



Dispersed Camping

Sequoia National Forest

Hume Lake Ranger District



Dispersed Camping:

The term simply describes camping in an area that is not regularly “maintained” by the Forest Service. These areas do not have restrooms or drinking water facilities. Picnic tables and fire grills are not usually available but in high use areas a table may be present. Most campsites are usually found next to the road.

Fees:

There is no fee for dispersed camping. The only fee required is at the entrance of Big Stump Entrance Station on Hwy 180 and the Ash Mountain Entrance Station on Hwy 198.

Areas Closed to Dispersed Camping:

The two designated areas closed to dispersed camping are the Hume Lake Recreation Area and Stony Creek Recreation Area. Other areas closed to dispersed camping include historical and archaeological sites. Also, be certain that you are within the boundaries of the National Forest before setting up camp. The National Park Service does not allow dispersed camping except for those who are hiking into the backcountry with backcountry permits.

Vehicle Parking:

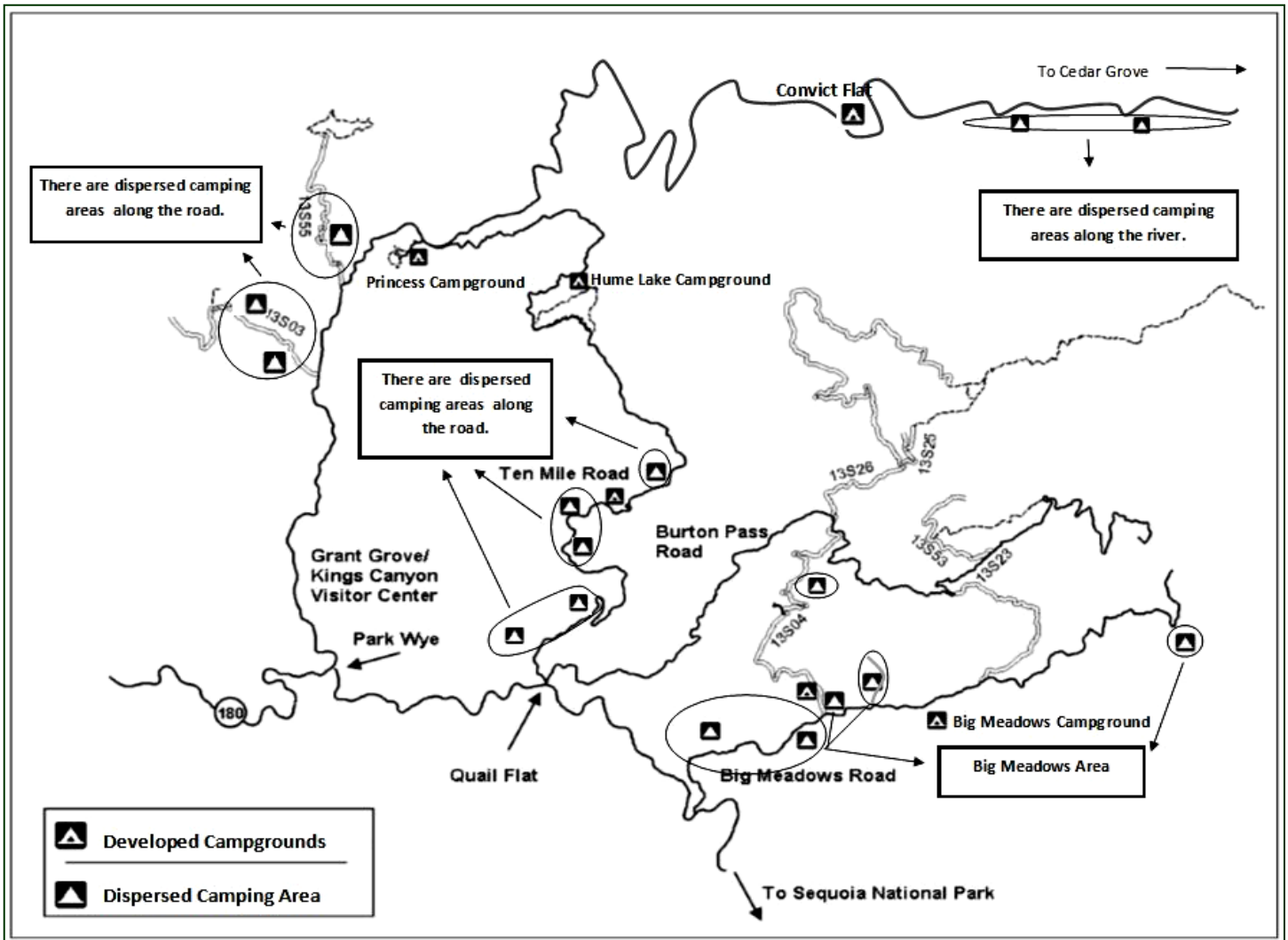
Vehicles are not permitted off of roads, but if you can safely park your vehicle adjacent and parallel to the road and are not blocking the roadway, you may park and camp. Most sites will have a parking spot nearby while other sites may not. Because the footprint of a vehicle can have a large impact to soils, please do not create new “parking spot” for a campsite. Please park in designated or already impacted spots.

Things to Consider for Dispersed Camping

- **Leave No Trace Camping** - The purpose of this type of camping is for no one to notice you while you are there and for no one to know you were there after you leave. Please respect nature and others visitors by keeping noise to a minimum. You must always pack out whatever you pack in. No permanent structures are to be constructed to an area (e.g. building rock lined fire pits, trenching around tents, tree carving). Human waste should be deposited in a hole dug 6 - 10 inches deep and then covered with organic soil.
- **Campfire permits are required** - Please obtain a fire permit from the Forest Service office or Kings Canyon Visitor Center. Read the entire permit so that you understand your responsibilities concerning campfires. If there are fire restrictions, there are several areas that are “fire safe” meaning that you may still have a campfire there when other areas may not allow open fires at all. Speak to a Ranger for more information.
- **Water Quality** - Your camp must be at least 100 ft. (35 paces) from any water source to insure you have clean drinking water. Giardiasis, an intestinal parasite that passes through feces, and other organisms can be present in many mountain creeks, rivers, and lakes. They can cause disease and sickness. To kill this parasite, boil water for 5 minutes or use a water filtering device.
- **Food Storage** - There are many bears in the forest. Please store your food by locking it in a bear-proof container, but if lockers are not available store food in the trunk of your vehicle. If you must store food inside the cab of your car, completely close all the windows and cover all scented items neatly with a blanket so bears can't see what's inside.

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PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE OFF DESIGNATED ROADS AND INTO A CAMPSITE.

All designated roads are shown on the map and are marked with a brown post that shows the road number. You must not drive your vehicle off these roads.

The map shows approximate locations where popular dispersed campsites can be found. There are many campsites along forest roads that are not displayed on the map and can be found with some exploring on designated roads.

Dispersed camping is not permitted in developed campgrounds and day use areas such as Horse Camp, Big Meadows Unit 1 – 5, Buck Rock Campground, Ten Mile Campground, Hume Lake Recreation Area, Stony Creek Recreation Area, etc. Basically if there are tables, a steel fire rings, and Forest Service signs indicating a campground, dispersed camping is not permitted. If a rock fire ring is present, it may be a dispersed campsite, but make sure the site is not inside a developed area.

Remember...

- ◆ Do not drive off of designated roads – obey road signs and respect a road closure.
- ◆ Park one car width adjacent to roadway.
- ◆ Dispersed camping is not permitted in developed campgrounds.
- ◆ Camp at established sites and do not build new rock fire rings.
- ◆ Properly store all food, scented items, and trash in food lockers, if not available, then in vehicle’s trunk.
- ◆ Be fire safe and know the regulations for a campfire.
- ◆ Practice *Leave No Trace* ethics.

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Hume Lake Ranger District
 35860 East Kings Canyon Road
 Dunlap, CA 93621
[559-338-2251](tel:559-338-2251)

Forest Supervisor’s Office
 1839 S. Newcomb Street
 Porterville, CA 93257
[559-784-1500](tel:559-784-1500)

