



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

December 21, 2021

Water sources: All sources of water throughout the King Range National Conservation Area require treatment and/or proper filtration. All coastal watersheds are currently flowing at sufficient levels. High country springs are susceptible to water scarcity. Plan ahead and carry sufficient water for the event that none is available.

Roadways: Roads throughout the King Range National Conservation Area are rough, narrow, and winding. Drive slowly and watch for potholes and steep shoulders. When navigating roadways within the KRNCA ensure appropriate vehicle safety equipment is present in automobile (including properly inflated spare tire, jack and wrench).

Cellphone reception is very limited, an SOS emergency communication 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. Always go at least 200ft (70 paces) away from creeks and water sources, and never bury waste in or around campsites.

Toilet paper can be buried with waste or packed out.

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

Gathering Downed Firewood Special Stipulations

These Special Stipulations are part of your permit and must be in the permittee’s possession when gathering and transporting firewood upon public lands or roads.

KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

PARADISE RIDGE RD, WHITETHORN, CA

1. Permits gathering of “**downed**” firewood within **200 feet of the centerline of designated roads** in the area(s) referenced by the attached maps. **A. Unrestricted Zone is open between April 1 – Nov 1 (see reference map) b. Restricted Zone is open between August 1 – Nov 1 (see reference map)**
2. Motorized vehicles must remain on designated roads when collecting firewood.
3. Ensure all power saws are equipped with an exhaust system and are in good condition. **Each saw must have a spark arrestor consisting of a wire mesh screen with a maximum mesh opening of .023 inches.**
4. Check with King Range Project Office for potential fire restrictions in the permitted collection areas at **(707) 986-5400** and visit <https://www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire-and-aviation/regionalinfo/california/fire-restrictions#Arcata>. **This is an especially critical planning step during the summer fire season.**



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(Continued) Gathering Downed Firewood Special Stipulations

5. Adhere to all instructional and regulatory signs posted on BLM lands.
6. Slash (branches, stems, etc.) and any unused vegetative material resulting from gathering activities must be removed from roads, fences, and other improvements and scattered on the ground at no more than 24 inches high.
7. Leave gates as you found them.
8. Permits are non-refundable and non-transferable and are only valid on public lands administered by Bureau of Land Management within the areas specified on the map provided.
9. Securely attach and validate (punching out the month and day of transport) one haul tag per half cord of firewood while the load is in transport making sure haul tags are highly visible from the rear of the vehicle.

PROHIBITED ACTIONS

- 1. Cutting, injuring, or removing any standing trees.**
- 2. Damaging or disturbing any downed tree with visible cavities or other evidence of wildlife use.**
- 3. Disturbing sensitive natural and cultural resources (prehistoric sites, historic sites, or artifacts, archaeological and historic resources) which are protected by federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act, among others.**
- 4. Forest product removal within 150 feet of the centerline of any flowing watercourse or paved road or highway.**
- 5. Blocking traffic or impeding fire and emergency vehicles.**
- 6. Using heavy equipment to cut and/or remove forest products.**
- 7. Vehicular travel on roads when it creates rutting in excess of four (4) inches deep.**
- 8. Vehicular travel on roads that show evidence of having been closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades or posted closures.**
- 9. Littering or dumping trash.**
- 10. Harvest within 200 feet of any active forestry and fuels reduction work**

For authorized collection stipulations, area maps and associated firewood cutting permits, please see the web-link below.

<https://forestproducts.blm.gov/>



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To report a suspected crime.
(707) 986-5400 (KRNCA Project Office)
[BLM CA Web KR@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_Web_KR@blm.gov)

Springs	Status	Comments
Telegraph	Not reliable	Water flow not observed, accessible water not present.
Pinnacle	Not reliable	Water flow not observed, accessible water not present.
Maple	reliable	Flow rate is approximately 3 CFS. Water quality is good. Large pools 50 yards downstream from Maple Camp.
Miller	Not reliable	Water flow not observed, accessible water not present.
Bonus	Not reliable	Water flow not observed, accessible water not present.
Bear Hollow	Not reliable	Flow rate is approximately 1 liter per minute. Not a reliable source of drinking water.
<p>Disclaimer: Upland trails are prone to extreme heat conditions, and springs are susceptible to water shortage in all seasons. Always plan ahead and carry sufficient water to stay safely hydrated in the event that springs are dry.</p>		

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.



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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)	Closed	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
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)	Closed	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



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The navigation along the Lost Coast Trail has become more challenging due to coastal erosion. Large boulders and other challenging obstacles have impacted all sections of LCT impassable zones between the waypoints of Sea Lion Gulch (Lat: 40.240040, Long: -124.331498) and Randall Creek (40.200448, -124.282818) include the southern impassable zones from Miller Flat (40.122317, -124.162861) to Gitchell Creek (40.093685, -124.102281).

Field reports indicate spontaneous falling rocks and other debris from elevated positions on the bluff while hikers are navigating the LCT on the beach level and extremely caution is warranted while hiking in close proximity to the bluff areas to reduce the risk of serious injury and/or death.

Further caution is warranted when hiking up tributaries and all coastal watersheds due to landslides and spontaneous rock falls. Risks associated with navigating “off-trail” are real and may put hikers at increased risk of serious injury and/or death.

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. For further inquiry prior to travel , call (707) 986 – 5400 and/or email : BLM_CA_Web_KR@blm.gov
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.



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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. Bluff trail is eroding north of Sea Lion Gulch, step upslope of any fissures or washouts while traversing this section. 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). Look for “LCT” trail marker (in red above).
Do not attempt to pass hat rock on the beach at any tide, always use bluff route.