



PCT Long-distance Permit Terms

By using a PCT Long-distance Permit, you agree to abide by all terms of the permit, and all laws, rules, and regulations which apply to the areas that you pass through on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Permit Area:

- PCT long-distance permits are for the PCT corridor only. Alternate routes may be allowed if there are no local restrictions in place.
- Long-distance 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.

Permit Conditions:

- Permits must have specific dates and trailheads listed for start and end points. Permit holders must start on the day and at the location listed on their permit.
- 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.
- 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.
- Permit holders must print and carry a physical, easily legible, unlaminated, paper permit while on the trail. Digital versions are not allowed.
- Permit holders are required to comply with all local occupancy and use regulations including but not limited to sanitation, fires, fireworks, pets, and camping.
- Permit holders must comply with all terms and conditions of the permit or the permit may be invalidated and revoked.

Permittee Considerations:

- **Traveling with Stock:** A single PCT long-distance permit 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.

- **Minors traveling without parents or legal guardians:** Youth between 16 and 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 US Forest Service. Minors must always carry the letter from their parent or legal guardian while on the PCT.
- **Parents or legal guardians traveling with minor children** who are under the age of 18 at the start of the trip 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.
- If permit holders skip 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.

Kings Canyon National Park, 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):

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.

Permit holders are required to comply with all local occupancy and use regulations including but not limited to sanitation, fires, fireworks, pets, and camping:

Additional site-specific regulations are in effect.

- Generally, 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".
- Fire restrictions vary significantly due to fire hazard. Some places have year-round restrictions and in others restrictions are imposed as fire danger increases. Minimize all campfire use and do not build new campfire rings.
- To protect bears and other wildlife: food, trash and scented articles must be stored in a manner to keep wildlife from gaining access. In some places, an allowed bear canister/pannier is required. Elsewhere, use a canister, hang food or otherwise store appropriately.
- Pack out all trash. Do not leave anything behind on the trail.
- To protect wilderness resources, group size limits are likely to be in place. 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.