



South Sierra Wilderness

South Sierra Wilderness straddles the crest of the Sierra Nevada at the southern end of the range. Lush green meadows nestle between forested ridges, rolling hills and craggy peaks. The Pacific Crest Trail and the South Fork of the Kern River run through the heart of South Sierra Wilderness. The South Fork of the Kern River is a National Wild and Scenic River and a popular destination for fisherman. Elevations range from 6,100 feet near Kennedy Meadows to 12,123 feet at the summit of Olancha Peak.

Wilderness

The South Sierra Wilderness was designated in 1984 and has a total of 60,280 acres. It is bordered by the Golden Trout Wilderness to the north. The South Sierra Wilderness is rugged and offers ample opportunities for solitude. Visitors must be self-reliant. Check with the local Ranger Station before your trip for information about conditions and hazards.

Forests

Lower elevation forests are dominated by gray pine, pinon pine, oak and chaparral. At higher elevations foxtail, lodgepole and western white pines, white fir, incense cedar and juniper are common.

Wildlife

Deer, bears, coyotes, raccoons, mountain lions, bobcats, martens, fox, skunks, weasels and various rodents and reptiles call Golden Trout Wilderness home. Various owls and raptors also inhabit the area. Rattlesnakes and scorpions are not uncommon.

Trailheads

Olancha Pass and Haiwee Pass trailheads are located on the east side of South Sierra Wilderness near US Highway 395. Wildrose and Kennedy Meadows trailheads are located south of the wilderness near the end of Nine Mile Canyon Road (J41). For information about these trailheads contact Inyo National Forest at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo> or 760-876-6200.

Jackass and Hooker Meadow trailheads are located at southeast of the wilderness, and can be access from Sherman Pass Road (22S05) or Nine Mile Canyon Rd (J41). For information about Jackass and Hooker Meadow Trailheads contact Sequoia National Forest at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia> or 760-376-3781.

Notice: Wildfire and flood events severely damaged portions of Haiwee Pass Trail. The damaged portion is difficult to locate and not stock passable.

Stock Use

South Sierra Wilderness is popular with equestrians. Stock users should be familiar with all grazing and wilderness regulations. Hikers should yield to stock and move off the trail on to the downhill side.

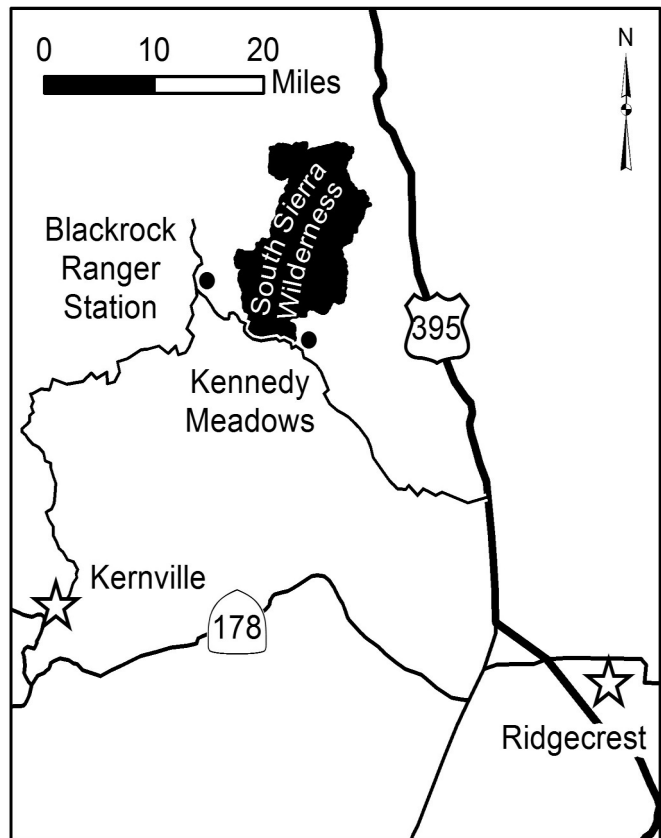
Cattle Grazing in South Sierra Wilderness

Cattle grazing is a permitted practice in the South Sierra Wilderness. Some visitors enjoy the “old west” flavor provided by cattle grazing, while others seek a type of experience that is not compatible with livestock. Visitors who wish to visit areas that receive little or no livestock use may contact their local Forest Service office for assistance.

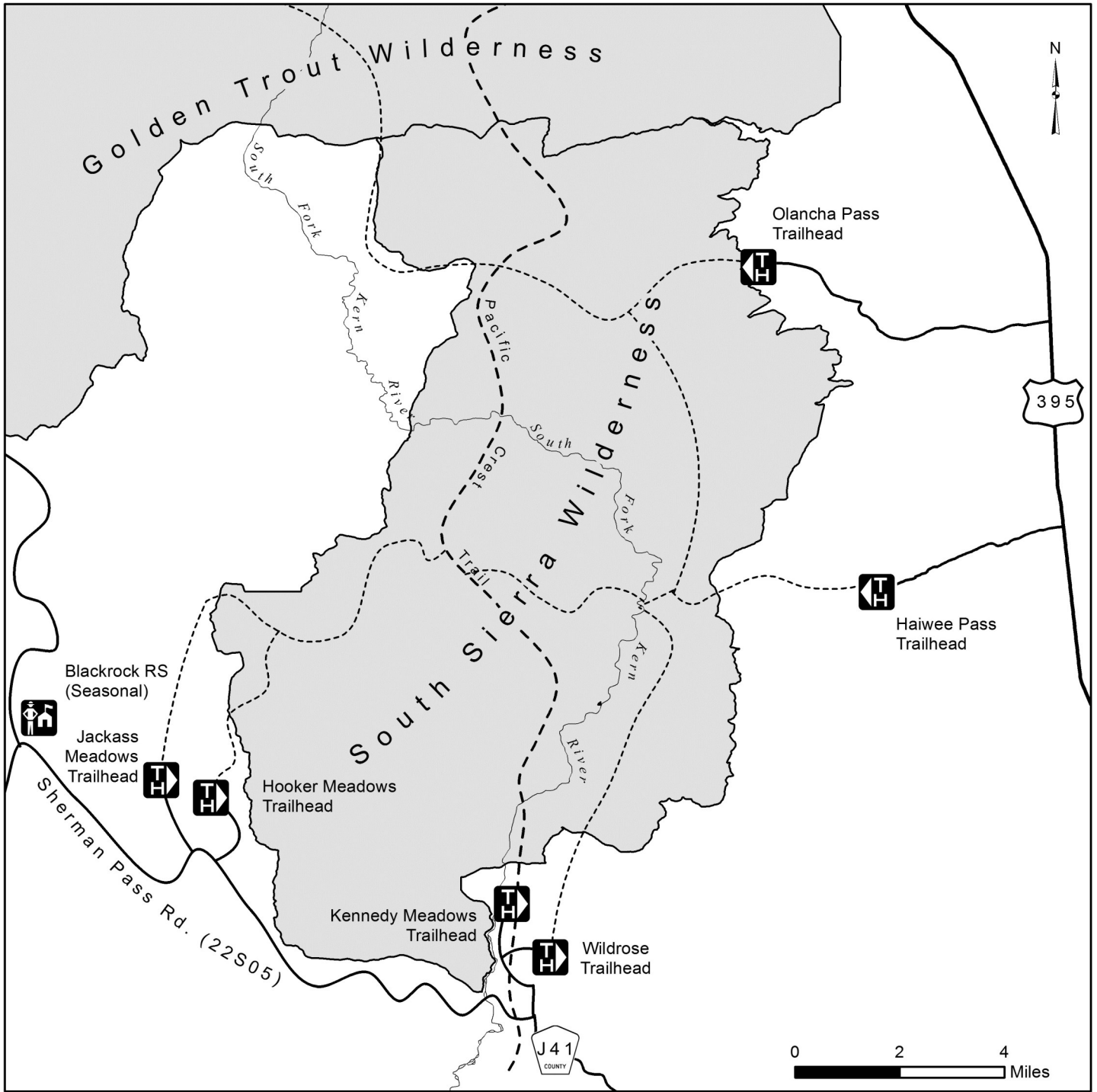
Permits

Wilderness permit are recommended for overnight trips in South Sierra Wilderness. Permits are required for overnight trips in the Golden Trout Wilderness, which is adjacent to South Sierra Wilderness.

For further information, contact the Mt. Whitney District Office, P.O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545. 760-876-6200.



Inyo National Forest - South Sierra Wilderness



Maps:

Tom Harrison: South Sierra Wilderness

USGS Quads: Long Canyon, Crag Peak, Monache Mountain, Haiwee Pass, Templeton Mtn., Olancha

Need more information?

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/inyo/southsierrawilderness

Mt Whitney Ranger District
P.O. Box 8
Lone Pine, CA 93545
760-876-6200



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