



ANSEL ADAMS WILDERNESS

Sierra National Forest

This alpine wilderness, named after the renowned landscape photographer Ansel Adams, is dotted with sparkling lakes, glacially sculptured gorges, and imposing peaks and spires. This 228,500-acre wilderness includes several lake and stream systems that are headwaters of the San Joaquin River. Vegetation is mixed coniferous and deciduous forests of pine and oak in low elevation and sub-alpine forests of lodgepole pine, mountain hemlock and red fir. Alpine meadows grace higher elevations with wildflowers and crystal streams.

Elevations range from hot, dry canyons at 3,500 feet in the San Joaquin River gorge to 13,157-foot Mount Ritter. Precipitation is from 18 to 50 inches, with snow depth averages about 171 inches.

The John Muir Trail, which starts in Yosemite National Park and crosses Donahue Pass (11,056 feet), runs through the Ansel Adams Wilderness. It then continues south through the Inyo National Forest on the east side of the Sierra crest. This portion of the trail is part of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

The Ansel Adams Wilderness has good stream and lake fishing that includes rainbow, golden, and eastern brook trout. The Ritter Range affords challenges for experienced mountain climbers with several small glaciers under its rugged peaks. Southern portions of the wilderness provide forests of huge pine and fir where few people visit.

HOW TO GET THERE

The Minarets Highway (FS 81) and Highway 168 to Kaiser Pass Road access the western slope trailheads on the Sierra National Forest. Commercial pack stations provide services on the west side from Clover Meadow, Florence Lake, and Edison Lake.

WILDERNESS PERMITS AND TRAILHEAD QUOTAS

A Wilderness Permit is required for all overnight trips into the wilderness. Wilderness permit reservations are available at www.recreation.gov. Trailhead quotas are in place year-round, although most of the trailheads are

not accessible until early June. For all trails, 60 percent of the trailhead quota is available through advanced reservation 6 months prior to entry date and 40 percent is available 2 weeks prior to entry date. Both the 60% and 40% quotas must be reserved on www.recreation.gov. There is a \$6.00 non-refundable reservation fee and a \$5.00 charge per person for everyone included in the reservation.

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 counterbalance 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 can hold up to 3 to 5 days' 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.

CAMPFIRES

Your wilderness permit will serve as a one-time campfire permit when you are in the wilderness. No fires are permitted above 10,000 feet in elevation. There may be additional fire closures so please check with your local Forest Service office. 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.

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.

Respect the solitude of others by avoiding boisterous behavior and loud noises, camping in areas that are not visible to other visitors.

TO OBTAIN A WILDERNESS PERMIT:
 Go to www.recreation.gov and search **Sierra National Forest Wilderness Permits / Explore Available Permits**

For more information please contact:
High Sierra Ranger District
 559-855-5355
 (TDD) 559-855-5367

Bass Lake Ranger District
 559-877-2218

Trailhead Number	Trailhead Name	Daily Advanced Reservations	Daily "Walk-Ups"
A30	Onion Springs	6	4
A31	Mono Meadow	6	4
A32	Doris/Tule	6	4
A33	Mono Hot Springs	6	4
A34	Portal Forebay	6	4
A35	Rattlesnake	6	4
A36	Crater	6	4