

Inyo National Forest Wilderness Permit Reservations for 2012

Reservations for wilderness permits are now available online at

Recreation.gov

The National Recreation Reservation system is already familiar to many national forest visitors who make campground reservations. Website navigation tips for reserving wilderness permits are included at the bottom of this page. The actual permit is issued at an Inyo National Forest visitor center.

What Remains the Same?

All of the wilderness rules, permit requirements, quotas and management plans have remained the same. Inyo National Forest staff will continue to help visitors with wilderness information and education. The Wilderness Permit Office will ensure commercial wilderness permits are issued in compliance with wilderness plans and requirements and will assist with night box permits where allowed. Visitors will still check in at visitor centers to convert their reservation to a permit and receive current wilderness education information. Confirmation of the group size will continue to ensure that unused permits are made available to other visitors. Our partnerships and agreements with our neighboring parks and forests will still be supported. The \$5 per person reservation fee (\$15 per person for Mt. Whitney Zone) that supports visitor education and other wilderness programs will still be used to sustain these programs on the Inyo National Forest.

What has Changed?

Recreation.gov online reservations will give visitors access to reservations 24 hours a day from the convenience of any online device. Paper reduction and faster communication is possible with email and online transactions. Visitors can view trip planning information and a real time calendar of available dates.

Fees

A \$6.00 Transaction Fee is charged to finance the online reservation system.

Refunds

Refunds will be allowed for entry trails listed under Inyo National Forest- Wilderness Permits. However refunds are **not** allowed for Mt. Whitney Lottery, Mt Whitney trail overnight permits, or Mt. Whitney Zone Day Use permits.

- No refunds for Mt. Whitney trail overnight or Mt Whitney Zone Day Use permits.
- No refunds for the \$6.00 transaction fee.
- Per person reservation fees are refundable if you cancel or reduce your group size at least 22 days prior to your entry date. This does not apply for Mt Whitney Zone Day Use or Mt Whitney trail overnight permits.
- No refunds of any fees if you cancel or reduce your group size 21 days or less before the entry date.

Changing a Reservation

If space is available, some changes to a reservation can be done online up until two days before your entry date. Last minute changes can be done when you pickup the permit.

- **Change of entry trail or date of entry:** If space is available for the desired trail and date, cancel your current reservation and reserve the desired trip. Reservation and transaction fees will apply to the new reservation. Refund policy will apply to the canceled reservation.
- **Group leader** or alternate leader cannot be changed. Permits cannot be sold or transferred.
- **Changing the number of people while keeping the same dates and trail:** If space is available, you can increase your party size, the \$5.00/person (\$15.00/person in Whitney Zone) reservation fee will apply. For a decrease in group size, the refund policy will apply for the number of people reduced.
- **Change of permit type or Exit Mt Whitney:** To change a reservation with exit at Mt Whitney, the Trail Crest Exit quota cannot be held if you cancel and rebook the trip.

What about the Mt. Whitney Lottery?

Permits for Mt. Whitney are reserved by a lottery due to the high demand for reservations. Any space remaining after the lottery is complete, can be reserved online throughout the remainder of the season.

Reservations for the remainder of the 2012 season are online at Recreation.gov

- From April 1 to October 31, any cancellations and remaining space from the lottery will be made available for reservations online.
- Cancellations will go back on the calendar within 24 hours. There is no wait list for cancellations.
- Reservations can be made until two days before a trip entry date if space is available.
- Space is not saved for walk-in permits for Mt. Whitney.

The 2013 Mt. Whitney lottery will begin in February 2013.

Applications are completed online for a computerized lottery. You choose the dates, group size and indicate your choice for a day hike or overnight permit. Include up to 15 alternate choices on one application.

- Applications will be accepted online from February 1 through March 15, Eastern Standard Time.
- \$6 application fee will apply when you submit a lottery application.
- Applications will not be accepted after March 15, Eastern Standard Time.
- Lottery applications that are submitted online from February 1 through March 15 will be processed in a computerized random drawing.
- Successful lottery applications must be accepted or declined before April 15; a \$15 per person reservation fee will apply when a date is accepted.
- There are no refunds for Mt. Whitney permits.
- Permit reservations cannot be changed, transferred or resold. Only the leader or alternate leader can use the permit. Show photo ID when requested.

Navigation Tips

Wilderness permits are listed separately from campgrounds. Select: interested in Wilderness & Permits.

- Trips reserved by the [Mt. Whitney](#) Lottery are organized in a separate page. This includes Day Use in any part of the Mt Whitney Zone and overnight permits for the Mt. Whitney Trail.
- [Inyo National Forest – Wilderness Permits](#) includes all the other trails starting in the forest. If your trip will end at Mt Whitney, but starts on another trail, look for it here.

Visitors can navigate with a Google map, by trail name or find what trails are available for their desired date or group size. Information is listed for each trail with specific trail information and a trip planning map of the area. There are links back to the Inyo National Forest website for additional information.

From the [Recreation.gov](#) home page ...

Search For Places & Activities

Where?

Start typing “Mt Whitney” and pick “Mt Whitney – Inyo National Forest”

...or type “Inyo” and pick “Inyo National Forest –Wilderness Permits”

Interested in... search for “Permits & Wilderness”



Still have questions?

Inyo National Forest wilderness information: 760-873-2483