



Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures for 2019 March 22, 2019

Temporary Grazing Restrictions and Closures

Stock parties may camp in areas that are closed to grazing, but are required to either hold and feed their animals or graze them in other sites in the area that are open to grazing. Only horses, mules, burros, or llamas are allowed.

- **66-3 Junction Meadow (Bubbs Creek)** To allow grazing of the flooded, lower portion of the meadow below the drift fence and the drier area above the drift fence to be managed with separate opening dates and grazing capacities, we recommend the following temporary restrictions in 2019: that the lower meadow be open to hand grazing only with the total amount of grazing limited to 50 stock nights, and that the total amount of grazing in the upper meadow be limited to 32 stock nights. In order to preserve opportunities for private groups and those served by the concessionaire, grazing by the Cedar Grove Pack Station would be limited to a total of 50 stock nights spread across the upper and lower meadows and Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) permit holders would be prohibited from grazing at Junction Meadow.

NOTE: The special grazing restrictions that follow are in place to prevent the spread of velvetgrass, an invasive weed, on the floor of the Kern River canyon (see Special Bulletin for additional information).

Kern Canyon Meadows. In order to limit the spread of the invasive non-native velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*), the following temporary restrictions continue to be implemented in 2019 for the meadows on the floor of the Kern Canyon, as follows:

Kern Ranger Station to Laurel Creek:

We recommend that all meadows on the floor of the Kern Canyon between the park boundary at the Kern Ranger Station and Laurel Creek be closed to grazing, with the exception of the administrative pastures at 86-7 Lewis Camp and 86-8 Kern Ranger Station. We recommend that administrative grazing of the Kern Ranger Station pastures be allowed with portable electric fencing used to prevent the spread of seeds from infested portions of the meadows. Meadows closed to all grazing include 86-6 Rattlesnake Camp/River Pasture, and 86-5 Lower Funston Meadow. Parties would be allowed to camp in these areas provided that they confine and feed their animals.

Laurel Creek to Kern-Kaweah River:

We recommend that grazing of all meadows on the floor of the Kern Canyon between Laurel Creek and the Kern-Kaweah River be limited to parties accessing the canyon from the west (Mineral King, Giant Forest, or Roaring River), north, or east. Parties passing through the USFS lands to the south and entering the canyon would be required to confine and feed their animals once velvetgrass begins flowering. Meadows affected by this restriction include 86-4 Twenty-one Inch Camp, 86-2 Upper Funston Meadow, 86-1 Kern Bridge Camp/The Maze, and 82-1 Junction Meadow. Furthermore, we recommend that grazing at 86-2 Upper Funston Meadow be reserved for commercial and private users.