Winter Backcountry Use
Crater Lake National Park

Regulations and Restrictions:

1. Backcountry use permits are required for ALL overnight stays. They can be obtained free of charge from either the Rim Village Information Desk in the Cafeteria Building 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or at the park Communication Center in the Canfield Building (at park headquarters) 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

   For parties entering from the North Entrance (at Hwy 138), permits are available by phone from Park Headquarters (503-594-2211 ext.415 or ext.347). A current weather forecast, avalanche hazard report and other safety information may also be acquired through this number.

2. No open fires are permitted during the winter season.

   Since dead and downed wood is covered by deep snow during the winter, open campfires are prohibited to protect standing vegetation.

3. To protect specific fragile areas and maintain a quality experience for other visitors, the following areas are closed to camping:
   a. within one mile of any plowed road.
   b. within one mile of Boundary Springs or Sphagnum Bog.
   c. within 100 feet of any water source.
   d. within visibility of any other backcountry campers and ski trails.

4. Camping parties are restricted to no more than 8 people per party.

   Groups larger than 8 people must break into smaller parties, travelling and camping as distinct, separate parties.

5. Pets and Firearms are not permitted in the backcountry.

6. Entering the caldera is extremely dangerous and is prohibited.

7. Snowmobiles are allowed only on the designated route from the North Entrance to the rim at North Junction.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable visit in Crater Lake's backcountry. For further information, or to report emergencies, please call Park Headquarters at (503) 594-2211.
Parking for Winter Backcountry Users
Crater Lake National Park

Backcountry users may park in either the park headquarters area, or at Rim Village. You are responsible to ensure your car is parked in a designated overnight parking area. If your vehicle is left in a non-designated area, you risk having it seriously damaged by snow removal equipment, or towed at your expense.

Maps on this page show the designated Overnight Parking Areas at Rim Village and Park Headquarters. You may leave your vehicle in these places for overnight outings. Please note that a free permit for overnight backcountry use is required.

If the designated areas are full, please inquire at the Steel Center for alternative sites.