



Rock Collecting Permits

Stanislaus National Forest

What does a “rock permit” permit?

A “rock permit” is an agreement between you and the Stanislaus National Forest that provides for you to remove decorative rock from the Forest (from certain places and under certain conditions). In return for a fee of \$5.00, the holder of the permit is entitled to remove up to one (1) ton of rock from the Forest.

These permits are written to be valid for a short period of time, usually two weeks. You can purchase another \$5.00 permit if you have collected the limit on your previous permit. Not all rock is eligible to be taken from the Forest. Check with the local Ranger District to determine the limitations on rock collecting in that District. The amount of each load of rock collected and being removed should be logged on the permit before transporting the rock from the Forest.



Where Am I Not Permitted to Collect Rocks?

As previously mentioned, each District has different rules set up for the collection and removal of rock from the Stanislaus Nation Forest.

There is no rock collecting permitted in the following locations:

- Wilderness areas (i.e., Emigrant, Carson-Iceberg or Mokelumne areas)
- Administrative areas such as district grounds, campgrounds, day-use areas, interpretive trails and other areas of general public use, and
- Wild and Scenic River designated areas

Where Am I Allowed Collect Rocks?

Each Ranger District has different rules for rock collecting in their respective District. For instance, the Mi-Wok Ranger District has many valuable heritage resource areas, in addition to the on-going concern for damage to, or destruction of, animal habitats. To permit the taking of surface rock in such an area might adversely impact the study of this area.

As a result, Mi-Wok District only allows river rock to be collected under these permits more specifically that river rock between the high water mark for that year and the current level of the river or stream. This rock is considered “moved” rock, in that it has unlikely heritage resource value and hasn’t had time to develop riparian areas due to the water’s recent movement of it.

The Groveland Ranger District permit the collection of rock from a quarry location on the District. Summit and Calaveras Districts permit the collection of surface rock. To be sure that you will be able to collect the rock you need, it is best to contact each District beforehand and assess their sources of rock before obtaining your permit.



**For more information about rock permits,
please contact the applicable District office:**

Supervisor's Office

19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-3671

**Summit Mi-Wok District
- Highway 108 Corridor**

1 Pinecrest Lake Rd
Pinecrest, CA 95364
(209) 965-3434

**Groveland Ranger District
- Highway 120 Corridor**

24545 Highway 120
Groveland, CA 95321
(209) 962-7825

**Calaveras Ranger District
- Highway 4 Corridor**

5519 Highway 4
Hathaway Pines, CA 95223
(209) 795-1381

Most offices are open Monday through Friday, call or visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus> for current operating hours.

Rock permits can only be issued in person at the District in which you intend to collect.

This permit is for personal use only. You may not gather rock with mechanized equipment. Hand tools are permitted.

Rocks may be collected from April 15 through December 15 each year.

You may obtain a free motor vehicle use map or MVUM, from any district office or from our website:
www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus

