



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific Southwest Region

# Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Long-distance Permit Terms

If any of the terms of this permit are violated, the permit is subject to revocation.

## Trail-wide Terms:

- 1) By using an interagency PCT Long-distance Permit, you agree to abide by all terms of the permit, and all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations which apply to the areas that you pass through on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Permit holders are required to comply with all Federal regulations (including U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service regulations (36 CFR) and Bureau of Land Management regulations (43 CFR), closure orders, and Superintendent Compendiums) and local occupancy & use regulations including but not limited to sanitation, fires, fireworks, pets, and camping.
- 2) Permits must have specific dates and trailheads listed for start and end points. Permit holders must start on the day and location listed on their permit.
- 3) Permits are for the PCT corridor only, usually defined as ½ mile on each side of the trail on public land unless local orders and regulations prohibit use. Alternate routes may be allowed if there are no local restrictions in place.
- 4) Permits do not allow for camping off the PCT corridor, this includes while traveling to and from trailheads. Additional permits may be necessary if camping outside the PCT corridor.
- 5) Permits allow for travel off the PCT to resupply or access trailheads within fifteen trail miles of the PCT. This travel must be done on the most direct trail between the PCT and the trailhead.
- 6) The itinerary must be for a trip of 500 or more continuous miles. Permits for shorter trips are issued from the local land management agency. Permits are valid for a single trip during the dates specified.
- 7) Permit holders must print and carry a physical, easily legible, unlaminated, paper permit while on the trail. Digital versions will not be accepted by local agency officials.
- 8) Permits are for personal use only and may not be transferred to others. Any resale, transfer or for-profit activity is prohibited.
- 9) Permits may be issued to an individual and 3 horses, mules, or other equine animals. Pets, llamas, and pack goats are not considered stock and cannot be authorized by the permit and are subject to local restrictions and permits.
- 10) Youth under 18 years of age, who are traveling without a parent or legal guardian, may be issued a permit if they submit written consent from their parent or legal guardian. The letter must state the dates and location of the proposed trip. Permit applications for unaccompanied minors under 16 years old will be reviewed by the U.S. Forest Service. Minors must always carry the letter from their parent or legal guardian while on the PCT.



11) Children who are under the age of 18 at the start of the trip and traveling with a parent or legal guardian may be included on the parent/guardian permit. The minor must stay with the parent/guardian during the entire trip and start on the same date and location.

## **Areas with Special Terms:**

### **Southern Sierra Zone, Calif. (Kennedy Meadows South [Sherman Pass Road] to Kennedy Meadows North [CA SR 108 Sonora Pass] which includes the PCT/JMT Overlap):**

- Travel in the Southern Sierra must be continuous with no skips or changes in direction.
- Travel in the Southern Sierra must be completed in no more than 35 days.
- Leaving the trail for resupply requires re-entering at the same trailhead you departed from.
- If permit holders skip (i.e. reentering from a trailhead different from the one you exited) any portion of the Southern Sierra and wish to return to travel through the area, they must obtain new permits from the local land management agencies. PCT Long-distance Permits will no longer be valid for travel through the Southern Sierra, as travel is no longer continuous. The permit remains valid elsewhere.

### **Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Calif. (Mt. Whitney/Crabtree area):**

- PCT Long-distance Permit holders are allowed to day hike from the PCT to the summit of Mt. Whitney and back to the PCT.
- PCT Long-distance Permit holders are allowed to camp at Crabtree Meadows (2-night stay limit) without additional permits. PCT Long-distance Permit holders are NOT allowed to camp east of the Crabtree Ranger Station – that includes no camping at Guitar Lake or on the mountain itself.
- Travel east of the summit of Mount Whitney requires local permits.
- The Mount Whitney Trail is closed to all stock travel east of the base of the switchbacks one mile above Guitar Lake.

### **Yosemite National Park, Calif.:**

- Llamas are not allowed on the High Sierra Camp Loop, the Vernal/Nevada Falls corridor, or the river trail from Nevada Fall to Merced Lake. Exceptions may be made for Pacific Crest Trail and John Muir Trail users with written permission of the Superintendent (PO Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389).
- Additional permits are needed for climbing Half Dome (anytime) and for hiking (overnight) to Yosemite Valley.



## **Central Cascades Wildernesses, Ore. (Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, and Three Sisters wilderness areas) - Forest Order 06-01-20-01:**

PCT Long-distance Permit holders are subject to camping restrictions:

- No camping outside the PCT corridor (1/2 mile on either side of PCT).
- No camping in: Obsidian, North and South Matthieu lakes, Coyote and Shale lakes, and Jefferson Park areas.

## **North Cascades National Park, Wash.:**

- PCT Long-distance Permit holders are allowed to camp at the designated sites at Lakeview, Bridge Creek, and Six Mile. Camping in any other location requires an additional permit.

## **Local Regulations & Restrictions:**

It is the permit holder's responsibility to know the local area regulations and restrictions regarding their itinerary. Ensure that you comply with the following as it pertains to each Forest or Park:

- Fire restrictions vary significantly due to fire hazard. Verify local fire restrictions with Forest or Park prior to having a campfire. Some places have year-round restrictions and in others restrictions are imposed as fire danger increases. Minimize all campfire use. Do not build new campfire rings.
- Do not camp closer than 100 feet (30 meters/40 paces) from lakeshores, streams, and developed trails. Camps should be on durable surfaces and never on anything "green and growing". Verify local area's camping & wilderness restrictions.
- To protect bears and other wildlife: food, trash and scented items must be stored in a manner to keep wildlife from gaining access. In some places, an allowed food storage canister is required; verify each area's food storage requirements. Elsewhere, use a canister, counterbalance hang food, or otherwise store appropriately.
- Pack out all trash. Do not leave anything behind on the trail.
- To protect wilderness resources, comply with Forest or Park group size limits for your itinerary. On the PCT, group size regulations vary from 8-15 people.
- Storing and leaving equipment, personal property or supplies unattended for more than 24 hours is prohibited. When left unattended, beverage, food and scented items may create a litter problem and introduce wildlife to human food.
- Pack and saddle stock should not be tethered within 100 feet of lakes, streams, trails, and campsites except while loading and unloading.
- Bury human waste at least 6 inches deep. Dispose of human waste and wash water more than 200 feet of any water source, campsites, and trails. Certain locations require toilet paper to be packed out. Verify each area's sanitation requirements.