

36 CFR PART 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

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 Pinewood Picnic Area is closed to all use from dusk to dawn, except by permit.

The Giant Forest area has a long history of bear problems dating to the 1920's. It was typically one of the worst areas in the park for bear problems of every type: bears breaking into cars, cabins, and the cafeteria; bears bluff charging visitors; bears stealing food; and occasionally bears injuring visitors. When the buildings were removed, the human food source was largely eliminated and the bear problem decreased significantly. However, bears remain in the area and will be attracted to improperly handled food items in the Pinewood Picnic Area. The nighttime closure results from the increased difficulty of keeping food items away from bears after dark; staff is less available for monitoring proper food storage and disposal, and educating visitors on the importance of such practices, after dark.

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.

All management class 4, 5, and 6 caves.

These caves are closed to public entry because for the following reasons:

- Class 4 – These caves have been recently discovered and require further exploration and/or inventory of features to evaluate how they should be managed, or they have been known for years but have not been sufficiently inventoried.*
- Class 5 – These caves contain paleontological, archeological, biological, or other resources of special scientific value that would be easily altered, even by careful use of the cave.*
- Class 6 – These caves are closed to all use because of extreme, unavoidable hazards (rockfall, disease, dangerous atmosphere, etc.) for even the most skilled caver.*

[Reference: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Cave Management Plan, approved January 1999.]

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.

Areas around and on Moro and Chimney Rocks are subject to seasonal closures in order to protect nesting Peregrine Falcons. The closures are from April 17 through August 30, during which time closure status is posted on the bulletin boards in each area's parking lot. If a closure has been lifted, the closure posting will be removed from the area's bulletin board.

CHIMNEY ROCKS SEASONAL AREA CLOSURE DESCRIPTION:

Being within ¼ mile of the border between the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the National Park Service (NPS) occupied by Chimney Rock, as defined by the following points along this border:

The following describe a triangle that encompasses the area closure:

From 332897e, 4058397n southeasterly along the USFS/NPS border to 333321e, 4057713n (GPS Data Format UTM NAD83)

From 333321e, 4057713n northwesterly, in a straight line to 332486e, 4058128n (GPS Data Format UTM NAD83)

From 332897e, 4058397n in a straight line southwesterly to 332486e, 4058128n (GPS Data Format UTM NAD83)

[See Attachment 2 for map of the Chimney Rock Closure Area.]

This closure includes, but is not limited to, the following climbing areas: Chimney Rock and Chimney Spire, The Monk, Camp Ridge (Crystal Wall), and Chartreuse Dicephalon. Access to Sasquatch Spire, Moccasin Ridge, and Moccasin Spire is also closed during closures.

MORO ROCK SEASONAL AREA CLOSURE DESCRIPTION:

The entire rock structure is closed to climbing except the area accessed by stairs that is enclosed by railings.

If it is determined that an area is not occupied by Peregrine falcons, its closure will be lifted.

Chimney and Moro Rocks have been traditional nesting sites for Peregrine Falcons, and are expected to continue to be nesting sites in the future. Peregrine Falcons are an endangered species in California; they are extremely sensitive to human activity and may abandon their nests if disturbed. When upset they have been known to dive bomb intruders. Closures protect both visitors and the falcons.

Climbing or attempting to climb Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) trees.

Giant Sequoia trees are found only on the western slope of the southern Sierra Nevada. Many of the world's finest specimens are located within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Every effort is made to protect them from potential damage and for park visitors to view them undisturbed by other humans.

Soda Springs Creek drainage (in southern Sequoia National Park) is closed to fishing.

*Soda Creek is closed to all fishing to protect a sensitive population of Little Kern Golden Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss whitei*).*

(a)(2) Specific use or activity designations, conditions, and restrictions:

The use of flotation devices, boats, or rafts is prohibited on the South Fork of the Kings River from Bubbs Creek Bridge downstream to the Kings Canyon National Park boundary.

The management of this portion of the South Fork of the Kings River must meet the needs of all park users, including but not limited to photographers, fishermen, and those visitors wishing to see undisturbed sections of a free flowing river. The use of flotation devices, boats, and rafts is contrary to the needs of other park users. This closure is also necessary due to safety hazards – such as fallen trees – to floaters, boaters, and rafters. Removal of these hazards would be contrary to park resource management policy, so this portion of river is unsafe for floating, boating, or rafting.

Generators may not be used in the following areas of Lodgepole and Dorst Campgrounds: sites 36-60 (RV's and tents) and sites 69 – 150 (tents only) in Lodgepole; and sites 74 – 127 (tents only) in Dorst.

The use of generators adds an unnatural sound to a natural setting and experience. By restricting the areas in which generators may be used, parties using generators and those preferring a natural ambiance will both have the opportunity to enjoy their park camping experience.

Generators may be used in Lodgepole and Dorst Campgrounds only during the following hours: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.; and in designated sites.

The use of generators adds an unnatural sound to a natural setting and experience. By restricting the hours during which generators may be used; parties using generators and those preferring a natural ambiance will both receive opportunities to enjoy their park camping experience.

Passenger buses are subject to the following condition/restriction on all park roads within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks: Buses must shut down their engines when not underway. Buses are allowed to idle up to 15 minutes to allow the driver to complete their legally required Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection. All other idling shall not exceed 5 minutes.

The idling of bus engines adds unnecessary exhaust fumes to the air and diminishes the enjoyment by park visitors of the stillness and tranquility of the park. This regulation conforms to state bus regulations.



Chimney Rock Seasonal Peregrine Closure Area** - Kings Canyon National Park

