

Aspen Ranger District
806 W. Hallam
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-3445—Voice
(970) 925-5277—Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



DISPERSED CAMPING

Recreationists go hunting, hiking, driving and horseback riding throughout the forest in many areas where developed camping areas are not available. Finding a site to camp and enjoy these activities in remote areas away from developed campgrounds has become a popular form of camping: the Forest Service calls it *dispersed camping*. Dispersed camping is permitted in most areas of the District. Unlike developed campgrounds which are designed and maintained to protect the vegetation, soils and natural setting; camping in undeveloped areas requires help from the camper to keep the site in the condition in which it was found. **Dispersed camps are restricted to a 14 day limit. There is a 7 day stay limit for the Lincoln Creek and Pearl Pass dispersed areas.** Help preserve the natural condition of these remote areas by following these guidelines:

SITE SELECTION- Choose an area that is at least 100 feet from any lake, stream, river or trail. To lessen the impact on the vegetation and soil, select a site with hard ground instead of meadow areas. Make use of existing camp spots in the area instead of creating a new site. Be aware of intermingled private lands within the National Forest. Forest maps are available at the Aspen Ranger District office. If you have any questions on where you can camp; please ask for information at the District Office. Some popular areas include Basalt Mountain, Kobey Park, and Lincoln Creek.

SITE ACCESS- Park along road, if there's room, or park just off road if permitted- **please do not drive further than 300 feet off the road.** Such travel must not damage the land, vegetation or streams. Do not cut live timber or clear brush to access your site.

WATER- For short trips, take a supply of drinking water from home or another domestic water source. For longer trips, boiling water for a minimum of 5 minutes is the most effective treatment for giardia cysts and other waterborne disease organisms. A longer boiling time may be required at higher elevations.

CAMPFIRES- Using a camp stove is less impact on the environment and provides fast, clean cooking heat. If you must use a campfire, check at the local Forest Service office to make sure there are no restrictions on campfires. After selecting your camping site, look for already existing rock fire rings and use them. When finished with the campfire ring, pack out unburned trash- leave site clean for the next campers. Campfires should to be 100 feet from lakes, streams and Forest Service developed trails. Metal fire rings at Lincoln Creek designated dispersed sites 1-22 and Pearl Pass sites 1-6 must be used. If no firerings exist, select an area away from trees and shrubs then clear away needles, twigs and ground cover to bare mineral soil. Use the "Pit Method" for campfires; remove a small chunk of sod down to the cool soil to form a shallow pit, save the sod for later use, build the fire in the pit without making a rock ring. When done with the campfire, extinguish fire with water and stir ashes until they are cold to the touch. "Scatter" or haul away cold ashes. Replace sod. Build a fire only as large as needed. **Never leave a campfire unattended.** When through with the fire, make sure it is dead out.

PETS- Dogs' natural instinct is to chase other animals, including unfamiliar people. If dogs are brought along on a camping trip, it is a good idea to keep them under the physical restraint of a leash at all times to avoid frightening wildlife and other campers. At developed campgrounds it is a regulation to keep dogs on a leash at all times.

SANITATION

HUMAN WASTE- Select a suitable screened spot at least 100 feet away from open water, camp and trails. Dig a small hole 6 to 8 inches deep. After use, fill the hole with the loose dirt and tramp in the sod with your foot. Nature will dispose of the waste in a short time through decomposition. Toilet paper should be burned or packed out.

TRASH- Pack out all trash, cans, bottles, aluminum foil and anything that will not burn must be carried out. Paper and other burnable items can be burned in a small fire. Please do not bury any garbage or trash.

WASHING- Use a bucket or wash pan for washing dishes, clothes, and bodies. Wash well away from lake and stream banks. Use biodegradable soaps. Dig a small hole to pour the soapy water into after use- this prevents bits of food and soap pollution around camp. **REMEMBER:** soap pollutes the water and injures fish and other aquatic animals- please do not wash in lakes or streams.