Bear Habitat: Proper Food Storage is the Law!

Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

Drivers
Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes (or "lockers") are provided.

Picnickers
Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

Lodge Guests
Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

Campers
Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

Backpackers
Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at visitor centers or markets.

Everyone
Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Your Fees Help the Parks & the Forest!

Most of fees get invested right here, improving and protecting these parks: They repair roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They update visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For more on these and commercial fees, ask park staff or search www.nps.gov/seki for "fees."

Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks plus Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest):

• 7-day pass: $20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or $10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• 12-Month Pass: $30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave.

Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:

• Annual: $80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• Annual Military: Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173.

• Seniors: $10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• Accessibility: Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).

Wilderness

Wilderness Overnights

Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Know and follow restrictions, as they protect both the environment and your experience.

Permits
Required for overnights (not day hikes). Issued in summer (reservations available) and self-issued the rest of the year at locations near your trailhead.

Quotas & Permits: From late May to late September each park trail has a daily entry quota and a required wilderness camping fee ($15). Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within this quota season are accepted starting March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date. Permits must be picked up starting 1pm the afternoon before or by 9am the day of departure at the permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead. Call the Wilderness Office if delayed or you may lose the permit. If you don't have a reservation and the quota for your preferred trail is full, choose another trail for that day or another day to start. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (US Forest Service): Permits not required but the USFS requires free fire permits for any open flame.

Camping in the park's "frontcountry": This is permitted **only** in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See www.nps.gov/seki or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Summer only. A tent hotel and restaurant at 7,800 feet, 11 miles out the High Sierra Trail. Reservations required: 1-888-252-5757; www.visitsequoia.com•

Pear Lake Ski Hut: Open winter only, it sits at 9,200 feet. Six strenuous miles on skis/snowshoes. Ten bunks; pellet stove. Operated by SNHA: 1-559-565-3759; reservations required. See www.sequoia-history.org for winter-travel seminars.