



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

Merced River Canyon Bass Lake Ranger District

CAMPING

Camping outside of designated campgrounds, is NOT permitted along the Merced River on National forest lands.

Dirt Flat & Dry Gulch Campgrounds - on the north side of the river near Foresta Bridge have nine reservable campsites.

The **U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management** administers three campgrounds below Briceburg: McCabe Flat with 11 sites, Willow Placer with 8 sites, and Railroad Flat with 9 sites, all with toilets but no potable water or trash removal.

DAY USE AREAS

Indian Flat - is a **day use area only, NO over night camping**; has toilets, tables, barbecue grills and paved roadways.

Redbud is at Foresta Bridge and **Briceburg Day Use Area** is at Briceburg, both with toilets and picnic tables. **No overnight camping.**

Firewood is scarce in the canyon so bring what you need. It is illegal to cut standing live **or dead** trees for firewood. **No fires outside of designated sites.**

FIRE DANGER

Long, hot and dry summers make vegetation in the Merced River Canyon tinder-dry every summer creating a great potential for resource destruction and threat to human life and property.

Please be very careful of fire. Campfire only in designated campgrounds.

To report a fire, call 911

FISHING REGULATIONS

Anyone 16 years or older must have a California fishing license. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) stocks rainbow trout from Foresta Bridge down to the South Fork of the Merced. Native fish include German Browns and small mouth bass, with non-game species of squawfish, hardhead, western sucker and sculpin. The area from the National Park boundary to Foresta Bridge is open all year with a two trout limit. **For all species, only fish 12 inches or larger may be taken and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.**

The area from Foresta Bridge to Bagby is open all year with a daily limit of 5 fish of any species with 10 in possession, with up to 10 brook trout per day less than eight inches long.

The South Fork of the Merced is a "wild trout" stream. The same daily limit and possession laws apply as for the area from Foresta Bridge to Bagby. Bass fishing is open all year with a limit of five fish, 12 inches or larger. For a copy of current regulations, contact CDF&G at 559-243-4005 or www.dfg.ca.gov

GOLD PANNING

Recreational gold panning is only on mining claims with permission from the owner. Congress has withdrawn the South Fork of the Merced from mineral entry. Federal law prohibits all forms of prospecting and mining activities, including the use of metal detectors, panning, sluicing, dry-washing and dredging. For more information on mining, contact the Bass Lake Ranger District, 559-877-2218.



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WHITE WATER RAFTING

In the spring, boaters use the 28 miles of the Merced River from Redbud to Bagby. The river is rated Class III through Class V with one mandatory portage at North Fork Falls east of the North Fork of the Merced.

River rafting is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and permits are required. Three launch sites are: **Redbud Launch Site** at Foresta Bridge and **Cranberry Launch Site** 2-1/2 miles west of Foresta Bridge. **Indian Flat Day Use** on Highway 140. ***No overnight camping is allowed.***

Water flow conditions can change on a daily basis making a once safe trip extremely hazardous.

For current information about rafting or permits, please contact:

Bureau of Land Management

Mother Load Office
5122 Hillside Circle
El Dorado Hills, Ca. 95762
916-941-3101

Sierra National Forest

Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643-9734
559-877-2218
www.fs.usda.gov/sierra

Mariposa Station
P.O. Box 747
Mariposa Ca 95338
209-966-3638

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