

Whiskeytown Unit

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity
National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Happy Trails

Surrounded by the beauty of oak and mixed conifer forest, Whiskeytown's backcountry offers various opportunities to discover the cultural and natural wonders of the area. While enjoying a quiet ride or walk in the woods you can encounter an old mining area, experience a creek crossing, or capture glimpses of wildlife. As more people use the backcountry, it is important to keep in mind some safe and ethical practices. Tips in this guide are designed to help the equestrian, mountain biker and hiker reduce impacts upon the land. Whatever your mode of transportation, travel gently so that present and future generations can enjoy the beauty and solitude of Whiskeytown's backcountry!

Trail Preservation

Your impact upon resources will determine future use or restrictions. Please be sensitive to trail conditions and practice low impact use by observing these

- Resist the urge to pioneer a new trail, or to cut across switchbacks; both activities are illegal and subject to citation.

- **Be part of the solution!** Report any environmental problems or land misuse. Offer to help protect and restore eroded trails.

impact use by observing these common sense guidelines:

- Pack out what you pack in, including litter left by others. Stay on designated trails to avoid native vegetation.

- By not using muddy trails you will minimize erosion, which can destroy a trail and may necessitate its closure.

Safety

Proper equipment, good conditioning, and a healthy regard for weather and wilderness conditions will serve to enhance your visit and help avoid an unpleasant or dangerous experience. Always explore remote areas with others and notify someone of your travel plans. Bring enough food and water for your trip, as well as a first aid kit.

The trails can challenge the novice hiker and the competitive rider so it is important that you know your abilities and that of your companions. When on backcountry roads watch for motorized vehicles.

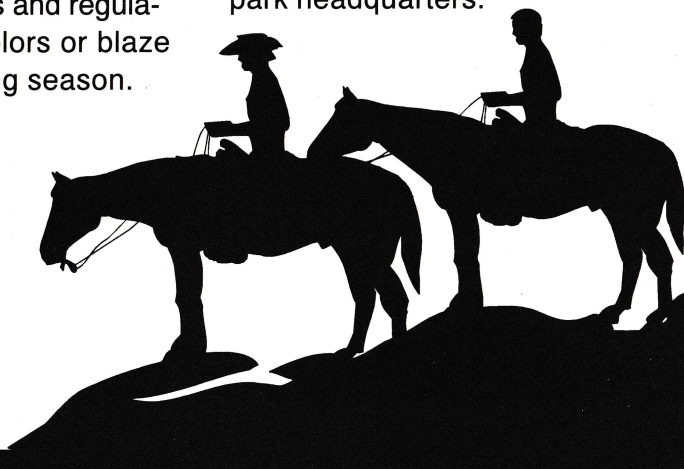
Equestrians and mountain bikers should remain in control at all times. Make it a common practice to wear a helmet, gloves and eye protection. Carry the proper tools to care for your horse or for minor repairs on your bicycle, such as a flat tire.

Remember that hunting is allowed in the park. Check with rangers or at park headquarters to learn about restricted areas and regulations. Wear bright colors or blaze orange during hunting season.

Abandoned mines and shafts are dangerous. Stay out and stay alive.

Fire danger is high between May and November. Smoking is prohibited in the backcountry.

Watch for natural hazards such as poison oak, ticks, and rattlesnakes. Report mountain lion or bear sightings to a ranger or at park headquarters.



Trail Courtesy

Share the trail. Watch for and be friendly to other users.

Hikers and mountain bikers should yield to equestrian traffic. Speak to the rider so the horse can recognize you as human. Mountain bikers should remove their helmets for the same reason. Stand on the outside of the trail and wait quietly for the horse to pass.

Equestrians should pass at a slow walk when approaching other users. Make your presence known so that others can have an opportunity to clear the trail.

Mountain bikers should yield to both horse and hiker. In steep, rough country, downhill traffic usually yields to uphill traffic. However, if you have a better place to pull off, do so, and let others pass by.



Area Closures

The Park Superintendent reserves the right to close any trail for visitor safety or resource protection purposes. Please respect these closures. There is always a good reason, such as nesting season for bald eagles or a prescribed burn in progress.

The following trails are closed to equestrian and mountain bike use:

Davis Gulch Trail
Shasta Divide Nature Trail
Exercise Trail at Oak Bottom
Crystal Creek Water Ditch Trail

The NEED camp area is for authorized use only. Trails leading through the camp should be avoided.

Remember, you are responsible for knowing all area rules and regulations.

This is just a small sampling of backcountry trails that are highlighted in the park brochure. Become familiar with the area by obtaining a topographical map, park brochure, Hiking Trails site bulletin, and other reading materials available at the visitor center or park headquarters.

SHASTA MINE LOOP TRAIL -

One of the park's more popular trails, this 3-mile loop will allow you glimpses of the area's rich mining history and scenic views of the lake. The trail leads you to the Mount Shasta Mine where remnants of a mine shaft recall the heyday of the Gold Rush. The trail also winds behind the Whiskeytown Cemetery, which was relocated from the old mining town when the dam was constructed. You can also discover nature's beauty as you hike through Orifino Gulch and its seasonal creek.

PELTIER VALLEY - You can explore this area by way of Peltier Valley Road where you will find many old roads and trails created by past mining and logging activities. One convenient access point is Peltier Bridge Primitive Campground. Several trails from this area take you to the high country, with tall pines, big leaf maples and a lush riparian habitat.

Although high water from recent winter storms altered some trails, it is well worth the effort to visit this natural haven.

Highlights include the challenging seven mile Kanaka Peak Loop Trail, and a honeycomb of trails behind the NEED Camp where the Whiskeytown Environmental School teaches students about the natural environment.



Keep in mind that the NEED Camp is restricted to school use only. If your trail ends at the NEED Camp, simply head west where several trails will take you back to Peltier Valley Road.

BOULDER CREEK TRAIL - The Carr Powerhouse parking lot is a good staging area for this 8.5 mile loop. The first 2 miles consist of an uphill gravel road. As the road climbs to Mill Creek Road be sure to take the right fork, then at the summit turn left and follow the trail as it drops into Boulder Creek Valley. As you journey through this forest you will encounter several creek crossings. Look for the waterfall at the first crossing, about a hundred yards upstream. From here the trail will narrow and be eroded in some areas. At the bottom of the trail feel free to enjoy the lake, then take South Shore Drive back to the Carr Powerhouse.