



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Group Campgrounds

## Eldorado National Forest



### Wentworth Springs Road Area

Georgetown Ranger District  
(530) 333-4312

### Crystal Basin Recreation Area

Pacific Ranger District  
(530) 647-5415

### Highway 88 Area

Amador Ranger District  
(209) 295-4251

### Highway 50 and South

Placerville Ranger District  
(530) 644-2324

### Reservation Related

Most but not all campgrounds are on the National Recreation Reservation Service. Call the appropriate number indicated under each campground description.

Your reservation will be held for 24 hours in case you are delayed. If you need to make emergency contact, call the appropriate Ranger District, American Land and Leisure at (530) 293-0827 for the Crystal Basin and Highway 50 facilities, or Sierra Recreation at (209) 295-4512 for the Highway 88 corridor.

### General Information

- ◆ **Fees:** Campground fees are subject to change. Call for current fees. At some campgrounds there is an extra charge for each additional vehicle and/or pets.
- ◆ **Parking Spurs:** Parking for group areas can be either separate spurs or a central parking area.
- ◆ **Accessibility:** Some campgrounds have accessible facilities for people with disabilities.
- ◆ **Hookups:** No hookups are available at any Forest Service campground.
- ◆ **Stay limit:** Each stay is limited to 14 consecutive days in each Ranger District.
- ◆ **Check-out time** is 1:00 p.m. **Check-in time** is 2:00 pm.
- ◆ **Pets** are permitted and must be kept on a 6-foot leash at all times.



### Reservations



**National  
Recreation  
Reservation  
Service**

**Toll-Free: 877-444-6777**  
**TDD: 877-833-6777**  
**INTL: 518-885-3639**  
**Internet: [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov)**

### Interagency Senior and Access Passes

Senior passes are available for a one-time \$10.00 fee to persons 62 years of age or older. Access passes are available free to qualifying persons who are blind or permanently disabled. These cards entitle the holder to special discounts at federal recreation areas. They **do not apply** to group sites, cabin rentals, parking or wilderness permits. For more information, please contact your nearest Forest Service office.

Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest  
Region



## **Bear River Group**

(Amador Ranger District) - Elevation 6,000'. Fee. Piped water, vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, grills, bear boxes. 4 group units, 3 for 25 persons, 1 for 50 persons. Located 40 miles east of Jackson on Highway 88, go south 2 1/2 miles on Bear River Road. At the "Y" intersection go west across the dam, and south 2 miles (stay left). Boat ramp nearby. Store with private campgrounds on north side of the reservoir about 2 miles from the group campground. *Reservations may be made for dates 06/12 through 10/05 by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service.*

## **Big Silver Group**

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 4,900'. Fee. One group unit for 50 people. No water, vault toilet, picnic tables, fire rings, grills. Accessible sites and toilets. Located along the Union Valley Bike Trail on the east shore of Union Valley Reservoir, about 16 miles from Highway 50 on Ice House Road (Primary Forest Route 3). Parking for bike trail. Check ahead - campfires may not be allowed during fire restrictions. *Reservations are available from 05/22 through 10/4 by calling the NRRS.*

## **Black Oak Group**

(Georgetown Ranger District) - Elevation 4,400'. Four group camp areas. Fee. Site #1, 50 people, no trailers, piped water, vault toilets, picnic tables, not accessible. Site #2, 75 people, self-contained vehicles only, no toilets, difficult access. Site #3, 50 people, no trailers, piped water, vault toilets, picnic tables, not accessible. Site #4, 25 people, no trailers, piped water, vault toilets, picnic tables, not accessible. Located near Stumpy Meadows Lake, 21 miles from Georgetown on the Wentworth Springs Road (Primary Forest Route 1). Boat ramp 2 miles from site. *Reservations may be made for dates 05/07 through 09/13 by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service.*

## **Capps Crossing Group**

(Placerville Ranger District) - Elevation 5,200'. Fee. Group site for up to 40 people. Piped water, vault toilets, picnic tables, grills, fire rings. On the north fork of the Cosumnes River, fishing, gold panning. From Highway 50, 15 miles east of Placerville, take Sly Park Road south 6 miles to Jenkinson Lake. Turn left across the dams on Jenkinson Lake, onto Mormon Emigrant Trail (Iron Mountain Road). Go 10 miles, turn right on North South Road, go 7 miles to the campground. *Reservations may be made by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service for dates 05/22 through 09/13. 7 single sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis when the campground is not reserved for a group.*

## **Loon Lake Equestrian**

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 6,378'. 5 units will accommodate 25 people. Fee. Piped water, vault toilets, picnic tables, grills, fire rings. Located on Loon Lake in the Crystal Basin, approximately 29 miles north of Highway 50 via the Ice House Road (Primary Forest Route 3). Parking access to Desolation Wilderness. Obtain overnight wilderness permits in advance at the Pacific Ranger District, 4 miles east of Pollock Pines/Sly Park exit on Highway 50. Self-issue day permits are available at the Wilderness parking lot. *Reservations are required and may be made for dates 06/26 through 09/07 by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service.*

## **Loon Lake Group #1**

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 6,378'. Reservations required. Fee. Accessible vault toilet, piped water, picnic tables, fire rings, grills. The 10-unit group campground will accommodate walk-in tent camping for 50 people, moderate to difficult access. Central parking area will accommodate RVs. *Reservations may be made for dates 06/26 through 09/07 by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service.*

## **Loon Lake Group #2**

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 6,378'. Reservations required. Fee. Accessible vault toilet and one campsite accessible, piped water, picnic tables, fire rings, grills. 6 units will accommodate 35 people. *Reservations may be made for dates 06/26 through 09/07 by calling the National Recreation Reservation Service.*

## **Middle Meadows Group**

(Georgetown Ranger District) - Elevation 4,700'. Two group camp areas. Fee. One site for 25 people, one for 50 people. Piped water, vault and flush toilets, picnic tables, group stoves, group fire rings. Sites are not accessible. Located 22 miles east of Georgetown. From Wentworth Springs Road (Primary Forest Route 1), turn north on Eleven Pines Road (Primary Forest Route 2), 25 miles to the campground. Located adjacent to Long Canyon Creek for fishing and wading. 50 miles from nearest town. By reservation only. *Reservations may be made for dates 05/10 through 09/09 by calling the NRRS.*





### Red Fir Group

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 6,500'. Fee. The campground accommodates 25 people and 6 vehicles. Accessible vault toilet, piped water, picnic tables, fire rings, grills. Tents only, **no trailers or RVs**. Located on the northwest shore of Loon Lake, approximately 31 miles north of Highway 50 via Ice House Road (Primary Forest Route 3). *Reservations are required from 6/05 through 10/04 and may be made by calling the NRRS.*



### Silver Creek Group

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 5,200'. 1 site for 40 people. Fee. Stream water, vault toilet, picnic tables, fire rings, no grills, no trailers. Campground adjacent to Silver Creek in the Crystal Basin, 9 miles north of Highway 50 via Ice House Road (near Ice House Resort). *Reservations are available from 5/22 through 09/07 by calling the NRRS.*



### South Fork Group

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 5,200'. 15 units. Fee. The 15 units accommodate up to 125 people. Stream water, vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings. No garbage service - Pack it In, Pack it Out. Located near the South Fork of the Rubicon River in the Crystal Basin, approximately 23 miles north of Highway 50 via Ice House Road (Primary Forest Route 3), and 0.5 miles west on Forest Road 13N28. *Reservations may be made by calling the NRRS for dates 5/22 through 8/31.*



### Sunset Boat Ramp

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 4,900'. Accessible boat loading platform. Day Use parking fee. Overflow camping allowed for self-contained vehicles for a fee. Vault toilet, piped water. No hookups. No campfires. Located on the Sunset peninsula at Union Valley Reservoir in the Crystal Basin, 13 miles north of Highway 50 via Ice House Road (Primary Forest Route 3). *No reservations.*



### Wench Creek Groups

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 4,900'. 2 group units (50 persons each). Fee. Piped water, flush toilets, picnic tables, grills, fire rings. Bike trail access. Located on the east shore of Union Valley Reservoir in the Crystal Basin, about 15 miles north of Highway 50 via Ice House Road (Primary Forest Route 3). *Reservations may be made for dates 5/22 through 9/07.*



### Wolf Creek Groups

(Pacific Ranger District) - Elevation 4,900'. Fee. Piped water, accessible vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, grills, bear boxes. There are 3 group areas, reservable separately or together, accommodating 25, 25, and 50 people. Located on the north shore of Union Valley Reservoir. Travel 19 miles north of Highway 50 on the Ice House Road (Primary Forest Route 3), then 3 1/2 miles west of Ice House Road. *Reservations may be made for dates 5/22 through 9/07 by calling the NRRS.*

## Bear Country

In most cases, bears are not a threat, but they do deserve your respect and attention. When camping and hiking in bear country keep alert and enjoy the opportunity to see these magnificent animals in their natural habitat.



### Keep Your Camp Clean

Keep clothing, tables, grills, and camp stoves free of grease. Pick up and properly dispose of all food debris, bones, or garbage in the vicinity. Keep your tent and sleeping bag free of food smells. Do not keep in your tent the clothes you cooked in.

### Store Your Food Properly

Seal all food in airtight containers. Store all food, related supplies, and ice chests in your car trunk, pickup cab, camper shell, or suspended at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet away from the tree trunk. Bear resistant containers can be purchased from outdoor stores. Bears recognize ice chests, cans, and backpacks, so store them as food. Also, store grocery bags and scented articles such as soap, hairspray, sunscreen and toothpaste. Cover them to hide them from view. Make sure your windows are closed!

### Dispose of Garbage Properly

Put it in bear proof garbage cans where available or secure it with your food. Never bury it.

## Hiking Hints

### Never Approach Bears

Not even to take their pictures. Some bears may seem "tame" until you get too close or threaten their young. **LEAVE BABY BEARS ALONE.**

### Make Noise

Most bears will avoid people and leave an area when they know people are present. Making noise allows the bear to move away before a confrontation occurs. Most bear attacks are caused when a bear is startled at close range. Remember this is **BEFORE** you encounter a bear. Noise may initially deter a bear, but in close encounters it could aggravate rather than scare off the bear.

### Safety in Numbers

Travel with friends and avoid hiking at night. Make sure children are close to you or at least within sight at all times. Roaming dogs can easily disturb a bear and may lead an angry bear back to you. Keep your dog on a leash.

## Dump Stations

- ◆ **Bear River Resort**, Highway 88.
- ◆ **Crystal View Station**, 6529 Pony Express Trail  
Pollock Pines, 530-644-3490.
- ◆ **Yellowjacket Campground**, along entrance road.  
North shore of Union Valley.
- ◆ **Peninsula Recreation Area** near Union Valley  
Reservoir, on the road to Sunset Campground.
- ◆ **Ice House Campground** on Ice House Reservoir.
- ◆ **Ice House Store** on Ice House Road.
- ◆ **Loon Lake**, 2 miles before the campground and lake.
- ◆ **KOA Campground** at Meyers, Highway 50.
- ◆ **KOA Campground** 6 miles west of Placerville, north  
side of Highway 50, Shingle Springs Drive exit.
- ◆ **Plasse's Resort**, Silver Lake, Highway 88.
- ◆ **Sly Park Recreation Area**, 5 miles from Pollock  
Pines, south of Highway 50.
- ◆ **Stumpy Meadows**, next to Ponderosa Cove  
campground on Wentworth Springs road, 25 miles east  
of Georgetown. See campground host at site #2 at  
Stumpy Meadows for a key.

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## Campfire Permits

When you camp in developed campgrounds, no campfire permit is required. If you plan to stay **outside maintained campgrounds, you may want a campfire for cooking**, enjoying its warmth, or roasting marshmallows.

**For campfires, stoves, lanterns or barbecues used outside a recreation vehicle, you need a campfire permit.**

It is free, valid for a full year from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, and may be obtained in person from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection offices.

**Be aware that as fire danger becomes greater, campfires may be prohibited.** Please check to find out if there are any fire restrictions in the area where you intend to camp.

## “Pick Your Own Spot” Camping

**Most of the land in the National Forest** is open to camping free of charge which is referred to as “dispersed” camping. Visitors can camp just about anywhere in the national forest, unless specifically prohibited\*. Maps and staff are available at most Forest Service offices to assist visitors in finding a suitable spot.

**Large groups can have a significant impact to an area.** Try to camp in hardened areas and always keep vehicles on roads and trails. Do not leave trash or toilet paper behind.

**Not being in a campground** means that there will not be certain conveniences.

- ◆ **No piped water:** boil any lake, stream or spring water for 5 minutes, or bring your own water.
- ◆ **No restrooms:** you will need to make your own toilet area. Each time, dig a small hole at least six inches deep, but not much more, and cover it well when you are through. Pick a place well away from camp or any water.

**\*No dispersed camping is allowed around the following lakes** because of heavy visitor use and the presence of summer homes:

- ◆ Echo Lake
- ◆ Caples Lake
- ◆ Gerle Creek Reservoir
- ◆ Ice House Reservoir
- ◆ Kirkwood Lake
- ◆ Silver Lake
- ◆ Stumpy Meadows Reservoir
- ◆ Woods Lake
- ◆ Wrights Lake

## Water Quality

Water quality testing is not performed on open water sources such as lakes, streams and springs. Boil or treat before using.

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