

Backcountry Regulations

- Carry this permit with you. Upon leaving the backcountry, return it to a visitor center, ranger station, or fee booth. If the building is closed, attach it to the door.
- Cell phone reception in the park is unreliable. It depends on your location and provider. In case of emergency, dial 911. For the ranger station, dial 541-594-3060. For the visitor center, dial 541-594-3100. A 24-hour emergency phone is located at the snow tunnel entrance to the Administration Building at Park Headquarters.
- Pets, bicycles, and motorized vehicles are not allowed in the park's backcountry, with one exception: pets on leash are allowed on the Pacific Crest Trail (the official trail only, not the alternate route along the rim).
- The maximum group size for backcountry camping is 8 people. Larger groups must split into smaller groups, which must camp and eat at least 1/2 mile apart.
- Entering the caldera (going below the rim of the crater) is prohibited, except on the Cleetwood Cove Trail, when the trail is open to hiking.
- All park features are protected. Do not feed or disturb wildlife. Collecting, destroying, defacing, or disturbing natural or cultural features is prohibited.
- Food, garbage, and toiletries must be stored overnight in one of three ways:
 - Suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet horizontally from a tree trunk, post, or other object
 - Kept in a bear-resistant container
 - Left inside your vehicle, with the windows closed
- Giardia may be found in park waters. Treat all water before drinking.
- Dispose of waste properly. Pack out what you pack in. Solid human waste must be buried at least 6 inches deep in the soil, and at least 100 feet from any water source, trail, or designated campsite.
- Seasonal fire restrictions may limit or prohibit backcountry campfires. Otherwise, fires are allowed in the backcountry under these conditions:
 - Wood may be collected and burned only below 6,900 feet in elevation.
 - Wood that is collected must be already dead and down on the ground.
 - Fires must be extinguished when unattended.
 - When extinguished, all visual evidence must be removed, unless using a fire ring at one of the park's designated backcountry campsites.
 - Fires are prohibited in Research Natural Areas and within 1/4 mile of Boundary Springs, Sphagnum Bog, and Thousand Springs.
 - Fires are prohibited between Rim Drive and Crater Lake.
 - Fires are prohibited within 100 feet of any water source or meadow.
- If camping in a designated backcountry campsite, camp only in the site that is assigned to you. Dispersed camping is also allowed, under these conditions:
 - You must be at least 1 mile from any maintained road.
 - You must be at least 100 feet from any water source or meadow, unless the meadow is covered by at least 1 foot of snow.
 - You must be out of sight of all trails, ski routes, and other campers.
 - Camping is prohibited in Research Natural Areas and within 1/4 mile of Boundary Springs, Sphagnum Bog, and Thousand Springs.
 - Camping is prohibited inside the caldera, and within 100 feet of the rim.
 - Camping is prohibited between the caldera and Rim Drive when Rim Drive is open to vehicles.