

KERN PLATEAU

WINTER SPORTS

Sequoia National Forest

Cannell Meadow Ranger District



The Kern Plateau, located approximately 32 miles northeast of Kernville via the Sherman Pass Road (22S05), offers a unique and adventurous winter sports area for Nordic skiing, snowmobiles, and snow play. Snow levels on the Kern Plateau usually begin around 6,500 feet elevation.

Winter recreation trails on the Kern Plateau are primarily snow covered forest roads. Winter weather conditions are variable, ranging from crisp, sunny days to raging snowstorms. Snow is often present from late November to early June. The average snow depths range from 5 to 15 feet. Normal winter temperatures range from 20 to 50 degrees F.

Accessing the Kern Plateau from Kernville. Follow Mtn. 99 approximately .20 miles NE. of Kernville. Turn right on the Sherman Pass Rd. (22S05) go approximately 12 miles to the trailhead.

For additional **information** please contact:

Kernville Ranger Station
P.O. Box 9, 105 Whitney Road
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-3781 (Voice/ext. 2)

Lake Isabella Visitor Center
P.O. Box 3810, 4875 Ponderosa Dr.
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 379-5646 (Voice/ ext.2)

EMERGENCY NUMBER - 911

**DON'T RIDE OVER TOPS OF TREES AND
AVOID RIDING ON MEADOWS WITH LESS
THAN 12" OF SNOW.**

NORDIC SKIING

Cross-country skiing is a very popular activity on the Kern Plateau and skiers are not limited to any one particular area or trail.

OVERSNOW VEHICLES (OSV)

OSV trails are marked at each trailhead with orange diamonds and reflective white numbers. These signs give the difficulty rating of the trail and a trail map at each intersection. Trail maps are located at the trailhead. Forest regulations prohibit motorized vehicles within nearby wilderness areas. **Avoid riding on snow survey courses.**

SNOW PLAY

Tobogganing, sledding, and snow play areas are not designated. Use caution when selecting a safe spot.

FACILITIES

There are restroom facilities located at Blackrock and Paloma Meadow. Also there is a warming hut at Paloma. The nearest pay telephones and stores are located at Kennedy Meadows on J41 on the east side or at Roads End on Mtn. 99 on the west side.

MINIMUM IMPACT

Litter and debris can mar the quality of a recreation experience. Help others enjoy winter travel in the National Forest by **PACKING OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN.**

Avoid leaving human waste near streams, or trail.

Build warming fires off of paved roads.



United States
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Pacific Southwest Region

Sequoia National Forest



ETHICS

Parking on the Sherman Pass Road is very limited. Make sure to park off the road, avoiding blocking traffic or impeding access to trails. Emergency vehicles must be able to access all roadways.

Respect the property and privacy of others.

Vegetation can be damaged if you travel over small trees, bushes or wet meadows. Wildlife will also be disturbed. **Protect your right to ride.**

SAFETY TIPS

Be prepared for unsettled **weather conditions**. Call ahead for updated weather reports.

Hypothermia - It is caused by exposure to cold and aggravated by wetness, wind and exhaustion. Symptoms include shivering, vague slurred speech, memory loss, drowsiness and exhaustion. Prevent it by avoiding over exposure to cold, wind and moisture. Know your body's limitations and wear proper clothing. Down filled or wool clothes are very effective against the cold. Eat properly and carry quick energy foods. Don't drink alcohol.

Hidden Obstacles - Most of the winter sports trails on the Kern Plateau are snow covered forest roads. Be alert for gates, road paddles, fences and other hidden obstacles.

Going Alone? - If at all possible, never travel alone. Always leave an itinerary with a family member or friend back home. Cell phone service is very limited. Bald Mtn. and Sherman Peak.

Always carry the following essential items when traveling into the high country:

- **Chains** - When heading to the mountains always carry tire chains. Road conditions can change rapidly with sudden snowstorms or afternoon ice.
- **Shovel** - Very handy tool if you need to dig yourself out of the snow.

- **First Aid Kit** - Size it to the activity and number of people traveling with you.
- **Blanket** - Carry an adequate number for the number of people traveling with you.
- **Water, Food & Survival Kit** - Carry an emergency supply in case your trip is delayed while away from facilities.
- **Flares, Tool kit & Jack** - For the extra security that could be needed in an unusual predicament.
- **Extra Warm Clothing** - A good idea, especially if the clothes you are wearing get wet.

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