



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

Firearms Regulations Bass Lake Ranger District

These public lands are enjoyed by tens of thousands of people each year in a variety of activities. Federal and State regulations are in operation to afford all visitors a safe visit to the forest. Regulations for safe use of firearms are to provide for safety, protection and enjoyment of all forest visitors and natural surroundings.

FIREARMS

The California Penal Code 12001 defines firearms as "*rifles, shotguns, revolvers, pistols or any other device designed to be used as a weapon from which a projectile is expelled by the force of any explosion or other form of combustion.*" Forest visitors use firearms for hunting large and small game and target practice. It is your responsibility to know and follow California Firearm Laws and use only legal firearms on National forest lands. California laws can be found on the web at: <http://caag.state.ca.us/firearms/forms/pdf/cfl.pdf>.

WHERE CAN I USE MY FIREARM?

Be aware that not all lands within forest boundaries are public lands open to hunting. It is your responsibility to be aware of and the location of private property and to not trespass. The Sierra National Forest recreation map does show general locations of private property. Maps can be obtained at Forest Service offices, visitor bureaus and some sporting goods businesses.

As a recreation firearm user on Federal lands, it is **your responsibility** to:

- 1) Use your firearm safely.
- 2) **Be aware** of and comply with state, county and federal laws pertaining to the possession and transportation of firearms; and
- 3) Do it without damage to other forest users and to the natural environment.

VALID CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSES ARE REQUIRED

when hunting on Sierra National Forest lands. Know and follow all California Department of Fish and Game rules and regulations. Hunters must carry licenses and be prepared to show them upon request.

In addition to licenses, license tags are required and must be in possession when taking deer, bear and wild pigs. For more information, contact Fish and Game on line at: www.dfg.ca.gov for additional information and for State rules and regulation guides.

FIREARM REGULATIONS

The following forest regulations are in effect:

- 1). **DO NOT use a firearm** or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury or damage to property (36CFR261.10(d);
 - a) **in or within 150 yards of a building, campsite, developed recreation site or other occupied area;**
 - b) across or on any forest developed road, across a bod of water or adjacent to any person or property exposed to possible injury or damage as a result in such discharge;
 - c) into or within any cave.



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2. **DO NOT shoot** in an area that has been closed to the use of firearms.
3. **DO NOT** shoot at, injure, remove or destroy any natural feature or any federal property. (36CFR261.9(a) (includes rocks, brush and trees).
4. **DO NOT possess** a firearm, air rifle or gas gun in a wilderness except for emergencies and taking of wildlife as permitted by State game laws. (36CFR261.57 (c), Forest Order #15-88-4.
5. **DO NOT fire** any tracer bullets or incendiary ammunition. (36CFR261.5(b).
6. **Do take home** all garbage and litter (including spent cartridges and targets). (36CFR261.11(d).

Failure to observe these regulations can result in a citation by a Forest Officer.

FIREARM SAFETY

Following these safety rules will help keep all forest visitors, animals and resources safe:

- 1) Shoot at targets using a safe backstop e.g. a hill.
- 2) Know the target, the backstop and surrounding areas *before* you pull the trigger. Take a good look at surrounding areas.
- 3) Do **NOT** use bottles as targets.
For safety, some roads are locked during wet weather.
- 4) Check for current road information.
- 5) There is private land within forest boundaries; permission must be obtained from the landowner to enter the land. Leave gates as you found them. Please keep your forest clean.

Please Pack home and remove ALL target materials, shells and boxes.

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! For further information contact:

Sierra National Forest Headquarters

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Clovis, CA 93611
559-297-0706

www.fs.usda.gov/sierra

Bass Lake Ranger District

57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643-9734
559-877-2218

High Sierra Ranger District

P. O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
559-855-5355

California Department of Fish and Game

1234 E. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
559-243-4005
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