



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, CA 96002
www.ca.blm.gov/redning



Instructions for Obtaining a Recreational Mineral Collection Permit Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area

The enclosed information and applications are provided for your use in obtaining a Permit for recreational mineral collecting at the Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area. You will find: (1) a question and answer sheet; (2) one application, and; (3) a map showing the approximate locations of the various permit sites. Please read the enclosed information because you may not need a permit.

When applying for a permit, indicate under Item #3 of the Application Form your first choice site and any alternative sites you would prefer in case your first choice is unavailable. If none of your choices are available, you will be contacted regarding the availability of other sites. You may contact the Redding Field Office and inquire about available sites prior to your selection.

Also, please indicate under Item #4 the dates(s) that you wish to use the permit site. A site may be used for a maximum period of thirty days under a permit. Extensions may be granted in rare circumstances when there is no interest in a reserved site from other applicants and the applicant is not camping on public lands.

Please mail the completed form and the use fee of \$5.00 per site, per day to the address above. **Permit fees are non-refundable.** Payments should be made by check payable to USDI Bureau of Land Management. Credit cards payments can be made over the phone for Visa or MasterCard Holders only. We will not issue you a permit until the permit fee is paid.

Because recreational mineral collecting is becoming increasingly popular, please submit your application far in advance so we have time to process your paperwork and assign you a site. Once we have received your completed and signed applications and use fee, your permit will be mailed back to you at the address that you indicated under Item #1.

If you have any questions concerning the application or permit, feel free to contact us at 530-224-2100.

Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area Commonly Asked Questions

How do I get to Butte Creek?

From Chico, take Highway 32 northeast towards Chester, past Forest Ranch, turning right on Garland Road (approximately 18 miles from Chico). Follow Garland Road to Doe Mill Road (also called 210C) to Butte Creek Bridge. From Paradise, take the Skyway north towards Stirling City, past Magalia turning left on Powelton Road (about 5 miles north of Magalia). Follow Powelton Road to Doe Mill Road towards Butte Creek Bridge. To get to the Primitive Camping Area and collection sites 5-11, turn right onto Ditch Creek Road and follow it down to the creek. Ditch Creek Road is not maintained and can be muddy or impassable during winter months.

Is suction dredging allowed on Butte Creek?

The State of California has passed SB 670 which prohibits the use of vacuum or other suction dredging equipment for instream mining in any California river, stream or lake effective August 6, 2009. This moratorium will remain in effect until the Department of Fish and Game completes an environmental review of its dredging permitting program and revises its regulations. BLM will not issue recreational use permits for suction dredging until this moratorium is lifted. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/suctiondredge/>

How does the site system work at Butte Creek?

Areas open to recreational mining have been divided into approximately 100 yard sites. These sites are marked by signs with the site numbers on them. Signs are posted on trees or rocks and are visible from the creek or the Butte Creek trail. Up to eight people can reserve a site for a fee of \$5.00 per site per day for mineral collecting purposes. **PERMIT FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**

Why is there a use fee?

Before permits were required, Butte Creek was extremely overcrowded and disputes between mineral collectors, campers, and other recreational visitors were commonplace. The permit system was developed to protect the creek resources, improve the recreational experience of all visitors, and provide opportunities for mineral collection. Operation of the permit system, which includes compliance checks by BLM Rangers, costs more money than BLM is normally appropriated. Use fees collected at Butte Creek are used to help operate the permit system and improve the recreation area.

Do I need a BLM Permit?

A BLM permit is required for mineral collection that involves use of a rocker box (regardless of size), or sluice box (regardless of size). **BLM does not require a permit for gold panning, sniping, or metal detecting.**

Do I need a Fish and Game Dredging Permit?

Permits are not required for gold panning, sluicing, sniping, or metal detecting.

Why do I need a BLM permit for mineral collection on Butte Creek?

Butte Creek is a unique area that was placed under protective mineral withdrawal on January 18, 1973, that segregated the area from all forms of appropriation, including the mining laws. No mining claims may be located. These sites are very popular and the permit system gives everyone an equal opportunity to collect placer gold in this beautiful area.

What does a BLM permit give me permission to do?

A BLM permit for recreational mineral collection gives you, and your group, exclusive permission to use a sluice or rocker box within a specified site. **Please be aware that this is a multiple-use Recreation Area and that other users, (people fishing, swimming, picnicking, metal detecting, or panning) may still use you site for those purposes.** Your patience and cooperation is requested with other recreational users on the creek to ensure that everyone has a fun time in this unique area.

Can I camp in the area?

There are no developed campsites in this area. Primitive camping is available within this area. No water, restrooms, garbage cans, fire rings, or picnic tables are provided, so please PACK OUT all of your trash and use SELF CONTAINED TOILET FACILITIES for solid human waste. The only sites with flat ground nearby are sites 5 to 11. Remember, you are not reserving a camping space with a permit, only a mineral collection site on the creek. There is a 14 day camping limit.

How many people can use a site?

Camping and parking space is extremely limited in the area. Because this area is becoming increasingly popular, overcrowding is starting to occur. Therefore, up to eight (8) people can use a site for mineral collection purposes and camp overnight for up to 14 days in a calendar year. People using the mineral collection site must be identified on the permit application.

How long can I use a site with a permit?

A permit can be issued for up to 30 days. In order to reduce long-term camping and sanitation problems, extensions are not authorized for camping beyond 14 days per calendar year.

Can I high bank or remove material from the land into the creek?

High banking is prohibited and is defined as any removal of earth from above the water level and sluicing or panning the material back into the creek.

What are the various sites like?

Sites 5 to 11: Are the most popular because the ground is generally flat and people often camp by their permitted site. The road leading to these sites can be very muddy and four-wheel drive access may be required. These sites may not be accessible by motor vehicle during heavy rainfall years.

Sites 12 to 18b: Have fairly easy access; a short walk by trail (10-600 yards), then a steep climb down the bank (about 100 yards) into the canyon. No camping is available adjacent to these sites, although vehicle camping is allowed in the bridge parking area.

Sites 19 to 26: Can be difficult to get to, down steep canyon faces in the canyon. There is no road access directly in to the creek. Site markers are located adjacent to Butte Creek Trail.

Can I build a campfire?

You may build a campfire if you have been issued a campfire permit and the area is not posted as closed to campfires. If you build a campfire, be sure to completely extinguish your unattended campfire and scatter your rock rings before you leave. Check with California Department of Forestry and Fire (CDF), U.S. Forest Service, or BLM for current fire restrictions in the area.

Can I hike or fish?

Butte Creek Trail follows most of the western edge of the creek. The lower segments of the trail are fairly difficult, so watch your step. Fishing for Rainbow trout is pretty good in the creek. Be sure to have your fishing license.

How much water flows through the creek?

Flows on the creek are not regulated by an impoundment and vary with seasonal rainfall. Our experience on the creek is that most dredge operators are unable to use their equipment until mid June. During extremely wet years, dredging can be difficult all the way to July. You may want to call one of the many mining equipment and supply businesses in the Chico or Paradise area of Butte County to get local information about the flow conditions on the creek.

UNITED STATES
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**Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area
Recreational Use Permit**

Instructions: Complete Items 1 through 15, and return to the Redding BLM Field Office 355 Hemsted Dr. Redding, CA 96002.

WHEN SIGNED BY AUTHORIZED BLM OFFICIAL, THIS PERMIT AUTHORIZES

1. Your Name: _____	2. E-mail Address _____
3. Address (include zip code) _____ _____	4. Phone Number (Include Area Code) _____
	5. Fax Number (Include Area Code) _____
	6. Applicant is: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Organized Group

7. Name(s) and phone number(s) (include area code(s)) of person(s) authorized to conduct business with BLM concerning the permit.

1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____
5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____

8. To use the following public lands/related waters:

Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area – Site # _____ (Alternate Site # _____)

9. For the following purpose (provide full description of activity or event including number of anticipated participants).

Method of Mineral Collection:

10. Dates of proposed use: Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

11. Describe facilities including water and sanitation facilities you intend to provide.

12. Have you ever been denied or had a permit revoked? Yes No If so, where? _____

13. Are there any pending investigations against you? Yes No If so, where? _____

14. Have you been convicted of violations regarding natural resources, cultural resources or any activity related to your proposed permit? Yes No If so, where? _____

15. Certification of Information: I CERTIFY the information in this application is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is given in good faith. I acknowledge that I (we) am (are) required to comply with any conditions or stipulations that are required by the BLM when the permit is issued.

(Signature of Applicant) _____ (Date) _____

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and Title 43 U.S.C. Section 1212 makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

FOR BLM USE ONLY
This application is hereby approved.

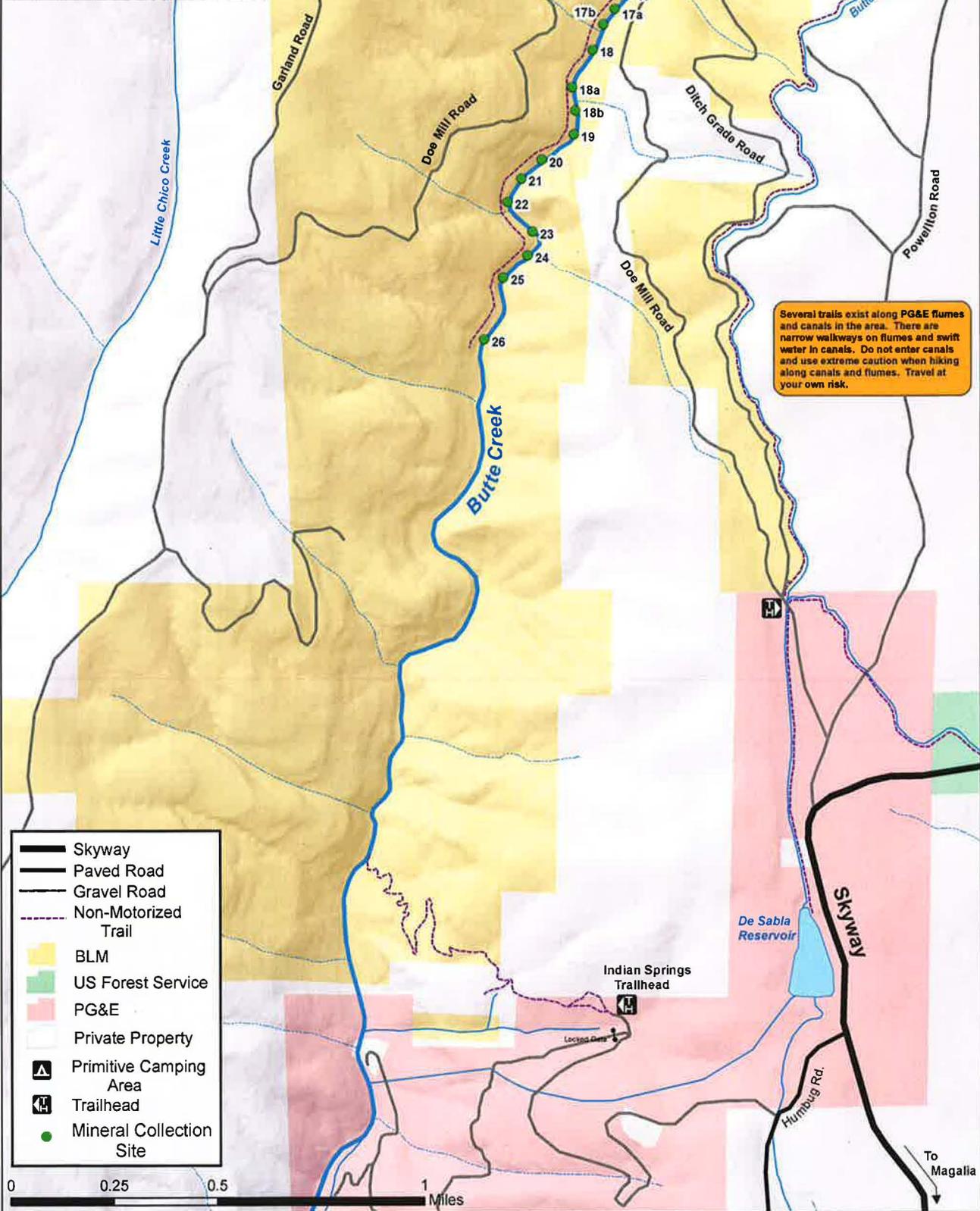
(Signature of BLM) _____ (Date) _____

PERMITTEE MUST HAVE THIS PERMIT (OR LEGIBLE COPY) IN POSSESSION DURING USE IN PERMITTED AREAS.



Forks of Butte Creek Recreation Area

Bureau of Land Management, Redding Field Office (530) 224-2100 www.blm.gov/ca/redding



Forks of Butte Creek Primitive Camping Area and Trailhead

Butte Creek Trail Doe Mill Rd. Trailhead

Several trails exist along PG&E flumes and canals in the area. There are narrow walkways on flumes and swift water in canals. Do not enter canals and use extreme caution when hiking along canals and flumes. Travel at your own risk.

- Skyway
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Non-Motorized Trail
- BLM
- US Forest Service
- PG&E
- Private Property
- Primitive Camping Area
- Trailhead
- Mineral Collection Site

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

To Magalia

Butte Creek Recreation Area Vicinity Map

