



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
King Range Project Office
P.O. Box 189, 768 Shelter Cove Road
Whitethorn, CA 95589
www.ca.blm.gov/kingrange

King Range National Conservation Area: Roads & Trails Report

May 1, 2021

Water sources: All sources of water throughout the King Range National Conservation Area require treatment and/or proper filtration. All coastal watersheds are flowing as well as high country springs, Miller Spring and Maple Spring below the summit of King Peak. Bear Hollow Spring status is currently unknown.

When navigating roadways within the King Range National Conservation Area ensure appropriate vehicle safety equipment is present in automobile (including properly inflated spare tire, jack and wrench).

Cellphone reception is limited throughout the King Range, an SOS emergency responder device is recommended.

“Pack it in, Pack it out.”

All visitors are asked to follow *Leave No Trace* (LNT) guidelines when recreating in the King Range Wilderness.

Human waste is to be disposed of in the sand near the tide line by digging an eight-inch-deep cathole and burying it, do not bury waste in or around campsites and creeks. Toilet paper can be buried with waste or packed out.

BURNING TRASH IS PROHIBITED. ALL TRASH MUST BE PACKED OUT.

As of May 1st, 2021, the KRNCA has experienced low precipitation levels over the winter rainy season resulting in more dry fuel conditions throughout the resource area. Due to elevated chance of wildland fire, recreation users need to adhere to all federal and state fire guidelines, prepare dry foods for camping rations and call King Range Project Office for updated information about 2021 fire season prior to planned travel arrangements.

During permissible open fire season, practice LNT guidelines when having a campfire in the wilderness area. Dig a pit on the beach, never leave fires unattended, ensure the fire is properly extinguished when finished, and remove fire pit before departing.

Help us protect and preserve the King Range Wilderness for future generations to enjoy!

No Firewood or Christmas Tree collection is permitted within the King Range National Conservation Area

Timber theft, trees cut or injured, Christmas Tree cutting, and timber removed or transported from public lands is a Federal Crime; subject to arrest/fines and if convicted, punishable to the full extent of the law under Title 18 U.S.C 1851-1853 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

The collection of driftwood for campfires along the Lost Coast Trail is permitted with valid California Campfire Permit.

To report a suspected crime.

(707) 986-5400 (KRNCA Project Office)

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Roads	Status	Comments
Chemise Mountain Road	Open	Paved roadway for approximately 2.5 miles and unpaved roadway for approximately 4.5 miles to Four Corners junction on KRNCA map and guide.
Briceland-Thorn Road	Open	Paved roadway from Thorn Junction for approximately 8 miles and unpaved last mile to Four Corners on KRNCA map and guide
King Peak Road (unpaved)	Open	No RVs or travel trailers north of Tolkan Campground. 4WD, high clearance vehicle is highly recommended north of Tolkan Campground. Significant road damage along several sections of King Peak Rd up to junction with Wilder Ridge Rd. 4WD required for this route.
Paradise Ridge Road (unpaved)	Open	4WD, high clearance vehicle is highly recommended for the entire length of the backcountry dirt road. Finley Ridge road is not accessible to the public. There are private residences along the road network, privacy and respect to these residences is appreciated. Access to the Paradise Royale Mountain Bike Trail runs parallel to road network at the 8-mile mark, please do not block roadway. BLM fuels reduction project ongoing until start of fire season 2021. Crews and equipment may be present day/night along roadway, proceed with caution.
Saddle Mountain Road (unpaved)	Open	Travel during winter, rainy months is highly discouraged. 4WD, high clearance vehicle is required for the entire length of road network. Large trees, boulders, and landslides are frequent and likely during winter, rainy months of the year. Water sources are not available along this high-country road network.
Shelter Cove Road Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management King Range Project Office is located: 768 Shelter Cove Road, Whitethorn, California 95589	Open	This paved county roadway is heavily travelled by both recreation users, tourists, and residents. Periods of heavy traffic; logging trucks, heavy equipment transport vehicles and large recreation vehicles are common during all times of year. Always practice defensive driving techniques. Allow plenty of space between vehicles, slow down at turns, and only pass others at pullouts on straight sections of roadway with clear forward visibility. Cellphone reception is best at higher elevations as the road network traverses ridgelines and mountain summits. Fuel opportunities are limited between Redway and Shelter Cove, California – Shelter Cove General Store has fuel available for purchase and is approximately 18-miles from Redway, CA and less than 5-miles from the residential area of Shelter Cove, CA
Smith-Etter Road (unpaved)	Open	For further inquiry prior to travel , call (707) 986 – 5400 and/or Anticipated seasonal closure date: 01 Nov 2021 email : BLM_CA_Web_KR@blm.gov



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Telegraph Ridge Road (unpaved)	Open	For further inquiry prior to travel , call (707) 986 – 5400 and/or Anticipated seasonal closure date: 01 Nov 2021 email : BLM_CA_Web_KR@blm.gov
Wilder Ridge Road	Open	Large vehicles, trailers and RV's are not recommended due to unpaved sections and hairpin turns. An alternative route to access Honeydew, CA, A.W. Way County Park, and Mattole Campground is Bull Creek Road via HWY 101, Exit 663 (South Fork/Honeydew exit) near Dyerville overlook heading Westbound through Humboldt Redwood State Park approximately 23-miles to Honeydew. Honeydew General Store is the next nearest fuel station. Bull Creek Road is a paved roadway. For further inquiry prior to travel , call (707) 986 – 5400 and/or email : BLM_CA_Web_KR@blm.gov
Windy Point Road (unpaved)	Open	Road maintained for 4WD vehicles with high clearance. Anticipated seasonal closure date: 01 Nov 2021 For further inquiry prior to travel , call (707) 986 – 5400 and/or email : BLM_CA_Web_KR@blm.gov
Prosper Ridge Road	Open	Road maintained for 4WD vehicles with high clearance. For further inquiry prior to travel , call (707) 986 – 5400 and/or email : BLM_CA_Web_KR@blm.gov

Trails	Status	Comments
Buck Creek Trail	Passable	Expect downed trees from a fire in 2015 that burned 146 acres
Chemise Mountain Trail (Chinquapin Loop)	Passable	A few large, downed trees that may be difficult to pass with a backpack on. The hike up to Chemise Mtn from Sinkyone Wilderness State Park is strenuous for the average hiker, 1300' elevation gain
Cooskie Creek Route (Cooskie Spur)	Unknown	This route is not maintained. Trail markers may be present but be prepared to orienteer and use a map or GPS. Offline Mapping Application: Avenza Maps – Download King Range North Portion for guidance in the wilderness area. Some sections require brushing. Watch for poison oak and ticks. The Cooskie creek crossing (6.5 miles south of the junction with the Lost Coast Trail) may be difficult or impossible to pass.
Hidden Valley Interpretative Trail (Nature Trail)	Passable	Low gradient trail with few low lying, wet areas. This trail connects two KRNCA campgrounds, Nadelos and Wailaki on the KRNCA map and guide. This trail parallels the Chemise Mountain Road for approximately ¼ mile and is ADA wheelchair accessible. It is not paved but is regularly maintained.



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Horse Mountain Creek Trail	Passable	This trail is well-used and maintained. Please park in the designated parking lot and not along roadway. Strenuous day hike to the beach area outside of impassable zone. Nearest water source Low Gap Trailhead (500m downhill to North Fork Bear Creek along King Peak Road) or Gitchell Creek (5.5 miles from Horse Mountain Creek Trailhead parking area).
King Crest Trail (Saddle Mountain Trailhead to King Peak Summit)	Passable	There are several downed trees along the trail.
King Crest Trail (King Peak Summit to North Slide Trailhead)	Passable	There are several downed trees along the trail.
Kinsey Ridge Trail	Passable	This trail is well-used and maintained. The gate at the top of trail is impassable to stock animals
Lost Coast Trail – Northern Section (Mattole to Randall Creek)	Passable	Elephant Seals are present along the beach at the Punta Gorda Lighthouse. Please utilize the bluff trail beginning at Four Mile Creek to allow proper distancing from wildlife. All dogs must be kept on leash. Refer to the picture below to navigate the impassible section approximately 0.5 miles south of Sea Lion Gulch. No camping at the Black Sands Beach Trailhead. Camping is only permitted with a backcountry permit north of Telegraph Creek as indicated on the KRNCA Map and Guide.
Lost Coast Trail – Central Section (Randall Creek to Big Flat)	Passable	If utilizing bluff trail between Randall Creek and Big Creek be respectful of private inholdings and do not trespass.
Lost Coast Trail – Southern Section (Big Flat to Black Sands Beach)	Passable	Active landslide present in the impassible zone, north of Buck Creek. Ability to pass may be impeded after storms. If unable to pass retreat to Shipman Creek and wait for lower tide conditions.
Lightning Trail	Passable	There are several downed trees along the trail.
Miller Loop	Passable	Several large trees down on south side of loop. Fire damaged trees are present, be wary of falling debris.
Rattlesnake Ridge Trail	Passable	Trail subject to heavy weathering and erosion. Downed trees and trail washouts may be present along this route. There are four creek crossings between Big Flat and the switchbacks as indicated on the KRNCA map and guide. Creek crossings will not be safely passable during and after rainstorms.
Spanish Ridge Trail	Passable	The route primarily follows decommissioned roads. The grass is high and brushy on the bottom half and difficult to follow. Utilize the GPS points on the King Range Map & Guide.
Tolkan Mountain Bike Park/Paradise Royale Loop	Open	Mountain bike riders should use caution while recreating on the entire MTB trail network. Reports of down trees across trail, slippery single-track conditions, and rocks in bike path. This trail network is dual purpose and hikers should step to the downhill side of the trail to allow safe passage for bike riders to proceed. Off highway vehicles are not permitted along any stretch of the mountain bike trail. NO MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE.



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Campgrounds	Status	Comments
Mattole Campground	Open	Running water not available. Trash and restroom facilities may be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. No camping permitted on beach from Mattole River to 0.25 miles south of campground.
Tolkan Campground	Open	Running water not available. Trash and restroom facilities may be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.
Nadelos Campground	Open	Running water not available. Trash and restroom facilities may be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.
Wailaki Campground	Open	Running water not available. Trash and restroom facilities may be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Image 1: Hat Rock bypass trail (0.5 miles south of Sea Lion Gulch). *Do not attempt to pass hat rock on the beach at any tide, always use bluff route.*