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United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Rules for Developed Recreation Areas

Eldorado National Forest

These regulations have been made by the Secretary of Agriculture to assure the enjoyment of recreation in the National Forests. They are common sense rules meant to control actions that cause damage to natural resources and facilities, as well as actions that cause unreasonable disturbances for National Forest visitors.

The Secretary of Agriculture's regulations (36 CFR 261) provide in part for regulating the occupancy and use of developed recreation sites. A violation of these regulations is subject to a penalty of not more than $5,000.00 or six months imprisonment, or both.

The following represents a partial listing of acts prohibited on recreation sites on the National Forests. All the regulations are published in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The Code Of Federal Regulations is available online at http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov.

Developed Recreation Sites:

- Failure to pay any recreation fee. (261.17)
- Occupying any portion of the site for other than recreation purposes. (261.16a)
- Building, attending, maintaining, or using a fire outside of a fire ring provided by the Forest Service for such purpose or outside of a stove, grill or fireplace. (261.16b)
- Cleaning or washing any personal property, fish, animal, or food, or bathing or washing at a hydrant or water faucet not provided for that purpose. (261.16c)
- Discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive. (261.16d)
- Occupying between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. a place designated for day use only. (261.16e)
- Failing to remove all camping equipment or personal property when vacating the area or site. (261.16f)
- Placing, maintaining, or using camping equipment except in a place specifically designated or provided for such equipment.. (261.16g)
- Without permission, failing to have at least one person occupy a camping area during the first night after camping equipment has been set up. (261.16h)
- Leaving camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours without permission. (261.16i)
- Bringing in or possessing an animal, other than a seeing eye dog, unless it is crated, caged, or upon a leash not longer than six feet, or otherwise under physical restrictive control. (261.16j)
- Bringing in or possessing in a swimming area an animal, other than a seeing eye dog.(261.16k)

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(Developed Recreation Sites: Continued from page 1)

- Bringing in or possessing a saddle, pack, or draft animal except as authorized by posted instructions.(261.16l)
- Operating or parking a motor vehicle or trailer except in places developed or designated for this purpose. (261.16m)
- Operating a bicycle, motorbike, or motorcycle on a trail unless designated for this use. (261.16n)
- Operating a motorbike, motorcycle, or other motor vehicle for any purpose other than entering or leaving the site. (261.16o)
- Depositing any body waste except into receptacles provided for that purpose.(261.16p)

Sanitation:

- Depositing in any toilet, toilet vault, or plumbing fixture any substance which could damage or interfere with the operation or maintenance of the fixture (261.11a).
- Possessing or leaving refuse, debris, or litter in an exposed or unsanitary condition (261.11b).
- Placing in or near a stream, lake, or other water any substance which does or may pollute a stream, lake or other water (261.11c).
- Failing to dispose of all garbage, including any paper, can, bottle, sewage, waste water or material, or rubbish either by removal from the site or area, or by depositing it into receptacles or at places provided for such purposes. (251.11d).
- Dumping of any refuse, debris, trash, or litter brought as such from private property or from land occupied under permit, except where a container, dump, or similar facility has been provided and is identified as such, to receive trash generated from private lands or lands occupied under permit (261.11e).
- Cleaning or washing any personal property, fish, animal, or food, or bathing or washing at a hydrant or water faucet not provided for that purpose (261.16c).
- Depositing any body waste except into receptacles provided for that purpose (261.16p).

Public Behavior:

- Engaging in fighting (261.4a).
- Addressing any offensive, derisive, or annoying communication to any other person who is lawfully present when such communication has a direct tendency to cause acts of violence by the person to whom, individually, the remark is addressed (261.4b).
- Make statements or other actions directed toward inciting or producing imminent lawless action and likely to incite or produce such action (261.4c).
- Causing public inconvenience, annoyance, or alarm by making unreasonably loud noise (261.4d).

Destruction of Property:

- Cutting or otherwise damaging any timber, tree, or other forest product, except as authorized by permit, timber sale contract, Federal law or regulation (261.6a).
- Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States (261.9a).
- Entering any building, structure, or enclosed area owned or controlled by the United States when such building, structure, or enclosed area is not open to the public (261.9e).
- Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any paleontological, prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact or property (261.9g).
- Removing any paleontological, prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact or property (261.9h).

Interfering with Forest Officer:

- Threatening, resisting, intimidating, or interfering with any forest officer engaged in or on account of the performance of his or her official duties in the protection, improvement, or administration of the National Forest System (261.3a).
- Giving any false, fictitious or fraudulent report or other information to any Forest Officer engaged in or on account of the performance of his official duties knowing that such report or other information contains false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry (261.3b)

Fireworks and Firearms:

- Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property: (1) In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area, or (2) across or on a Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge (3) Into or within any cave (261.10d).
- Discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework, or explosive (261.16d).

Fire:

- Building, attending, maintaining or using a fire outside a fire ring provided by the Forest Service for such purpose or outside a stove, grill, or fireplace (261.16b).
- Carelessly or negligently throwing or placing any ignited substance or other substance that may cause a fire (261.5a).
- Firing any tracer bullet or incendiary ammunition. (261.5b).
- Causing timber, trees, slash, brush or grass to burn except as authorized by permit. (261.5c).
- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it. (261.5d).
- Causing and failing to maintain control of a fire that is not a prescribed fire that damages the National Forest System.(261.5e).
- Building, attending, maintaining, or using a campfire without removing all flammable material from around the campfire adequate to prevent its escape.(261.5f).
- Negligently failing to maintain control of a prescribed fire on Non-National Forest System lands that damages the National Forest System.(261.5g).

Business Activities:

- Selling or offering for sale any merchandise, conducting any kind of work activity or service unless authorized by Federal law, regulation, or permit (261.10c)
- Commercial distribution of printed material without a special use authorization. (261.10g).

Operation of Vehicles:

- It is prohibited to possess or operate a motor vehicle on National Forest System lands on the Eldorado National Forest other than in accordance with the designated system of roads and trails (261.13). See free Motor Vehicle Use map for designated routes.
- Placing a vehicle or other object in such a manner that it is an impediment or hazard to the safety or convenience of any person (261.10f).
- Failing to stop a vehicle when directed to do so by a Forest Officer (261.10m).
- Damaging and leaving in a damaged condition any such road, trail, or segment thereof. (261.12c)
- Blocking, restricting, or otherwise interfering with the use of a road, trail, or gate. (261.12d)
- It is prohibited to use a motorized vehicle on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail without a special-use authorization. (261.20)

National Forest Wilderness.

- Possessing or using a motor vehicle, motorboat or motorized equipment except as authorized by Federal Law or regulation.(261.18a)
- Possessing or using a hang glider or bicycle. (261.18b)
- Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up of any material, supplies, or person by means of aircraft, including a helicopter. (261.18c)

Audio Devices:

- Operating or using in or near a campsite, developed recreation site, or over an adjacent body of water without a permit, any device which produces noise, such as a radio, television, musical instrument, motor or engine in such a manner and at such a time so as to unreasonably disturb any person (261.10i).
- Operating or using a public address system, whether fixed, portable, or vehicle mounted, in or near a campsite, developed recreation site, or over an adjacent body of water without a permit (261.10j).

Other Prohibited Acts

- Constructing, placing, or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure, fence, enclosure, communication equipment, or other improvement without a permit (261.10a).
- Use or occupancy of National Forest System land or facilities without special-use authorization when such authorization is required. (261.10k).
- Abandoning any personal property (261.10e).
- Violating any term or condition of a special-use authorization, contract or approved operating plan (261.10l).
- Removing any timber, tree or other forest product, except as authorized by a special-use authorization, timber sale contract, or Federal law or regulation. (261.6h)

Additional rules may be established at individual developed sites where determined necessary by the Regional Forester or the Forest Supervisor. Such rules will be established by an order that is posted in such locations and manner as to reasonably bring the prohibition to the attention of the public.

Definitions

The following definitions, which appear in 36 CFR 261.2, apply to all regulations quoted in this publication.

"Campfire" means a fire, not within any building, mobile home, or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle, which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial, or aesthetic purposes. "Fire" includes campfire.

"Camping" means the temporary use of National Forest System lands for the purpose of overnight occupancy without a permanently fixed structure.

"Camping equipment" means the personal property used is suitable for camping, and includes any vehicle used for transportation and all equipment in possession of a person camping. Food and beverages are not considered camping equipment.

"Damaging" means to injure, mutilate, deface, destroy, cut, chop, girdle, dig, excavate, kill, or in any way harm or disturb.

"Developed recreation site" means an area which has been improved or developed for recreation.

"Forest Officer" means an employee of the Forest Service.

"Person" means a natural person, corporation, company, partnership, trust, firm, or association of persons.

"Permission" means oral authorization by a Forest Officer.

"Permit" means authorization in writing by a Forest Officer.

"State Law" means the law of any state in whose exterior boundaries an act or omission occurs regardless of whether State law is otherwise applicable.

"Stove fire" means a campfire built inside an enclosed stove or grill, a portable brazier, or a pressurized liquid or gas stove, including a space-heating device.

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