REMEMBER THESE REGULATIONS

BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMITS are required for all backcountry overnight stays.

OPEN CAMPFIRES are allowed only if “dead and down” wood is used to fuel the fire. (Try to use an existing fire ring.)

MAXIMUM PARTY SIZE is limited to 12 persons and/or 8 head of stock.

PACK STOCK use is permitted throughout the backcountry with the following exceptions: 1) between Rim Drive and Crater Lake. 2) on Mt. Scott, Godfrey Glen and Annie Spring trails. 3) in camping areas.

PETS, FIREARMS, BICYCLES AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES are not permitted in the backcountry. Pets are permitted on leash on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) only when they enter and exit on the PCT at either the north or south boundary of the park. Pets are not permitted on any of the spur or access trails to or from the PCT.

PACK OUT all unburnable garbage and leave a clean camp.

CAMPING AND OPEN CAMPFIRES ARE PROHIBITED in the following areas to protect the experiences of other visitors and preserve specific fragile areas.

—Within one mile of any paved road or nature trail or developed area.
—Within 100 feet of any water source.
—Within 100 feet of any trail or other camping party except when using a designated campsite.
—Between Rim Drive and Crater Lake.
—On the Phantom Ship or Wizard Island.
—Atop Mt. Scott and along the trail to the summit.

NO HIKING OR CLIMBING INSIDE THE RIM except on the Cleetwood Trail.

Crater Lake
Backcountry Use

Preservation and enjoyment of Crater Lake’s backcountry depends in large part upon your careful and considerate use. Please observe the regulations in this folder and try to incorporate minimum impact suggestions into your backcountry trip. If you follow all of the regulations and suggestions, you will provide others the opportunity for solitude and a quality experience.
While on your backcountry trip - why not set a goal? The goal may be to leave as little human impact as possible on the environment. Some of the following ideas could help you...

Stay on the trail no matter how tempting it may be to take a shortcut between switchbacks. In this land of long winters averaging 50 feet of snowfall and brief summers, plants sometimes have to struggle just to stay alive. Needless foot travel would certainly lessen their chances of survival and also accelerate erosion.

Parties larger than 12 people should break into smaller groups and travel separately.

If you do build a fire...

...use an existing fire ring. The number of fire rings in the backcountry has increased beyond need.

Use dead and down wood to fuel your fire - let the standing vegetation continue its growth.

Remember - stay close to your fire and be sure it is out before you continue your trip.

While in Crater Lake National Park - try to use one of the designated backcountry camps. Staying at one of these sites lessens the number of impacted areas. Check the map for the specific locations.

If you don't use one of these areas, pick an already established campsite or area which is more resistant to human impact. Make sure you are at least 100 feet off the trail and one mile from any road.

At your campsite - hang all food in a pack or stuff sack, out of reach of wild animals and well away from your cooking area.

Please pick up litter and pack it out. Packing out all unburnable material including garbage will leave your campsite and trails ready for the next backcountry user.

Pack out or completely burn any food scraps - let the wild animals maintain their natural diet.

Sanitation is important as contamination of streams and lakes can readily occur.

Make your toilet well away from camp and at least 100 feet away from any standing or running water. Dig a shallow trench and cover after use. Also - dispose of waste or wash water at least 100 feet away from any water source.

Although the clear, cold water of streams is very tempting, it should be boiled or disinfected before it is consumed. Even the clearest running stream may cause illness.

Pack stock is permitted but be sure you bring along feed. There is a special campsite located west of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) on Bybee Creek with pack stock facilities. Carefully select resting areas for your stock - tethering them to a small tree can damage the tree.

Well... maybe this is a little too much!

ATTENTION PACIFIC CREST TRAIL HIKERS: Pets are allowed on the PCT but not on spur trails, including the scenic detour to view Crater Lake.

Protect yourself, your pets and the wildlife - LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME! Wildlife will often avoid areas that are used by pets - making it difficult to observe the animals. Also some wildlife can attack or injure pets.