

Mokelumne Wilderness: A Profile

Eldorado/Stanislaus/Toiyabe National Forests

ROG 16-34; 06/12



The information provided herein was based upon the Mokelumne Wilderness ROG generated through the efforts of the staff on the Eldorado National Forest. We have taken license to re-format it ever so slightly so that it fits our content profile. Our thanks to our partner National Forest for sharing info.

General Characteristics

In the Mokelumne Wilderness, there are over 100 miles of hiking trails which will take you from deep canyons to mountain peaks in excess of ten thousand feet. Three National Forests (Eldorado, Stanislaus and Toiyabe) share the administration of the 105,165 acres of Wilderness available to visitors for day-hiking or overnight backpacking. Use is open to hikers and pack stock.

No mechanized equipment is allowed—this would include bicycles, hang gliders, over-snow vehicles, chainsaws and game carts among others. The use of wheelchairs (non-motorized) in the Wilderness is permitted for individuals whose disability requires the use of a wheelchair for mobility.

History

In addition to supporting the nomadic lifestyle of local Native American tribes during the summer months, the Mokelumne Wilderness area was utilized for early routes of emigrant travel between Calaveras Big Trees area and the Lake Tahoe basin. The area was also used for mining and grazing activities. As other routes became more heavily used for trade and travel, the area became more lightly used. Further protection was afforded the area when it was included in the newly established National Wilderness Preservation System authorized by Congress in 1964. In 1984, the boundaries of the Mokelumne Wilderness were expanded further. The Wilderness includes two unique Natural Areas—botanical and geological—offering a magnificent display of wildflowers in the spring season.

Recreation

Wilderness Permits must be obtained year-round for overnight stays in the Mokelumne. Day-use permits are not required. Mokelumne Wilderness may be accessed by any of the 29 major trailheads, each of which is named and numbered. Your permit is valid for entry only at the trailhead specified.

Camping and Fire Policies

Wood fires are allowed in most of the Mokelumne Wilderness—up to an elevation of 8,000 feet.

In the Carson Pass Management Area, campfires are prohibited by special order of the Eldorado National Forest. Use of camp stoves is permissible. This area includes Frog Lake, Winnemucca Lake, Round Top Lake, Fourth of July Lake and Emigrant Lake. Restrictions indicated are intended to reduce human-caused fires, impacts to vegetation from firewood collection and scarring of rocks and other negative visual impacts associated with the establishment of fire rings.

Camping is prohibited within 100 feet of any stream, trail or high-water mark of a lake or reservoir. Visitors are required to bury human waste at least 100 feet away from water, trails or campsites and at a depth of at least six to eight inches. Toilet paper must be buried or packed out. Stock must be held or confined to more than 100 feet from campsites and 200 feet from any water resources.

To protect and promote the restoration of the shorelines, camping is not permitted within 300 feet of Emigrant Lake, nor is it permitted within ¼ mile of Frog Lake (except for snow camping).

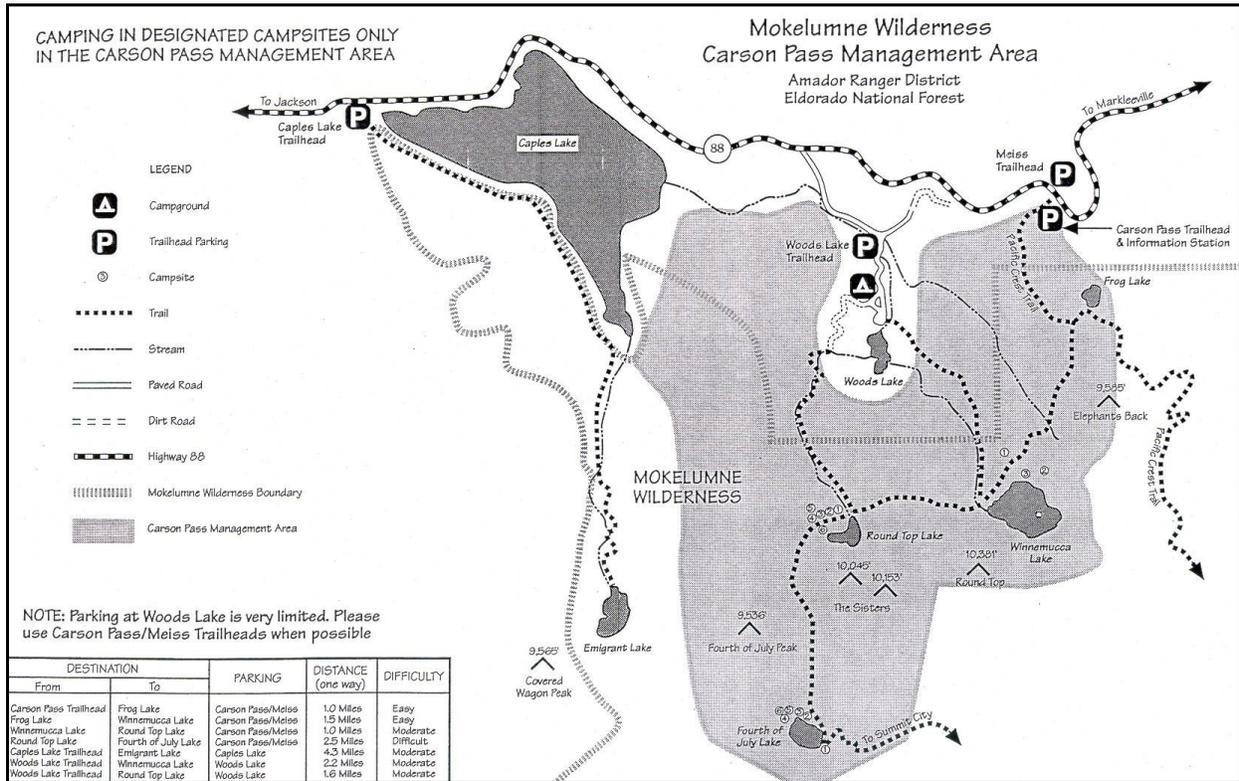
Group Size Limitations/Quotas

The maximum group size for travel in the Mokelumne Wilderness is 12 persons for day-use activities and 8 persons for overnight use. Further voluntary reduction of group size acts as a guard against resource damage.

In the Carson Pass Management Area, an overnight camping quota system has been devised and implemented in order to reduce impacts in heavily used areas. The quota system is in effect from Friday of Memorial Day weekend through the Labor Day weekend. Overnight use in this area is limited to 6-8 groups at designated campsites at Round Top and/or Winnemucca Lake. Guests have an overnight stay limit of 2 nights. Fourth of July Lake is limited to 6 groups at designated campsites and a 3-night stay limit.

Recreational Stock Use

There are restrictions for overnight stock use in Mokelumne Canyon and below Telephone Gulch in lower Summit City Canyon. Use is permitted only in designated areas and with specific restrictions in place. Please consult Calaveras or Amador Ranger Districts for additional details regarding these restrictions. In the Round Top Special Interest Area, stock is required to remain on trails with no grazing permitted, thus protecting the botanical values of this Area from further degradation.



Permits and additional information about Mokelumne Wilderness can be obtained at the Forest Service sites listed on this page:

Eldorado National Forest

Eldorado National Forest Information Center
(5 miles east of Placerville on Hwy 50)

3070 Camino Heights Drive
Camino, CA 95709
(530) 644-6048
FAX (530) 295-5624

Amador Ranger District
(18 miles east of Jackson on Hwy 88)

26820 Silver Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666
(209) 295-4251
FAX (209) 295-5998

Carson Pass Information Station
Highway 88 at Carson Pass
(summer only—no phone)

Toiyabe National Forest

Carson Ranger District
1536 S. Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 882-2766

Bridgeport Ranger District
PO Box 595
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 932-7070

Markleeville Chamber of Commerce & Forest Service
Markleeville, CA 96120
(530) 694-2911

Stanislaus National Forest

Supervisor's Office
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, Ca 95370
(209) 532-3671

Calaveras Ranger District
5519 Hwy 4
PO Box 500
Hathaway Pines, CA 95223
(209) 795-1381

Alpine Station
Hwy 4—east of Bear Valley
(summer only—no phone)



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.