

Wilderness.net's Trinity Alps Wilderness Fact Sheet



Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Trinity Alps Wilderness in 1984 and it now has a total of 537,363 acres. All of the wilderness is in California and is managed by the Forest Service.

Description

Formerly known as the Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive Area, the Trinity Alps Wilderness is located 50 miles west of Redding California. The area contains the Wild and Scenic Trinity River in the south and the Wild and Scenic Salmon River in the north. Numerous

rushing streams feed into these rivers, many of them emerging from the region's 55 lakes. Scattered stands of timber, most of them virgin, are opened by large meadows with wildflowers in July and August, and shadowed by barren rock cliffs and stark peaks with elevations up to 9,000 feet. Black bears are common (despite the name, they're often colored brown or blond), sharing the area with an abundance of other wildlife species. As much as 12 feet of snow falls on the high country every year. Currently the entire Wilderness (one of the state's largest) is situated on, and managed solely by, the USFS. The Trinity Alps Wilderness contains a total of 550 miles of maintained trails. Numerous loop hikes are available, requiring three to five days to complete. Seventeen miles of the Pacific Crest Trail run through the northern part of the wilderness. There are many areas within the wilderness capable of providing opportunities for solitude.

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 Trinity Alps 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 Trinity Alps 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 Trinity Alps 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 or visit the websites listed below 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 or visit the websites listed on the 'Links' tab for more specific information about the regulations listed.

ALL VISITORS

-- Group size is limited to no more than 10 people per party. Exemptions are granted on a case-by-case basis, upon request. We use MIST guidelines to determine eligibility for exemption. Contact the Weaverville RD (530 623-2121) to facilitate this exemption.

-- Fires, campfires, and stove fires are prohibited within the upper end of the Canyon Creek and Stuarts' Fork Watersheds and the upper Alpine Lake Watershed.

- Do not shortcut switchbacks.
- Pack out all debris, garbage, or other waste.
- Possessing, storing, or transporting any part of a tree or plant, bird, fish, or other animal in violation of Federal or State law is prohibited.
- As with all designated Wilderness areas, mechanical transportation (including wagons, game carts, bicycles, hang gliders, and other vehicles) is prohibited.

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

- Permits are required.
- Camping for more than fourteen (14) days per calendar year is prohibited.

Wilderness Permit System

A wilderness permit system has been implemented for this wilderness. This involves a mandatory permit, which does not limit use. Wilderness permit systems are implemented to collect information on use levels and patterns and as an education and information tool. People interested in visiting the Trinity Alps Wilderness should contact the national forest office or visit the websites listed below for more information about this permit system, which may vary by location or time of the year.

Contacts

Weaverville Ranger District
PO BOX 1190
210 MAIN STREET
WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

Phone: 530-623-2121

Klamath National Forest
1711 S MAIN STREET
YREKA, CA 96097

Phone: 530-842-6131

Shasta Trinity National Forest
3644 AVTECH PARKWAY
REDDING, CA 96001

Phone: 530-226-2500

Six Rivers National Forest
1330 BAYSHORE WAY
EUREKA, CA 95501

Phone: 707-442-1721

Links to Other Websites

[Trinity Alps Trail and Road Information](#)

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 | 500,000 |
| California Wilderness Act of 1984 - Public Law 98-425 (9/28/1984) California Wilderness Act of 1984 | | |
| <i>NOTE:</i> Public law acreage includes FS and BLM acreage. | | |

—: [download 98-425](#) - Relevant legislation found on page(s): 5.

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|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| Public Law 109-362 | October 17, 2006 | 22,863 |
| Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act - Public law 109-362 (10/17/2006) To designate certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino and Six Rivers National Forests and certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Napa Counties in the State of California as wilderness, to designate the Elkhorn Ridge Potential Wilderness Area, to designate certain segments of the Black Butte River in Mendocino County, California as a wild or scenic river, and for other purposes. | | |

—: [download 109-362](#)

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| Public Law 111-206 | July 27, 2010 | 0 |
| Shasta-Trinity National Forest Administrative Jurisdiction Transfer Act - Public law 111-206 (7/27/2010) To interchange the administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes. | | |
| <i>NOTE:</i> This public law dictated an administrative transfer of 4,473 acres that were managed by the Bureau of Land Management to the Forest Service. | | |

—: [download 111-206](#) - Relevant legislation found on page(s): 2, 3.