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# CARING FOR THE LAND

## Sierra National Forest

### **YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED**

For several years we've been making changes in the way we provide recreational services in an effort to reduce costs. For example, our private contractors now manage larger recreation sites, and we are asking people that are camping in remote areas in the Forest to take their garbage home with them. Also, we have recruited volunteers to help with Forest activities, such as daily operation of recreation facilities. Our efforts will focus on the places most people visit, so if you are one who likes to "get away from the crowds" you will need to be more self-sufficient.

The following information describes changes we've made in our operations and offers suggestions on how you can help us keep costs down and make the Sierra National Forest a pleasant place to visit.

### **PLEASE PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK-IN**

Litter and debris can degrade the quality of a recreation experience. Help others enjoy travel in the National Forests by packing out what you pack in.

Whenever possible, use refuse containers for all non-burnable waste. At isolated camps and picnic sites where no containers are provided, "pack out" all non-burnable waste. Do not bury trash; forest animals smell it and will dig it up. This will encourage animals to visit campsites regularly. Try to pack out trash that careless campers leave behind, future visitors will appreciate it.

### **TOILETS**

At several remote locations toilets are cleaned once a week or every other week. Toilet paper supplies may be exhausted between visits. Everyone's cooperation will be needed to keep these facilities clean. We will be counting on you to alert us to any unsanitary conditions or hazards caused by breakage or vandalism. Problems should be reported to the nearest Ranger Station.

### **A CLEAN CAMPSITE**

Keeping campsites, stream banks, lakeshores, trails, and roadsides litter-free is even more important now because cleanup crews who used to pick up after the thoughtless visitors are no longer available.

Dispersed camping, permitted in most areas of the Forest, allows you to pick your own campsite outside of a developed campground. If you plan to camp outside a developed site, you should contact the Ranger District office. They can recommend sites and provide necessary fire permits and fire restriction information.

Minimum impact camping techniques help protect the environment when camping outside developed campgrounds. Please select campsites at least 100 feet away from lakes, streams, trails and roadsides. Protect water quality by burying human waste 6 to 10 inches deep and more than 150 feet away from any water source. Think about how YOU would like to find the area when YOU arrive on your next visit.

### **AWAY FROM HOME OR CAMP**

Going fishing or taking a hike? Before leaving home or campsite always leave word with a friend or relative as to where you are going or when you expect to return. It is never wise to travel alone, but if you must, stick to frequently used roads or trails.

While camping, store all food in sealed airtight containers or ice chests and cover completely. Hungry bears, as well as other animals, will walk through campsites to acquire food and trash. When bears become accustomed to obtaining food, they develop the habit of approaching humans.

### **FIRE RINGS AND STOVES**

Make campfires safe. Campfire permits are required outside a developed campground. Campfire permits can be obtained at any Forest Service office. Cleaning out stoves and fire rings is not done often. Please do not fill stoves and fire rings with unburnable material such as cans, glass, plastic, or foil. If you must build a fire ring outside of a developed campground, temporarily build it, then return the rocks, blackened side down, to their natural position. Never leave your campfire unattended, even for a few minutes. Before you leave your campsite, please make sure all embers, coals and firewood are wet. Drown your campfire a 1/2 hour before you break camp. Use the "drown, stir, and feel" method before leaving your campsite.

## **PROTECT OUR HISTORY**

During your visit to the National Forest, you may encounter archeological and historical sites that contain artifacts. These resources are protected by law and violators will be prosecuted. Please help us to preserve these remnants of our past by not disturbing or harming them.

## **THE CANINE CAMPER**

Pets are welcome in the National Forests. They must be on a lease or restrained when in a recreation area including campgrounds. Pets allowed to roam freely can unintentionally frighten or injure wildlife and disturb other forest visitors.

In recent years, problems with dogs have increased in National Forest recreation areas. The few rules that apply to pets are meant to ensure that you and other forest visitors have an enjoyable outdoor experience. If you are camping with your pet and you want to be sure the privileges are still available, please practice the following:

- Leave vicious or unusually noisy dogs at home. Disturbing or threatening others will not be allowed in public recreation areas.
- During the day keep your pet on a leash no more than 6 feet long. Domestic animals are not allowed to run loose in recreation areas.
- At night keep your dog and other pets inside an enclosed vehicle or tent.
- With the exception of guide dogs, domestic animals are not allowed in swimming areas.

To avoid complaints from other forest visitors please consider these suggestions:

- Do not leave your dog alone in a closed vehicle or tent. It may whine or bark while you are away.
- Clean up after your pet. It will only take a few minutes and there is no single action that will more favorably impress your fellow campers.

## **NEED HELP? HAVE A COMMENT?**

Please call or visit if you have a question or need assistance.

### **Sierra National Forest Headquarters**

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### **High Sierra Ranger District**

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559-855-5355  
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### **Bass Lake Ranger District**

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559-877-2218

**REMEMBER! THIS IS YOUR NATIONAL FOREST. WE HOPE YOU WILL BECOME PARTNERS WITH THE FOREST SERVICE IN MANAGING THESE VAST TREASURES FOR YOUR CONTINUED USE AND ENJOYMENT.**