



Sierra National Forest
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**SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST
RECREATION REPORT
May 1, 2009**



www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra

General Summary

Most creeks and streams are now open for trout fishing (some exceptions do apply). For more information please visit California Department of Fish and Game website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>. Mammoth Pool Reservoir is now closed to fishing through June 15th due to the annual deer migration. This also includes all tributaries to a point 300 feet upstream from the Reservoir.

The Kaiser Pass Road is not expected to open until Memorial Day weekend.

Woodcutting season opened on April 1, 2009. A valid woodcutting permit does not guarantee access to road and areas which are closed for ground and weather conditions. For more information please contact the Sierra National Forest in Prather (559) 855-5355, North Fork (559) 877-2218, or Clovis (559) 297-0706. The fee for woodcutting permits is \$10.00 per cord, (with a two cord minimum) up to 10 cords.

Snow storms are predicted for the Sierra Nevada Mountains this weekend. As weather conditions can rapidly change, Forest visitor should be prepared. Check weather and conditions before traveling and be sure to pack tire chains when traveling through the Forest. For the most up-to-date road conditions, contact Cal-Trans at 1-800-427-ROAD (7623) or visit their website at: www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/.

Bears: Keep a clean vehicle and camp. Proper food storage is required. Never approach a bear. For more information visit <http://www.sierrawildbear.gov/>

Fire Restrictions: All fire restrictions have been lifted for the Sierra National Forest. All visitors should be extra careful with open flame fires. Please extinguish all fires before leaving your campsite.

Fishing: Most creeks and streams will open for fishing on the last weekend in April (some exceptions do apply). For more information please visit California Department of Fish and Game website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>. **Mammoth Pool will be closed to fishing and boating from May 1st to June 16th.**

Hunting: For more information about California hunting regulations please visit the California Department of Fish and Game website: www.dfg.ca.gov.

Off Highway Vehicle Routes: Most 4-WD routes with the exception of Bald Mountain and Miami Motorcycle area are closed for the season. State and Federal OHV rules; spark arrestors, safety equipment are enforced.

Road Conditions: Forest visitors should be prepared for changing winter weather conditions. Before you leave on your trip remember to 1) check the weather forecast, 2) leave an itinerary of travel plans with a responsible person, and 3) Take along extra food, articles of clothing, blankets, tire chains, flashlights etc.

Campfire Permits: Campfire permits are required outside of developed campgrounds. Campfire permits are available at all Forest Service offices and are free of charge.

Wilderness: Trailhead quotas are in effect May 1 through November 1. Wilderness Permits are required for all overnight stays. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance. Wilderness reservations may be made at any Forest Service Office. To download a wilderness application permit, please visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/wilderness/index.shtml. First come first serve wilderness permits may be obtained at Forest Service Offices up to one day prior to departure.

Dispersed Camping: Is allowed in the Sierra National Forest. (except in Huntington Lake Basin, Dinkey Creek recreation area, Bass Lake recreation area and the Merced River Canyon). Camp 100 feet from any water source and do not block any roadways. There is a maximum stay of 21 days per district per year. Please pack out what you pack in.

Visitor Information Centers: Eastwood (Huntington Lake), High Sierra (Kaiser Pass), Dinkey Creek and Clover Meadow are closed.

Firewood Cutting: To cut and gather firewood in the Sierra National Forest, you must obtain a woodcutting permit at one of the Sierra National Forest Offices: North Fork, Prather, Clovis, Oakhurst, or Mariposa. Permits are valid April 1, through November 30th.

HIGH SIERRA RANGER DISTRICT- Campgrounds

Fees: R = reservable, P = parking RV=Recreation Vehicle Sites * = Operated by Concessionaire NS=No services

Name	Status	No. Sites	Water	Toilets	R V	Fees*	Elev.	Comments
Badger Flat	Closed	15		Vault	X	\$	8200'	On Kaiser Pass Road
Billy Creek, Upper	Closed	44*	X	F/V	X	*\$R	7000'	Located at Huntington Lake Rd.
Billy Creek, Lower	Closed	13*	X	Vault	X	*\$R	7000'	Lakeside. Located at Huntington Lake
Black Rock	Open - NS	10	X	Vault	X	\$	4200'	
Bolsillo	Closed		X	Vault			7400'	Across from High Sierra Visitor Station
Bretz Mill	Open	10		Vault	X		3300'	Near Blue Canyon Work Ctr
Buck Meadow	Closed	10*	X	Vault		*\$	6800'	McKinley Grove Rd. near Wishon
Catavee	Closed	23*	X	Flush	X	*\$ R	7000'	Located at Huntington Lake
College	Closed	11*	X	F/V	X	*\$R	7000'	Located on Huntington Lake
Deer Creek	Closed	28*	X	Flush	X	*\$R	7000'	Located on Huntington Lake
Dinkey Creek	Closed	128	X	F/V	X	*\$R	7000'	
Dorabelle	Closed	68*	X	Vault	X	*\$R	7000'	Near town of Shaver on Dorabella Rd.
Gigantea	Closed	10*		Vault	X	*\$	6500'	On McKinley Grove Rd.
Jackass Mdw	Closed	30*	X	Vault	X	*\$R	7200'	Located below Florence Lake
Kinnikinnick	Closed	27*	X	Flush	X	*\$R	7000'	At Huntington Lake
Kirch Flat	Open - NS	17		Vault	X		1100'	On the Kings River
Lilly Pad	Closed	15	X	Vault	X	\$	6500'	Located at Wishon Reservoir
Marmot Rock	Closed	15	X	Vault		\$	8200'	Located Courtright Reservoir
Mono Creek	Closed	14*		Vault	X	*\$R	8200'	Located on the road to Edison Lake
Mono Hot Springs	Closed	26*	X	Vault	X	*\$R	6500'	Located on route to Edison Lake
Portal Forbay	Closed	11		Vault		*\$		Located about 12 miles up Kaiser Pass
Rancheria	Open-NS	140*	X	Vault	X	*\$R	7000'	Hwy 168 at Huntington Lake
Sample Mdw	Closed	16		Vault	X		7800'	Kaiser Pass
Sawmill Flats	Closed	15		Vault			6700'	from Black Rock Road
Swanson Meadow	Closed	8*		Vault	X	*\$	5600'	Located on Dinkey Creek Rd.
Trapper Springs	Closed	75	X	Vault	X	\$	8200'	Located at Courtright
Vermilion	Closed	31*	X	Vault	X	*\$R	7700'	Located at Edison Lake
Voyager Rock	Closed	14		Vault	X	\$	8200'	Located at Courtright Reservoir
Ward Lake	Closed	17*		Vault	X	*	7300'	Near Florence Lake
West Kaiser	Closed	8			X		5400'	Off of Stump Springs Road

Picnic Sites

Fees: R/P = reservable P = parking

Sites * = Operated by Concessionaire

Name	Status	Sites	Water	Toilets	Fee	Elev.	Comments
Bear Cove	Open	*18	X	Flush	*\$	7000'	Huntington Lake
Billy Creek	Closed	*7	X	Vault		7000'	West end of Huntington Lake
Dinkey Fisherman	Open	8	X	Vault		5700'	Off McKinley Grove Road
Dorabelle	Open	*5	X	Vault	*\$	5400'	In Dorabelle campground
Dowville	Open	*5		Vault		7000'	West end of Huntington Lake
Florence Lake	Closed	17	X	Vault		7400'	Near Florence Lake Resort
Huntington Lake Boat Launch	Open	*9		Vault	*\$	7000'	Huntington Lake
Kirch Flat	Open	*5		Vault		1100'	On Kings River
McKinleyGrove	Closed	10		Vault		6200'	Historical site and Nature trail.
Mono Creek	Closed	5		Vault		7400'	3 miles from Edison Lake
Wee-Mee-Kute	Closed	8		Vault		8300'	PG&E – Courtright Resv.

Current Road Conditions:

Status	Road	Comments
Open	Dinkey Creek Road	
Open	McKinley Grove Road	
Closed	Kaiser Pass Road	Closed for the winter season
Open	Stump Springs Road	
Open	Big Creek	
Open	Blackrock	
Closed	Courtright	Courtright road will remain closed with the gate up and locked. Some snow still needs to melt on the road and there's still several feet of snow at the boat ramp parking area.

Lower Chiquito	Closed	7*		Vault	X	\$	4900'	On Chiquito Creek
Lupine Cedar	Open	113*	X	Flush	X	\$R	3500'	Bass Lake - Open Year Round
Mammoth Pool	NS	47	X	Vault	X	\$R	3600'	
Nelder Grove Camp & Picnic	Closed	7		Vault	X	None	5500'	8 miles on Sky Ranch Rd
Placer	NS	8*		Vault		\$	4100'	On Chiquito Creek
Recreation Pt	Closed	4*	X	Flush		\$R	3500'	Bass Lake, across from Visitor Station, baseball /volleyball area & amphitheater
Redinger Lake	Open	5		Vault	X	None	1400'	NO Open FIRES ; boat launch
Rock Creek	NS	18*	X	Vault	X	\$R	4300'	
Soda Springs	NS	18*		Vault	X	\$	4300'	Along Scenic Byway
Soquel	Closed	11*		Vault	X	\$R	5400'	8 mi from Hwy 41
Spring Cove	Closed	63*	X	Flush	X	\$R	3500'	Bass Lake
Summit	Closed	6*		Vault		None	5800'	8 miles from highway 49
Sweetwater	NS	7*		Vault	X	\$R	3800'	On Chiquito Creek
Summerdale	Closed	30*	X	Vault	X	\$R	5000'	1 mi. north of Fish Camp, Hwy 41
Texas Flat Group	Closed	4*		Vault	X	\$R	5400'	From Hwy 41 12 mi. on Sky Ranch Rd, horse corral
Upper Chiquito	Closed	20*		Vault	X	None	6800'	East Fork of Chiquito Creek
Whiskers	Closed	8*		Vault	X	\$	5300'	Primitive camping
Whisky Falls	Closed	14		Vault	X	None	5800'	Scenic Whisky Creek
Wishon Point	Closed	47*	X	Flush	X	\$R	3500'	Bass Lake

Picnic Sites Fees: R/P = reservable P = parking Sites * = Operated by Concessionaire

Name	Status	Sites	Water	Toilet	Fees	Elev.	Comments
Cranberry Launch/Picnic	Open	*6		Vault	*\$	1600'	Merced River, Hwy 140, Day Use Only
Denver Church Falls	Closed	28*	X	Flush		\$P	Bass Lake
Indian Flat	Open	*6	X	Flush	*\$	3500'	North shore of Bass Lake
Lakeside	Open	*10		Vault	*\$	1500'	Merced River, Hwy 140, Day Use Only
Little Denver Church	Closed	*5	X	Flush	*\$	3500'	Bass Lake
McClendon Beach	Closed	*7	X	Flush	*\$	3500'	Bass Lake
Mile High	Open	*7		Vault			Day Use Only, Merced River
Pine Point	Open	*2		Vault		5300'	Scenic overlook, Day Use Only
Pine Slope	Open	*9	X	Flush	*\$	3500'	Bass Lake
Recreation Point Group Picnic	Open	*9	X	Flush	*\$	3500'	Bass Lake
Red Bud	Closed	*3	X	Flush	*\$3.00 P	3500'	Bass Lake- Across from Visitor Station.
Rocky Point	Open	*9		Vault	*\$	1500'	Merced River, Hwy 140 Day Use Only.
Westfall	Closed	*8	X	Vault		3500'	Bass Lake, Spring Cove Hiking Trail
Willow Cove	Open	*4		Vault		4500'	Along Hwy 41, So. of Fish Camp
Windy Point	Closed	*3	X			3500'	North Shore of Bass Lake
Wishon Point Boat Launch	Open			Vault		3400'	West of Mammoth Pool
	Open	*7	X	Flush		3500'	Bass Lake, boat & trailer parking, some picnic sites, no fee for launching boats,

Forest Roads:

Status	Roads	Comments
Open	Beasore (FR 7) From Bass Lake	Open to Poison Mdw.
Closed	Beasore (from Minarets Road)	Closed by snow
Open	Central Camp	From Road 274 to Graham Mdw.
Open	Minarets Road (FR 81)	Open to Road 6S25 to Mammoth Pool
Closed	Grizzly Road (FR 6S01)	Closed by gate
Closed	Peckinpah-Whiskey Falls (FR 8S09)	Closed by gate
Open	Sky Ranch Road (6S10X)	Open to Gooseberry Flat

OHV Routes:

Status	OHV Routes	Comments
Open	Hite Cove 4x4	Open
Open	Miami Motorcycle Area	Stay on trails
Closed	Iron Lake Route	Closed
Closed	Star Lake Route	Closed
Closed	Red Top Route	Closed

Closed	Green Mtn/Cattle Mtn. Routes	Closed
Closed	Shuteye Peak Route	Closed

Hiking Trails:

Status	Trails	Comments
Closed	French Trail	Follows San Joaquin River from Redinger Lake to Mammoth Pool & into the Ansel Adams Wilderness
Closed	Fresno Dome	Closed
Open	Goat Mtn. Trail	Caution: Poison Oak
Open	Hite Cove Hiking	Open at Savages Trading Post from Hwy 140
Open	Lewis Creek	3.7 miles, along Hwy 41, 5 mi. north of Oakhurst.
Closed	Nelder Grove Trails	Giant Sequoia Grove
Closed	Shadow of the Giants National Recreation Trail	Open 1 mile loop, self-guided interpretive trail.
Open	Savage Lundy Hiking	From Jerseydale – access below Hite Cove 4X4 Trail
Open	Way-of-the-Mono	Across from Denver Church Day Use Area; 1/2 mile self-guided trail. Trailhead
Open	Willow Creek	Angel Falls – great caution advised-rocks extremely slippery

Forest Service Offices:

Bass Lake Ranger District Office (North Fork)

559-877-2218

TTY: California Relay Service 711 (Hearing impaired)

Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

57003 Road 225

North Fork, CA 93643

Forest Service Visitor Center-Oakhurst - Open Tuesday to Saturday. Hours 8:30 -5:00pm

Mariposa Station

Forest Service Visitor Center - Open Tuesday to Saturday. Hours 8:30 to 5:00 pm

Clover Meadow Office - Closed for the Season

Community Visitor Centers

Yosemite Sierra Visitor Bureau (Oakhurst)

559-683-4636

Hours: Monday thru Saturday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

41969 Highway 41

Oakhurst, CA 93644

Mariposa Interagency Visitor Center (Mariposa)

209-966-7081

Hours: Monday thru Saturday 8:00am to 5:00pm

5158 Highway 140

Mariposa, CA 95338