

DINKEY WILDERNESS

Sierra National Forest



The California Wilderness Act of 1984 created the 30,000 acre Dinkey Lakes Wilderness. Dinkey Lakes lies immediately west of the John Muir Wilderness (the portion added in 1984) and is separated from the John Muir by the Dusy/Ershim off-highway vehicle route.

Most of the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness consists of timbered rolling terrain. Sixteen lakes are clustered in the west central region. Most of the wilderness is above 8,000 feet at the highest point. Three Sisters Peak, is 10,619 feet in elevation. Large meadows can be found in the north central region of the wilderness and along Helms Creek.

Dinkey Lakes Wilderness is well suited for stock travel, but natural feed is available only in the meadows north of First Dinkey Lake and in the vicinity of Nelson Lake. Stock parties must camp at least 500 feet from any lakeshore to protect water quality. Cattle grazing is a historical and continuing use of the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness.

How to Get There

Access into Dinkey Lakes Wilderness is via Kaiser Pass Road (north), Red/Coyote Jeep Road (west), Rock Creek Road (southwest), or Courtright Reservoir (southeast). The Wilderness is accessible generally from mid-June to late October.

Wilderness Permits and Trailhead Quotas

A wilderness visitor permit is required for all overnight trips into the wilderness. Trailhead quotas are in place year-round. For all trails, 60 percent of the trailhead quota is available through advanced reservations and 40 percent is available 24 hours prior to entry for walk-in customers, first come-first served. There is a \$5.00 non-refundable reservation fee for each person for all trails. There is a \$10.00

charge for any changes to a confirmed reservation. First come, first served permits are free of charge.

Group Size

Group size is limited to 15 people and 25 head of stock for overnight trips.

Proper Food Storage

Backcountry and wilderness users are required to store food or refuse in a manner designed to keep bears from gaining access to it. Visitors are encouraged to use bear-resistant food canisters to safeguard food. If a bear canister is not available, the counter-balance method of storing food is also an acceptable method.

Bear-Resistant Canisters

These portable containers are the only effective way for backpackers to store food in wilderness. Each canister weighs less than three pounds, fits in a full-sized backpack, and is capable of holding up to 3 to 5 day's worth of food for one person. When using the canister remember the following guidelines:

- Store all food, cosmetics, toothpaste, soap, and refuse in the canisters.
- At night or when you are way from camp, leave your empty pack on the ground with all pockets and flaps open.
- Put the canister 50 feet from your sleeping area.
- Leave the canister on the ground.
- Do not hang the canister from a tree.

Campfires

A campfire permit is included with your wilderness permit. No fires are permitted above 10,400 in elevation. Firewood is very scarce in the lakes region. Please keep fires small, when possible using existing fire rings and use only dead and down material.



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Sierra National Forest
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Leave No Trace

To practice **LEAVE NO TRACE**, follow these simple practices:

- Camp at least 100 feet away from water sources and trails.
- Bury human waste in a hole 6 to 8 inches deep and over 100 feet away from any water source.
- Use a stove for cooking and existing fire rings. Stay on the main trail and don't shortcut switchbacks.
- Pack out all trash, including paper and food scraps.
- Purify all water for human use.
- Use soap at least 100 feet away from any water source.

Trailhead Number	Trailhead Name	Daily Advanced Reservation	Daily Walk-In
D1	Badger	6	4
D2	Helms Mdw	6	4
D3	Cliff	12	8
D4	Nelson	6	4
D5	Willow Mdw	18	12
D6	Coyote	6	4

To Obtain a Wilderness Permit

To obtain a wilderness permit and for additional information contact:

High Sierra Ranger District

P.O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
(559) 855-5360
TDD/TTY California Relay Service 711

Sierra National Forest Website

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra

Trailhead Name and Quota

All Are Welcome

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