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# KAISER WILDERNESS

## Sierra National Forest

The Kaiser Wilderness was established in 1976 and covers a total of 22,700 acres. It is located immediately north of Huntington Lake, approximately 70 miles northeast of Fresno. The wilderness was named after Kaiser Ridge, which divides the area into two distinctly different regions. A hike to Kaiser Ridge or Kaiser Peak provides a commanding view of much of the central Sierra Nevada Mountain range. Winter storms start arriving in late October and snow generally remains on the ground until early June.

### **SOUTHERN PORTION OF KAISER**

The Southern half of the Kaiser Wilderness rises gradually from summer homes, resorts, and campgrounds on the north shore of Huntington Lake.

There are four trailheads along this southern boundary. The westernmost is where the county road crosses Home Camp Creek. This trail leads to Coarsegrass Meadow.

Moving eastward, the next trailhead is behind Upper Billy Creek Campground. This point provides access to Nellie Lake, Hidden Lake, and Gloria Meadow on the north side of Kaiser Ridge. Billy Creek Trailhead also provides access to the loop trail that traverses Kaiser Ridge to Kaiser Peak. Another access to this loop is at the D&F Pack Station located behind Kinnikinnick Campground on Deer Creek.

The Potter Pass Trail starts on Kaiser Pass Road near Badger Flat Campground. This, and the Potter Cutoff Trail, provide access to the lakes in the northeast area of the wilderness.

### **NORTHERN PORTION OF KAISER**

The northern half of the Kaiser Wilderness is much more open than the southern half. The descent from Kaiser Ridge into this area is very

steep. Three trailheads provide access from the northern half of the wilderness Hidden, Pryor and Sample Meadow.

The primary point of entry is the Sample Meadow Trailhead located near the Sample Meadow Campground. Upper and Lower Twin Lakes and George Lake can be reached by this trail. All other lakes are approached cross-country.

### **WILDERNESS PERMITS AND QUOTAS**

A wilderness permit is required for all overnight trips into the wilderness. Wilderness permit reservations are available at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Trailhead quotas are in place year-round. 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 at [www.recreation.gov](http://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 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 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](http://www.recreation.gov) and search **Sierra National Forest Wilderness Permits / Explore Available Permits**

**For more information please contact:  
Bass Lake Ranger District  
559-877-2218**

**High Sierra Ranger District  
559-855-5355  
(TDD) 559-855-5367**

Trail Number	Trailhead Name	Daily Advanced Reservations	Daily "Walk-Ups"
K1	Sample Meadow	22	14
K2	Potter Pass	22	14
K3	Potter Cutoff	8	4
K4	Deer Creek	8	4
K5	Billy Creek	18	12
K6	Coarse-grass	8	4
K7	Hidden	8	4
K8	Pryor	8	4