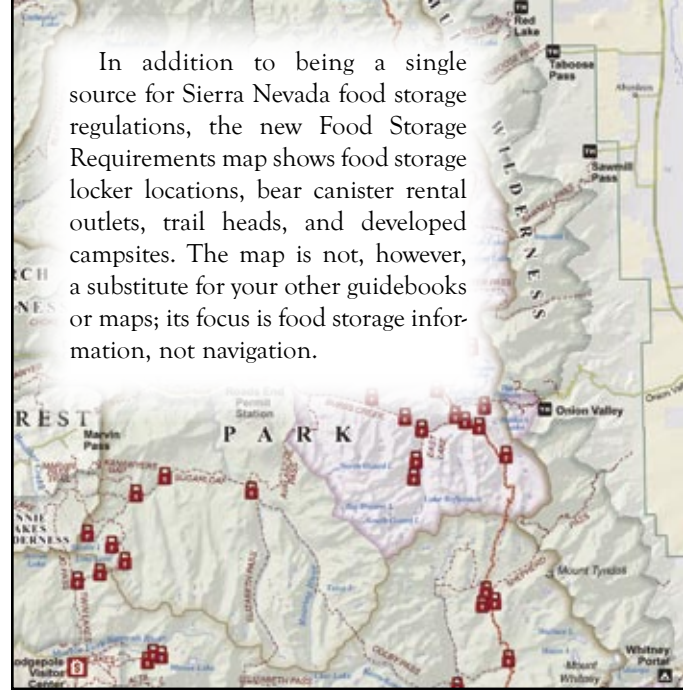
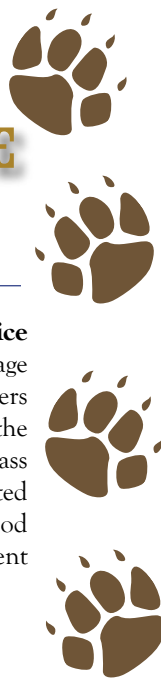


# NEW SIERRA NEVADA WILDERNESS FOOD STORAGE MAP AVAILABLE

By Adam Barnett, PCT Operations Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service have published a new map describing black bear food storage requirements in the Sierra Nevada of California. The map covers the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) between Kennedy Meadows (on the southern edge of the South Sierra Wilderness) and Sonora Pass (on the northern boundary of the Emigrant Wilderness.) Depicted are areas where hikers and equestrians must use bear-resistant food canisters or food storage lockers (bear boxes), where they can rent the canisters, and the locations of bear boxes.



**Sierra Nevada Wilderness Food Storage Requirements**

Proper food storage required everywhere. Canisters are required in purple areas shown on this map, and strongly recommended in all other areas.

**To avoid negative encounters with bears while visiting the Sierra Nevada wilderness:**

- NEVER give food to a bear.
- Carry and use a food storage canister\* that is approved by the Sierra Intergency Black Bear Group ([www.sierrawildbear.gov](http://www.sierrawildbear.gov)).
- Ensure that all of your food, toiletries, and trash fit in the canister. Most negative bear encounters occur due to overflow food. To do this:
  - Remove all your food and toiletries from their original packaging to reduce bulk.
  - Pack your canister\* before leaving the permit office to be sure that all items fit inside.
- During your trip, be sure that your food, toiletries, and trash are stored properly at all times and that your canister\* is closed properly - bears are active 24 hours, day and night.
- If you do see a bear, do not approach it.

\*For each state, this refers to a Bear resistant container.

While not everyone will encounter bears in the wild, everyone has an opportunity to save bears by keeping them wild.

“The Sierra Nevada Wilderness Food Storage Map is the first comprehensive food storage information source for the entire Sierra range,” says **Rob Mason**, Wilderness Manager for the High Sierra Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest. “It was produced to help Sierra wilderness visitors more easily determine where different types of food storage are required and, in particular, where bear canisters are required.”

Mason adds that the map “will be especially helpful for PCT and John Muir Trail thru-hikers who previously had to navigate through a complex web of agency Web sites and other information sources to figure out where canisters were required and where food storage lockers were located.”

The map is the result of hiker requests for a single source of information on food storage regulations. The members of the **Sierra Intergency Black Bear Group**, Mason, and Forest Service cartographer **Daniel Spring** cooperated to produce the map.

“Ultimately, the map is designed to protect and preserve wild black bears,” says Mason. “By keeping bears wild, visitors are protecting the very essence of what defines much of the visitor’s experience in the Sierra and on the PCT: the wild and untamed character of this spectacular wilderness.”

The new map is available online at [www.SierrawildBear.gov](http://www.SierrawildBear.gov). This Web site also provides current information on which bear resistant food canisters are approved for use in National Parks and National Forests in the Sierra Nevada. Interested hikers and equestrians can download the map and view it on-screen or can print it. Also, hikers and equestrians can obtain a paper version at visitor centers that rent bear canisters.

