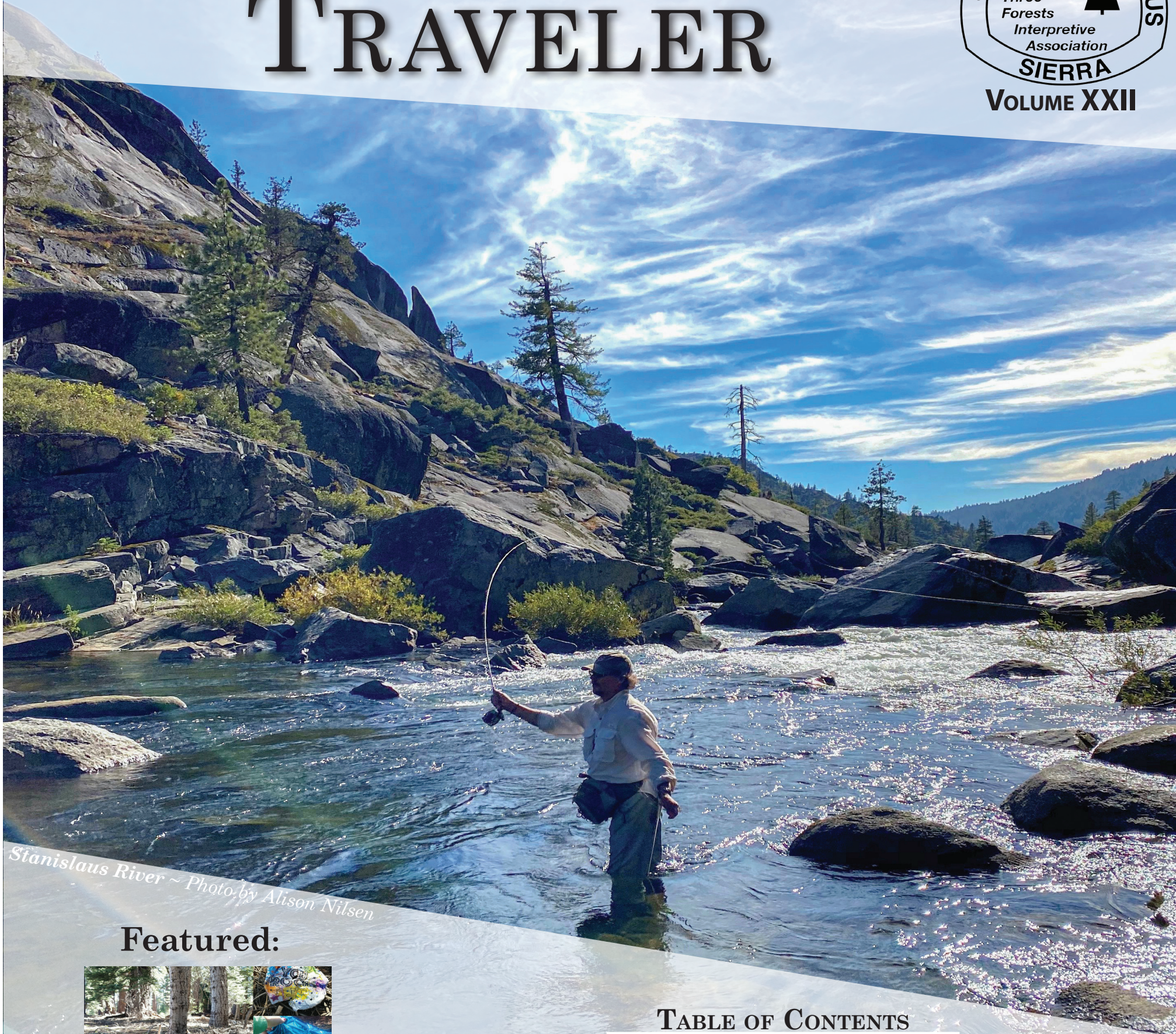


STANISLAUS TRAVELER

A VISITOR'S GUIDE
TO THE STANISLAUS
NATIONAL FOREST



Stanislaus River ~ Photo by Alison Nilsen

Featured:



*Caring for the forest page 16
Tips on how YOU can help
care for the forest!*

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Welcome to the Forest!

Message from Forest Supervisor - Jason Kuiken



Forest Supervisor - Jason Kuiken

Welcome to the Stanislaus National Forest! Founded in 1897, the Stanislaus is one of the oldest designated forests in the National Forest system. It was named for the Stanislaus River whose headwaters rise within the Forest boundaries.

There really is something for everyone on this beautiful landscape. Want to hike? There are more than 1,000 miles of trails. Want to go fishing? There are more than 811 miles of streams and rivers. And if relaxing appeals to you, there are 78 lakes to enjoy. World class fishing, mountain biking, swimming, and camping are all opportunities awaiting your next adventure.

While you are recreating on the Forest you may very well come across some of our crews working on the Forest's resiliency project. The Forest Service has undertaken a 10-year strategy to reduce the risk of wildfire across the western United States and the Stanislaus National Forest is at the forefront of that plan. Over the next ten years the Forest is looking to treat more than 245,000 acres. Treatment methods include mastication, mechanical thinning, hand thinning, and prescribed fire. It is known that in some situations smoke from prescribed fire may be present and ask that you understand that for us to bring the forest back to a healthy state, it will, at times, be a necessity. I cannot stress enough our appreciation for your understanding in the efforts to bring resiliency back to the forest.

Thank you for visiting the Stanislaus National Forest, I hope you have a wonderful and safe experience while you are here. America's public lands are a treasure for all of us and it is our promise to the American people to make as many opportunities to visit your public lands as is possible.

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

Caring for the Land, Serving the People

Contact Us

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370
Phone: 209-532-3671
TDD: 209-533-0765

GROVELAND RANGER

DISTRICT

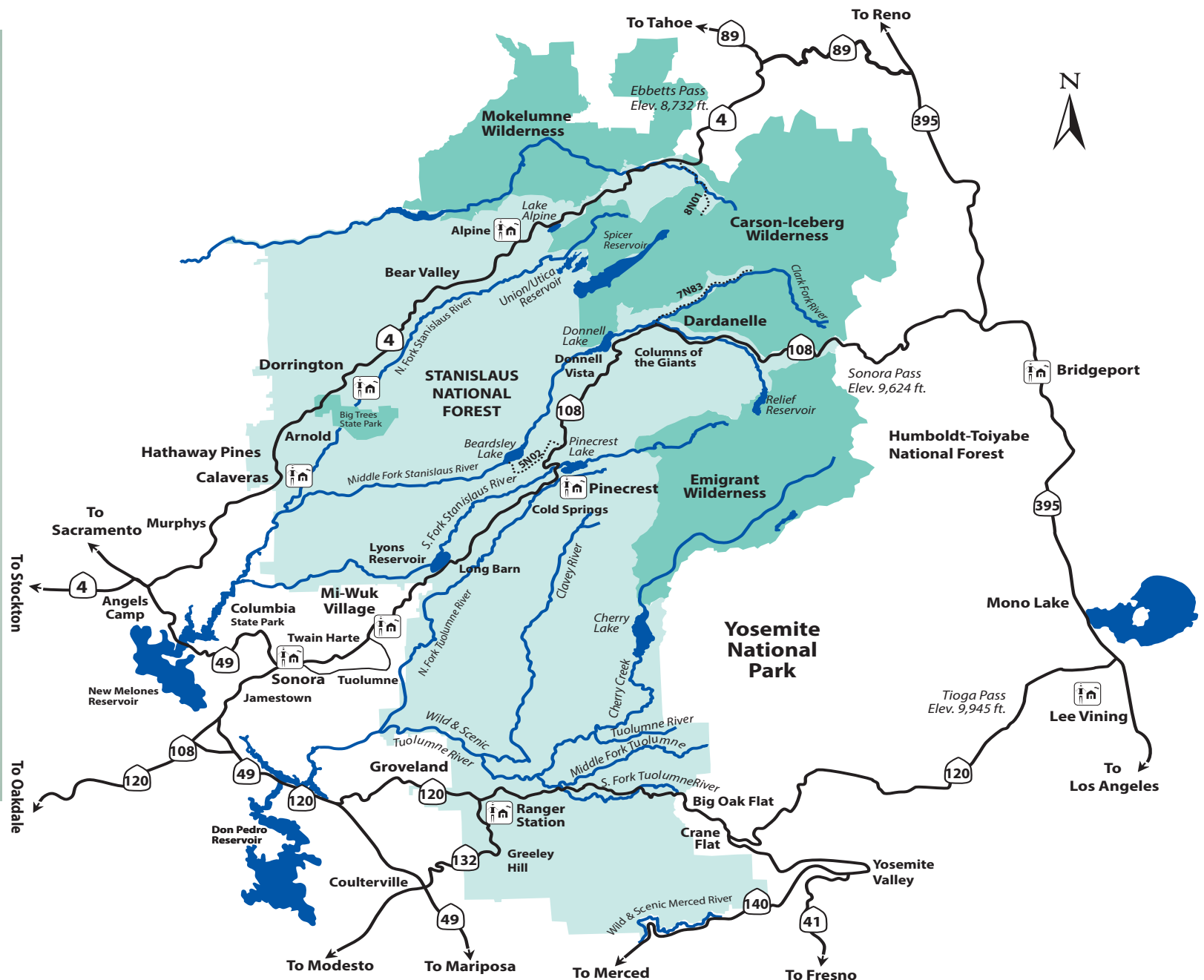
24545 Highway 120
Groveland, CA 95321
Phone: 209-962-7825
TDD: 209-962-6406

SUMMIT RANGER DISTRICT

#1 Pinecrest Lake Road
Pinecrest, CA 95364
Phone: 209-965-3434
TDD: 209-965-0488

CALAVERAS RANGER DISTRICT

P. O. Box 500, 5519 Highway 4
Hathaway Pines, CA 95233
Phone: 209-795-1381



Safety & Volunteer Information

Safety Message from The Forest Supervisor

Before you begin your adventures, I would encourage each of you to refresh yourself on the Leave No Trace and Recreate Responsibly principles that help ensure you have a safe, and wonderful visit. Please keep in mind this is a wild environment, so be sure to do an honest assessment of your abilities before you head out into the woods.

Know before you go – Conditions in the Forest can change rapidly especially during the early spring and late fall seasons and at our higher elevations. Check your local forecasts and ensure you've packed appropriate clothing. Make sure someone knows where you're going and when you intend to return.

Plan and prepare – Some of the campgrounds require reservations. If you're venturing into one of the designated Wilderness areas, you'll need to get a permit from one of the ranger stations. Call ahead for information about current conditions.

Respect others – You may like music on your hike, but not everyone does. Please help ensure everyone has an enjoyable experience on the forest.

Pack it in, pack it out – This is a particularly important issue to me. Over the last several years the Forest has seen an incredibly disappointing upswing in the amount of litter at the campsites and recreation areas. Please do your part and ensure whatever trash you generate while on the Forest is packed out.

And finally – I need to stress the importance of ensuring your campfires are not only out, but dead out. More than 80 percent of all wildfires are human caused and our prevention staff works incredibly hard.



Photo by Skye Donaldson

Tryon Meadow with Folger Peak



Emigrant Meadow



Photo by Margaret Willits

Thirteen Mile Creek

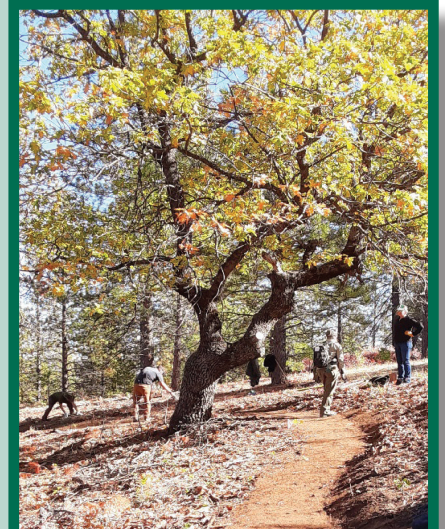
Photo by Ash Gelhaus



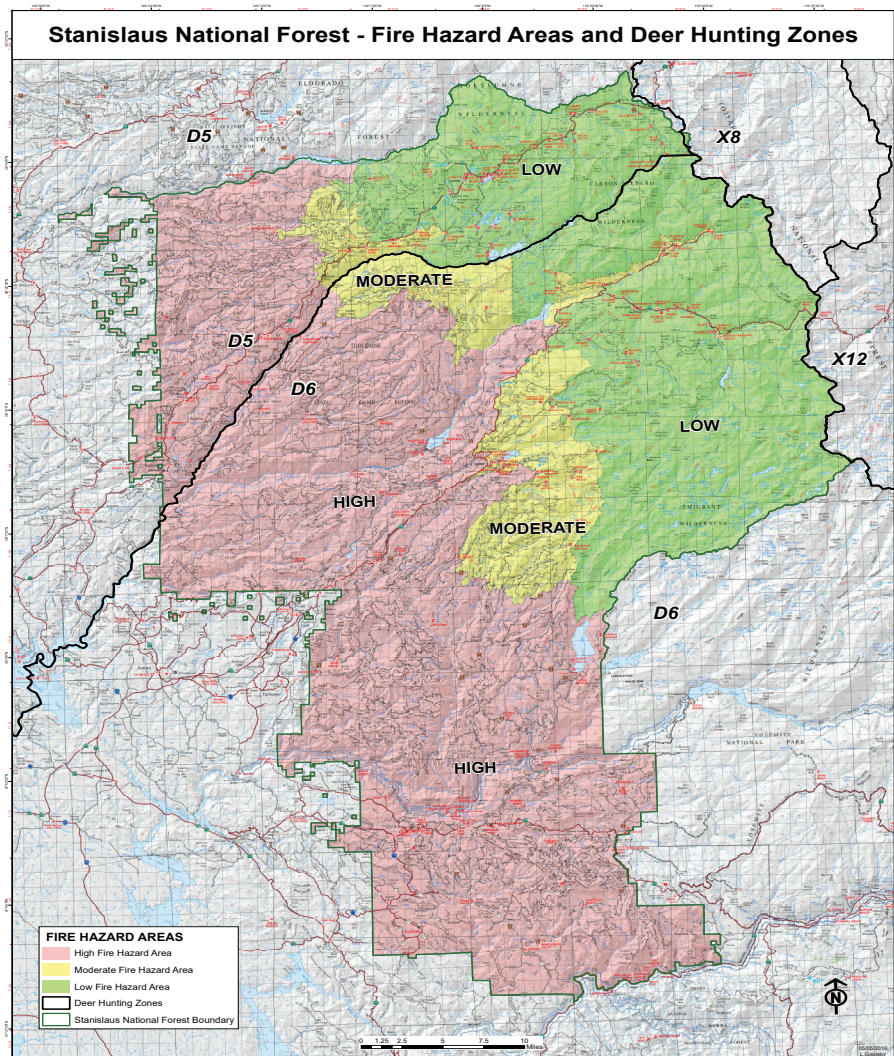
If you love the Stanislaus National Forest and all the beauty it encompasses, consider volunteering with the Forest Service and helping us to keep the forest healthy and clean! Volunteers and partners can contribute to a wide variety of tasks on the Stanislaus National Forest. This includes managing campgrounds, building and maintaining trails, interacting with the public at our Ranger Stations, assisting with reforestation efforts, conducting plant and wildlife surveys, citizen science projects, and much more!

2022 was a great year for getting back to a sense of community and teamwork as many successful projects were completed with the overall goal of caring for our ecosystems and enhancing recreational opportunities. Overall, 1,286 volunteers contributed over 20,500 hours of service! And those numbers continue to grow as we look forward to another successful year in 2023. Be a part of the cause and sign up to volunteer on the Stanislaus today!

Please visit <https://forestservicestewardship.org/volunteers/> to learn more about volunteering with the Forest Service and reach out to your local Ranger District about current volunteer opportunities.



Fire Restriction Information



Fire Restrictions

Fire Restrictions help land management agencies reduce fire risk and prevent wildfires during periods of high or extreme fire danger. There are different levels of fire restrictions based on how likely a wildfire is to start. These restrictions change throughout the year. There are **Low, Moderate, and High** hazard areas in the forest based on elevation. These areas may have differing fire restrictions.

No Restrictions: Please be safe with fire in the Forest.

Permit Required: For campfires, grills, stoves, lanterns, tiki torches, candles, mosquito coils, anything with a flame, spark, or ember a campfire permit is required.

Fire Restrictions: No wood fires and no charcoal fires. Gas grills and stoves are okay with a permit.

Further Restrictions by Forest Order: No wood fires, no charcoal fires, no gas grills, no stoves, no smoking, no target shooting, no power equipment, area closures... to list a few.

Most Restrictive: The Forest is closed to all use. If you still want to camp, you'll have

FOR CURRENT FIRE RESTRICTIONS VISIT:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/stanislaus/home>



Fire Restrictions and
Campfire Permit
Information



Fire Restriction Map



What ARE Fire Restrictions?

National Forests use fire restrictions to help prevent unwanted, human-caused fires during periods of potentially dangerous fire conditions. Forest Supervisors and the Regional Forester use specific and measurable criteria to determine when to implement restrictions. Criteria include current and predicted weather, fuel moisture measurements, fire activity levels, and available firefighting resources. Each Forest has its own specific criteria that is dependent on its unique location and environment. Region wide restrictions can be implemented but are rare. Restrictions are temporary and fluctuate with the hazardous conditions that allow for extreme and dangerous fire growth.

How do I know if fire restrictions are in effect?

- Check the Forest website or the Ranger Station for the Forest Order with current restriction information.
- Even if you do not read or notice fire restriction signs, you will be cited for having an illegal campfire, a charcoal BBQ, or smoking in an area that doesn't have 5-foot bare mineral dirt all the way around.

Where do fire restrictions apply?

- On Federal land where you are dispersed camping, which is anywhere outside of designated campgrounds and day use areas.
- Some sites are exempt from fire restrictions and will be found listed on the Forest Order.

Why are there high, moderate, and low fire hazard areas on the Stanislaus National Forest?

- The Stanislaus National Forest has three different Fire Hazard Areas that are based roughly on elevation.
- The high fire hazard area is at the lowest elevation, the moderate fire hazard is at middle elevation, and low fire hazard areas are at the highest elevations in the forest.

If it rains while fire restrictions are in place, why can't I have a fire?

- Fire restrictions have criteria for when the restriction ends.
- Multiple factors are considered when implementing fire restrictions, these same factors are measured and considered to end fire restrictions.
- One rain event is not enough moisture to increase moisture absorbed in the fuel loads and decrease fire danger.

Do Fire Restrictions work?

The 2022 Fire season was devastating for the West, but on the Stanislaus National Forest, we did have very few fires that escalated in complexity. Overall, we had 11.7 acres total burn on Federal land. Of that, 7.4 acres were due to Human causes and 4.3 were naturally caused (Lightning). Compared to the 2021 Fire Season where the Stanislaus saw 422.5 acres charred due to human causes, we saw a huge improvement in 2022 (or was it luck? Or quick responses, hmm?). Our most common (and frustrating) human caused wildfires are still **ILLEGAL CAMPFIRES**. With your help, we can do better. We will all benefit. We CAN do something to prevent wildfires, YOU can do something to prevent Wildfires, "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" isn't just a catchy message, it's a fact.

Fire Safety


Message From Fire Prevention and Smokey Bear:

We need you to prevent wildfires! We all enjoy being in the great outdoors and enjoying time with friends and family around a campfire. However, having a campfire is a great responsibility! Before considering having a fire, please make sure to acquire a campfire permit, have a bucket, and a shovel available for use. Always, use an existing campfire ring, and make sure you have a big bucket of water near your fire. If there is no water nearby – don't have a fire! When you are done with your campfire for the evening you need to follow these easy steps: Drown, Stir, and Feel. Cautiously, use the back of your hand to feel the bed of coals. Is it still hot? Drown, Stir, and Feel again until it is completely cold and you don't feel any heat.


Also, it is important to know that every summer, Fire Prevention Officers are on patrol looking for smoke and potential fire starts. They are on the lookout for smoldering campfires, escaped campfires, and lightning fires. Fire Prevention Officers are on alert all year for any source of smoke. If you see a fire start call 9 – 1 – 1.





We do have good news to report and we want to thank you – the Forest Visitor! In the summer of 2022 in the Stanislaus National Forest, we only had 11.7 acres of Forest burn from escaped campfires. This is a significant improvement from years past. Out of that, 7.4 acres were human caused and 4.3 acres were caused by lightning. It is up to all of us to do our part in ensuring we are safe with fire and we don't start a wildfire by being careless. Keep up your good work of putting out your campfires, and by reporting any potential fires to emergency personnel. We thank you and Smokey Bear thanks you!





CAMPFIRE SAFETY



 <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">LEARN</h2> <p>Check local offices, bulletin boards, websites and visitor centers for current fire restrictions.</p>	 <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">DROWN</h2> <p>Drown the campfire ashes with lots of water. Don't take chances - USE A LOT!</p>	 <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">STIR</h2> <p>Stir the remains, add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been put out cold.</p>	 <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">FEEL</h2> <p>Feel materials with your bare hand. If it is hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!</p>
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WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS:

You may not plan on a wildfire interfering with your visit to the National Forest, but you should always be prepared. Know your way out. If a wildfire starts while you're in the forest.....

DON'T BE L.A.T.E. TO EVACUATE!

- **L**ocate family, pets, and belongings in that order. Things are replaceable, people are not.
- **A**lert others of the danger if you can do so without further endangering yourself. Activate emergency services, call 911.
- **T**ravel safely. A car accident can cause injury or death and will delay wildfire response.
- **E**vacuate before it's too late.



Wilderness

A Message From The Emigrant Wilderness:

Wilderness Areas have experienced a large increase in visitation recently and at times feels to be congested with too many people. These designated areas exist for many purposes and one of them is to experience outstanding opportunities of solitude. This opportunity can be found and created with some individual efforts. As a visitor into Wilderness, you may be able to renew your spirit through self-reflection and perhaps find your meaning to existence from having a solitude experience. With this in mind, make the effort to use all your bodily senses to become immersed into the Wilderness environment. Make a conscious effort to find a quiet place away from others and keep your sounds to a minimum so others can experience solitude. Listen for the sounds of the wind, the rushing rivers and babbling creeks, the birds, and the quiet surroundings. Observe the colors of blue sky, green trees, clear water, and granite gray landscapes. Stop and smell the sweet scents of wildflowers and mountain air. Taste all the flavors of fresh, crisp, filtered mountain water. Touch the natural world with your hands and feel your surroundings from deep within. With a little bit of effort, you may go home feeling a little bit better about yourself and life, and have a greater appreciation for Wilderness.

Yours truly, Emigrant Wilderness



Photo By Brent Pettey

What is Wilderness?

Wilderness is special land, designated by Congress to provide the American people opportunities to experience undeveloped lands which retain their primeval character and are mainly shaped by the forces of nature. Here, visitors can experience solitude while engaging in simple recreation that leaves the area preserved for future generations. Visiting Wilderness takes effort and requires a higher level of self-reliance inherent in these remote, wild areas. The reward is that visitors are taken back to a time when transportation consisted of horses or our own two feet, when motorized equipment was absent, when natural sounds prevailed, and when the forces of nature dominated the landscape.

Help Keep Wilderness Wild!

- Learn and practice Leave No Trace principles.
- Learn and follow wilderness regulations.
- Participate in a wilderness stewardship project with the Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers.



For more information about this outstanding group of citizens visit:
stanislauswildernessvolunteers.org

Why are there Wilderness Regulations?

Regulations are in place to keep Wilderness wild, focusing on preventing environmental degradation from human activities such as camping too close to water or collecting firewood in fragile alpine environments. Other regulations exist to help ensure an outstanding experience for visitors to Wilderness. As a result, group size is limited to 15 people and activities such as target shooting, use of motorized equipment, or riding mountain bikes are strictly prohibited. The back of your Wilderness permit includes a complete list of regulations.



Do You Need a Permit?

Permits are required, but free, for all overnight trips into Wilderness on the Stanislaus National Forest. Getting a permit gives you a chance to connect with our staff about current conditions and Wilderness regulations for the area you plan to visit. Your permit also plays a vital role in the Forest's ability to manage Wilderness for all to enjoy. If your Wilderness plan includes **leaving the Stanislaus boundaries**, you'll need to call us for a permit. Otherwise, Wilderness permits can be obtained at select trailheads, at our ranger stations, or in the self issue kiosk at the Ranger Station after hours. The **self-issue** permits are **not** valid for the Pacific Crest Trail, Yosemite Wilderness, or the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest trails. For Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest (Leavitt Meadow, etc.) permits can be obtained through Recreation.gov.

Featured Trails:

Coyote Meadows Trailhead to Cooper Meadow, Emigrant Wilderness

From Highway 108, turn onto 4N12 Herring Creek Road towards Herring Creek Campground in about 2.4 miles. From the campground follow Forest Road 4N12 and continue for 4.4 miles to junction with 5N67, make a right and continue for another mile to Coyote Meadows Trailhead. A sign identifies the start of the trail.

Waterhouse Lake, Emigrant Wilderness

From Highway 108, turn onto 4N12 Herring Creek Road towards Herring Creek Campground in about 2.4 miles. From the campground follow Forest Road 4N12 and continue for 2.6 miles to junction with 5N31, make a right and continue for another 1/2 mile to Waterhouse Trailhead. A sign identifies the start of the trail.

Clark Fork Trailhead to Boulder Lake, Carson-Iceberg Wilderness

From Highway 108, turn onto Clark Fork Road and drive to the end of the road in 9 miles. Parking is along the road and the trail starts to the right and traverses along the Clark Fork Creek.

Recreating in the Forest

Hiking & Backpacking: Hike trails and see spectacular vistas, unique geological formations, wildflowers, sparkling lakes, and countless miles of streams and rivers. Some of the nation's most spectacular sights await you in the backcountry. If you will be staying in the Wilderness overnight be sure to stop at a Ranger Station to get your Wilderness permit!



Fishing: The rivers, creeks, and lakes in the Stanislaus National Forest abound with Rainbow, Brown, and Brook trout. This offers fishing enthusiasts a first-rate rod-and-reel experience, with an extraordinarily spectacular alpine setting as an additional lure. The trout fishing season begins the last Saturday in April and runs through November 15th. A license is required. Several lakes in the region are open to fishing year-round.



Horse Riding & Camping: See the Sierra the way the settlers saw it -by horseback. Enjoy the quiet and solitude for a half-hour or a week-long packing trip. Lower elevation riding and camping is available on the Mi-Wok and Groveland Ranger Districts. Higher elevation riding and camping is available on the Summit and Calaveras Ranger Districts.



Bicycling: There are excellent mountain biking opportunities on trails and roads within the Forest that will lead you on an adventure. Beginners can ride on scenic paved or gravel roads with flat to moderately steep terrain, while intermediate to advanced riders can enjoy more challenging, steeper grades. Riders are welcome on most National Forest roads as well as trails outside of the Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River corridor and designated Wilderness areas.



Flat Water Kayaking, Canoeing, & Sailing: Alpine lakes fed by melting winter snows are paradise for water sports enthusiasts. Grabbing whatever paddle rocks your boat, you will find plenty of pristine, high mountain lakes for your enjoyment.



Photo by Preston Gelhaus

White Water Boating: White water enthusiasts might consider a trip on the North Fork of the Stanislaus River or a journey down the Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River. Both of these rivers offer an exciting adventure through enchanting forests, rich in Native American and Gold Rush history along with abundant wildlife.



Off-Highway Vehicles: Many excellent off-road opportunities exist on National Forest lands for the OHV enthusiast. Trails for motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles are available, as well as hundreds of miles of unpaved roads suitable for street-legal 4WD vehicles. Motor vehicles are allowed only on designated routes and cross-country travel is prohibited. Some routes are open year-round while other routes are open April 15 to Dec. 15. Free user guidelines and route maps are available at all Ranger Stations as well as online: www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus



Campgrounds: Forty-nine campgrounds provide 1,514 campsites for visitors. The number of people allowed in a single campsite is six. All campgrounds offer vault or flush toilets, tables, and grills or a fire ring. Most offer potable water, but check your destination to be sure. Most campgrounds are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.



Reservable Campgrounds: **Calaveras District:** Spicer Group, Big Meadow Group, Lodgepole Group, Lake Alpine, Silver Tip, Silver Valley, Pine Marten. **Summit District:** Pinecrest, Pioneer Trail Group. **Groveland District:** Dimond O, Lost Claim, Cherry Valley, Pines Group. Visit www.recreation.gov to reserve your spot. Check the highway corridor pages for information on who to call for reservations.

Dispersed Camping: (No Facilities) To “get away from it all” try car camping in an area with no facilities and no fees. The advantages to this type of camping include solitude, quiet, and adventure. You will need to bring your own water or treat water you collect. Camp at least 100 feet from water sources. With no toilet facilities, bury human waste in a six-inch hole 200 feet away from trails, water, and other campers. Pack out used toilet paper with your garbage. If you have a campfire or use a camp stove, you'll need a free campfire permit available at www.preventwildfireCA.org. Do not burn plastics, metal, or any trash. Please leave the area in as good (or better) condition than you found it. Often, locations destroyed by thoughtless campers must be closed to restore the area's natural health. Help ensure your favorite area remains open.



Pacific Valley Campground

Campfire Wood & Other Forest Products: Campfire wood is available free of charge in forested areas below 9,000 feet, only dead wood lying on the ground may be collected or cut for campfire wood. You can use a chainsaw if the saw has a spark arrestor with screen openings of .23 inches or less. You will need a permit to take firewood home. This program allows you to collect a maximum of 10 cords annually from April 15th until Dec. 15th. Obtain a permit or information at one of the Ranger Stations. Help stop the spread of invasive pests by leaving firewood at home - do not transport it to campgrounds or parks. The forest also has other permitted programs that allow visitors to take mushrooms, ferns, and pinecones. Call a Ranger Station to learn more about forest products permits!



Pets on the Forest: Your pets are welcome to accompany you during your visit. However, they **MUST be leashed in Tuolumne County**, in accordance with Tuolumne County leash laws. In Calaveras and Alpine counties, pets must be under immediate control or on a leash. These regulations protect the health and safety of visitors and wildlife. Pick up after your pets, especially around high use areas. NO dogs are allowed in Pinecrest day use area May 15 - Sept. 15.



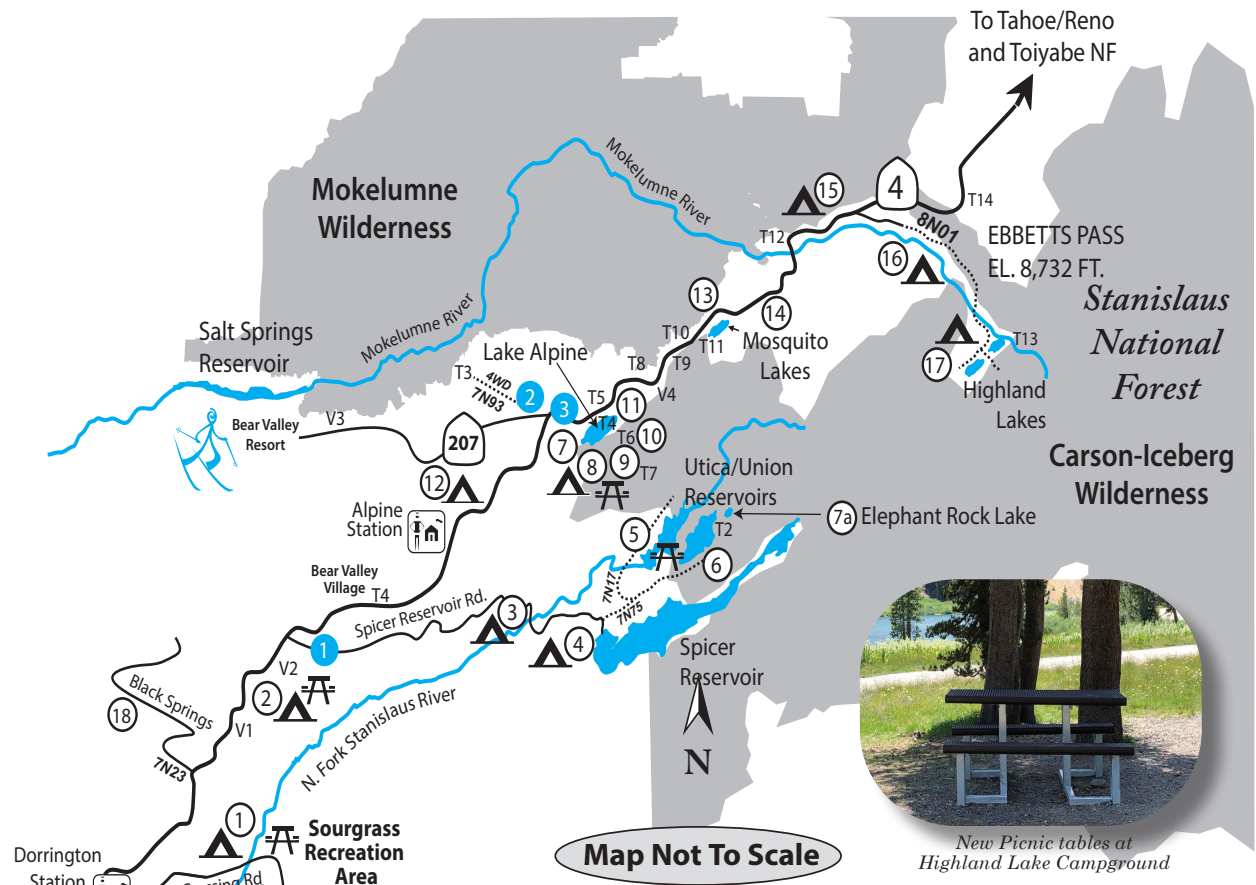
Dogs enjoying a hike at Trail of the Gargoyles

Highway 4 Recreation Opportunities

Campground and Day Use Area Improvements – Complete by 2026!

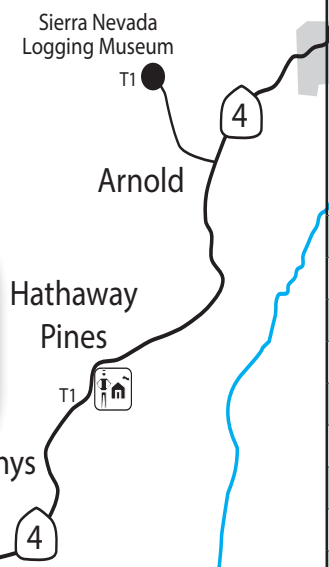
The Great American Outdoors Act and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act have provided the funding for the following improvements:

- New wells at upper Highland Lakes, Union/ Utica Reservoirs, Cherry Lake Reservoir.
- Upgraded water systems at Big Meadow and Waka Lu Hep Yo campgrounds.
- New vault toilets at Highland Lakes, Pacific Valley, Utica Sandy Flat, Utica Rocky Point, Union East, Hermit Valley, Grouse Flat, Stanislaus River, Mosquito Lakes, Sand Flat, Lodgepole, Cascade Creek, Hacienda, Fence Creek, Silver Tip, and Sweet Water campgrounds. Also Rim of the World, Crabtree, Sonora Pass, Cottonwood and Sourgrass day use areas.
- New picnic tables at Marmot Day Use, Stanislaus River, Union East, Union West, Utica Rocky Point, Utica Sandy Flat. Highland Lakes is getting snow load rated tables.
- New food lockers at nearly every campsite on the Calaveras Ranger District.
- Lake Alpine Amphitheater rehabilitation.



Ranger Programs & Activities

For program information visit:
fs.usda.gov/stanislaus
 Click on Recreation then
 Click on Outdoor Learning
 or
3forests.com/stanislaus



SNO-Parks provide a safe place for people to park and access the forest for sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Groomed snowmobile trails are also provided during winter months. Sno-Park Permits are required Nov 1 to May 31 and can be obtained at www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/snoparks or from local vendors:

- Ebbetts Pass Sporting Goods - (209) 795-1686
- Bear Valley Adventure Company - (209) 753-2834
- Sierra Nevada Adventure Co. - (209) 795-9310 (sold only at the Arnold location)

- 1** SPICER SNO-PARK
- 2** ROUND VALLEY SNO-PARK (NON-MOTORIZED)
- 3** LAKE ALPINE SNO-PARK

HIGHWAY 4 CAMPGROUNDS		Elevation 00'	Fee	Max Occupants	# of Sites	Seasonally Closed	Potable Water	Toilets	RV/Trailer - max length ft	ADA accessible sites	Reservations	Day Use Area	Fishing	Boating	Biking	Hiking
1	Wakalu Hep Yo	39	.	6	49	.	.	F/V	50	.	.	.	.	p	.	.
2	Big Meadow	65	.	6	68	.	.	V	27	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Big Meadow Group CG	65	.	50	1	.	.	V	~	.	*	.	.	.	.	.
3	Stanislaus River	62	.	6	25	.	.	V	35	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	Spicer Reservoir	66	.	6	60	.	.	V	50	.	.	.	.	m/p	.	.
4	Spicer Res. Group CG	66	.	40	1	.	.	V	50	.	*	.	.	m/p	.	.
5	Utica-Sandy Flat*/Rocky Point	68	.	6	23	.	.	V	~	.	.	.	.	p	.	.
6	Union West/East	68	.	6	29	.	.	V	27	.	.	.	.	m/p	.	.
7	Silvertip	73	.	6	27	.	.	F	27	.	.	.	.	m/p	.	.
8	Lake Alpine	73	.	6	25	.	.	F/V	50	.	.	.	.	m/p	.	.
9	Silver Valley	73	.	6	21	.	.	V	20	.	.	.	.	m/p	.	.
10	Pine Marten	73	.	6	32	.	.	V	27	.	.	.	.	m/p	.	.
11	Backpackers Walk-In	73	.	6	8	.	.	V		.	.	.	.	m/p	.	.
12	Lodgepole Group/Overflow CG	73	.	50/6	2/30	.	.	V	30/?	.	*	.	.	m/p	.	.
13	Mosquito Lakes	83	.	6	11	.	.	V	~	.	.	.	.	p	.	.
14	Pacific Valley	76	.	6	19	.	.	V	~	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Hermit Valley	71	.	6	5	.	.	V	~	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16	Bloomfield	78	.	6	20	.	.	V	~	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
17	Highland Lakes	82	.	6	35	.	.	V	~	.	.	.	.	p	.	.
18	Black Springs OHV	65	D	6	8	.	.	V	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Day use picnic area = Single site limit - two cars, two tents; no extra vehicles
 m = motorized, p = paddle boats, ~ = RVs/trailers not advised, L = Limited, V=Vault/non-flushing pit toilet, F = Flush
 Group Campsites: Spicer Group (209)296-8895; Big Meadow & Lodgepole Group (877)444-6777 or www.recreation.gov
 D = Donations requested to 3FIA for campground maintenance and interpretive programs
 *Sandy Flat includes one triple site (max occupants 18) & 11 single sites.

EBBETTS PASS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY VIEWPOINTS

Name		Highlights & Notes	Name		Highlights & Notes
V1	Liberty Vista	North Fork Stanislaus canyon; Dardanelles.	V3	Hwy 207	Road to Bear Valley Ski Area. Views of Mokelumne Peak, Dardanelles.
V2	Hell's Kitchen	Balancing Rock at west end of turnout.	V4	Cape Horn	Dardanelles view. Emigrant Trail / MCCT access. Parking limited.

DAY USE RIVER ACCESS

Name		Location	Highlights & Notes
①	Sourgrass Rec. Area (Stanislaus R.)	Five miles northeast of Dorrington on Boards Crossing Rd.	Boulders, rapids, cascades, pools. Raft put-in.
③	Stanislaus River CG Day Use Area	On Spicer Reservoir Rd three miles east of Hwy. 4.	Granite slabs, cascades, and pools; forested.
④	Highland Creek	End of Spicer Reservoir Rd (below dam).	Fishing access.
⑮	Hermit Valley (Mokelumne R.)	12 miles northeast of Bear Valley along Hwy. 4.	Flat, creek-sized channel through meadow.
⑯	Highland Lakes Road (Mokelumne R.)	Hwy. 4 to Road 113 (1 mi paved), becomes 8N01 (4.7 mi unpaved).	Creek-sized with rocks. Rd 8N01 is rough.

ROAD-ACCESSIBLE LAKES

Name		Acres	Highlights & Notes
⑤	Utica Reservoir	241	Small islands, lots of granite. Kept mostly full. Designed for hand launching of non-motorized boats.
⑥	Union Reservoir	218	Small islands, mountain views, granite. Kept mostly full. Dirt ramp designed for small watercraft.
⑦a	Elephant Rock Lake	10	Natural pond with marsh/mud/grass shoreline surrounded by conifer forest. Backdrop view of elephant rock.
④	Spicer Reservoir	2,000	Great mountain views. Ramp and dock (but may be out of water due to low water levels); boat trailer parking.
⑪	Lake Alpine (reservoir)	173	Granite slabs on shoreline, mountain views. Kept mostly full. Ramp, dock, boat trailer parking, boat rentals, lodge.
⑬	Mosquito Lakes	3, 2	Two small, shallow, reflective alpine lakes. Forest, granite boulders, and picturesque summer cabins around shoreline.
⑰	Highland Lakes	58, 10	Two alpine lakes in an open, grassy setting within conifer forest. Views of mountains, Hiram Peak, and canyons below.

HIGHWAY 4 RECOMMENDED HIKING TRAILS

Name		Trailhead Location	Effort	Miles (one-way)	Highlights & Notes
T1	Arnold Rim	Runs from Hathaway Pines to Arnold*	M	17	Views, streams, waterfall, older growth cedar, pine, fir, oak.
T2	Rock Lake	Union East CG/Elephant Rock Lake	M	3.2/1.9	Lakes, elephant rock. Some burned-over areas. In CIW.
T3	Camp Irene	Lake Valley TH. Access via Rd. 7N93 (4WD)	S	5.1	Mokelumne River access/pools. No cows. No water until river. In MW.
T4	Bear Valley to Lake Alpine	Bear Valley/East end of Lake Alpine	E/M	4	Parallels Hwy 4, paved & mostly level along Lake Alpine shoreline.
T5	Bee Gulch	Across hwy. from Chickaree Day Use	M/S	3	Forest, meadows, creek, wildflowers, panoramic views.
T6	Lakeshore	Runs from Pine Marten CG to FS Rd. 7N17	E	1.6	Lake & mountain views, creek. Part of Emigrant Trail/MCCT.
T6	Inspiration Point	Road on south side of Pine Marten CG	S	1.5	Views of Lake Alpine, Union and Utica Reservoirs, and the Dardanelles.
T7	Rock Lake	Silver Valley TH (at SVCG entrance)	M	4.5	Lakes, forest, some burned-over areas at Rock Lake. In CIW.
T7	Duck Lake	Silver Valley TH (at SVCG entrance)	M	1.2	Lake, meadow, wildflowers, fall color. Loop adds .7 mi. In CIW.
T8	Wheeler Ridge/Lake	Woodchuck Basin TH	M	1.75/3.1	Views, forest, meadows, wildflowers, lake, volcanic ridge. In MW.
T9	Bull Run Lake	Stanislaus Meadow TH	M/S	3.5	Alpine meadow, lake with island in middle, great views. In CIW.
T10	Sandy Meadow	Sandy Meadow TH	E	4.2	Sloping meadows, forests and views. Park on south side hwy. In MW.
T11	Heiser Lake	Mosquito Lakes TH	M	2.5	Shallow lake, mild for swimming; views from west end. In CIW.
T12	Deer Creek	Hermit Valley TH	S	1.6	Goes along Mokelumne River to Deer Creek. In MW.
T13	Asa Lake	Hwy 4, 113 & 8N01 to Highland Lakes	E/M	2.3	Gardner Meadow TH. Meadows, forest, spring-fed lake. In CIW.
T14	Noble Lake	Ebbetts Pass TH (Pacific Crest Trail)	M/S	4.5	Beautiful high country. Spectacular views. In HTNF.
T14	Upper Kinney Lake	Ebbetts Pass TH (Pacific Crest Trail)	E	1.75	Take spur trail to .2 mi to PCT & PCT north across hwy. In HTNF.

Tell what you find: email casey.jardine@usda.gov. *Arnold Rim Trail has many access points; obtain a map at ranger stations (\$1) or at arnoldrimtrail.org.

Effort: Easy= **E** Moderate= **M** Strenuous= **S**. **TH**=Trailhead, **CG**=Campground, **Rd**=Road, **Hwy**=Highway, **R**=River, **mi**=mile/s. **PCT**=Pacific Crest Trail
MCCT = Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail, **MW**= Mokelumne Wilderness, **CIW**=Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, **HTNF**=Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Highway 108 Recreation Opportunities

Points of Interest

Columns of the Giants: Hike along an easy half-mile trail to view a striking rock formation similar to the Devils Postpile. Few people know that a similar geological wonder – stark, columnar cliffs formed of basalt lava flows – exists on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada offering hikers the amazing symmetry of this natural phenomenon. Located off Hwy 108 near Pigeon Flat Campground. Handicapped Accessible.

Donnell Vista: A ¼ mile interpretive trail leads to an overlook with sweeping views of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River Canyon and Donnell Reservoir. Handicapped Accessible.

Sonora Pass: Experience the grandeur of nature on this scenic drive offering magnificent vistas and recreational opportunities. From Kennedy Meadows on the west to Leavitt Meadow on the east it is NOT ADVISABLE for large RVs and trailers to travel this portion of Hwy 108. The winding road has no shoulder, narrow lanes, and grades as steep as 26 percent. Adjacent to the summit of the pass is a trail-head for the Pacific Crest Trail that also serves as a day-use picnic area. Your visit in late July and August provides spectacular alpine wildflower displays.

Trail of the Gargoyles: This moderately level 1½ mile walk has sweeping views of unique geologic features and formations that were formed by several volcanic events which shape the Sierras. Excellent wildflower viewing beginning in June. From Pinecrest drive 3.5 miles east on Hwy 108 to Herring Creek Rd. Turn right and drive 6 miles. Turn left at the Gargoyle sign into the dirt parking area. Information guides are available at the Summit Ranger Station.

The Bennett Juniper: A wonder to behold, the 3,000 year old juniper tree is the biggest Western Juniper in existence. The tree is located within the Stanislaus National Forest but on private land owned and operated by the Mother Lode Land Trust. Just off Hwy 108, the Bennett Juniper is accessible via Eagle Meadow Rd or Forest Route 5N01. If you choose to visit the Bennett Juniper please respect the tree and the land. Do not touch, vandalize, or harm the tree or land in any way so that future generations have the opportunity to see this natural wonder!

Camping

Campground Reservations:

Reservations are recommended for Pinecrest and Pioneer Trail Group Campground and can be made 6 months in advance for Pinecrest and 360 days in advance for Pioneer Trail Group. Online reservations: www.recreation.gov or toll free: 877-444-6777. All other campgrounds are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Length of stay is no longer than 14 consecutive days.

Picnic Sites & Day Use Areas: These sites with restrooms are available for no fee: China Flat, Beardsley, Sandbar Flat, Columns of the Giants, Cottonwood, Donnell Vista, Douglas, Lyons Reservoir, North Fork (Tuolumne River), Pinecrest, Riverside, and Sonora Pass. Fraser Flat - \$5 parking fee for day use. Pinecrest Group Day Use - \$60. Online reservations: www.recreation.gov or toll free: 877-444-6777. Groups larger than 75 require a non-commercial special use permit.

Horse Camping: There are several horse camps in the area. Crabtree and Kennedy Meadows trailheads allow one night stays for campers and stock entering the Emigrant Wilderness. Vault toilets are available. Eagle, Kerrick, Herring, Clark Fork, Coyote and Pine Valley horse camps are rustic camps with few improvements and no fees. Plan to be self-contained.

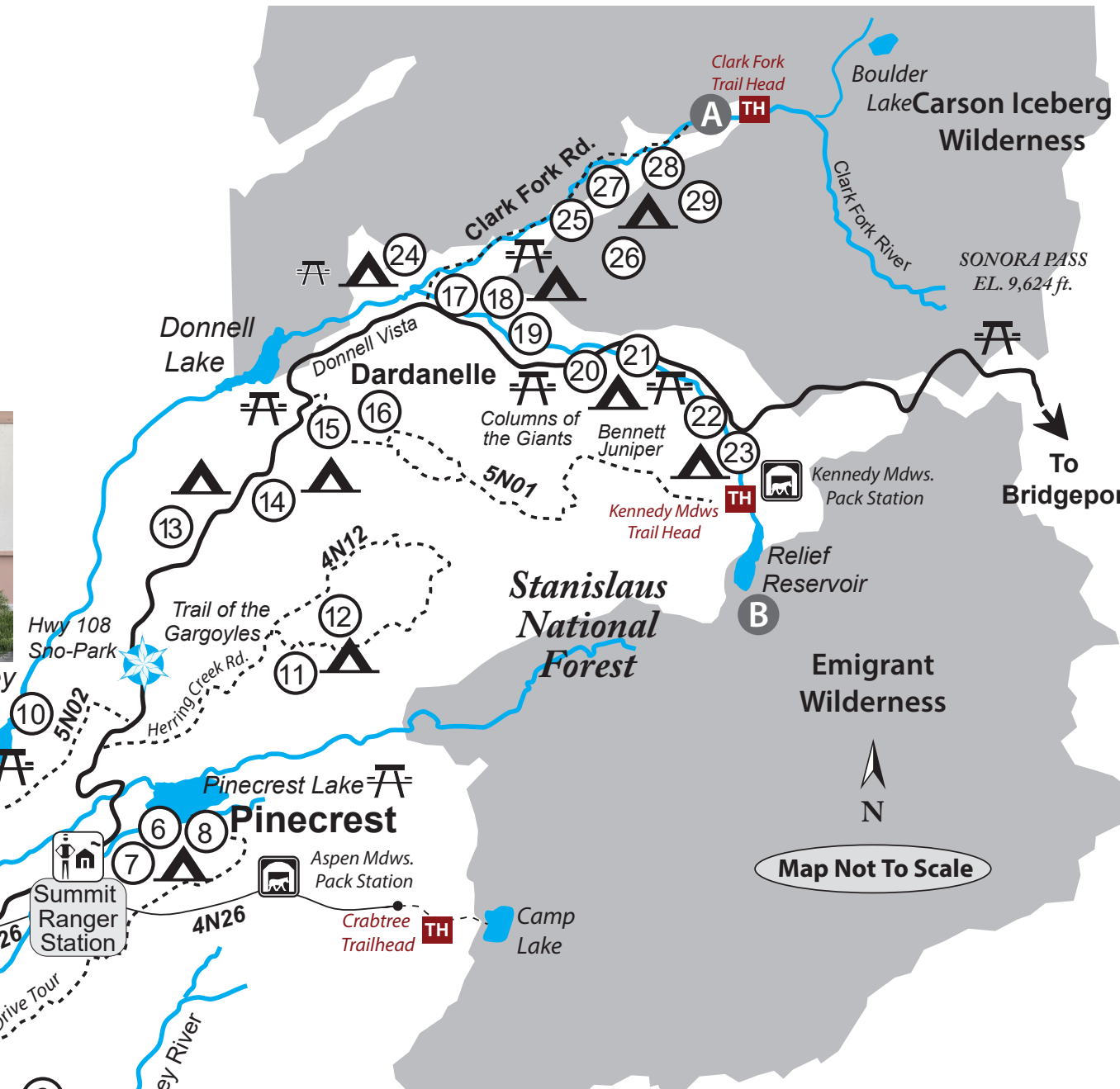
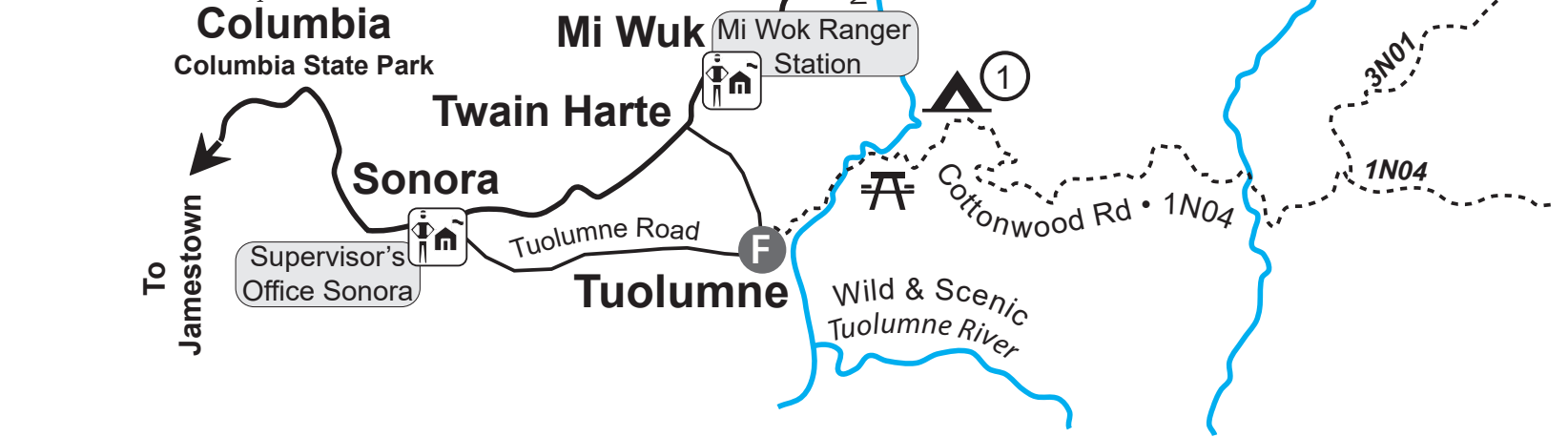
Ranger Programs:

Join us for fun programming all year round! During the busy summer season, add a Ranger program to your itinerary. Make a Nature Craft, learn about the four R's at Woodsy Owl's table, or come see a special evening program. The fun doesn't stop when the snow flies. Become a Junior Snow Ranger, be a Nature Detective, or snowshoe with a Ranger. To find out when and where programs are happening, stop into the Summit Ranger Station, check the website at www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus/ or the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StanislausNF.

Visit our Facebook page, and click on the "Events" tab. Here you will find a listing of programs and activities throughout the year!



Bennett Juniper



HIGHWAY 108 CAMPGROUNDS	Elevation 00'	Fee	Extra Vehicle Fee	# of Sites	Seasonally Closed	Potable Water	Toilets	RV/Trailer length ft	ADA Accessible sites	Fishing	Boating	Biking	Hiking
Mi Wok Campgrounds													
1 River Ranch	27	•	•	40	•	•	V	50	•	•	•	•	•
2 Hull Creek	(@) 56	•	•	23	•	•	V	50	•	•	•	•	•
3 Fraser Flat	48	•	•	38	•	•	V	36	•	•	•	•	•
4 Sand Bar Flat	30	•	•	8/12	•	•	V	20	•	•	•	•	•
5 Crandall OHV	(@) 48	•	•	15	•	•	V	50	•	•	•	•	•
PINECREST CAMPGROUNDS													
6 Pinecrest	56	•	•	200	•	•	F	40	•	•	m/p	•	•
7 Meadowview	56	•	•	100	•	•	F	•	•	•	m/p	•	•
8 Pioneer Trail Group 1,2,3,4	58	•	•	#	•	•	V	•	•	•	m/p	•	•
UPPER 108 CAMPGROUNDS													
9 Beardsley	34	•	•	16	•	•	V	20	•	•	m/p	•	•
10 TeleLi puLaya ^	34	•	•	16	•	•	V	32	•	•	m/p	•	•
11 Herring Creek	74	•	•	7	•	•	V	~	•	•	•	•	•
12 Herring Creek Reservoir	74	•	•	9	•	•	V	~	•	•	•	•	•
13 Cascade Creek	60	•	•	14	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
14 Mill Creek	62	•	•	17	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
15 Niagara Creek	66	•	•	10	•	•	V	20	•	•	•	•	•
16 Niagara Creek OHV	72	•	•	10	•	•	V	30	•	•	•	•	•
BRIGHTMAN RECREATION CAMPGROUNDS													
17 Boulder Flat	56	•	•	21	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
18 Brightman	57	•	•	33	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
19 Dardanelle	58	•	•	28	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
20 Pigeon Flat (walk-in)	60	•	•	9	•	•	V	~	•	•	•	•	•
21 Eureka Valley	61	•	•	28	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
22 Baker	62	•	•	44	•	•	V	36	•	•	•	•	•
23 Deadman	62	•	•	17	•	•	V	32	•	•	•	•	•
CLARK FORK AREA CAMPGROUNDS													
24 Fence Creek	60	•	•	38	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
25 Clark Fork A Loop	62	•	•	28	•	•	V	32	•	•	•	•	•
26 Clark Fork B Loop	62	•	•	60	•	•	F	32	•	•	•	•	•
27 Clark Fork Horse Camp	62	•	•	12	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
28 Clark Fork Horse Camp Group	62	•	•	2	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•
29 Sand Flat	62	•	•	53	•	•	V	•	•	•	•	•	•

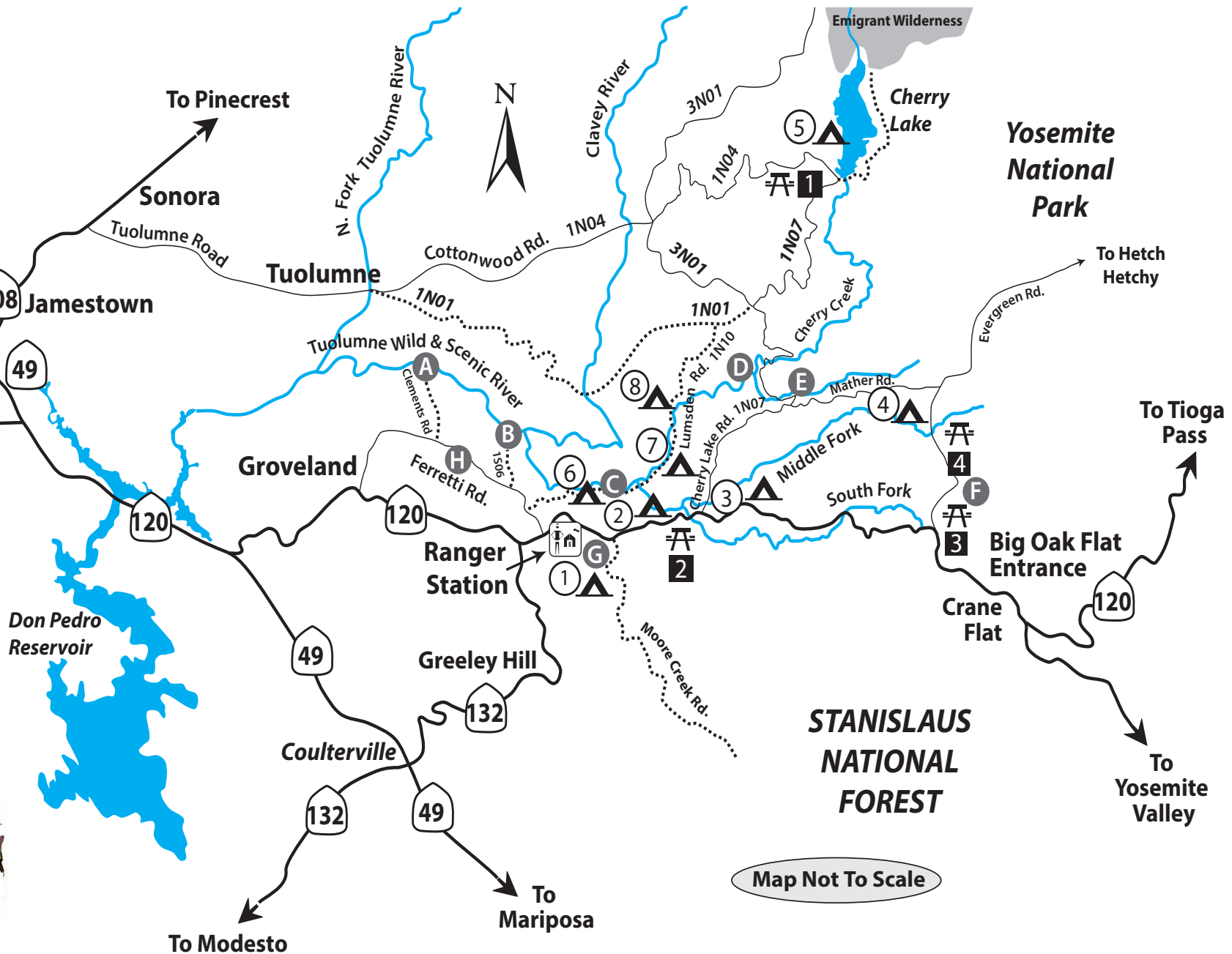
Reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov or by calling (877)444-6777. ^^^ Reservations - (209) 928-3708
 m - motorized, p - paddle boats, - RVs/trailers not advised, V - Vault/non-flushing pit toilet, F - Flushing Toilet
 # - Pioneer Trail Group 1 & 2 - 50 people max, Group 3 - 100 people max, ^ - New Campground
 @ - Most sites are ADA accessible. None of the sites have concrete pathways or water at the site, but all tables, fire rings, and slope of site meet ADA. Additionally both sites have ADA compliance vault restrooms.

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST • MI-WOK & SUMMIT RANGER DISTRICT • HIKING TRAILS					
Hiking Trail	Trailhead Directions	Effort	Mileage	Highlights	Notes
A Clark Fork River Trail	Trail begins at the end of Clark Fork Road. Follow the signs to Clark Fork Trail Head. Here you will find an easy to moderate hike along Clark Fork River.	Easy to Moderate	5.2 (round trip)	Beautiful views of "The Iceberg" at Iceberg Mdw.	Bring your fishing pole.
B Relief Reservoir	Kennedy Meadows Trailhead: From Summit RS, drive 27 miles east on Hwy 108 to Kennedy Mdws. sign. Turn right, drive .5 mile to Trailhead Parking sign and left to parking lot.	Strenuous - 1,000' of elevation gain	6 (round trip)	Meadows, waterfalls, wildflowers, swimming	Trail begins .5 mile from the parking lot at the south end of the main road.
C Sand Bar Flat River Trail	Take 4N01 Fraser Flat/Spring Gap Road to 4N88 follow it to the Sand Bar Flat campground. Trail begins at the back of the campground to the right before the bridge crosses the M. Fork of the Stanislaus River.	Easy - 277' elevation gain	6 (round trip)	River, fishing, lush in spring	4N88 is steep and winding and not advisable for large RVs and trailers. Parking & vault toilets available.
D Stanislaus River Trail	The trail begins at the China Day Use parking area below the Beardsley Dam. Walk downriver past the After Bay Reservoir to the Spring Gap powerhouse. M. Fork Stanislaus River.	Easy	6 (round trip)	River, fishing, spring wildflowers	Vault toilets & picnic tables at Day Use. Hike to Sand Bar Flat-10 miles round trip.
E Sugar Pine Railway	Hwy 108 to 4N01. Trail begins 1.5 miles from 108 at the bridge on the south side of S. Fork of the Stanislaus River.	Easy - 3% grade	6 (round trip)	Spring wildflowers	An interpretive guide is available at Ranger Station.
F West Side Railroad Grade	Begins at intersection of Buchanan Mine & Mira Monte Roads, one mile east of Tuolumne City.	Easy - Flat	9 (round trip)	Tuolumne River canyon views, spring wildflowers	Trailhead to Hacienda Campground.

Highway 120 Recreation Opportunities



Rainbow Pool



Map Not To Scale

GROVELAND RANGER DISTRICT • HIKING TRAILS			
Hiking Trail	Distance (one-way)	Elevation Change	Destination
A Indian Creek	3 miles	1650 feet	Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River
B Hamby	3 miles	1850 feet	
C Tuolumne River Canyon	6 miles	150 feet	
D Andresen Mine	4.5 miles	200 feet	Waterfalls
E Preston Falls	4.5 miles	400 feet	
F Carlon Falls	2 miles	200 feet	
G Little Golden Forest	3 miles (loop)	150 feet	Self-Guided Interpretive Trail
H Ferretti Non-Motorized Trail System	26 miles (when complete)		Multi-Use: Emphasizing Mountain Biking

HIGHWAY 120 CAMPGROUNDS															
		Elevation - 00'	Fee	Extra Vehicle Fee	# of Sites (sg/dbl)	Seasonally Closed	Potable Water	Toilets	RV/Trailer-max length ft	ADA Accessible sites	Reservations ²	Fishing	Boating	Biking	Hiking
1	Pines & Pines Group ¹	32	•	•	12	•	v	32	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2	Lost Claim	31	•	•	10	•	v	~	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
3	Sweetwater	30	•	•	14	•	v	32	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4	Dimond O	44	•	•	38	•	v	36	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
5	Cherry Valley	46	•	•	41	•	v	32	•	•	•	m/p	•	•	•
6	Lumsden	15	•	•	10	•	v	~	•	•	•	p	•	•	•
7	South Fork	15	•	•	10	•	v	~	•	•	•	p	•	•	•
8	Lumsden Bridge *	15			11		v	~				•	p	•	•
DAY USE AREAS															
1	Cherry Lake Boat Launch	47					v					•	m/p		
2	Rainbow Pool	30	•	•			v		•			•			
3	Carlon	43	•	•			v		•			•			•
4	Middle Fork	44					v		•			•			

¹Pines Group Site - 50 people max., Reservations required, (877)444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov
²Some sites reservable, (877)444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov Double sites are available in each campground.
m = motorized, **p** = paddle boats, **~** = RVs/trailers not advised, **v** = vault/non-flushing pit toilet
 * Closed --due to Road Wash-Out, 1-mile flat hike out. Contact Groveland Ranger Station for latest information - (209) 962-7825

Highway 120

Recreation & Visitor Activities

Welcome to the Groveland Ranger District!

The Groveland Ranger District encompasses the Highway 120 corridor of the Stanislaus National Forest and features developed campgrounds, picnic areas and maintained trails throughout.

A wide range of activities are offered to appeal to every interest. There are opportunities for wildlife and wildflower viewing, hiking, biking, photography, camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, and hunting.

Enjoy your visit! Create lifetime memories! Stay safe, and please help keep the forest healthy and clean.



Photo provided by Groveland Trail Heads



US Forest Service River Ranger - Patrolling the Wild & Scenic Tuolumne River

Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River

Grab life by the paddles and gear up for one of the most celebrated whitewater experiences in the world on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River!

Designated as a Wild and Scenic River in 1984, it is renowned world-wide for its remote class IV to V+ whitewater and scenery. Whether you're a highly experienced boat operator looking for a thrilling one-day class V+ run or looking to take on an 18 mile one- to three-day Class IV+ run, with careful preparation and knowledge, you'll have a wonderful river adventure and memories to last a lifetime.

Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River permits are only available for advanced reservation on Recreation.gov starting January 1st through 12 a.m. Pacific Time (midnight) the day prior to your desired launch date. Permits holders must have a front and back copy of the permit (print or digital) to show agency staff.

Don't let this wild and scenic opportunity pass you by. Paddle over to Recreation.gov to learn more about Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River permits.

<https://www.recreation.gov/permits/621750>



Ferretti Trail System

Trails Being Developed

Pedal away to excellent mountain views and flowy bike trails for all skill levels. After 10 years of planning and 5 years of active volunteer work, the Ferretti Trails are off to a stout ride. Above the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Canyon- the Ferretti Trail System is planned to provide up to 16 miles of multi-use trails with optional technical features and routes. The opportunity emphasizes a fun, engaging mountain bike experience and includes multiple loops to provide easy, intermediate, and challenging rides.



Groveland Trail Heads

In partnership with the Stanislaus National Forest's Groveland Ranger District, the Groveland Trail Heads (GTH), completed the development of approximately 1.4 miles of new trail and cleared and restored an additional 4.7 miles of existing trail. Additionally, GTH and partner, Contour Logic, have flagged and cleared 1.5 miles of brand-new trail and need your help to finish building this epic route!

To join trail development opportunities, meet new people, and become a steward of the land, attend our volunteer trail days every 2nd Sunday of each month. Meet at the Ferretti Trails Trailhead from 10am-2pm, tools provided. For more information, contact the: Groveland Trail Heads (grovelandtrailheads.org).

Visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GrovelandTrailheads/>

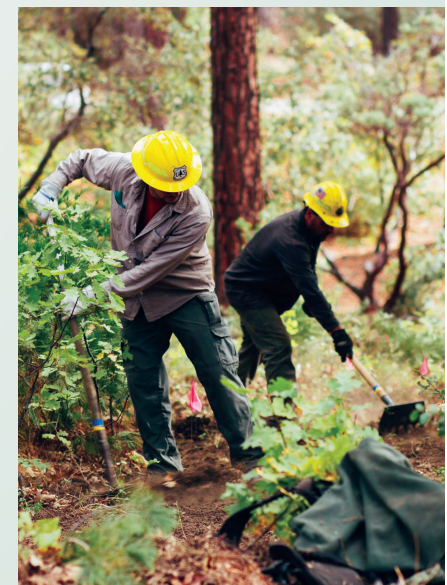


Photo provided by Groveland Trail Heads

Groveland Trail Heads

Visit their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/GrovelandTrailHeads/>

Off-Highway Vehicle Use

A Message from Recreation- Ranger Jeff

Hi I am Jeff Hilson, the Recreation Specialist for the Groveland Ranger District on the Stanislaus National Forest. Thank you for visiting the beautiful Stanislaus National Forest. Riding off-highway vehicles on the Forest is really fun and a great way to get out into the forest to see beautiful vistas and landscapes. However, it is important that you do it safely. Please make sure to follow these safety tips while riding!

- Always ride in control.
- Ride within your abilities and your machine's capabilities.
- Always wear the appropriate safety gear.
- Only carry passengers if your off-highway vehicle, or OHV, is specifically designed to do so.
- Riders under the age of 16 should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Have fun out there, and be safe!



tread lightly![®]
ON LAND AND WATER



- TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY
- RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS
- EDUCATE YOURSELF
- AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS
- DO YOUR PART

Free Travel Management Maps
www.fs.usda.gov/main/stanislaus/maps-pubs



MVUM
Motor Vehicle Use Maps



Calaveras Ranger District Highlights:

Black Springs OHV Area features a recently opened OHV accessible campground (Black Springs OHV Campground), multiple staging areas, close access to Highway 4, and over 100 miles of connecting OHV trails.

Interface OHV Area features plenty of dispersed camping areas, loading and unloading ramps, information boards, easy access to Arnold, and over 25 miles of Motorcycle and ATV trails.

Mi-Wok Ranger District Highlights:

Hull Creek OHV Area features over 100 miles of roads and trails open to OHVs, an OHV accessible campground (Hull Creek Campground), and plenty of adjacent dispersed camping opportunities.

Crandall OHV Area features 40 miles of motorcycle trails and another 140 miles of roads open for OHV use. There is an OHV accessible campground (Crandall OHV Campground) and terrain ranging in elevation from 3500 feet to 5500 feet. No water available at this location.

Summit Ranger District Highlights:

Eagle Meadow OHV Area features the Niagara Rim trail and the "Rock Pile" with plenty of dispersed camping opportunities. There is also an OHV accessible campground (Niagara OHV Campground) which has an OHV trail that users can ride out from.

Herring Creek OHV Area features plenty of dispersed camping opportunities along with two OHV accessible campgrounds (Herring Reservoir Campground and Herring Creek Campground).

Groveland Ranger District Highlights:

Upper Jawbone OHV Area features plenty of dispersed camping areas, a loading and unloading ramp, beautiful views of Cherry Lake and has over 20 miles of riding for all types of OHVs.

Date Flat OHV Area is open year-round to all vehicles and features a staging area with a bathroom, picnic table, information signs, and various types of trails that range from easy to difficult.

Winter Recreation



Snowshoeing, Skiing & Cross-Country Skiing

Three ski areas operate under special use permits on the Forest: Bear Valley Resort and Bear Valley Adventure Company on Highway 4, and Dodge Ridge on Highway 108. Several cross-country ski trails of varying difficulty exist on the Summit Ranger District near Pinecrest and on the Calaveras Ranger District near the Bear Valley and Lake Alpine area. Snowshoes allow visitors to enjoy venturing into the snow on or off trails.

Plan Your Trip

Plan your winter recreation trip before you leave home. Have an idea of where you want to go, know how to get there, and carry a good map and compass or GPS device. Tell someone back home of your travel plans. It's easier than you think to lose your sense of direction out in the woods. The middle of your journey isn't the best time to discover you weren't prepared. Make a checklist. Here are some items to consider:

- Weather changes can be sudden during winter. Before you leave, phone **Cal Trans 800-GAS-ROAD (427-7623)** for up-to-date road conditions.
- Carry tire chains, shovel, ice scrapers, flashlight, matches, and be sure your car has enough anti-freeze and a full tank of gas.
- Include blankets and extra warm clothes.
- Pack some high-energy non-perishable food and water.
- Have rain gear and emergency blanket or shelter just in case.
- Make sure to carry a whistle or walkie-talkie for communication.
- Don't forget first aid for you and your gear.

Snowmobile Riding on the Stanislaus

Snowmobiling on the Stanislaus National Forest is a great way to get out and enjoy the snow. Many areas are open and accessible for motorized over-snow travel during the winter months. The Stanislaus offers over 20 miles of groomed over-snow vehicle routes, as well as many more miles of un-groomed trails and open cross-country riding areas. Trails and areas can be accessed via the Sno-Parks located on Highway 4 and Highway 108. Motorized over-snow travel is prohibited in some areas and the Forest Service has designated a system of trails and areas for over snow vehicle use to provide public access and ensure the safety and enjoyment for all users. Riders should download and utilize the most recent Over Snow Vehicle Use Map available here:

Scan the QR code for map



Sno-Parks

There are three California SNO-PARKS on the Calaveras Ranger District along Highway 4 and one on the Summit Ranger District along Highway 108. A single day permit costs \$15.00 and is good for the date issued. A season permit costs \$40.00 and can be used at any Sno-Park in California for the entire winter season. While the Stanislaus National Forest does not sell Sno-Park passes, they can be purchased at certain local vendors or online through the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks website. Please keep in mind that Sno-Parks may act as both staging areas for snowmobile use and areas for snowplay.

Calaveras Ranger District Sno-Parks:

Lake Alpine Sno-Park– Located at the winter closure gate on Hwy 4.

Spicer Sno-Park– Located on the south side of Hwy 4 at Spicer Road.

Round Valley Sno-Park– Located on the east side of Hwy 207 before Bear Valley Ski Area (non-motorized snow area).

Summit Ranger District Sno-Park:

Highway 108 Sno-Park – Located at the winter closure gate on Hwy 108 (snowplay not recommended in this Sno-Park).

Snow Play

While the serious skiers, boarders, and snowmobilers in the group go off to comb the lofty heights and over-snow trails, the less experienced frolickers can have a good time tossing snowballs or sledding down hills. While the Sno-Parks provide great places to play in the snow, snowplay is allowed on National Forest lands anywhere along highways and roads as long as parking is not restricted and there is room to park completely out of the lane of traffic. Remember to respect those around you and to take home anything that you bring along with you.



Photo by Casey Jardine

Caring for the Forest

Message from Archaeology- Ranger Allison:

My name is Allison Stevenot. I am the District Archaeologist on the Calaveras Ranger District. I proudly call the Stanislaus National Forest and the surrounding communities home. I am Northern Sierra Mewuk with ties to Calaveras and Tuolumne counties and active in my Mewuk culture. Many summers of my life have been spent exploring, camping, and gathering traditional plants for medicine or basketry on the Stanislaus. My family has always had a working relationship with the Forest Service and it was through that connection that I followed my passion for caring for the land. As an indigenous person to California, caring for the land is deeply ingrained in our culture and our spirit. I am proud to work for the Stanislaus working toward creating a resilient landscape and strengthening the resiliency of the communities.



Leave No Trace – Enjoy the Outdoors Without Disrupting Nature

Say hello to the great outdoors! Now that you're here, you are invited to help keep these places healthy and beautiful. As people are getting outside in record numbers the need to put Leave No Trace skills and ethics into action to minimize our collective impact is more important than ever. The idea behind the **Seven Principles of Leave No Trace** is to leave nature as unchanged by our

presence as possible, so that future generations can enjoy it too. Earth is home to incredible beauty and spectacular wildlife. These natural wonders are available for everyone to enjoy, and should be cherished and protected. This is why it is vital for you to Leave No Trace behind when you are exploring the outdoors. As you are here

visiting the Stanislaus National Forest we hope you enjoy getting outdoors in nature and take care of the land by doing your part in practicing the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace.

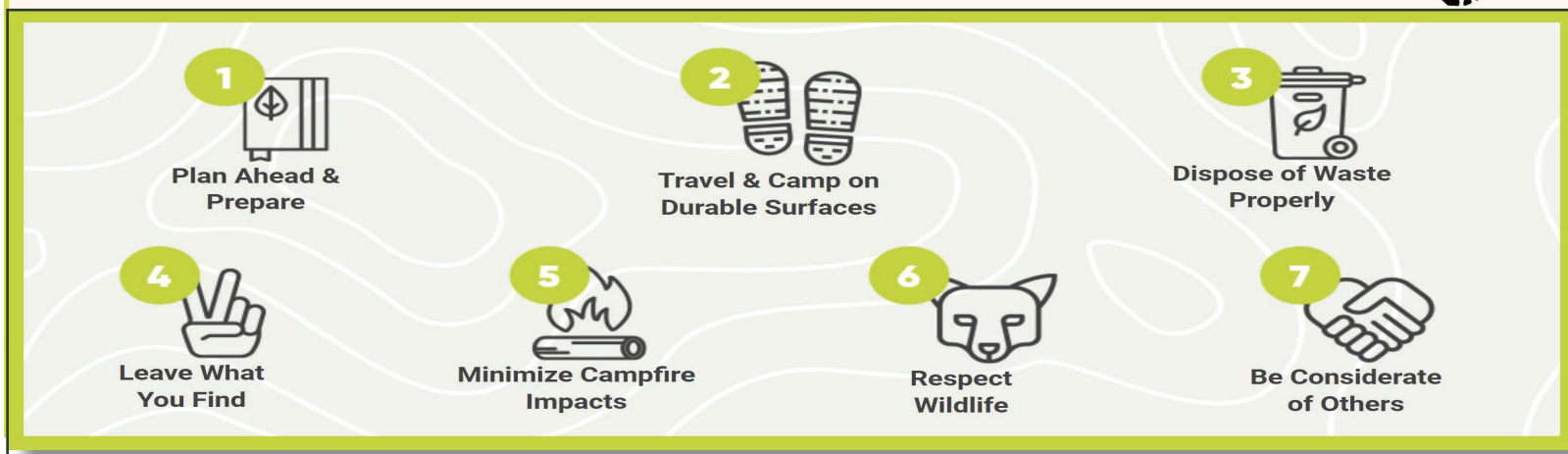


For more detailed information on Leave No Trace:

<https://lnt.org/>



Graphic from Adventure Instead



Sanitation and Forest Visitor Etiquette

With more people than usual visiting the Stanislaus National Forest, comes more trash. Even with trash receptacles available in places like Pinecrest Lake, litter abounds. Countless garbage bags are left on the sides of roads where bears, ravens, and other wild animals can get into them.

Many people burn their trash in campfires. Burning trash not only pollutes the air, burnt plastic poisons the water. Broken glass left in a campfire ring can cause serious injury to the next person who camps there, or who cleans the mess. There is no garbage service in the general forest area.

With huge crowds at places like Rainbow Pool, and limited toilet facilities available, you can imagine the odor in the summer afternoons. If a toilet facility is not available, go at least 200 feet from any water source. Dig a hole 9 inches deep, bury feces and toilet paper. Pack out wipes, and never burn toilet paper.



If your trash is too large for the trash bins, take it home. Leaving your trash outside the dumpster or trash receptacle is littering. **Pack it, pack it out.**



When bears get into trash they can become less wild and start to rely on that as a food source. That puts people and bears in danger. Dispose of your waste in dumpsters or if the dumpster is full take it home.



Do not release balloons, they later become trash and endanger wildlife. Releasing balloons is littering. If it is for a memorial consider blowing bubbles or planting a memorial garden.



Do not leave garbage bags or trash outside of the trash bins. Animals get into it, spread it, and can be harmed from it.

Exploring Forest Wildlife

Message from Visitor Services - Ranger Haleigh:

Hey everyone! Thank you for choosing to recreate on your National Forest. It is a very special place filled with adventure and wonder. I've been fortunate enough to explore and make memories on all kinds of Public Lands across the country. I invite you to explore the forest and make your own meaningful connections. Hike the trails and look for animal tracks or scat. Lounge by a lake and look at the clouds passing by. Listen to the birds and wind in the trees. Feel the cold water in the lakes and streams. The details of nature are all around you. They come together to tell the story and history of the ecosystem. From fire scars and new growth to granite cliffs that are millions of years old. Tiny insects, huge trees, and rushing water are all connected. What is your favorite part?



Wildlife Spotlight

The Stanislaus National Forest has a variety of wildlife species living amongst the trees, mountains, and river canyons. If you have any questions or want to learn more, please visit our website www.fs.usda.gov, call, or visit one of our ranger districts.

If you happen to have a wildlife experience while recreating on the forest, remember to view from a distance and never feed or interact with the wildlife.

Remember to keep wildlife wild!



Ringtails are one of the many amazing wildlife species on the Stanislaus National Forest! In the Gold Rush days, miners would tame ringtails and keep them as pets in their tents to help control mice in their camps. Because of this they are sometimes referred to as miner cats.



Photo by Dawn Webster

California Mountain Kingsnakes are a native harmless snake to the Stanislaus National Forest. California Mountain Kingsnakes are highly beneficial because they eat rodents and also other snakes such as rattlesnakes. If seen these snakes should be left alone to continue to provide ecological benefits to the forest.

Insect Investigations

Terrestrial bugs are ones that live on land. Many insects like to visit flowers to gather pollen or sip nectar. Plants also provide a place for them to rest, hide, catch prey, and lay their eggs.

Adult dragonflies and damselflies are usually found around water, where they mate and lay their eggs. Many kinds of beetles are found around dying, freshly cut, or recently killed trees; their worm-like larvae chew through and eat the wood. These beetles and other bugs that eat dead and dying things are nature's recyclers; they help get rid of dead stuff and turn it into nutrients that living things can use.

Butterflies like to come out mid-morning when it's warm. You can often find them visiting flowers, on hilltops to find mates, licking water and minerals from mud puddles, and on dung licking salt. Most moths come out at night and some are attracted to lights. Some sphinx moths come out in the day. The white-lined sphinx moth flies in the afternoon; it hovers like a hummingbird feeding on nectar from long-tubed flowers like penstemons. These moths, like many other insects, are excellent pollinators of flowers.

If you want to get a closer look at a flying insect, capture it with a butterfly net. You can observe it in the net or put it in a transparent container. Be careful not to injure the insect or touch it. Take a photo of it for future identification. Let your bugs go as soon as you are done observing.

Be cautious around bugs that can sting or bite, like bees, wasps, spiders, scorpions, centipedes, and biting flies.

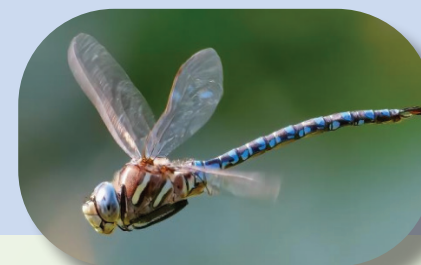


Photo by Barry Boulton

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE • Can you identify these mystery animal tracks? Answers found down below.



A) Snake Track B) Mountain Lion Track C) Deer Track D) Lizard Track E) Bear Tracks

Woodsy Owl's Corner

Message From Woodsy Owl: Lend A Hand – Care For The Land

Hello! I'm Woodsy Owl. I hope you will join me to learn how to "Lend a Hand – Care for the Land!" Do you know what that means? It means that if we all work together, the Earth will have clean air and water and will be a healthy place to live for trees and plants, fish, animals and birds like me! Oh, and it also means it will be clean for you, too! So, let's get started!



The 4 R's

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot

REDUCE: This means to cut down on the amount of stuff you use every day to reduce your daily garbage or reduce your water and electricity use.

REUSE: This means to use the same thing more than once. Draw pictures on the back of printed paper. Reuse plastic bags from the grocery store.

RECYCLE: Recycling is a way of taking something old and turning it into something new again. Paper can be recycled into fresh, clean paper. That saves trees!

ROT: A natural way to turn leftover fruit and vegetables into really good plant food is called compost. A pile of old broccoli, banana peels, fall leaves and grass clippings will turn into dark, moist compost in just about a year.



Volunteers in action picking up trash along the Tuolumne River.

Count the ways you can use the 4R's at home and in school. I promise it will add up to a cleaner, healthier planet!

Become a member of Woodsy Owl's Clean Up Crew by picking up trash "50" times & earn a cool Woodsy Owl bandana as a PRIZE! Document the Date & Place of collecting trash 50 times by filling out the form here <https://tinyurl.com/woodsyouwl> or use the QR code to download the form.



Scan here to become part of Woodsy Owl's Clean Up Crew

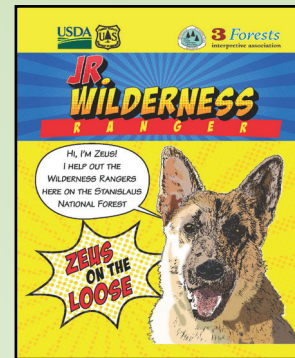
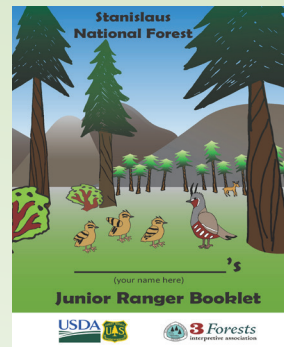


Calling All Junior Rangers

Junior Ranger Program:

Join the Junior Ranger Club on the Stanislaus National Forest! We have three Junior Ranger Programs— you can become a **Junior Ranger**, **Junior Wilderness Ranger**, and a **Junior Snow Ranger**. Highlights of the Junior Ranger programs include learning about tree identification, fire ecology, the language of the Me-wuk people, nature journaling, snow science, how to dress for the winter, winter animal adaptations, what is Wilderness, Leave No Trace principles, where to set up camp in the back country, and more! Pick up a booklet from a nearby Ranger Station or ask a Forest Service staff member for a copy. Look for in person Junior Ranger programs hosted by our Rangers in summer and winter. Programs are posted on our website, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus> and on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/StanislausNF/>

For ages 4 and up!



Nature Journaling

Start your Nature Journal journey while visiting the Stanislaus National Forest. Nature journaling is a great way to observe and record the world around you. To get started, find three natural things in the Stanislaus National Forest that interest you. They could be living things like an animal, plant, fungus, or lichen. Or they could be non-living, like a rock, fallen leaf, pine cone, or animal sign such as a track, feather, nest, or scat (poop). They can be sounds too, like an animal call or leaves rustling.

Draw a picture of each one on paper or take a photo. You can also make a leaf rubbing. If it is a sound, you can just describe it in words or with a drawing; or draw a picture of what you think made the sound.

Draw a nature journal!

Nature journaling is when we use art to pay closer attention to the world around us. Find a comfy place to sit in the forest, then draw or write creatively about each of the following:

Something you can see	Something you can smell
Something you can hear	Something you can touch

Make notes of the following:

- The date, time, and weather at the time you saw it.
- Location: Be specific, for example, "Three miles east of Bear Valley, California in the Stanislaus National Forest at Lake Alpine Recreation Area on the Lakeshore Trail about a half mile from Pine Marten Campground." Include the elevation if you know it.
- Description: size, color, shape, smell, sound, texture, the way it feels, the way it moves, etc.
- Habitat: A description of the place you saw it such as in the forest on the ground or in a tree, in or near a lake or creek, in a wet meadow, in a dry meadow, on a rocky ridge, in the shade, in the sun, etc.
- Your thoughts about it, such as why you find it interesting. You could also write a poem, song, or story about it. Or say what is unusual about it.

To make your own Nature Journal you can get started here on this page or pick up the Junior Ranger Booklet! You can get some blank pages and put it together like a booklet or get a pre-made journal with blank pages. Relax and enjoy your quiet moment in the forest!



Nature journaling is fun for all ages!



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