

## Occupancy and Use

- \* After 14 continuous days in one location you must move greater than 3 miles.
- \* Camping on the San Juan National Forest is limited to no more than 28 days within any 60 day period.
- \* Residential use of Forest Service lands is PROHIBITED.
- \* Pack it in, Pack it out. All trash and personal items must be removed from the Forest.
- \* Personal property cannot be stored or cached on National Forest land.
- \* Possession or use of marijuana is illegal on Federal Land.
- \* Do not park your vehicle in areas posted as off-limits to parking.
- \* Do not ride or restrain your horse in areas closed to livestock and horses.
- \* A permit is needed to construct or maintain a road, trail or facility.
- \* Cutting live trees is prohibited without a permit.
- \* A permit is required to sell merchandise, or work for pay or other compensation on FS Land.
- \* Do not park a vehicle or place an object in a location or manner that creates an impediment or hazard to the safety of others.



04/2024

### Please Follow the Rules!

This brochure contains a listing of regulations and dispersed camping information on the San Juan National Forest. Failure to comply with rules and regulations may result in citations and fines. These regulations are in place to ensure your safety and that of other visitors, and to protect natural resources. For more information see the contact information on the front of this brochure.

## FIRE

- FIRST check for any fire restrictions or bans. Use the contacts and links listed on this brochure.
- Use existing fire rings. Do not create new fire rings.
- Remove all flammable materials from the immediate vicinity before starting campfires. Look at the canopy be sure there are no low branches.
- Campfires must be attended at all times and completely extinguished before leaving, cold to the touch.
- NO fireworks ever!
- Do not drive over dry grass to reach a campsite. Sparks may start a fire.
- A firewood permit is not required to gather downed firewood for use in your camp. Firewood permits are required if you plan to remove wood from the National Forest.

# San Juan National Forest

## Dispersed Camping Guide



San Juan National Forest Headquarters  
Durango Colorado  
(970) 247-4874

Dolores Public Lands Office  
Dolores, CO  
(970) 882-7296

Columbine Ranger District  
Bayfield, CO  
(970) 884-2512

Pagosa Springs Ranger District  
Pagosa Springs, CO  
(970) 264-2268

Online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/SanJuan/>  
or  
[www.facebook.com/sanjuannationalforest](http://www.facebook.com/sanjuannationalforest)



## What is dispersed camping? Is it right for me?

Dispersed camping refers to primitive camping along a forest service road, in an area already used for camping. Often you will see a narrow dirt lane leading to a campfire ring.

Dispersed camping does NOT allow you to create new campsites anywhere on the Forest. [Please see Campsite Selection for more details!](#)

If you are traveling with a **large trailer or RV**, many dispersed campsites may not be accessible. San Juan mountain roads can be narrow, winding and require high clearance, with no place to turn a large vehicle around. Do your homework so you don't get stuck.

Our developed campgrounds may offer a better camping experience for you. Our fee campgrounds offer visual privacy between sites, water faucets (not for filling RVs), vault toilets and some electrical hookups.

Find out more  
on our  
campground  
web page.



## Campsite Selection

You may drive up to 300 feet off an open road to a campsite unless otherwise signed, IF you can do so without causing damage.

DO NOT damage vegetation, Do not cut green trees, break off limbs, drive nails into or damage tree bark.

Do not level a site or dig trenches. Pick a site with good drainage.

Camp at least 100 feet from any source of water.

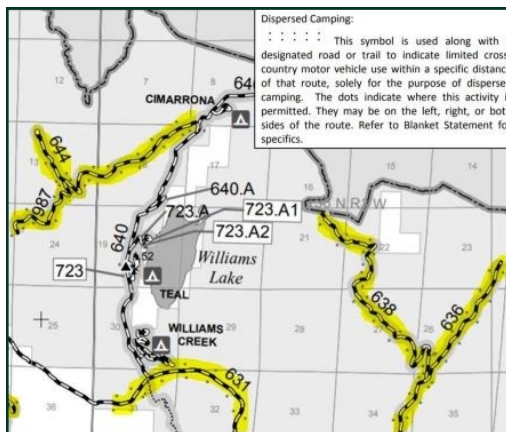
Obey No Camping signs.

Building permanent structures is prohibited. Before leaving dismantle structures including game poles.

**Pack out all non-native materials.**

Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) show stretches of road in the National Forest that allow dispersed camping from a vehicle. National Forest offices have MVUMs.

Download  
MVUM  
by district



## Store Food and Trash Properly

Keep and leave a clean campsite.

Never feed wildlife. This protects humans and wild animals. Animals who become desensitized to humans can cause damage and may have to be euthanized for human protection.

Food and anything that has a smell (toothpaste, lip balm, cooking pans, garbage, pet food and bird feeders) **MUST** be stored in a bear/critter resistant manner.

Approved bear-safe storage:

Inside a hard-sided, locked vehicle out of sight.

Hung at least 10 feet off the ground, and 4 feet from the trunk of a tree.

Inside an approved bear-resistant container.

Do not burn trash in your fire.

## Sanitation and Human Waste

Do not bathe with soap or wash your dishes or clothing in streams and lakes.

**Garbage must be removed** or deposited into appropriate receptacles.

Use of a portable toilet is preferable.

If necessary deposit and bury human waste in a hole dug at least 6"-8" deep and 200 ft from water. Pack out toilet paper!

If there is a pit toilet, do not deposit trash or damaging substances or objects into toilets. It is illegal to dump refuse or debris in a toilet.

Do not dispose of polluting substances in or near streams, lakes, or other water.