



United States Department of Agriculture

Dispersed CAMPING



CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

DESCANSO RANGER DISTRICT

3348 ALPINE BLVD, ALPINE, CA 91901

(619) 445-6235

Dispersed camping refers to camping on National Forest land outside of a developed campground. There are no defined campsites or facilities. Many areas on the district are open for this use; some are near developed roads and are accessible by car. Others are only accessible by foot, mountain bike, or horseback.

Permits and Location

- A free permit must be obtained from the Descanso District Office or the Mount Laguna Visitor Center prior to camping. You will be asked for the road or trail you intend to camp near.
- Camping more than 14 consecutive days within a calendar year is **Prohibited**. Camping for more than 28 total days in a calendar year is **Prohibited**. The permit covers a single group of up to 15 people.
- Dispersed camping is not permitted anywhere within the boundaries of the Laguna Recreation Area or within 300 feet of the centerline of any city, county, or state road.
- Camp at least 1/4 mile from any developed campground, trailhead, private property, or highway.
- Camp at least 100 feet away from water sources and meadows.
- Do not block roadways or gates.

Fire Safety

- **All wood and charcoal fires are prohibited while Dispersed Camping on the Cleveland National Forest.**
- Use of portable liquid or gas fuel stoves is permitted during most times of the year. Check the Cleveland National Forest website for current Fire Restrictions (this includes stoves). Stoves must be used in areas that are cleared to a minimum of 10 feet in diameter of flammable vegetation.
- Smoking shall be confined to cleared areas of at least 3 feet in diameter or to the inside of vehicles.

Recreational users will be liable for the cost of suppression and damages caused by any wildfire started through negligence.

Sanitation

- Select a location at least 100 feet from water sources and campsites for human waste. Dig a hole 8" deep, then cover and compact the soil after use. Put toilet paper in sealable bags; do not bury it. Remember, pack it in, pack it out!
- Wild water sources must be filtered and treated. Plan for no water to be available on site.
- Leave your campsite clean! Pack out all garbage and items packed in. Do not burn your trash. Leave no trace!

Other

- Observe the quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. by reducing music and conversation to low levels. Generators cannot be operated during quiet hours.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet at all times and secured in a tent or vehicle at night.
- Bikes are not allowed on the PCT or in the Wilderness areas.
- Permits for camping along the PCT during peak season may not be available.
- Marijuana use is illegal on federal land.

Thank you for following these important rules to help preserve the beauty of the forest. Please enjoy your stay!



No dispersed camping is allowed in the
Laguna Recreation Area or on private property.



Laguna Recreation Area



Private/Non-USFS Property



Cleveland National Forest

