

36 CFR PART 4 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Section 4.10 – Travel on Park Roads and Routes

(a) Park roads open for travel by motor vehicles are indicated in the “Official Map and Guide for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks”.

Section 4.11 – Load, Weight, and Size Limits

(a) The following load, weight and size limits, which are more restrictive than State law, apply to the following roads:

Generals Highway between Potwisha and Last Hill (Giant Forest):

- Single vehicles over 40 feet long are prohibited.
- Combination vehicles over 50 feet long are prohibited.

Crystal Cave Road:

All vehicular units with a cumulative length over 22 feet long are prohibited.

Mineral King Road:

- Single vehicles over 40 feet long are prohibited.
- Combination vehicles over 50 feet long are prohibited.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road, during the Park’s Shuttle Bus season, when posted:

- Single vehicles over 22 feet long are prohibited.
- All combination vehicles are prohibited.

This exclusion shall not apply to the following vehicles:

- Government vehicles
- Park shuttle busses
- Vehicles with current/valid handicap placards displayed
- Vehicles with current/valid Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA) for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Motorhomes and trailers are prohibited in the following campgrounds and roads:

- Atwell Mill
- Cold Springs
- Buckeye Flat
- Canyon View
- Panoramic Point Road

Section 4.21 – Speed Limits

(b) The following speed limits are established for the routes/roads indicated:

- (i) **10 MPH:** Panoramic Point Road.

- (ii) **15 MPH:** On the Generals Highway from just below Park Headquarters to the first curve past Park Headquarters and the Foothills Visitor Center where posted.
On the Generals Highway in the vicinity of the Giant Forest Museum where posted.
On the Generals Highway at the Lodgepole intersections, the Little Baldy Trailhead, the Dorst Campground entrance, and at Lost Grove where posted.
On the Mineral King Road through Silver City where posted.
On the Mineral King Road through Faculty Flat to just above the Mineral King Ranger Station where posted.
On the Generals Highway at Tunnel Rock.
On the Generals Highway at Hospital Rock Area.
Grant Tree Road.

- (iii) **20 MPH:** Crescent Meadow Road
Moro Rock Road

- (iv) **25 MPH:** On the Generals Highway from park headquarters through Giant Forest to the General Sherman Tree area where posted.
On the Mineral King Road where posted.
On the Crystal Cave Road where posted.
On the Crescent Meadow / Moro Rock Road where posted.
On Highway 180 where it passes through Grant Grove Village where posted.
On the Redwood Saddle Road where posted.

- (v) **30 MPH:** On the Generals Highway from the end of Highway 198 to the Ash Mountain Entrance Station where posted.
On the Generals Highway from the Ash Mountain Entrance Station to Park Headquarters where posted.

- (vi) **35 MPH:** On the Generals Highway from the General Sherman Tree to the Red Fir Gate where posted.
On the Wolverton Road where posted.

On Highway 180 from the Big Stump Entrance Station to Grant Grove Village and from Grant Grove Village to the north park boundary where posted.
On Highway 180 from the park boundary through the Cedar Grove area to Roads End where posted.

Section 1.5 – Closures and public use limits.

(a)(1) Visiting hours, public use limits, closures, and area designations for specific use or activities.

PUBLIC USE LIMITS

The Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road is closed to single vehicles over 22 feet long and all combination vehicles when the Park's shuttle bus system is in operation and closure signs are posted.

This closure is for visitor safety. The Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road is narrow; limiting the number of large vehicles on this road decreases the risk of motor vehicle accidents and enhances response times for emergency vehicles.

The Mineral King Road is closed to motorized vehicles, except where provided by permit, deed of right-of-way, or administrative use, from November 1 until the Friday preceding Memorial Day Weekend at the Mineral King Road Gate near the Sequoia National Park boundary.

The purpose of this gate is to deter access for illegal marijuana cultivation, to insure public health and safety, and to protect natural and cultural resources.

CLOSURES

The following roads are closed to public vehicular traffic during the winter months:

Mineral King Road ... above the Conifer Gate at milepost 17.64, from November 1 until the Friday preceding Memorial Day weekend.

Middle Fork Road from Hospital Rock to Buckeye Flat Campground and to the old corral area at the Middle Fork Trailhead.

Crystal Cave Road

Crescent Meadow / Moro Rock Road

Redwood Saddle Road

Panoramic Point Road

All roads within the Cedar Grove area.

These roads are closed due to snow accumulations and/or muddy conditions, and there is no winter maintenance on these roads to keep them passable to vehicular traffic. Trash collection service, water, and other visitor services are not available along these road corridors during the winter months. Staff to meet these needs, provide for visitor services and resource protection throughout the winter months is cost prohibitive. Unlimited vehicular access on an unmaintained road during the winter months can adversely affect the condition of the road surface, damaging it, and increasing both the time and cost needed to recondition the road in the spring.

All roads within the Dillonwood Grove area beyond locked gates.

This road is closed to vehicular traffic for visitor safety. The Dillonwood area was formerly a small residential community that is now a recently acquired property of Sequoia National Park. All properties are under evaluation for use; the roads, buildings and use areas are not currently maintained.

All Roads within the Oriole Lake Road complex within Sequoia National Park.

These roads and portions of road are within Designated Wilderness, and are closed to vehicular traffic, except for right-of-way access to private property owners and by permit or authorization from the superintendent.

The following areas are closed to public entry, except when accompanied by a park official, or when entry is authorized by the Superintendent:

All facilities and buildings used for the storage, treatment, or transmission of electricity, gas, telephone, waste disposal, and domestic water. The roads that service these facilities are also closed to public access when gated and posted.

These facilities are closed to public entry to ensure both employee and visitor safety.

All park helibases and helispots.

The reason for this closure is for both employee and visitor safety. Operations involving helicopters, especially during takeoffs and landings, are regarded as hazardous. Standard operating practices set forth in both the Department of Interior Manual and the Interagency Helicopter Operations Guidelines require that the access of persons and their movement around helicopter operations be strictly controlled.

The following former roads, which are located in recommended or eligible wilderness, are closed to public vehicular traffic, including bicycles:

Colony Mill Trail from the Crystal Cave Road to the Sequoia National Park boundary.

North Fork / West Boundary Trail from Yucca Flat to Hidden Spring.

Redwood Canyon Trail

These former roads, which are located in designated wilderness, have been closed by locked gates and/or boulder placements to protect natural and cultural resources from illegal activities and the effects of unauthorized vehicles. These closures are also necessary to protect the wilderness experience of park visitors seeking solitude and quiet. The Colony Mill Trail, the North Fork / West Boundary Trail, and the Redwood Canyon Trail are located in designated wilderness. The Wilderness Act prohibits vehicle access.