



U.S. Forest Service
Sequoia National Forest
Giant Sequoia National Monument
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News Release

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Sequoia National Forest day use opportunities available, overnight camping prohibited

PORTERVILLE, Calif. – For the health and welfare of our Forest visitors and staff, Sequoia National Forest Supervisor Teresa Benson announces Forest Orders No. 0513-20-43, 0513-20-44, and 0513-20-45 prohibiting overnight camping on public lands managed by the Forest. The Forest Orders remain in effect from December 11, 2020 through January 6, 2021 unless extended or rescinded.

According to Supervisor Benson, the Forest Orders prohibiting dispersed camping expands Regional Order No. 20-27, issued December 7. The Regional Order closed developed campgrounds on eight National Forests in California to provide a consistent COVID-19 mitigation response following Gov. Gavin Newsom's December 3, Stay-at-Home Order. Based on the [Covid19.ca.gov website](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/P200003.aspx), the Forest is located within the San Joaquin Valley which has below 2% of ICU beds available. Forest and Regional orders are available at <https://go.usa.gov/xA3sq>.

We understand how important access to the Forest is for our visitors. The Forest covers over 1.1 million acres in three Southern California counties and offers an abundance of day-use opportunities for people to enjoy. These opportunities include hiking on more than 1,147 miles of trails, including 47 miles of the PCT, 222 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2,617 rivers and streams, 158 ponds and lakes, boating, fishing, biking, and more.

"The health and safety of Forest visitors, Forest staff, public safety officers, and first responders remain our number one priority," Supervisor Benson emphasized. "We urge all visitors to follow CDC guidelines to recreate responsibly. If an area is crowded, please search for a less occupied location."

Outdoor recreation can be beneficial for your health but must be practiced safely. We continue to recommend that you not travel long distances to recreate. If you or anyone in your household feels sick, please remain at home and plan your trip for another time. All visitors should practice self-sufficiency during their visit to the forest. Recreating responsibly will help ensure that expanded access to recreational facilities, services, and opportunities continues.

Responsible recreation practices should always be maintained, including:

- Research winter road conditions and make sure your vehicle is snow ready;
- Maintaining at least six feet distancing from others;
- Do not gather in groups and please follow the latest guidance from officials;
- Communicate with others as you pass. Alert trail users of your presence and step aside to let others pass;
- Pack out your trash and leave with everything you bring in and use; and
- All services may not be available, so please plan accordingly.



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