



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

JOHN MUIR WILDERNESS

High Sierra Ranger District

The John Muir Wilderness encompasses approximately 584,000 acres on the Sierra and Inyo National Forests. It extends along the crest of the Sierra Nevada from Mammoth Lakes southeasterly for 30 miles, and then forks around the boundary of Kings Canyon National Park to Crown Valley and Mt. Whitney.

Elevations range from 4,000 feet to 14,496 feet at Mt. Whitney with many peaks above 12,000 feet. Deep canyons as well as beautiful meadows among the many lakes and streams characterize the John Muir Wilderness. The South and Middle Fork of the Kings River and many creeks, which drain into the Owens Valley, originate in the John Muir Wilderness.

Stands of Jeffrey and Lodgepole pine, incense cedar, and red and white fir can be found on the lower western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. Higher up are lodgepole, whitebark, western pine, red fir and mountain hemlock. The highest elevations are barren granite. Summer temperatures range from 25 to 85 degrees and there is usually a frost-free period from mid July through August. In summer, afternoon and evening thunderstorms are common.

WILDERNESS PERMITS AND QUOTAS

A wilderness permit is required for all overnight trips into the wilderness. Trailhead quotas are in place year-round. For all trails, 60 percent of the trailhead quota is available through advanced reservation and 40 percent is available 24 hours prior to entry for walk-in visitors, first come-first served. There is a \$5.00 non-refundable reservation fee for each person for all trails. There is

a \$10.00 charge for any changes to a confirmed reservation. First come-first served permits are free of charge and available up to 24 hours in advance of your trip.

GROUP SIZE

Group size is limited to 15 people and 25 head of stock for overnight trips.

PROPER FOOD STORAGE

Backcountry and wilderness users are required to store food or refuse in a manner designed to keep bears from gaining access to it. Visitors are encouraged to use bear-resistant food canisters to safeguard food. If a bear canister is not available, the counter-balance method of storing food is also an acceptable method.

BEAR-RESISTANT CANISTERS

These portable containers are a very effective way for backpackers to store food in the wilderness. Each canister weighs less than three pounds, fits in a full-sized backpack, and is capable of holding up to 3 to 5 day's worth of food for one person. When using the canister remember the following guidelines:

- Store all food, cosmetics, toothpaste, soap, and refuse in the canister.
- At night or when you are away from camp, leave your empty pack on the ground with all pockets and flaps open.
- Put the canister 50 feet from your sleeping area.
- Leave the canister on the ground.
- Do not hang the canister from a tree.

Through a partnership with Three Forest Interpretive Association, the Forest Service offers bear canister rentals at the High Sierra Visitor Center on Kaiser



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Pass Road. Canisters are available for \$3.00 per day. A \$75.00 refundable deposit per canister is required. Canisters must be returned to the office from which they were rented.

CAMPFIRES

Your wilderness permit will serve as a one time campfire permit when you are into the wilderness. No fires are permitted above 10,000 feet north of Mt. Shinn and above 10,400 feet south of Mt. Shinn. Firewood is very scarce in the lakes region. Please keep fires small, and when possible, please use existing fire rings and only use dead and down wood. Campfire restrictions may be in affect for some areas.

LEAVE NO TRACE

To practice Leave No Trace, follow these simple practices:

- Camp at least 100 feet away from water sources and trails.
- Bury human waste in a hole 6 to 8 inches deep and over 100 feet away from water sources and trails.
- Use a cook stove or existing fire rings.
- Pack out all trash, including paper and food scraps.
- Purify all water for human use.
- Use soap at least 100 feet away from any water source.

TO OBTAIN A WILDERNESS PERMIT

For more information call:

High Sierra Ranger District

P.O. Box 559
 Prather, CA 93651
 559-855-5355
 (TDD) 559-855-5367

Trailhead Number	Trailhead Name	Daily Reservations	Daily Walk-ins
J51	Statum/ Spanish	5	3
J52	Crown/ Rancheria	6	4
J53	Woodchuck	12	8
J54	Maxson/ Courtright	15	10
J55	Corbet	5	3
J56	Dutch	5	3
J57	Florence	21	14
J58	Hooper	5	3
J59	Bear Diversion	6	4
J60	Bear Ridge	6	4
J61	Mono Creek	18	12
J62	Devils/ Graveyard	12	8
J63	Margaret Lakes	5	3

All Are Welcome

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