

Horse Camping and Day Use Sites – Central and Northern California

(rev. 10/01/2011)

A Disclaimer! The information contained in this document is considered accurate and reliable as of the date of print. I make no claims to its absolute accuracy. I advise any potential user to contact the camp or day use site directly for up-to-date detail, or the regional contact if there is no direct line, for information available at that time. Further, while I have attempted to include most relevant data, I do not assume I have included it all. Research of this type is endless; dependent on continuous and reliable feedback from the various sources and end users alike. Truly, it never ends, especially in these times of park closures, etc.

Oct. 1, 2011: Thank you to all who provided additional data and updates. I have not included a couple locations submitted as this exercise addresses horse camping primarily with exclusions review some spectacular day ride sites. Most locations are available on line through various agencies as well as independent websites. Please go to the specific website for more detailed information.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Marin County			
Point Reyes National Seashore	Marin County Coast	415/464/5100	www.nps.gov/pore 77,000 acres. Day rides out of Bear Valley or Five Brooks trailheads, both on Hwy. 1 near Olema, west of San Rafael. Ample parking, water troughs, visitor center, tie rails, near restaurants.
Stewart Horse Camp	Point Reyes National Seashore	415/663-1362	Major Horse Camp. Rest rooms, showers, community area, bbq, water. 77,000 acres. 140 miles of trails. Adjoins GGNRA/North, Mt. Tam Watershed. Restaurants nearby. Located on Hwy. 1 south of Olema, Marin County Coast.
Frank Valley Horse Camp	Mount Tamalpais State Park	415/388-2070 and Reserve America	Located on Hwy. 1 north of Golden Gate near Muir Beach. Ride miles and miles on Mt. Tamalpais S. P. and GGNRA. Water, picnic tables, BBQ, 12 pipe corrals and trailer parking. Open May–October.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Devils Gulch Horse Camp	Samuel P. Taylor State Park	415/488-9897	In Marin County, 15 miles west of 101, half way between San Rafael and Point Reyes. Rest rooms. Showers in nearby section. Lots of trails plus access to Point Reyes and GGNRA. Reservations through ReserveAmerica
GGNRA/North – Marin County	North of the Golden Gate Bridge	415/331-3926	101 to the Sausalito–Alexander Valley turnoff (from south or north), downhill on Bridgeway to the sign to GGNRA. Go through the one-way tunnel. Turn left on Bunker Rd 1/2 mile or so to meadow right just before Presidio Stables on left. Trailhead leads to all GGNRA, Marin headlands, Mt. Tam and Muir Beach. No services but water at Presidio Stables. Great trails.
Samuel P. Taylor Park	Marin County west of San Rafael	415/488-9897	www.parks.ca.gov Day use aside from Devils Gulch (above) connecting to Point Reyes, GGNRA/North, the Marin Watershed, restaurants. Tie rails and picnic table at parking area. Ride among the redwoods.
China Camp State Park	San Rafael	415/456-0766	Overnight camping. 12 miles of trails. Lots of mountain bikes
North Bay/Sonoma County			
Armstrong Redwoods State Nature Reserve	Santa Rosa	707/869-2958	Day use. Magnificent Redwoods, huge, tall and old. Shared trails. Some climbs.
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park	Kenwood	707/833-5712	Near Santa Rosa. Day use. Huge views from 2700' mountain top. Observatory.
Annadel State Park	Santa Rosa	707/539-3911	Day use. Mixed use. Some climbs and some rocky areas.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Lake Sonoma	Santa Rosa	707/431-4533 Reservations: 877/444-6777	Take Dry Creek Road west, north of Santa Rosa. Large horse camp at Lone Rock. Huge covered community area. Miles and miles of trails. Most facilities. Open May - October
South Bay to San Luis			
GGNRA/South - San Mateo Co./Rancho Corral de Tierra	Hwy. 1 coast near Montara	c/o GGNRA: 415/561-4700	www.nps.gov/goga/rcdt.htm Due for acquisition early 2011. Over 4,000 acres. Two trailheads exist on Hwy. 1. See website. Co-managed with the Peninsula Open Space District - www.openspace.org
Big Basin Redwoods State Park	San Mateo County	Mountain Parks Foundation 831/335-3174	Miles of trails; connects to Jack Brook Horse Camp and Sam MacDonald County Park.
Jack Brook Horse Camp	Sam MacDonald County Park	650/879-0238	Great horse camp near La Honda with nice facilities. Power and water. Every ride ends in a climb up to the camp however. Great place to ride among redwoods and conifers, views from Butano Ridge.
Huddart Park	Woodside	650/851-1210	www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/parks 900 acre day use park adjacent to the Phleger Estate (below). Nice trails, views. Some seasonal closures.
Phleger Estate	Woodside	415/561-4700	www.nps.gov/goga/phes.htm Day ride site adjacent and accessible from Huddart Park
Half Moon Bay	Hwy 1 Coast West of San Mateo	-	Parking areas near Cameron's Pub @ 1410 S. Cabrillo Hwy (Hwy 1). Park 3 trailers west of pub. Hitching posts. Trailhead at end of Wave Crest Rd. Ride the bluffs and beach. Bring water.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Castlerock State Park	Los Gatos	408/867-2952	Day use. 32 miles of trails. www/parks.ca.gov/castlerock
Mid-Peninsula Open Space District	Skyline Ridge near Hwy. 35 and Alpine Road	650/691-0485 650/691-1200	www.openspace.org Inquiries: info@openspace.org Day use. 2,100 acres. Varying terrain. Trailer parking.
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park	Santa Cruz County	831/438-2396	Adjoins Big Basin State Park. Day use only. Call for details, parking, etc.
Rancho del Oso State Park/Waddell Creek	17 mi. north of Santa Cruz	831/427-2288	Horse camp: 831/425-1218. East off Hwy.1 b/4 bridge. See sign. Corrals, tables, portapotties. Water? Also contract Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Assn. re: their facilities here.
Almaden/Quicksilver	South San Jose	408/268-3883	www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks 23 mile trail system. Day use. Bring water.
Calero County Park	San Jose	408/268-3883	www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks 18 mile trail system. Overnight boarding
Grant Ranch County Park	San Jose area	408/355-2201	On Mount Hamilton. Narrow road up to site. Huge views. Wildflowers. Great horse camp. 9,500 acres.
Mount Madonna County Park	Hwy. 152, 10 mi. west of Gilroy	408/355-2201	www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks 14 mile trail system
Harvey Bear/Coyote Lake County Park	East of Gilroy	408/842-7800	600 acre county park with 23 miles of trails

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Pacheco Pass, Dinosaur Point. Pacheco State Park	20 miles east of Gilroy	209/826-6283	http://www.parks.ca.gov Day use. Bring water. 28 miles of trails. 2600 acres.
Henry Coe State Park	Gilroy	408/779-2728	www.coepark.org 87,000 acre park. Varying terrain. 8 horse camps w/two corrals or more, each, located 8-17 miles in from Visitors Center and the south entrance at Hunting Hollow. Hilly, lakes, ponds, seasonal streams. Shared use. Bring water for human consumption.
Wilder Ranch	North of Santa Cruz	831/426-0505	Day use and overnight. Corrals. 34 miles of trails
Garland Ranch	Carmel Valley, 8 mi. e. of Hwy 1	831/372-3196	www.mprpd.org 3,500 acre day use park. 200' to 2,000' elevation. Nice trails and views of Carmel Valley.
Fort Ord	Monterey	831/394-8314	Main access of Highway 68, the Salinas/Monterey highway at the Creekside trailhead. Others as per the map. 90 miles of trails in the combined BLM and Army base lands totaling over 7,500 acres. Mixed terrain with single track trails, gravel roads and some challenging areas. Shared use including hikers, bikers, dogs and horse-drawn carriages.
V6 Ranch	Parkfield, CA	805/463-2493	Private 20,000 acre working cattle ranch. Camp. Rent horses available. 50 miles of trails. Restrooms, showers, water, lake.
Montana del Oro State Park	Central Coast near Morro Bay	805/528-0513 805/772-7434	Contact the San Luis Obispo Visitors Center for additional information. Camp split into two sections. Most facilities are available. Ride the beach dunes. Dusty.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
East Bay Area			
East Bay Regional Park District, Tel: 888/327-2757 for all parks within the EBRPD + http://www.ebparks.org/parks			
Anthony Chabot Park– Bort Meadows Camp	Oakland Hills	See above	Large horse camp with facilities and community area. Miles of trails through this park and the many adjoining regional parks.
La Trampas	San Ramon	See above. Also 510/544-3276	Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1. Bring your own water.
Del Valle	Livermore	See above	Group and individual sites. Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1.
Joaquin Miller Park – Redwood Camp Area	Oakland Hills	510/531-5449	Operator: Metropolitan Horsemen’s Assn. Sequoia areas is actual horse camp. Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1.
Briones	Oakland Hills	See above	Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1.
Tilden	Oakland Hills	See above	Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1. This is an urban park in a rural setting. Busy, busy.
North Coast & Northern Calif.			
Humboldt Redwoods State Park	Weott, CA. 40 miles south of Eureka	Park HQ: 707/946-2409 Visitors Center: 707/946-2263	A wonderful place to camp and ride. Several horse camps including one large community camp with galley/community area. Restrooms, coin-op showers, twenty+ corrals in 2’s and 4’s. Bears. Ride among old growth redwoods and lots of streams.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Jackson Demonstration State Forest	Fort Bragg	707/964-5674	50,000 acres. Two camp sites but no hose bibs/ Bring water. May be best for day rides. Lots of trails. Lodging in Ft. Bragg and boarding at Lari Shea's Ricochet Ranch. Seasonal logging. Check with ranger. Great views from ridges Also: www.jacksonforest.com
Redwood National Forest	Orick (south of Crescent City)	707/464-6101	www.nps.gov/redw Multiple camps including Prairie Creek. Beach access. Call for detail re: horse camping.
Klamath National Forest	Yreka	530/842-6131	www.fs.usda.gov 1.7 Million acres. 34 campgrounds w/2 group camps. Beautiful area.
Carter Meadows	Weaverville	USParks.com	Marble Mountain Wilderness, near Weaverville. Carter Meadows Group Horse Camp, Fort Jones, CA 96032, located off Interstate 5 northwest of Weed, CA, 5800' in Trinity Alps.
Marble Mountain Wilderness	60 mi. northeast of Eureka	530/468-5351 (Scott River)	Also 530/493-2243 (Happy Camp). Call for camping information. 400' to 8300'. 89 lakes. 32 miles of Pacific Crest Trail
Modoc National Forest - Soup Springs Camp	Alturas	530/233-5811	www.fs.fed.us/r5/modoc/recreation/camping/index.shtml 6,800'. So. Warner Area. Thousands of acres. 20 miles east/northeast of Likely (19 miles south of Alturas on 395). Horse trailer area. Pepperdine and Paterson camps have 22' truck/RV limit. Picnic tables, fire pits/grills, vault toilets, potable water.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Lassen National Forest	East of Redding	530/258-2141	Caribou and Ishi Wilderness areas. 41,000 acres. Rolling hills, gentle, volcanic, 6,900' and up. Summit Lake, Juniper Lake and Butte Lake sites. Bring potable water. Limits to number of horses, persons and trucks due to dirt roads in.
Whiskeytown NRA (Shasta-Trinity NRA)	8 miles west of Redding	530/242-3400	www.nps.gov/whis/index.htm Gateway to 200,000 acres. Vault toilets, tables, water, fire pits/grills. Hot in summer.
Lake Washoe	South of Reno	775/849-2011	Huge camp. Horse camp accommodates 200. All facilities. www.parks.nv.gov
Euer Valley - Euer Horse Camp	14 miles n.w. of Truckee	916/817-8792 Nov.-May, 530/550-9011	www.euervalley.com 6700'. 7 horse camps accommodating 6 to 32 horses each. Total: 100 horses. Water. Views. Climbs. Some cabins. Fire rings. Open June-October
Plasse's at Silver Lake	South of Hwy. 88	209-258-8814	Near Kirkwood. Group camping. Restaurant. General store. Miles of trails. All facilities. Views. Lots of granite. Open 6/25 each year. Carson Pass area.
Caples Lake Resort	Kirkwood	209/258-8888	www.capleslakeresort.com 30 mi. south of Tahoe. Corrals located nearby. Shared trails. No pets.
Stoneyford	West of Maxwell	530/934-3316	Fouts Springs and Letts Lake Camps. Limited facilities. Miles of riding area.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Folsom Lake SRA	Folsom	916/988-0205	www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=500 Located 25 miles east of Sacramento. Use limited as of January 2011. Call or current information.
Lake Oroville/Loafer Creek	Oroville	520/538-2219	15 sites. 2 horses per site. Showers, flush toilets, wash rack, no day use. Superintendent: 530/538-2200. Reservations through ReserveAmerica.com
Little Lazier Meadows Horse Camp	Highway 89 near Jackson Meadows Reservoir	530/265-4531	6000' base. Go to above address as follows: same start, then .org/html/sierra_horse_camps.html
Tuolumne Meadows + Wawona + Bridleveil Camps	East of Yosemite	Horse camp reservations: 877/444-6777	http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/campground.htm Open June-September. 8,600'. 4 horse sites. Max: 6 horses - 6 people per site. Max: 27' trailer length. Wawona: 2 horse camp sites. Bridleveil: 3 horse camp sites.
Auburn SRA	Auburn	530/885-4527	www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=502 100 miles of trails total including park of the Western States (Tevis) 100 mile trail. 40 miles of trails along two forks of the American River. Major trailer parking at Cool Fire Station trailhead. Reservations: 1/800/444-PARK
Loney Meadows Horse Camp	E. of Nevada City near Bowman Lake	530/994-3528	www.recreation.gov 5500' base with trails to 7500'. Camp areas. Miles of riding. For more detail, go to www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org/Loney_Meadow.pdf

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Skillman Flats Horse Camp	Outside Nevada City on Hwy. 20	1/888/444-6777	4000'. Very nice horse camp. Lots of trails. Dusty in summer. Big community area.
Dru Barner Horse Camp	Near Georgetown, CA (El Dorado N.F.)	530/333-1652	www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/recreation Also, El Dorado Equestrian Trails Foundation–phone # to left. A really fine horse camp. Great riding area. Wonderful facilities.
Wrights Lake	El Dorado N.F.	1/877/444/6777	www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/recreation 29 mi. east of Placerville, then north. 7000' Near Desolation Valley. Water, 15 horse camp sites. vault toilets, picnic tables, fire pit/grills, corrals, near Pacific Coast Trail.
Tells Creek	40 mi. n. e. of Placerville	530/647-5415	www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/documents/rogs/rog_cg_equestrian.pdf 6,300' Primitive camp. Bring palatable water. Creek nearby. Vault toilets
Loon Lake	Hwy. 50 n. e. of Placerville	530/644-6048 530/293-0827	www.reserveamerica.com 6,500'. El Dorado N.F. 9 camps of 6 people each, 40' maximum. 1 group camp for 25 people, 35' maximum back-in. Firewood available.
Kennedy Meadows Resort and Pack Station	57 miles east of Sonora on SR-108	209/965-3911 Winter: 965/3900	In/adjacent to two wilderness areas and Pacific Coast Trail. Hundreds of miles of trails. Guided day and pack trips. Call for camp details.

Name	Location	Phone	Remarks
Emigrant Wilderness	Hwy. 108 above Sonora	209/532-3671 209/965-3434	Clark Horse Camp, Stanislaus N. F. 6,800' six fairly small horse camps. Beautiful area in high Sierra.
Lake Comanche - Turkey Hill Camp	Ione	866-763-5121	Day use. Nice trails Primarily fishing/camping area. www.camancherecreation.com
San Luis Reservoir SRA	Merced County	209/726-1197	Primarily a boating site. Hwy, 152 - 7 miles east of I-5. Windy.
Millerton Lake SRA	East of Fresno	559/822-2332	Primarily a boating site. 20 miles northeast. of Fresno
Kelty Meadows, Sierra National Forest	East of Fresno on highway 41	559/297-0706	www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/camping/index.shtml 5,400'. 11 sites. Vault toilets, picnic tables, fire pits/grills, bring your water.
Texas Flat, Sierra National Forest -	East of Fresno on highway 41	559/297-0706	www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/camping/index.shtml 5,400'. 4 sites. 20' maximum but horse trailers allowed. Call for details about water. Website is confusing. No corrals. Reserve through www.reserveusa.com Limits in rig length.
Sequoia-Kings Canyon N.F. Three Rivers area	80 mi. n.e. of Fresno	559/565-3341	7600' Five horse camp sites. Vault toilets only.

Notes:

Thank you to all who have worked with me and provided information, data and connections often not readily available.

Reservations: Many parks, including California State Parks and the East Bay Regional Park District, require reservations through Reserve America. Go to www.reserveamerica.com and follow the links. Reserve America's website also provides phone numbers if you require assistance. Other parks allow reservations by phone and if not with Reserve America, the websites provide a link. If all else fails, use a search engine to locate the park.

Fees: Most parks and camps charge fees, especially for group activities. Be sure to ask about day use and camp (extended stay) fees and required permits, if any. Permits are normally required for group camps. Many locations require fees in cash.

Reminders: Other reminders and inquiries that need attention when planning a trip:

- trail closures
- trail restrictions
- maximum capacity
- rest room and shower facilities
- potable water
- corrals
- are trails shared
- community bbq and/or kitchen/galley area available?
- power

.....because there is no way to provide all the detail here.

Timing: Plan ahead. Allow plenty of time as most reservations must be made months ahead of time.

Camp Fires: In most parks where camp fires are allowed, you must bring your own firewood. Some parks sell firewood but it is rather expensive. Inquire before lighting up!

Camp Hosts: Many parks have camp hosts. Ask if your park has a camp host. Get the name(s) and introduce yourself.

Websites: Visit the websites for more information and details.

- California State Parks: www.parks.ca.gov
- National Park Service: www.nps.gov
- U. S. Forestry Service: www.fs.fed.us
- East Bay Regional Parks: www.ebparks.org/parks

This list will always be work in progress and by no means complete. Send your advice regarding other parks that should be included and additional information addressing any park allowing horses.

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