



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Loon Lake Chalet

Eldorado National Forest

Pacific Ranger District



Sub-alpine red fir and lodgepole forests, granite bowls, and a spectacular view of the Crystal Range of the Sierra Nevada Mountains characterize the area. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) built the Loon Lake Chalet in 1989. Popular summer activities include hiking, backpacking in Desolation Wilderness, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and four-wheel driving on the Rubicon 4WD Trail. In the winter, the Chalet is the focal point of the Loon Lake Winter Recreation Area offering many miles of non-groomed backcountry skiing trails.

Important

Winter conditions can occur from October through June and may provide visitors with challenging weather in addition to affecting access and amenities.

Renters must contact the Pacific Ranger District at (530) 647-5415 to arrange for permit, access, check-in, and to find out current conditions.

Amenities

The three story Chalet offers the most amenities of all the Eldorado cabins. The second floor warming room and third floor loft are available for rental year round. *Do not expect hotel luxuries.*

Parking: Circular parking area. RVs and trailers are allowed. Remember group size is limited to 20 people. In the winter, park vehicles so the snow plow can clear the main roadway around the building.

Sleeping: The second floor warming room and the loft on the third floor serve as sleeping areas and will accommodate up to 20 people. A dozen sleeping pads and a queen-size futon are available for use.

Heat & Lights: Electric heat and lights. Thanks to visitors' suggestions, a gas fireplace was installed for ambiance. Please do not attempt to heat the building with it.

Water: The water available at the Chalet comes from a well and is tested regularly for contamination. Restrooms equipped with vault toilets are attached to the building and are accessed from the outside of the building. One is for the public and one is for only the renters.

Cooking: The kitchen area has a double sink, hot and cold water, a range top stove, a microwave oven, an under-the-counter refrigerator, and a small dryer. The Chalet does not have pots, utensils, or a garbage disposal. Electrical plugs may be used for crock-pots, microwaves, coffee makers, electric frying pans and other electrical appliances that you bring. Bring your own barbeque if needed.

Other: The warming room has multiple tables, benches, two wooden couches, and a futon couch. A campfire ring is available outside. A large deck extends from the second floor.

Winter Day Use

On winter weekends (approximately mid-December through mid-April, depending on snow conditions), the second floor warming room is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All belongings must be removed from the warming room during the time that it is open to the public, and may be put in the sleeping loft.

During the winter weekdays and the summer months (April to mid-December), rental allows use of the second floor warming room for the entire 24-hour period. If you are renting for 24 hours, you are not required to remove your belongings during the day.

Forest Service
Pacific Southwest
Region



March 2008

Location and Access

The Chalet is located at Loon Lake, northeast of Placerville and is at 6,378 feet above sea level. You can reach this area by traveling east on Highway 50 to Ice House Road (8.5 miles east of Pollock Pines), then north on Ice House Road 30 miles to Loon Lake. Winter snow depth averages 3 to 8 feet; snow may fall from September through May. Motorized over-the-snow travel is prohibited in the Loon Lake Winter Recreation Area.

Check-In

Renters must contact Pacific Ranger Station at (530) 647-5415 **as far in advance as possible** to arrange for check-in, access, and to receive a current condition report.

Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of your reservation.

Check-in is done in person at Pacific Ranger Station, 7887 Highway 50, Pollock Pines CA 95726. The Ranger Station is located 4 miles east of Pollock Pines on the north side of Highway 50 at the Mill Run turnoff. Pacific Ranger Station is open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 7 days a week during the summer. Call for off season business hours. Arrangements can be made for after hours check-in.

Things to Take With You

- ✓ Food
- ✓ Sleeping bag/bedding
- ✓ Electric appliances
- ✓ Pack-out garbage bags
- ✓ Cooking utensils and equipment
- ✓ Compass and map
- ✓ Suntan lotion
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Matches
- ✓ Tire chains and snow shovel
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ First-aid supplies

SMUD and the Forest Service

Loon Lake is one of six reservoirs on the Pacific Ranger District, which are operated by SMUD as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed "Upper American River Project." As a FERC licensee, SMUD is required by federal regulation to provide facilities, which will adequately meet the needs of recreationists attracted to the forest by the SMUD reservoirs. The Chalet was built as part of the agreement between SMUD and the Forest Service to provide these recreational facilities to the public. The Forest Service owns and operates the facility.

National Recreation Reservation Service

Toll-Free: 877-444-6777

TDD: 877-833-6777

INTL: 518-885-3639

Internet: www.Recreation.gov



- ◆ Reservations for use of the mountain hut may be made by anyone 18 years or older.
- ◆ Reservations can be made from 4 days to 180 days in advance of your first night's stay.
- ◆ Fee: \$100.00 per night for up to 20 people. Fees may change at any time.
- ◆ Maximum stay length is 7 days.
- ◆ Expect to pay a reservation and cancellation fee when appropriate.
- ◆ No pets are allowed in the building.
- ◆ Check-out time is 1:00 pm, and check-in time is 2:00 pm.
- ◆ No refunds for bad weather unless Ice House Road is not passable.

Road Conditions

Due to the remoteness of the area, you should be alert to changeable weather and road conditions, and possess some knowledge of the hazards of backcountry travel.

Winter drastically changes the complexion of the Sierra Nevada. The Crystal Basin is no exception. Snow depths from a single storm can exceed two feet. Roads can become impassable to all vehicles including four-wheel drives.

Roads are often icy, and snow plowing is done on an intermittent basis by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). **Ice House road may not be plowed on weekends or holidays.**

All vehicles should carry chains and be serviced for cold temperatures. Because of the unpredictable weather and road conditions, there is no guaranteed access to the Chalet. In the event that a storm could snow you in, be prepared to stay until the road is plowed.

Cell phone reception is good on both dams and on the canyon road approach to Loon Lake.

Reminders

We sincerely hope you enjoy your stay. To insure the continuance of this program, and to make it more pleasant for the next person, we need your help. Please comply with these rules.

- ❖ **Check-out time** is 1:00 pm and check-in time is 2:00 pm.
- ❖ **TIP:** When unlocking the front door upon arrival, turn the inside doorknob once or twice and turn the outside knob to make certain that the door has unlocked.
- ❖ **Return the Chalet key** to the Pacific Ranger Station.
- ❖ **Winter schedule** is from December through March, depending on snow conditions. This means that if you are renting the Chalet on the weekends and some holidays, you must remove your personal belongings from the main room between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in order to accommodate visitors who may come into the warming hut.
- ❖ **Summer schedule.** The rest of the year and on winter weekdays, you have exclusive 24-hour use of the chalet.
- ❖ **You are responsible for the Chalet during the time that you have it rented.** Remember to lock the building when leaving it unattended. If you are renting the building during the winter season lock the building if you leave in the morning before Forest Service personnel have arrived. They will unlock it for the hours that it is open to public use.
- ❖ The Chalet has 24-hour **electrical heat** and a gas fireplace. The gas fireplace is not designed to heat the entire building. Turn off the gas fireplace when the building is not occupied. **If you are going to be out of the building, please turn off the gas fireplace.**
- ❖ Do not place flammables on the stove or the electric wall heaters!
- ❖ Wood fires are not allowed in the Chalet parking lot, but are permissible in the designated fire-ring. Do not operate a chainsaw in the vicinity of the Chalet. You can gather dead and down wood in the forest for campfire purposes.
- ❖ **Pets** are not allowed in the building and are best left at home.
- ❖ **Open flame.** No equipment or materials producing an open flame, such as candles, Coleman or backpacking stoves are allowed in the building. Barbeques must be used outside.
- ❖ **Smoking** is not allowed in the Chalet.
- ❖ **As there is no garbage service during the winter, your garbage will need to be taken home with you.**
- ❖ You must **clean the facility** and the appliances before you leave. Cleaning compounds and equipment are in the closet. Snow shovels are provided to clear the deck and entryways of snow.
- ❖ **Frozen Lakes:** All visitors should be aware that travel across the frozen surface of a lake is not advised. There is a powerhouse under Loon Lake. Fluctuating water levels under the ice result in unstable and dangerous ice conditions.

Your cooperation with the rules of occupancy is essential to the continuation of the rental program. Failure to comply with the rules of occupancy can result in termination of your stay, forfeiture of rental fees and/or a citation. Unauthorized use of these facilities is a violation of both state and federal law. Violations are subject to a fine of \$5000 and/or up to 6 months imprisonment.

Be Prepared For All Winter Emergencies

Notify a responsible person of your planned stay and your time of return. Make sure that you check back with this person.

If you are overdue, this person should notify the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department at (530) 626-4911 or call 911.

The nearest phone to Loon Lake is an outdoor pay phone available at the Crystal Basin Information Station on Ice House Road, 19 miles south of the Chalet. This station is not open during the winter months. There is cell phone communication on Ice House Road approximately 1 mile south of the Chalet.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.