



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Southwest
Region



Pacific Crest Trail

Pacific Southwest Region

Eldorado National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



The Trail

The Pacific Crest Trail National Scenic Trail extends 2,600 miles from Canada to Mexico. It passes through 23 National Forests, including several Wilderness areas, 7 National Parks, other federal lands, and numerous portions of state, local government and private lands.

In California the trail begins at the California-Oregon border south of Observation Peak in the Siskiyou Mountain Range and ends at the Mexican Border near Campo.

From the north, the Pacific Crest Trail enters the Eldorado National Forest in Desolation Wilderness. It continues south jogging back and forth between the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Toiyabe and Eldorado National Forests.

Designated access points are located at Norden on Interstate 80, Echo Lake on Highway 50, Carson Pass on Highway 88, and Ebbetts Pass on Highway 4.

The entire Pacific Crest Trail is closed to all types of vehicles, including bicycles.

Permits

A permit is not required on the Pacific Crest Trail as such, but a permit is required for travel through Wilderness and other special areas. A Campfire Permit is required for portable campstoves or for building campfires in wildlands. Check with the local areas to ensure that campfires are allowed. Many wilderness areas like Desolation Wilderness do not allow campfires.

Pacific Crest Trail permits are issued by the agency at which point the traveler enters the trail. Thus the Forest Service will issue permits for trips originating on National Forests, and the Park Service will issue permits for trips starting in National Parks. The permit will cover the entire trip. For trips originating on the Eldorado National Forest, Pacific Crest Trail permits may be obtained by contacting the Pacific Ranger District.

Travelers passing through the Desolation Wilderness on the Pacific Crest Trail are not subject to the quota system or a fee. Short trips with Desolation as the primary visited area is not considered a PCT permit and is subject to fees and quotas.

California Campfire Permits may be obtained at National Forest, Bureau of Land Management or California Department of Forestry offices. Please check locally before starting your trip to see if any special restrictions are in effect anywhere along your planned route.

Maps

Maps of National Forests and Wilderness Areas may be purchased from:

Pacific Ranger District
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
(530) 647-5415

Topographical maps of the area may be purchased from backpacking stores or from:

U.S. Geological Survey
Box 25286, Federal Center, Bldg. 801
Denver, CO 80225

You may write or visit in person at the:

U.S. Geological Survey
Western Mapping Center
345 Middlefield Road, Bldg. 3
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Or place a phone order at:

1- (800) USA-MAPS

Pacific Crest Trail Association

www.pcta.org
5325 Elkhorn Blvd. PMB#256
Sacramento, CA 95842
(916) 349-2109 (office) (916) 349-1268 (fax)

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USDA Forest Service Headquarters

Pacific Southwest Region

www.fs.fed.us/r5/
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 562-8737

Angeles National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles
701 North Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006
(626) 574-1613

Cleveland National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland
10845 Rancho Bernardo Road,
Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92127-2107
(858) 673-6180

Eldorado National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado
Pacific Ranger District
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
(530) 647-5415

Inyo National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 873-2400

Klamath National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath
1312 Fairlane Road
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-6131

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lbtmu
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-2600

Lassen National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen
2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-2151

Los Padres National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres
6755 Hollister Avenue, Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 968-6640

Mendocino National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino
825 N. Humboldt Ave.
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-3316

Modoc National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/modoc
800 West 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-5811

Plumas National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas
159 Lawrence Street
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-2050

San Bernardino National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino
602 South Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92408-3430
(909) 382-2600

Sequoia National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia
1839 South Newcomb St
Porterville, CA 93257-2035
(559) 784-1500

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 226-2500



Sierra National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611-0532
(559) 297-0706

Six Rivers National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sixrivers
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-1721

Stanislaus National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-3671

Tahoe National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe
631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA 95959-6003
(530) 265-4531

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/htnf
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431
(775) 331-6444

Yosemite National Park

www.nps.gov
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389
(209) 372-0200

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