

2017 · 2018

# Stanislaus Traveler

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

Cherry Creek in the Emigrant Wilderness © 2016 Joel Silvereman

# **MEET THE BEETLES**

### TYPES OF BEETLES

Mountain, Western, and Jeffrey Pine Beetles

### **HOSTS**: Ponderosa pine—western and mountain; Coulter pine—western;

Lodgepole and sugar pine-mountain; Jeffrey-jeffrey.

**Red Turpentine Beetle** HOSTS: Most pines

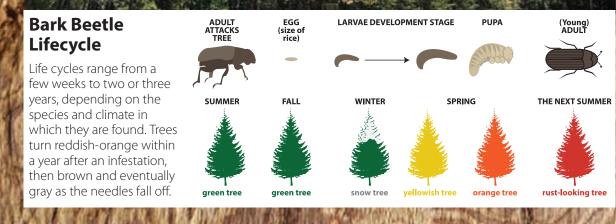
Fir Engraver HOSTS: White fir and red fir

**Pinyon IPS HOSTS:** Most pinyon pines

**Other IPS Species HOSTS:** Pines

**Douglas-Fir Beetle** HOSTS: Douglas-fir

Widespread tree mortality in the Stanislaus National Forest. PHOTO BY CHRISTINA WILKINSON



 ${f B}^{
m ark}$  beetles can infest small to large areas of conifer forests based on weather patterns and current forest conditions. Therefore, bark beetles play a major role in the natural cycle of growth and regeneration of a forest.

While all we see are dying trees, it is important to understand that bark beetles and other disturbance agents provide benefits to the forest as well. Woodpeckers utilize snags created from these dead trees to build homes, and depend upon beetle larvae for food. After woodpeckers vacate these homes, other birds and mammals are able to move in. Also, when bark beetles kill older or weakened trees, this allows the younger and stronger trees the ability to compete for light, water, and nutrients.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOUR TREES ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO AN ATTACK?

Step 1: Identify Your Trees Step 2: Determine the Tree's Susceptibility (individual and stands)

Step 3: Determine if Your Trees Have Been Attacked

Step 4: How to Treat Trees Already Attacked

Once bark beetles have successfully attacked a tree, there is generally nothing you can do to save it. There are no chemical insecticides registered or recommended for killing bark beetles under the bark of infested trees. While some trees do survive bark beetle attack, the vast majority are killed.

### Step 5: PREVENT Bark Beetle Attacks

1. Thin trees to widen space. Thinning helps to hamper bark beetle pheromone communication system that facilitates mass attacks.

2. Always clean up any recently blown down trees or fresh slash to avoid creating more habitat for beetle development.

3. Avoid causing injuries to trees, such as knocking off bark, compacting/excavating soil near trees or disturbing the root system.

4. Remove all trees that currently contain beetles. All infested green material >3 inches in diameter should be removed from the site, chipped, buried or burned.

5. During severe or extended drought periods it may be prudent to use insecticides to protect unattacked trees.

6. Watering your trees during severe or extended drought periods can also give your trees a boost. Watering should occur early in the growing season by saturating the soil down to two feet near the outer edge of the tree branches. Be careful not to over water!

# THE RIM FIRE: A STORY OF RECOVERY & REFORESTATION

In the wake of the Rim Fire, reforestation will help accelerate new life in the Stanislaus National Forest. Even the goals and methods of this restoration plan have new life. "This Reforestation effort is very different than what has been done on the Stanislaus in the past. We are planting fewer trees per acre, buffering oaks and meadows and trying some different planting patterns across the landscape to break up the rows of trees," said Maria Benech, Rim Reforestation Interdisciplinary Team Leader.

Restoring a mixed conifer forest to the landscape for multiple uses including wildlife habitat, recreation, and timber is the primary goal. Restoration of old forest for wildlife habitat and to increase biodiversity is another goal. Large snags have been left to provide important habitat for various species such as bats, woodpeckers and great grey owls. Meadow restoration will also improve habitat.

With the future in mind and looking at climate change, seedlings will be moved up 500 feet in elevation. Species will be planted that are best adapted to the site and future climate conditions. Fire will be reintroduced into plantations around year 10. Crispin Holland, Forest Biologist explains "Prescribed fires keep fuel loads in check and maintain a more open forest understory, creating a forest structure that improves oak survival and increases plant diversity. That benefits wildlife species such as deer, bear, squirrels, and woodpeckers. Landscape variability, which is created by periodic fires, helps to hold ecosystems together."

## New Life from the Ashes – What Has Been Accomplished?

People are working together with a new sense of purpose and stewardship. "Restoring the land after the devastating Rim Fire is truly a community effort. The community has worked very closely with the Forest Service to identify priority treatments, partner to complete the work, and search for additional resources to ensure successful outcomes. This community also extends beyond the local area with 100s of volunteers assisting with tree planting, trail restoration work, and so much more! It is wonderful to have such rich connections to this landscape that will last a lifetime!" said the Forest Supervisor Jeanne Higgins.

### **FOREST RESTORATION BRINGS NEW LIFE**

### FIRE BRINGS DESTRUCTION • FIRE BRINGS NEW LIFE TOO

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE – RESTORATION IS A DYNAMIC PROCESS WHERE WILL YOU BE IN 60 TO 100 YEARS?

You may not plan that far ahead, but restoration must be planned with the future in mind. The plans that are made now must be dynamic, constantly adapting as the landscape changes. Living organisms will always change. It is the only constant. These reforested areas will be visited again and again over the next 100 years to make sure that the forest is managed for the healthiest landscape.

Last year 100,000 seedlings were planted by schools, community groups, families and individuals during February, March, and April 2016. If you would like to become part of the restoration efforts to bring new life to the forest, contact Clare Long at 209-288-6298. You can help this forest rise like a Phoenix from the ashes.



Large snags provide important habitat for species like the great grey owl.



Treatments will include natural regeneration in certain areas and enhancing deer habitat by planting trees for hiding and shade.



One of our amazing volunteers getting it done

# **RECREATION IN THE FOREST**

**HIKING & BACKPACKING:** Hike many trails and see spectacular vistas, unique geological formations, wildflowers, sparkling lakes, and countless miles of streams and rivers. Some of the nation's most spectacular sights await you in the backcountry.

**FISHING:** The rivers, creeks, and lakes in the Stanislaus National Forest abound with rainbow, brown, and brook trout, offering fishing enthusiasts a first-rate rod-and-reel experience, with an extraordinarily spectacular alpine setting as an additional lure. The trout fishing season begins in late April and runs through mid-November; a license is required. Several lakes in the region are open to fishing year-round.

### Horse Riding & Camping: See the

Sierra the way the settlers saw it, by horseback. Enjoy the quiet and solitude for a half-hour or a week-long packing trip. Lower elevation riding and camping is available on the Mi-Wok and Groveland Ranger Districts. Higher elevation riding and camping is available on the Summit and Calaveras Ranger Districts.

**BICYCLING:** There are excellent mountain biking opportunities on trails and roads within the Forest that will lead you on an adventure. Beginners can ride on scenic paved or gravel roads with flat to moderately steep terrain, while intermediate to advanced riders can enjoy more challenging steeper grades. Riders are welcome on most National Forest roads as well as trails outside of the Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River corridor and designated wilderness areas.

### FLAT WATER KAYAKING, **CANOEING, AND SAILING:** Alpine lakes fed by melting winter snows are paradise for water sports enthusiasts. Grabbing whatever paddle rocks your boat, you will find plenty of pristine,

high mountain lakes for your enjoyment.

### **OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES:**

Many excellent off-road opportunities exist on National Forest lands for the OHV enthusiast. Trails for motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles are available, as well as hundreds of miles of unpaved roads suitable for street-legal 4WD vehicles. Motor vehicles are allowed only on designated routes and cross-country travel is prohibited. Some routes are open year-round while other routes are open April 15 to Dec. 15. Free user guidelines and route maps are available at all Ranger Stations as well as online: www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus

WHITE WATER BOATING: White water enthusiasts might consider a trip on the North Fork of the Stanislaus River or a journey down the Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River. Both of these rivers offer an exciting adventure through enchanting forests, rich in Native American and Gold Rush history along with abundant wildlife.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** Forty-nine campgrounds provide 1,514 campsites for visitors. Most of these campgrounds are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, except Spicer Group, Big Meadow Group, Pinecrest, Pioneer Trail Group, Dimond O and Pines Group campgrounds, which can be reserved. Visit www.recreation.gov to reserve your spot. Check the highway corridor pages for information on who to call for reservations. The number of people allowed in a single campsite is six. All campgrounds offer vault or flush toilets, tables, and grills or a fire ring. Most offer potable water, but check your destination to be sure.



To "get away from it all" try car camping in an area with no facilities and no fees. The advantages to this type of camping include solitude, quiet, and adventure. You will need to bring your own water or treat water you collect. Camp at least 100 feet from water sources. With no toilet facilities, bury human waste in a six-inch hole well away from trails, water, and other campers. Pack out used toilet paper with your garbage. If you have a campfire or use a camp stove, you'll need a free campfire permit available at any Ranger Station. Do not burn plastics or metal. Please leave the area in as good (or better) condition than you found it. Often, locations destroyed by thoughtless campers must be closed to restore the area's natural health. Help ensure your favorite area remains open.

**CAMPFIRE WOOD:** Available free of charge in forested areas below 9,000 feet, only dead wood lying on the ground may be collected or cut for campfire wood. You can use a chainsaw if the saw has a spark arrestor with screen openings of .23 inches or less. You will need a permit to take firewood home. This program allows you to collect a maximum of 10 cords annually from April 1 until November 30. Obtain a permit or information at one of the Ranger Stations. Help stop the spread of invasive pests. Leave firewood at home - do not transport it to campgrounds or parks.

**PETS:** Your pets are welcome to accompany you during your visit. However, they MUST be leashed in Tuolumne County. In Calaveras and Alpine counties, pets must be under immediate control or on a leash. These regulations protect the health and safety of visitors and wildlife. Pick up after your pets, especially around high use areas. NO dogs are allowed in Pinecrest day use area May 15 - Sept. 15.



### YOUR SAFETY

### FIRE SAFETY

### CAMPFIRES

### CIGARETTES

### **No Fireworks**

### HIGH FIRE DANGER

may include:



# **PROTECT YOURSELF • PROTECT THE FOREST**

- THE WOODS ARE WILDER THAN YOU THINK!
- We hope that your visit to the Forest will be safe and enjoyable. The following information can help make it so. Avoid taking unnecessary chances and always be prepared while you enjoy the adventure of a National Forest experience.

### HERE ARE A FEW SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Before leaving, plan your trip from start to finish using a Forest map or trail guide.
- Take extra clothing, trail snacks, and be prepared for weather changes.
- Leave a full written account with a family member of where you are going, where you plan to stay each night, your exit point, and when you plan to arrive home.
- Allow plenty of time for driving mountain roads and hiking over rugged terrain. Carry a map and compass with you and stick to the planned route.
- Stay on frequently used roads and trails.

VISIT YOUR LOCAL RANGER STATION FOR MORE INFORMATION

Each year campfires, cigarettes, and human carelessness cause unwanted fires. You can help prevent these fires by following a few safety tips.

All Forest visitors who build a campfire, use a camp stove, or barbecue outside of developed campgrounds must have a campfire permit available FREE of charge from any Cal Fire, National Forest or Park, or BLM office.

- Never throw ignited cigarettes on the ground or out of a car window.
- Crush cigarette butts dead and out before discarding them in an ashtray or trash can.

• No fireworks are permitted in the Forest.

The dry, hot California summers often bring high fire danger and the need to enact fire restrictions on National Forest land. Suspension of campfire permits and prohibition of all campfires and barbecues outside developed campgrounds may occur. These restrictions

- Restricting the use of open campfires to within developed recreation sites.
- Limiting smoking to enclosed vehicles or buildings, or to developed recreational sites.
- Not allowing the operation of internal combustion engines off established roads or designated trails.
- For more information on possible restrictions, check with the nearest Forest Service or CAL FIRE office for the area you are visiting.

## tread lightly! On Land and Water

### TIPS FOR MOTORIZED RECREATION:

### **T**RAVEL RESPONSIBLY

- Travel on designated routes
- Respect wilderness boundaries
- Cross streams only at designated crossings

### **R**ESPECT THE **R**IGHTS OF **O**THERS

- Yield to non-motorized recreationists
- Obtain permission to cross private land
- Be considerate of other users so that all can enjoy a quality experience

### **E**DUCATE YOURSELF

- Know local rules and regulations
- Know which areas are open for your type of recreation
- Have the right maps and equipment for your adventure

### **A**void Sensitive Areas

- Leave what you find except trash!
- Respect wildlife by keeping your distance
- Avoid sensitive habitats like meadows and lava cap environments

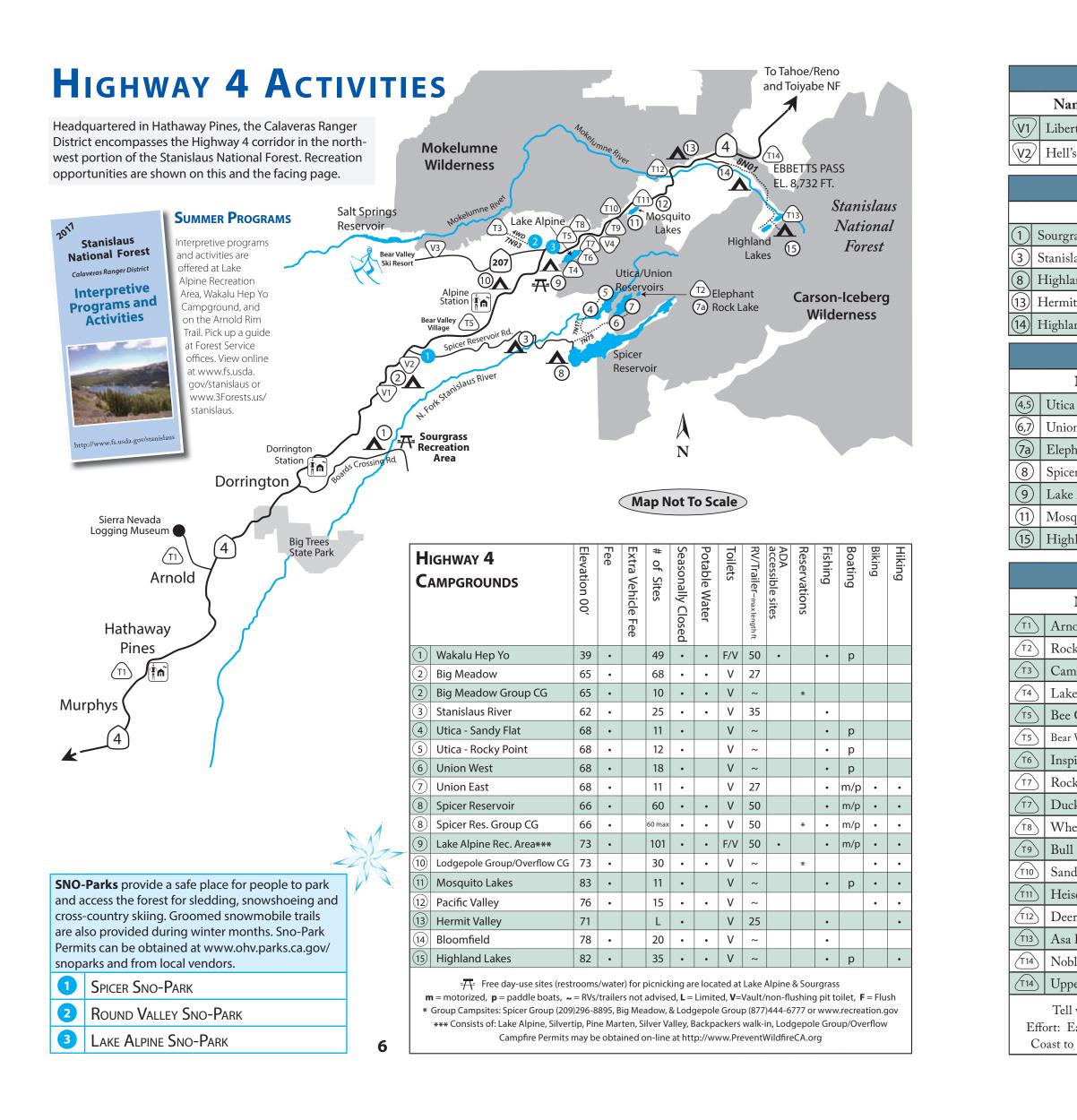
## **D**o Your Part

- Properly dispose of waste and pack out trash
- Avoid the spread of noxious weeds by washing your equipment after every trip
- Volunteer to repair degraded areas

OFTEN LOCATIONS IMPACTED BY THOUGHTLESS RECREATIONISTS MUST BE CLOSED TO RESTORE THE AREA'S NATURAL HEALTH. HELP ENSURE YOUR FAVORITE AREAS REMAIN OPEN BY TREADING LIGHTLY.



Free Travel Management Maps: http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/stanislaus/maps-pubs



EBBETTS PASS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY VIEWPOINTS										
ame	Notes		Name	Notes						
erty Vista	North Fork Stanislaus canyon; Dardanelles	<b>V</b> 3	Hwy 207	Road to Bear Valley Ski Area. Views of Mokelumne Peak, Dardanelles.						
l's Kitchen	Balancing Rock at west end of turnout.	V4/	Cape Horn	Dardanelles view. Emigrant Tr. / MCCT access. Parking limited.						

Day Use River Access											
Name	Location	River Notes									
grass Rec. Area (Stanislaus R.)	5 miles northeast of Dorrington on Boards Crossing Rd.	Boulders, rapids, cascades, pools. Raft put-in.									
slaus River CG Day Use Area	On Spicer Rd 3 miles east of Hwy. 4.	Flat, creek-sized, rock slabs, forested.									
land Creek	End of Spicer Rd (below dam).	Fishing access.									
it Valley (Mokelumne R.)	12 miles northeast of Bear Valley along Hwy. 4.	Flat, creek-sized channel through meadow.									
and Lakes Road (Mokelumne R.)	Hwy. 4 to Road 113 (1 mi paved), becomes 8N01 (4.7 mi unpaved).	Creek-sized with rocks. Rd 8N01 is rough.									

Road-Accessible Lakes									
Name     Acres     Notes									
ca Reservoir	241	Small islands, lots of granite. Kept mostly full. Designed for hand launching of non-motorized boats.							
on Reservoir	218	Small islands, mountain views, granite. Kept mostly full. Dirt ramp designed for small watercraft.							
phant Rock Lake	10	Natural pond with marsh/mud/grass shoreline surrounded by conifer forest. Backdrop view of elephant rock.							
cer Reservoir	2,000	Great mountain views. Ramp and dock (but may be out of water due to low water levels); boat trailer parking.							
e Alpine (reservoir)	173	Granite slabs on shoreline, mountain views. Kept mostly full. Ramp, dock, boat trailer parking, boat rentals, lodge.							
squito Lakes	3, 2	Two small, shallow, reflective alpine lakes. Forest, granite boulders, and picturesque summer cabins around shoreline.							
hland Lakes	58, 10	Two alpine lakes in an open, grassy setting within conifer forest. Views of mountains, Hiram Peak, and canyons below.							

HIGHWAY 4 RECOMMENDED HIKING TRAILS	HIGHWAY	4 Recommend	DED HIKING	TRAILS
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Name	Trailhead Location	Effort	Miles (one-way)	Notes
nold Rim	Runs from Hathaway Pines to Arnold*	~	17	Views, streams, waterfall, older growth cedar, pine, fir, oak.
ck Lake	Union East CG/Elephant Rock Lake	~	3.2/1.9	Lakes, elephant rock. Some burned-over areas. In CIW.
mp Irene	Lake Valley TH. Access via Rd. 7N93 (4WD)	\$	5.1	Mokelumne River access/pools. No cows. No water until river. In MW.
keshore	Runs from Pine Marten CG to FS Rd. 7N17	•	1.6	Lake & mountain views, creek. Part of Emigrant Tr./MCCT
e Gulch	Across hwy. from Chickaree Day Use	∞ ∞	3	Forest, meadows, creek, wildflowers, panoramic views.
r Valley to Lake Alpine	Bear Valley/East end of Lake Alpine	€ ⊠	4	Trail parallels Hwy 4. Paved along Lake Alpine shoreline.
piration Point	Road on south side of Pine Marten CG	∞ ⊗	1.5	Views of Lake Alpine, Union and Utica Reservoirs, and the Dardanelles.
ck Lake	Silver Valley TH (at SVCG entrance)	2	4.5	Lakes, forest, some burned-over areas at Rock Lake. In CIW.
ck Lake	Silver Valley TH (at SVCG entrance)	~	1.2	Lake, meadow, wildflowers, fall color. Loop adds .7 mi. In CIW.
neeler Ridge/Lake	Woodchuck Basin TH	2	1.75/3.1	Views, forest, meadows, wildflowers, lake, volcanic ridge. In MW.
ll Run Lake	Stanislaus Meadow TH	∞ ∞	3.5	Alpine meadow, lake with island in middle, great views. In CIW.
ndy Meadow	Sandy Meadow TH	•	4.2	Easier alternate to Wheeler Lake. Park on south side hwy. In MW.
iser Lake	Mosquito Lakes TH	~	2.5	Shallow lake, mild for swimming; views from west end. In CIW.
er Creek	Hermit Valley TH	\$	1.6	Goes along Mokelumne River to Deer Creek. In MW.
a Lake	Hwy 4, 113 & 8N01 to Highland Lakes	2 3	2.3	Lower Gardner TH. Meadows, forest, spring-fed lake. In CIW.
ble Lake	Ebbetts Pass TH (Pacific Crest Tr.)	∞ ∞	4.5	Beautiful high country. Spectacular views. In HTNF.
per Kinney Lake	Ebbetts Pass TH (Pacific Crest Tr.)	•	1.75	Take spur trail to .2 mi to PCT & PCT north across hwy. In HTNF.

Tell what you find: email caseyajardine@fs.fed.us. \*Arnold Rim Trail has many access points; obtain a map at ranger stations (\$1) or at arnoldrimtrail.org. Effort: Easy S Moderate Strenuous TH=Trailhead, Tr.=Trail, CG=Campground, Rd.=Road, Hwy.=Highway, R.=River, mi.=mile/s. MCCT=Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail, MW= Mokelumne Wilderness, CIW=Carson-Iceberg Wilderness, HTNF=Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, PCT=Pacific Crest Trail.

## **POINTS OF INTEREST:**

**BENNETT JUNIPER:** Visit the Bennett Juniper, the largest western juniper currently living. The tree is located approx. 12 miles (one hour drive time each way) on back roads off Hwy 108, accessible via Eagle Meadow Road (Forest Service Road 5N01). A high clearance vehicle is best as you'll encounter two creek crossings. Brochures are available at the Ranger Station.

**COLUMNS OF THE GIANTS:** Hike along an easy half-mile trail to view a striking rock formation similar to the Devils Postpile. Few people know that a similar geological wonder – stark, columnar cliffs formed of basalt lava flows – exists on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. Located off Hwy 108 near Pigeon Flat Campground, the Columns of the Giants offers hikers the amazing symmetry of this natural phenomenon. Handicapped Accessible.

**DONNELL VISTA:** A <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile interpretive trail leads to an overlook with sweeping views of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River Canyon and Donnell Reservoir. Handicapped Accessible.

### **GREAT HIGHWAY 108 DRIVE TOUR:**

Back by popular demand! This updated audio tour from Pinecrest to Sonora Pass brings history alive. You'll discover the fascinating people from the past and spectacular places that make this scenic drive so memorable. The drive tour begins with your car parked at the Summit Ranger Station. CDs are available for purchase at the Supervisor's Office in Sonora and at the Mi-Wok and Summit Ranger Stations.

SHADOW OF THE MI-WOK: An easy <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile walk through an outdoor exhibit showing how Mi-Wok Indians lived. Located across the street from the Summit Ranger Station. Brochures are available at the Ranger Station.

**SONORA PASS:** Experience the grandeur of nature on this scenic drive offering magnificent vistas and recreational opportunities. From Kennedy Meadows on the west to Leavitt Meadow on the east it is NOT ADVISABLE for large RVs and trailers to travel this portion of Hwy 108. The winding road has no shoulder, narrow lanes, and grades as steep as 26 percent. Adjacent to the summit of the pass is a trail-head for the Pacific Crest Trail that also serves as a day-use picnic area. Your visit in late July and August provides spectacular alpine wild-flower displays.

## **CAMPING:**

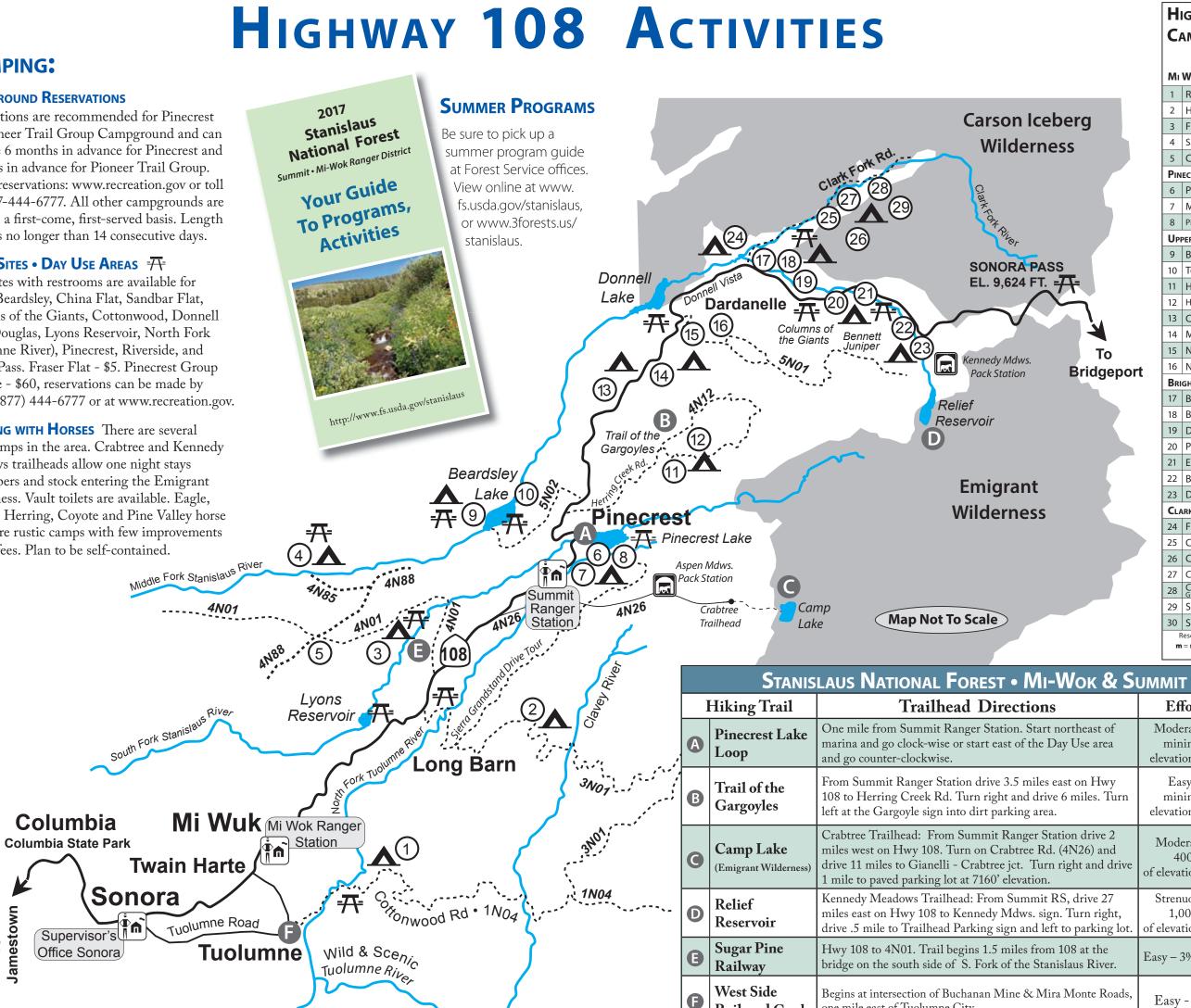
### **CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS**

Reservations are recommended for Pinecrest and Pioneer Trail Group Campground and can be made 6 months in advance for Pinecrest and 360 days in advance for Pioneer Trail Group. Online reservations: www.recreation.gov or toll free: 877-444-6777. All other campgrounds are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Length of stay is no longer than 14 consecutive days.

### **PICNIC SITES • DAY USE AREAS** $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$

These sites with restrooms are available for no fee: Beardsley, China Flat, Sandbar Flat, Columns of the Giants, Cottonwood, Donnell Vista, Douglas, Lyons Reservoir, North Fork (Tuolumne River), Pinecrest, Riverside, and Sonora Pass. Fraser Flat - \$5. Pinecrest Group Day Use - \$60, reservations can be made by calling (877) 444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov.

**CAMPING WITH HORSES** There are several horse camps in the area. Crabtree and Kennedy Meadows trailheads allow one night stays for campers and stock entering the Emigrant Wilderness. Vault toilets are available. Eagle, Kerrick, Herring, Coyote and Pine Valley horse camps are rustic camps with few improvements and no fees. Plan to be self-contained.

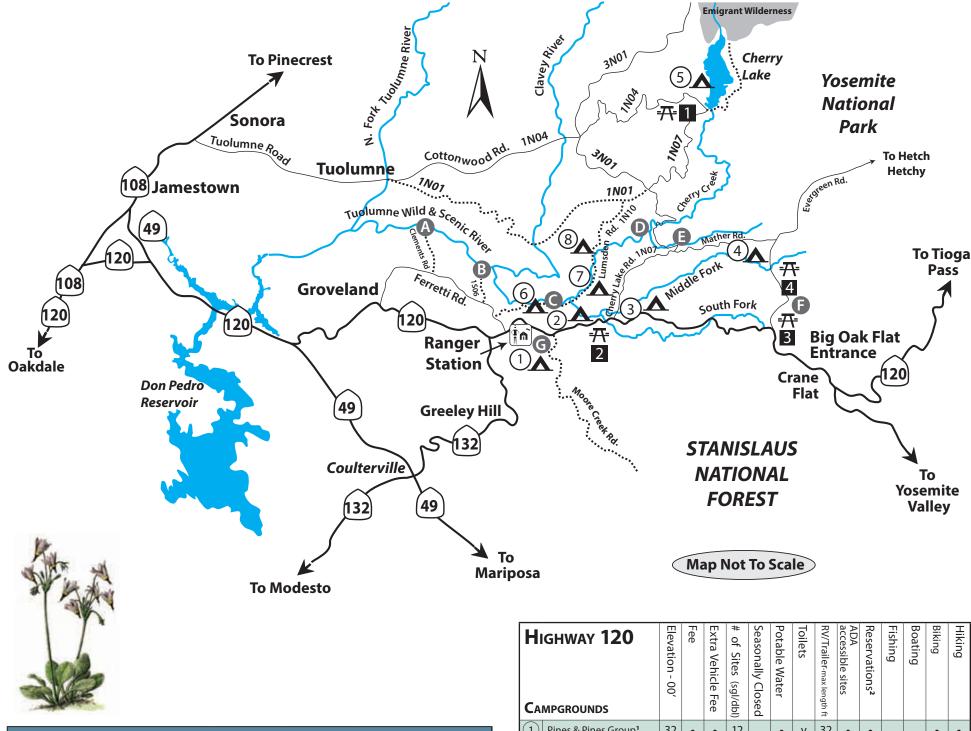


To Jamestown

C	IGHWAY <b>108</b> AMPGROUNDS Wok Campgrounds	Elevation 00'	Fee	Extra Vehicle Fee	# of Sites	Seasonally Closed	Potable Water	Toilets	RV/Trailer-max length ft	ADA accessible sites	Reservations	Fishing	Boating	Biking	HIKING
1	River Ranch	27	•	•	40	•	•	V	50		$\wedge \wedge$	•			•
2	Hull Creek	56	•		23	•	•	V	50			•		•	•
3	Fraser Flat	48	•	•	38	•	•	V	40	•	•	•		•	
4	Sand Bar Flat	30	•		8/12	•	•	V	35	•		•			
5	Crandall OHV	48			15	•		V	50	Can	npfire	e Per	mit F	Requ	ire
ΡιΝ	ECREST CAMPGROUNDS									J					
6	Pinecrest	56	•		200	•	•	F	40	•	•	•	m/p	•	
7	Meadowview	56	•		100	•	•	F		•		•	m/p	•	
8	Pioneer Trail Group 1,2 & 3 #	58	•		#	•	•	V		•	•	•	m/p	•	
Upp	PER 108 CAMPGROUNDS														
9	Beardsley	34	•	•	16	•		V	38	•		•	m/p		
10	TeleLi puLaya ^	34	•	•	16	•		V		•		•	m/p		
11	Herring Creek	74	•		7	•		V						•	
12	Herring Creek Reservoir	74	•		9	•		V				•		•	
13	Cascade Creek	60	•		14	•		V							
14	Mill Creek	62	•	•	17	•		V							Γ
15	Niagara Creek	66	•	•	10	•		V							
16	Niagara Creek ORV	72	•	•	10	•		V							Γ
Bri	GHTMAN RECREATION CAN	IPGR	DUND	s											<u> </u>
17	Boulder Flat	56	•	•	21	•	•	V				•			
18	Brightman	57	•	•	33	•		V		•		•			
19	Dardanelle	58	•	•	28	•	•	V				•			
20	Pigeon Flat (walk-in)	60	•		9	•		V				•			
21	Eureka Valley	61	•	•	28	•	•	V				•			
22	Baker	62	•	•	44	•	•	V	36			•			
23	Deadman	62	•	•	17	•	•	V	32			•			
CLA	ARK FORK AREA CAMPGRO	UNDS	;												
24	Fence Creek	60	•		38	•		V				•		•	
25	Clark Fork A Loop	62	•	•	28	•	•	V	32	•		•		•	•
26	Clark Fork B Loop	62	•	•	60	•	•	F	32	•		•		•	•
27	Clark Fork Horse Camp	62	•	•	12	•		V				•		•	•
28	Clark Fork Horse Camp	62	•		2	•		V				•		•	
29	Sand Flat	62	•	•	53	•	•	V				•		•	
30	Sand Flat (walk-in)	62	•		15	•	•	V				•		•	

Stanis	LAUS NATIONAL FOREST • MI-WOK & SU	JMMIT RANG	GER DIST	rrict • Hikin	g Trails
liking Trail	<b>Trailhead Directions</b>	Effort	Mileage	Highlights	Notes
Pinecrest Lake Loop	One mile from Summit Ranger Station. Start northeast of marina and go clock-wise or start east of the Day Use area and go counter-clockwise.	Moderate – minimal elevation gain	4.2 (loop)	Lake view, spring wildflowers	Not suitable for strollers, bikes, or wheelchairs. Leashed dogs are allowed.
Trail of the Gargoyles	From Summit Ranger Station drive 3.5 miles east on Hwy 108 to Herring Creek Rd. Turn right and drive 6 miles. Turn left at the Gargoyle sign into dirt parking area.	Easy – minimal elevation gain	North rim: 1.5 miles South Rim: 1.5 miles	Volcanic features, panoramic views to the NW	An interpretive guide is available at Ranger Station. Stay away from cliffs.
<b>Camp Lake</b> (Emigrant Wilderness)	Crabtree Trailhead: From Summit Ranger Station drive 2 miles west on Hwy 108. Turn on Crabtree Rd. (4N26) and drive 11 miles to Gianelli - Crabtree jct. Turn right and drive 1 mile to paved parking lot at 7160' elevation.	Moderate – 400' of elevation gain	5.2 (round trip)	Forests, views, wildflowers, swimming	Crabtree Rd. is suitable for most cars, obstacles may be encountered. Permit required for overnight.
Relief Reservoir	Kennedy Meadows Trailhead: From Summit RS, drive 27 miles east on Hwy 108 to Kennedy Mdws. sign. Turn right, drive .5 mile to Trailhead Parking sign and left to parking lot.	Strenuous – 1,000' of elevation gain	6 (round trip)	Meadows, water- falls, wildflowers, swimming	Trail begins .5 mile from the parking lot at the south end of the main road.
Sugar Pine Railway	Hwy 108 to 4N01. Trail begins 1.5 miles from 108 at the bridge on the south side of S. Fork of the Stanislaus River.	Easy – 3% grade	6 (round trip)	Spring wildflowers	An interpretive guide is available at Ranger Station.
West Side Railroad Grade	Begins at intersection of Buchanan Mine & Mira Monte Roads, one mile east of Tuolumne City.	Easy - Flat	9 (round trip)	Tuolumne River canyon views, spring wildflowers	Trailhead to Hacienda Campground.

# **HIGHWAY 120 CAMPING & HIKING**



<b>GROVELAND RANGER DISTRICT • HIKING TRAILS</b>											
	Hiking Trail	Distance (one-way)	Elevation Change	Destination							
A	Indian Creek	3 miles	1650 feet								
B	Hamby	3 miles	1850 feet	Tuolumne Wild &							
0	Tuolumne River Canyon	6 miles	150 feet	Scenic River							
D	Andresen Mine	4.5 miles	200 feet								
8	Preston Falls	4.5 miles	400 feet	Waterfalls							
Ø	Carlon Falls	2 miles	200 feet	vvaterialis							
G	Little Golden Forest	3 miles (loop)	150 feet	Self-Guided Interpretive Trail							

HIGHWAY 120 Campgrounds		Elevation - 00'	Fee	Extra Vehicle Fee	# of Sites (sgl/dbl)	Seasonally Closed	Potable Water	Toilets	RV/Trailer-max length ft	ADA accessible sites	Reservations <sup>2</sup>	Fishing	Boating	Biking	Hiking
(1)	Pines & Pines Group <sup>1</sup>	32	•	•	12		•	v	32	•	•			•	•
2	Lost Claim	31	•	•	10	•	•	v	~		•				
3	Sweetwater	30	•	•	14	•	•	v	32	•	•				
4	Dimond O	44	•	•	38	•	•	v	36	•	•	•			•
5	Cherry Valley	46	•	•	41	•	•	v	32	•	•	•	m/p		•
6	Lumsden	15			10			v	~	•		•	р		
$\bigcirc$	South Fork *	15			10			v	~	•		•	р		
8	Lumsden Bridge	15			11			v	~	•		•	р		
DA	y Use Areas														
1	Cherry Lake Boat Launch	47						v				•	m/p		
2	Rainbow Pool	30						v		•		•			
3	Carlon	43						v		•		•			•
4	Middle Fork	44						v		•		•			
	<sup>1</sup> Pines Group Site - 50 pe <sup>2</sup> Some sites reservible, (877)444 <b>m</b> = motorized, <b>p</b> = pad	6777 o	or at wy	ww.rec	reatior	n.gov	Do	uble si	tes are	availal	ble in e	ach ca	mpgro		

m = motorized, p = paddle boats, ~ = RVs/trailers not advised, v = vault/non-flushing pit toilet
 \* Closed --due to Rim Fire. Contact Groveland Ranger Station for latest information - (209) 962-7825

# **HIGHWAY 120 Recreation & Visitor Activities**

Ranger District.



take it easy.

Family Camp is located in the heart of the Sierra on State Highway 120 near Yosemite National Park, just east of Groveland, California. The Stanislaus National Forest and the middle fork of the Tuolumne River serve as a scenic backdrop to this mountain playground. Situated on 47 acres of leased land from the U.S. Forest Service, there are tent cabins for campers, a dining complex, a swimming area, amphitheater, a campfire circle, and conveniently located restroom/bath units with hot showers.

During the summer season, the camp provides three meals a day to campers, along with supervised recreational activities. Groups are welcome to rent out the camp during the pre- and post seasons. For questions, please call 408-794-6208 or visit online at www.sanjoseca. gov/prns/familycamp

Berkeley Camp, operated by the City of Berkeley, was destroyed by the Rim Fire of 2013 and is in the process of rebuilding. Look for more information on this in future publications.



Welcome to the Highway 120 corridor! The Groveland Ranger District boasts a multitude of things for everyone!

Aquamarine lakes and streams, delicate wildflowers, spectacular vistas, unique geological formations, and other scenic wonders await visitors at the Groveland

The District encompasses the Highway 120 corridor of the Stanislaus National Forest and features developed campgrounds, picnic areas and maintained trails throughout.

A wide range of activities are offered to appeal to every interest. There are opportunities for wildlife and wildflower viewing, hiking, photography, camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, and hunting.

> Cherry Lake is the largest lake in the Stanislaus National Forest and is open all year round. This hidden jewel even has a campground available during summer months. Perfect for water sports, swimming and fishing. Cherry Lake is operated in partnership with Hetch Hetchy Water & Power.

A view of Cherry Lake looking South ~ Photo by Dusty Vaughn

## **FAMILY CAMP AT YOSEMITE**

There are two city-operated camps on the Groveland Ranger District, San Jose Family Camp at Yosemite and Berkeley Camp. The City of San Jose operates the Family Camp at Yosemite; providing an all-inclusive camping experience where guests of all ages can fish, hike, swim, participate in organized programs, or just sit back, relax and



ALL-OUTDOORS

www.aorafting.com/river/tuolumne

## **TUOLUMNE WILD & SCENIC RIVER**

In 1984, Congress designated portions of the Tuolumne River as a "Wild and Scenic" river. The Tuolumne originates from snow melt off Mounts Dana and Lyell in Yosemite National Park, and courses 54 miles before crossing into the Stanislaus National Forest and Bureau of Land Management public land.

The river is described by river experts as one of the most challenging river runs in California. So due to the demanding and technical nature of the Tuolumne River, rafters may prefer to participate with an outfitter or guide. Commercial outfitters operate within a permit system under which the number of trips and passengers are limited. Commercial shuttles may be available for private floaters.



All floaters are required to obtain permits through the Groveland Ranger District from May 1 through October 15.

To obtain more information, call 209-962-7825 or visit the website at www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus.

## **RIM FIRE AUDIO TOUR**

The Rim Fire blazed through the Stanislaus National Forest in August of 2013 burning 257,314 acres (402 square mi/1,041 square km). The fire has had a lasting impact on many resources including vegetation, wildlife,

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soil, water quality, and cultural sites. Local camps, businesses, and neighboring communities were impacted as well due to evacuations, closures, and loss of structures.

This 11 stop audio tour, which begins from the Groveland Ranger Station, is marked with numbered posts which guide you through the burned area along paved roads. An interpretive flyer to guide you can be obtained online or at the Groveland Ranger Station at 24545 State Highway 120, 8 miles east of the community of Groveland.

DOWNLOAD audio tour: www.3forests.us/rimfire

# WATER – THE TRANSPARENT SIDE OF NATURE

### **RECREATION AND WATER CONSERVATION**

Welcome to the Stanislaus National Forest, where you can fish in over 800 miles of rivers, lakes and streams. You can swim near a sandy beach, or wade into cold clear streams to cool your feet. Enjoy boating at Cherry Lake, raft the Tuolumne "Wild & Scenic" River, or canoe one of our many gorgeous lakes, all while basking in the beauty of the transparent side of nature.

While there are numerous activities to enjoy in and on the water, the 5-year drought that the State of California has been experiencing is affecting trees and vegetation, which in-turn, affects the water supply. Extreme water loss for our trees represents 20 percent of the state's total. Unfortunately, these trees killed by drought also affect the water coming from our national forest.

### How much water comes from the forest?

Sixty percent of fresh water in this country comes from forests. Reservoir capacity alone in the Stanislaus National Forest is 786,000 acre feet, and the major watersheds amount to 890,000 acres total; to include Mokelumne River, Stanislaus River, OF 140 Tuolumne River and the Merced River.

**i** Fix leaky faucets

▲ Invest in a low flow toilet

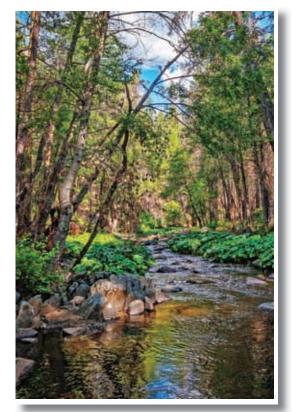
💧 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

▲ Turn water off while brushing teeth

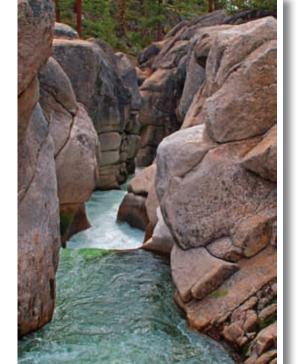
**(** Install a recirculation pump for hot water

### WHAT CAN EACH OF US DO TO CONSERVE?

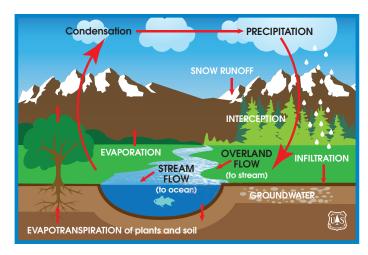
- **(** Take shorter showers
- **a** Only flush the toilet when necessary
- Landscape with drought tolerant plants
- ▲ Use gray water for watering plants
- A Run dishwashers only when full



Middle Fork of the Stanislaus River off of Hwy. 108 in the Summit Ranger District. Photo by David Wilkinson



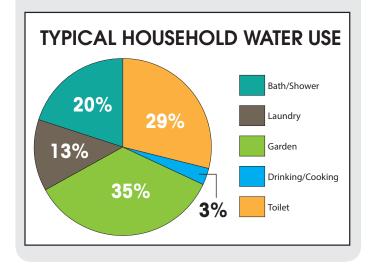
Middle Fork of the Tuolumne River at Dimond-O Campground in the Groveland Ranger District. 12 Photo by David Wilkinson



The Water Cycle - Heat from the sun causes water to evaporate and rise into the air. When it reaches the clouds, it cools down, condensates, becoming water again. This water falls from the sky as rain, snow, or in another form. It collects in oceans and lakes, as well as infiltrates our ground to become groundwater. Then the cycle starts again. Plants also sweat and lose water that evaporates into the sky as part of the cycle.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Water is probably the single most important resource that the national forests provide.
- Forest Service lands are the largest source of municipal water supply in the Nation, serving over 66 million people in 3,400 communities in 33 States.
- Major U.S. cities such as Los Angeles, Portland, Denver, and Atlanta receive a significant portion of their water supply from national forests.
- The value of the water flowing from agency lands is estimated to be \$7.2 billion a year.
- Nearly three-fourths of the Earth's surface is covered with water.



# \*

### **SNOWSHOEING, SKIING & SNOWPLAY**



### **LEAVE NO TRACE**

## **PLAN YOUR TRIP**

Plan your winter recreation trip before you leave home. Have an idea of where you want to go, know how to get there, and carry a good map and compass. Tell someone back home of your travel plans. It's easier than you think to lose your sense of direction out in the woods. The middle of your journey isn't the best time to discover you weren't prepared. Make a checklist. Here are some items to consider:

# WINTER WONDERLAND

Three ski areas operate under special use permits on the Forest: Bear Valley Mountain Resort and Bear Valley Nordic on Highway 4, and Dodge Ridge on Highway 108. Several crosscountry ski trails, of varying difficulty, exist on the Summit Ranger District near Pinecrest, and on the Calaveras Ranger District, near the Bear Valley-Lake Alpine area. Snowshoes allow visitors to enjoy venturing out into the snow on or off trails.



While the serious skiers and boarders in the group go off to comb the lofty heights, the less experienced frolickers can have a good time tossing snowballs or sledding down hills. Snowplay is allowed on National Forest lands anywhere along highways and roads as long as parking is not restricted and there is room to park completely out of the lane of traffic.

• Pack It In, Pack It Out. Pack out all trash: yours and others. Burying trash and litter in the snow or ground is unacceptable.

• Pack out solid human waste using re-closable bags made just for solid wastes. In lieu of packing it out, cover and disguise human waste deep in snow away from travel routes and at least 200 feet (70 adult steps) from water sources. Also, no one likes to look at "yellow snow", so be sure to cover urine with clean snow.

• Use toilet paper or wipes sparingly. Pack them out.



• Weather changes can be sudden during winter. Before you leave, phone CAL TRANS 800-427-7623 for up-to-date road conditions.

• Carry tire chains, shovel, ice scrapers, flashlight, matches, and be sure your car has enough anti-freeze and a full tank of gas.

• Include blankets and extra warm clothes.

• Pack some high-energy non-perishable food and water.

• Have rain gear and emergency blanket or shelter just in case.

• Make sure to carry a whistle or walkie-talkie for communication. • Don't forget first aid for you and your gear.

**SNO-PARK'S:** There are three California SNO-PARKs on the Calaveras Ranger District and one on the Summit Ranger District, providing groomed snowmobile routes for your use and enjoyment. SNO-PARK permits are required: Daily (\$5) and Seasonal (\$25) and are available at local vendors.



\*

### **SNOWMOBILE RIDING ON THE STANISLAUS**

This year the Stanislaus is working on designating areas and routes where snowmobilers can ride on roads, trails and areas as well as determining where snow grooming will occur. The purpose of the project is to protect forest resources, promote safety and minimize conflicts among snowmobile users and quiet recreationists including cross country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts.

The basis for this study is to implement Subpart C- for Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation as well as to address the 2013 Settlement agreement between the Forest Service, and Snowlands Network, Winter Wildlands Alliance and the Center for Biological Diversity obligating Region 5 to perform appropriate NEPA to identify trails to be groomed on Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe, Eldorado, and the Stanislaus National Forest.

The designation process is being conducted through a National Environmental Policy Act analysis or NEPA for short. All projects that could effect the environment are developed under NEPA regulations. First, the purpose and need for the project is determined or "What are we proposing to do and why is it necessary?"

A series of public meetings were held in communities surrounding the Stanislaus National Forest in November, 2014 and March 2015. The meetings were held to inform members of the public about the Stanislaus National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Project and for the Forest to hear from the public about their interests and concerns. This information was used to help craft



the proposed action.

### **FIVE ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternatives were developed based on public comments received following the publication of our Proposed Action in June, 2015. Each Alternative provides a different approach in designating snowmobile use on the forest.

The alternatives and a full analysis of their impacts will be published in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in January, 2017. At this time, we'll ask folks, "Did we miss anything in our analyses?"

Our final Environment Impact Statement is slated for publication the summer of 2017. That version of the document will include additional analyses and a preferred alternative, or recommended course of action. This preferred alternative can be identical to one that has been analyzed or it can be a hybrid of several alternatives.

For more information on this project please contact Phyllis Ashmead at (209) 586-3234 ext 608.

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# **ILDERNESS**



View north across Cooper Meadow in the Emigrant Wilderness. The historic Cooper Cabin and Barn are on the left side and the Three Chimneys are in the background.

### FEATURED HIKE: COOPER CABIN

Cooper Cabin is rarely visited despite the fact it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and sits below some of the most iconic peaks in the Emigrant Wilderness. If you choose to visit the site, expect to see cows and possibly cowboys (or cowgirls), as this is an active range allotment that still uses these cabins, originally built during the 1860s and 1870s. Remember to close all gates as you pass through them and you should be set to have a great time.

From Coyote Meadows Trailhead, the footpath enters the Emigrant Wilderness, leading up a wide valley with views of the Emigrant's expansive granite ridges as well as close-ups of the dark, jagged volcanic outcrops known as The Three Chimneys, Castle Rock, and East Flange Rock. The trail undulates over moderate terrain, passing through meadows, forests, and a seasonal pond. After about 3 ¼ miles the visitor will descend a moderate to steep ¼ mile slope. At the bottom, the trail crosses a creek bed (dry in summer), but the visitor should



instead veer slightly right, following a faded track that contours the bottom of the slope. The path becomes more distinct after 100 yards and the cabin comes into view. Another 100 yards or so brings you to the edge of this historic site. Please keep a safe distance from cows, stock and the folks working as well as a respectful distance from the corral and cabins.

Directions to Coyote Meadows Trailhead: From Highway 108, turn onto Herring Creek Road (4N12). Continue on this road for about 11.3 miles total, then turn right onto 5N67. The road is unpaved after 5.5 miles. Drive one mile on 5N67 and then turn left into the parking area for Coyote Meadow.

### WHEN DO YOU NEED A WILDERNESS PERMIT?

Permits are required for all overnight trips into wilderness on the Stanislaus National Forest. Getting a permit gives you a chance to talk with a Forest Service representative about current conditions and to learn about wilderness regulations for the area you plan to visit. Permits are free and can be obtained at any Ranger Station. If you won't be at a Ranger Station during business hours, call ahead to have a permit set out for you. See the back page for phone numbers.

### WHAT IS WILDERNESS?

Here on the Stanislaus National Forest three wilderness areas await you: the Carson-Iceberg, Emigrant, and Mokelumne. Wilderness areas are designated by Congress and confer the highest level of legal protection of all our public lands. The original Wilderness Act of 1964 says wilderness is "an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence...which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions."

Wilderness is a place for the American public to experience the wonders of the natural world, find solitude, and escape from the stresses of daily life. Visiting wilderness takes us back to a time when transportation consisted of horses or our own two feet, when motorized equipment was absent, natural sounds prevailed, and the forces of nature dominated the landscape.

### IT'S UP TO US – LEAVE NO TRACE

Following the seven principles of LEAVE NO TRACE (LNT) can guide your decision-making in the outdoors enabling you to reduce resource damage, increase your safety, and ensure other visitors will enjoy an unspoiled wilderness experience. Visit the LNT.org website for more information.

- PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE
- TRAVEL & CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES
- DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY
- LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND
- MINIMIZE USE/IMPACT OF FIRE
- RESPECT WILDLIFE
- BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

### **HELP KEEP WILDERNESS WILD:**

- Learn and practice Leave No Trace principles.
- Learn and follow wilderness regulations.
- Participate in a wilderness stewardship project with the Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers.

Visit: **swv1.org** for more information about this outstanding group of citizens.

### WHY ARE THERE WILDERNESS REGULATIONS?

Regulations are in place to keep wilderness wild, focusing on preventing environmental degradation from human activities such as camping too close to water or collecting firewood in fragile alpine environments. Other regulations exist to help ensure an outstanding

experience for visitors to wilderness. As a result, group size is limited to 15 people and activities such as target shooting, use of motorized equipment, or riding mountain bikes are strictly prohibited. The back of your wilderness permit



**14** includes a complete list of regulations.



to anyone.

### **Three-Forests Interpretive Association**

30330 Watts Valley Road Tollhouse, CA 93667 Telephone (559) 855-8419





## WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours of service and accomplished great feats while helping to create, improve, and restore natural history, cultural history, and recreation opportunities throughout the Stanislaus National Forest and surrounding areas. Numerous opportunities exist for volunteers, from trail work, to education, to restoration, and more! Every person who donates time and/or resources makes immeasurable contributions to the land, our visitors, and the future. Contact any local ranger district office or the Three Forests Interpretive Association to find out what opportunities are waiting for you.

- START WHERE YOU ARE.
- Use what you have.
- DO WHAT YOU CAN.
- **VOLUNTEER!**

These local Cub Scouts were completely undeterred by this dusting of snow on their planting day.

### **THREE-FORESTS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION (3-FIA)**

Three-Forests Interpretive Association is a non-profit educational organization that helps visitors and users appreciate and understand the mission of the Sequoia, Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests. 3-FIA publishes and distributes books, brochures, maps and other materials relating to the human and natural history of the Sierra Nevada. Every year, profits from these activities help the Forest Service fund a wide range of interpretive and educational programs, thereby contributing to the public's appropriate use, understanding and enjoyment of the Forest resources.

Membership is an important way for the public to show interest and have a role in the future of these three National Forests. Membership is open

Website: www.3forests.us/





Grateful to have so many volunteers from near and far. Canadian farmers with World Renew help to get the job done.

### **VOLUNTEERING POSSIBILITIES:**

www.fs.usda.gov/main/stanislaus/workingtogether/volunteer

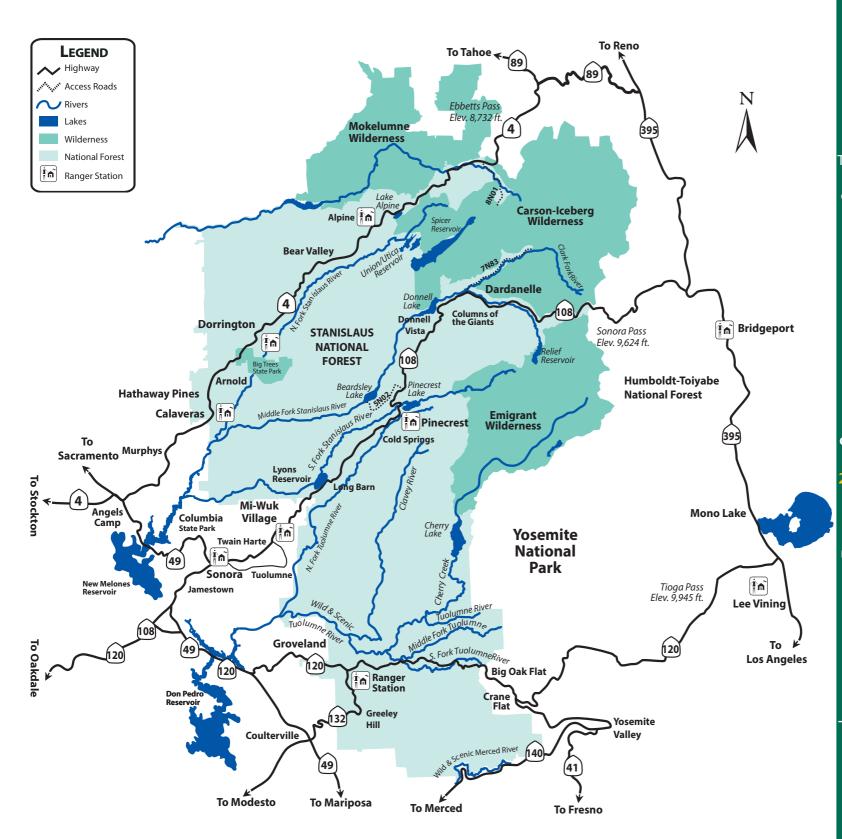
- Trail Work
- Wilderness Volunteers •
- Interpretive Programs •
- Wildlife Surveys
- **Remove Noxious Weeds**
- **Restore Landscapes** •
- **Restore Recreation Sites and Signs**
- Visitor Information
- 3-Forest Interpretive Association (3-FIA) •
- Become a Campground Host



3-FIA volunteers Railyn Stokes, Nikki Dutra and Joselyn Krahel give their support at the annual Pinecrest Fish Fair.

## STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

### Caring for the Land and Serving People



## **CONTACT STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST**

SUMMIT RANGER DISTRICT

#1 Pinecrest Lake Road

Pinecrest, CA 95364

Phone 209-965-3434

TDD: 209-965-0488

CALAVERAS RANGER DISTRICT P. O. Box 500 5519 Highway 4 Hathaway Pines, CA 95233 Phone: 209-795-1381 TDD: 209-795-2854 Alpine Station, 209-753-2811

### MI- WOK RANGER DISTRICT

P. O. Box 100 24695 Highway 108 Mi Wuk, CA 95346 Phone: 209-586-3234 TDD: 209-586-0262

### **G**ROVELAND **R**ANGER **D**ISTRICT

24545 Highway 120 Groveland, CA 95321 Phone: 209-962-7825 TDD: 209-962-6406 SUPERVISORS OFFICE

19777 Greenley Road

Sonora, CA 95370

Phone: 209-532-3671

TDD: 209-533-0765

## **A MEMBER!** Support interpretive

BECOME

and educational programs in the Stanislaus National Forest

When you become a member of 3-FIA, Three Forests Interpretive Association, you can aid the conservation mission of the Forest Service and receive benefits too!



Join online or at one of the Ranger Stations today and receive 20% discount on 3-FIA bookstore items.

Published by 3-FIA, a non-profit educational organization.



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