



Forest Rules You Need To Know:

ROG 16-100; 2/2020

These regulations have been approved by the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that all visitors to a national forest can experience a safe and enjoyable visit. They are common sense rules meant to control actions that damage natural resources and facilities, as well as those that cause unreasonable disturbances for national forest visitors. The regulations, known as 36 CFR 261, regulate in part the occupancy and use of developed recreation sites. A violation of those regulations is subject to a penalty of not more than \$500 or six months imprisonment, or both.

Definitions

The following definitions, which appear in 36 CFR 261.2, apply to all regulations referenced in this publication:

“Campfire” means a fire, not within any building, mobile home or living accommodation mounted on a motor vehicle, which is used for cooking, personal warmth, lighting, ceremonial or aesthetic purposes. “Fire” includes campfire.

“Camping” means the temporary use of National Forest System lands for the purpose of overnight occupancy without a permanently fixed structure.

“Camping equipment” means the personal property used in or suitable for camping and includes any vehicle used for transportation and all equipment in possession of a person camping. Food and beverage are not considered camping equipment.

“Damaging” means to injure, mutilate, deface, destroy, cut, chop, girdle, dig, excavate, kill or in any way harm or disturb.

“Forest development road” means a trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving a part of the

National Forest System and which has been included in the Forest Development Road System Plan.

“Forest development trail” means a trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving a part of the National Forest System and which has been included in the Forest Development Road System Plan.

“Forest officer” means an employee of the Forest Service.

“Person” means natural person, corporation, company, partnership, trust, firm or association of persons.

“Permission” means oral authorization by a forest officer.

“Permit” means authorization in writing by a forest officer.

“State law” means the law of any state in whose exterior boundaries an act or omission occurs regardless of whether state law is otherwise applicable.

“Stove fire” means a campfire built inside an enclosed stove or grill, a portable brazier or a pressurized liquid or gas stove, including a space-heating device.

Prohibited Acts

The following represents a partial list of acts prohibited on recreation sites on the National Forests. All the regulations are published in 36 CFR 261 copies and are on file at all Forest Supervisor and District Ranger offices:

Operation of Vehicles

- Placing a vehicle or other object in such a manner that it is an impediment or hazard to the safety or convenience of any person. (261.10f)
- Failing to stop a vehicle when directed to do so by a Forest officer. (261.10m)
- Damaging and leaving in a damaged condition condition any such road, trail or segment thereof. (261.c)
- Blocking, restricting or otherwise interfering with the use of a road, trail or gate. (261.12d)
- Operating or parking a motor vehicle or trailer except in places developed or designated for this purpose. (261.16m)
- Operating a bicycle, motorbike or motorcycle on a trail unless designated for this use. (261.16n)
- Operating a motorbike, motorcycle or other motor vehicle for any purpose other than entering or leaving the site. (261.16o)

Sanitation

- Depositing in any toilet, toilet vault or plumbing fixture any substance that could damage or interfere with the operation or maintenance of the fixture. (261.11a)

- Possessing or leaving refuse, debris or other litter in an exposed or unsanitary condition. (261.11b)
- Placing in or near a stream, lake or other water any substance that does or may pollute a stream, lake or other water. (261.11c)
- Failing to dispose of all garbage, including any paper, can, bottle, sewage, waste water or material or rubbish either by removal from the site or area or by depositing it into receptacles or at places provided for such purposes. (261.11d)
- Dumping any refuse, debris, trash or litter brought from private property or from land occupied under permit, except where a container, dump or similar facility has been provided and is identified as such, to receive trash generated from private lands or lands occupied under permit. (261.11e)
- Cleaning or washing any personal property, fish, animal or food, bathing or washing at a hydrant or water faucet not provided for that purpose. (261.16c)
- Depositing any body waste except into receptacles provided for that purpose. (261.16p)





Forest Rules You Need To Know (Page 2)

ROG 16-100 2/2020

Prohibited Acts (continued)

Developed recreation sites

- Building, attending, maintaining or using a fire outside a fire ring provided by the Forest Service for such purpose or outside a stove, grill or fire-place. (261.16b)
- Occupying a place designated for day-use only between 10 pm and 6 am . (261.16e)
- Failing to remove all camping equipment or personal property when vacating the area or site. (261.16f)
- Placing, maintaining or using camping equipment except in a place specifically designated or provided for such equipment. (261.16g)
- Without proper permission, failing to have at least one person occupying a camping area during the first night after setting up camping equipment. (261.16h)
- Leaving camping equipment unattended for more than 24 hours without permission. (261.16i)
- Bringing in or possessing an animal, other than a seeing-eye dog, unless it is crated, caged or on a leash not longer than six feet, or otherwise under physical restrictive control. (261.16j)

Building Fires

- Building, attending, maintaining or using a campfire without removing all flammable material from around the campfire adequate to prevent its escape. (261.5f)
- Leaving a fire without completely extinguishing it. (261.5d)

Destruction of Property

- Cutting or otherwise damaging any timber, tree or other Forest product, except as authorized by permit, timber sale contract, federal law or regulation. (261.6a)
- Damaging or removing any natural feature or other property of the United States (261.9 a,b)

Public Behavior

- Engaging in fighting. (261.4a)
- Addressing any offensive, derisive or annoying communication to any other person lawfully present when such communication has a direct tendency to cause acts of violence by the person to whom, individually, the remark is addressed. (261.4b)
- Make statements or other actions directed toward inciting or producing imminent lawless action and likely to incite or produce such action. (261.4c)
- Causing public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm by making unreasonably loud noise. (261.4d)

Business Activities

- Selling or offering for sale any merchandise,

conducting any kind of work activity or service unless authorized by federal law, regulation or permit. (261.10c)

- Distributing any handbill, circular, paper or notice without a permit. (261.10g)

Interfering with Forest Officer

- Threatening, resisting, intimidating or interfering with any forest officer engaged in or on account of the performance of his or her official duties in the protection, improvement or administration of the national forest system. (261.3a)

Audio Devices

- Operating or using in or near a campsite, developed recreation site or over an adjacent body of water without a permit, any device which produces noise, such as a radio, television, musical instrument, motor or engine in such a manner and at such a time so as to unreasonably disturb any person. (261.10i)
- Operating or using a public address system, whether fixed, portable or vehicle mounted, in or near a campsite, developed recreation site or over an adjacent body of water without a permit. (261.10j)

Fireworks and Firearms

- Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury or damaging property:
 1. in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or
 2. (2) across or on a Forest Development road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner and place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge. (261.10d)
- Discharging or igniting a firecracker, rocket or other firework or explosive. (261.10o)

Other Prohibited Acts

- Constructing, placing or maintaining any kind of road, trail, structure, fence, enclosure, communication equipment or other improvement without a permit. (261.10a)
- Occupying any portion of the site for other than recreation purposes. (261.16a)

Abandoned Personal Property

- Abandoning any personal property. (261.10e)

For more information on regulations in the Stanislaus National Forest, please contact:

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