



Rock Collecting Permits

Stanislaus National Forest

What Does a "Rock Permit" Permit?

A "rock permit" is an agreement between you and the Stanislaus National Forest that provides for you to remove decorative rock from the forest (from certain places and under certain conditions). In return for a fee of \$5.00, the holder of the permit is entitled to remove up to one (1) ton of rock.

These permits are written to be valid for a short period of time, usually two weeks. You can purchase another \$5.00 permit if you have collected the limit on your previous permit.

Rocks may not be removed using mechanized equipment.

Not all rock is eligible to be taken from the forest. Check with the local ranger district to determine the limitations on rock collecting in that district. The amount of each load of rock collected and being removed should be logged on the permit before transporting the rock from the forest.



Where Am I Prohibited From Collecting Rocks?

Though each ranger district has their own rules for the collection and removal of rock from the Stanislaus National Forest, there are several general rules that are consistent across the forest.

Rock collecting is not permitted in the following locations:

- Designated wilderness areas (i.e., Emigrant, Carson-Iceberg, or Mokelumne Wilderness)
- Administrative and developed areas such as district grounds, campgrounds, day-use areas, interpretive trails and other areas of general public use
- Wild and Scenic River designated areas

Where Am I Permitted to Collect Rocks?

Each ranger district has different rules for rock collecting in their respective district. For instance, the Mi-Wok Ranger District has many valuable heritage resource areas, in addition to the on-going concern for damage to, or destruction of, animal habitats. To permit the taking of surface rock in such an area might adversely impact the study of this area.

As a result, the Mi-Wok District only allows river rock to be collected, and specifically river rock that occurs between the high-water mark for that year and the current level of the river or stream. This rock is considered "moved" rock, is unlikely to have any heritage value, and hasn't had time to develop riparian areas due to the water's recent movement of it.

The Groveland Ranger District permits the collection of rock from a quarry location on the district. The Summit and Calaveras Districts permit the collection of surface rock. To be sure that you will be able to collect the rock you need, it is best to contact each district beforehand and assess their sources of rock before obtaining your permit.



**For more information about rock permits,
please contact the applicable office:**

**Supervisor's Office
Stanislaus National Forest**

19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-3671

**Summit Mi-Wok District
Highway 108 Corridor**

1 Pinecrest Lake Rd
Pinecrest, CA 95364
(209) 965-3434

**Groveland Ranger District
Highway 120 Corridor**

24545 Highway 120
Groveland, CA 95321
(209) 962-7825

**Calaveras Ranger District
Highway 4 Corridor**

5519 Highway 4
Hathaway Pines, CA 95223
(209) 795-1381

**Rock permits can only be issued in
person, in the district from which
you intend to collect.**

Permits are for personal use only.

You may not gather rock with mechanized
equipment. Hand tools are permitted.

Rocks may be collected from April 15 through
December 15 each year.

You may obtain a free Motor Vehicle Use Map
(MVUM), from any district office or from our
website: www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus.

Most offices are open Monday through Friday, call or
visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus> for current
operating hours.

