

Wilderness.net's Chanchelulla Wilderness Fact Sheet

Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Chanchelulla Wilderness in 1984 and it now has a total of 8,062 acres. All of the wilderness is in California and is managed by the Forest Service.

Description

Chanchelulla Peak stands at 6,399 feet, the highest point in Chanchelulla Wilderness, a steeply rugged area with slopes angling as much as 70 degrees. The southern slopes are primarily covered in dense, ankle-twisting chaparral, and the northern slopes are draped in fragrant conifers such as pine, fir, and cedar. Deer find this habitat appealing, and visitors occasionally spot black bears, fishers (a dark-furred member of the marten family), and mountain lions. Birds of prey, owls (including northern spotted owls), and numerous songbirds are residents. It's hot and dry most of the year, devoid of lakes or any accessible streams. You won't find any maintained pathways either, but you might be able to follow a few animal tracks and partially cleared trails leading from Deer Lick Springs in the east and Midas Saddle in the south. Human use is very light, and usually confined to deer hunters. If you're hankering to be alone in a Wilderness area, Chanchelulla should rank high on your list (but don't forget your blaze orange in deer hunting season).

Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Chanchelulla Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

Area Management

The Chanchelulla Wilderness is part of the 109 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the*

American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness" as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Chanchelulla Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

General Wilderness Prohibitions

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation.

In a few areas some exceptions allowing the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport are described in the special regulations in effect for a specific area. Contact the Forest Service office for more specific information.

These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires management of human-caused impacts and protection of the area's wilderness character to insure that it is "unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Use of the equipment listed as prohibited in wilderness is inconsistent with the provision in the Wilderness Act which mandates opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and that wilderness is a place that is in contrast with areas where people and their works are dominant.

Wilderness-Specific Regulations

Wilderness managers often need to take action to limit the impacts caused by visitor activities in order to protect the natural conditions of wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Managers typically implement 'indirect' types of actions such as information and education measures before selecting more restrictive measures. When regulations are necessary, they are implemented with the specific intent of balancing the need to preserve the character of the wilderness while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The following wilderness regulations are in effect for this area. Not all regulations are in effect for every wilderness. Contact the Forest Service office for more specific information about the regulations listed.

ALL VISITORS

General Prohibition

The following are prohibited in a National Forest Wilderness:

- 1) Possessing or using a motor vehicle, motorboat or motorized equipment except as authorized by Federal law or regulation
- 2) Possessing or using a hang glider or bicycle
- 3) Landing of aircraft, or dropping off or picking up any material, supplies or person by means of any aircraft including a helicopter.

In the Pacific Southwest Region:

The maximum group size, using a trail, campsite, or other area in any National Forest Wilderness by a group of more than 25 persons without a valid Visitor's permit authorizing such use issued by an order establishing a smaller group size is prohibited.

The maximum length of stay within a Wilderness prohibits camping for more than 30 days total per year, without special authorization.

Seasonal fire restrictions come into affect in dry years. Be sure to check with the local Ranger District for dates and details.

Possessing an alcoholic beverage by any person under the age of 21 years old is prohibited.

Possessing, storing, or transporting any part of a tree or plant in violation of State or Federal Law is prohibited.

Possessing, storing or transporting any bird, fish, or other animal, or parts thereof in violation of federal or state law, is prohibited.

Contacts

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Phone: 530-352-4211

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PLATINA, CA 96076

Links on Wilderness.net

[National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

[Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
Public Law 98-425	September 28, 1984	8,200

California Wilderness Act of 1984 - Public Law 98-425 (9/28/1984) California Wilderness Act of 1984

— [download 98-425](#) - Relevant legislation found on page(s): 1.