

# Wilderness.net's Hoover Wilderness Fact Sheet



## Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Hoover Wilderness in 1964 and it now has a total of 128,124 acres. All of the wilderness is in California and is managed by the Forest Service.

## Description

First established as a Primitive area in 1931, then a Wild area in 1957, the Hoover Wilderness was one of the original members of the NWPS. Here is an extremely rugged and magnificently scenic area in

California's Sierra Nevada Range with elevations from around 7,000 feet to more than 12,000 feet, a region of alpine lakes and lovely meadows but little timber. The scarcity of firewood has resulted in a ban on wood fires in the very popular 20 Lakes Basin, above 9,000 ft. elevation in Virginia and Green creeks, and near Barney and Peeler lakes. Rainbow, brook, and golden trout inhabit the lakes. If you travel with stock, you should pack in all your feed. You may see cattle and sheep grazing, as some permits were issued to ranchers prior to designation. The presence of black bears should encourage you to carry a bear canister (in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest portion of the wilderness) or hang your food at night (in the Inyo National Forest portion). Rain, snow, strong winds, and bitter cold can occur in all seasons. The Hoover Wilderness shares its western border with Yosemite National Park and permits are required to hike into the park as well as additional restrictions. The area, with its well-maintained trail system, receives heavy human use. You'll encounter the least human traffic in the northern portion, but, all things considered, this Wilderness would fare better with less visitation.

## 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 Hoover 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 Hoover Wilderness is part of the 110 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 Hoover 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**

- Maximum party size is 15 people in general and 8 people in the Sawtooth Ridge Zone.
- Campfires are prohibited in Twenty Lakes Basin, above 9,000 feet in Virginia and Green Creek drainages, and within 1/4 mile of Barney and Peeler Lakes.
- Food and refuse must be stored in a bear-resistant containers (Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

portion of the Hoover Wilderness) or counterbalanced at least 15 feet above the ground and 10 feet horizontally from a tree trunk (Inyo National Forest portion of the Hoover Wilderness) when unattended.

## OVERNIGHT VISITORS

- Overnight visitors are required to have a valid Wilderness permit.
- Camping for more than one night is prohibited within 1/4 mile of Barney Lake.
- Camping is prohibited in the Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area or within 100 feet of any trail or water source.
- Camping within any one travel zone for more than 14 consecutive days is prohibited.

## STOCK USERS

- Maximum number of pack or saddle stock for one group is 25 head.
- Salting is prohibited.

## Wilderness Permit System

A wilderness permit system has been implemented for this wilderness. This involves a use-limiting permit system with quotas and reservations. Wilderness permit systems are implemented to collect information on use levels and patterns and as an education and information tool. Use-limiting systems are implemented after monitoring has determined that current use levels are resulting in unacceptable impacts to the resource and/or to the wilderness recreation experience. These systems help distribute visitor use throughout the season and help minimize crowded conditions at popular areas. People interested in visiting the Hoover 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.

## Fees

The following user fee system(s) have been implemented for this wilderness: RESERVATION. Fees are most often used to offset the operating costs of a permit system or to help fund management activities such as trail maintenance. Contact the national forest office or visit the websites listed below for more specific information on this fee system.

## Contacts

**Bridgeport Ranger District**  
HC62 BOX 1000  
BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517

Phone: 760-932-7070

**Mono Ranger District**  
PO BOX 429  
LEE VINING, CA 93541

Phone: 760-647-3044

## Links to Other Websites

[Inyo National Forest Wilderness](#)

## 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)
<b>Public Law 88-577</b>	<b>September 3, 1964</b>	<b>42,800</b>

The Wilderness Act - Public law 88-577 (9/3/1964) To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes

— [download 88-577](#)

<b>Public Law 111-11</b>	<b>March 30, 2009</b>	<b>79,820</b>
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Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 - Public law 111-11 (3/30/2009) An act to designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

— [download 111-11](#) - Relevant legislation found on page(s): 63.