to your starting point if it couldn't walk.

Please be respectful of other visitors and their experience by maintaining control of your pet at all times and adhering to all rules and regulations regarding travel with a pet in wilderness areas on the Inyo National Forest. Please clean up any dog poop and dispose of it properly. On backcountry trails when encountering pack stock, step to the downhill side of the trail and keep pets under control. Dogs are **not** allowed in the National Park Backcountry. If you are entering Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks at any point during a hike you may not bring your dog.

Roads

Major Eastern Sierra roads are open. California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) maintains and operates the State Highways around and within the Inyo National Forest. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. *Slow for the Cone Zone*, while traveling through maintenance and construction work zones. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo, for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads.

Ranger District Roads: Getting around on roads in the forest is different from driving on streets or highways. Most forest roads are narrow, steep and winding with safe travel speeds averaging 25 mph on paved roads. Safe travel on gravel and dirt roads can be slower. Use caution and be alert to rough road conditions. Drivers may encounter rocks or logs on these roads.

Road Name	Status
Monache Road	Open
Sage Flat Road	Open
Cerro Gordo	Open - 4 x 4 and high clearance recommended. To visit the mining camp, please call in advance of your trip, 760 876-5030.
Horseshoe Meadow	Open
Hogback Road	Open - High clearance recommended
Whitney Portal	Open
Foothill Road	Open - High clearance recommended
Onion Valley	Open
Mazourka Canyon	Open - High clearance recommended
Baxter Pass Trailhead	Open
Sawmill Pass Trailhead	Open - High clearance recommended
Taboose Trailhead	Open - High clearance recommended

Hiking and Backpacking

Hikers and backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Be Bear Aware when parking at trailheads – cars must not be left with any food, or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage to the vehicle.

Bears (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use approved portable, bear - resistant food canisters on many trails of the Inyo National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

Wilderness Permits are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas. Reservations for wilderness permits can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483 or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. For more information, including an application form and fees, visit the Inyo National Forest wilderness [permit information](#) on the web site.

Trail Conditions

Mt. Whitney Ranger District Trails	Difficulty	Length One-Way	Current Conditions
Cottonwood Pass	Moderate	5.7 Miles	Trail is open. All food and trash must be stored in approved bear-proof food containers. Campfires are prohibited due to fire restrictions.
Cottonwood Lakes	Strenuous	7 Miles to New Army Pass	Trail is open. All food and trash must be stored in approved bear-proof food containers. Campfires are prohibited. Special fishing regulations apply.
Meysan Lake	Strenuous	5.5 Miles	Trail is open. Campfires are prohibited.
Whitney Portal National Recreation	Moderate	4 Miles	Wilderness permit not required. Campfires are prohibited due to fire restrictions.
Main Mt. Whitney	Strenuous	11 Miles	The Whitney Trail is open. All food and trash must be stored in approved bear-proof food containers. Campfires are prohibited. Hikers must pack-out their solid human waste. Day use permit required.
North Fork Lone Pine Creek	Strenuous	4.7 Miles	Climber's route, not a maintained trail. Helmets are strongly recommended due to frequent rock fall. Requires proficient mountaineering skills and knowledge of proper equipment use. Food must be protected from wildlife, canisters recommended. Campfires are prohibited. All users must pack-out their solid human waste. Day use permit required.
George's Creek	Strenuous		Trail is closed to entry.
Shepherd Pass	Strenuous	8 Miles	Trail is open. Near the pass, the trail is very primitive and rough. It is not recommended for

			travel with stock. Campfires are prohibited due to fire restrictions. Dogs are prohibited. Mt Williamson is located in the California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area. Routes via Williamson Bowl are closed to travel.
Robinson Lake	Strenuous	1.7 Miles	Trail is open. Campfires are prohibited.
Kearsarge Pass	Strenuous	5.5 Miles	Trail is open. All food and trash must be stored in approved bear-proof food containers. Campfires are prohibited.
Golden Trout Lakes	Strenuous	3.5 Miles	Trail is open. Campfires are prohibited.
Baxter Pass	Strenuous	8 Miles	The road to the trailhead is closed due to flooding. Dogs are prohibited; located in the California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area.
Sawmill Pass	Strenuous	8 Miles	Trail is open. Dogs are prohibited; located in the California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area. Campfires are prohibited in some locations along the trail due to fire restrictions.
Taboose Pass	Strenuous	6.5 Miles	Trail is open. Campfires are prohibited in some locations along the trail due to fire restrictions.

BIGHORN SHEEP RESTRICTED AREAS

California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area

Visitors entering or passing near California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Areas should be aware of restrictions created to protect these endangered animals; if you are accessing **Baxter Pass, Sawmill, Shepherd Pass, Golden Trout, or George Creek/Mt. Williamson trails**, these restrictions may affect your trip. With Forest Order # 04-02-07, "*possessing, transporting, or storing domestic goats*" in established California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Areas is prohibited. In addition, Forest Order # 04-81-03 *prohibits possession, transportation, or allowing entrance of dogs* in these areas.

Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Habitat

Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Habitat may affect visitors traveling on or near, **Taboose, Meysan Lake, Cottonwood Lakes and Tuttle Creek trails**, per Forest Order No. 04-02-08, which states: "*dogs must be under immediate verbal or physical control of their owners at all times.*"

Fishing

The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and its waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2010 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is now available at sporting good stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, many sporting good stores, or visit the web site www.dfg.ca.gov.

Hunting

Hunting is permitted throughout the Inyo National Forest during hunting seasons designated by the California State Department of Fish and Game. Hunters should keep in mind that many people use forest land for other types of sports; it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is prohibited in the National Parks.

Hunting is not permitted in those areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited by County Ordinance, State law, or Federal regulations and hunters must follow all laws, including no hunting within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area. A California hunting license is required for any person taking birds or mammals. Hunters must carry licenses and be prepared to show them on request. Copies of California hunting regulations are available at the Visitor Center, many sporting good stores, or visit the web site www.dfg.ca.gov.