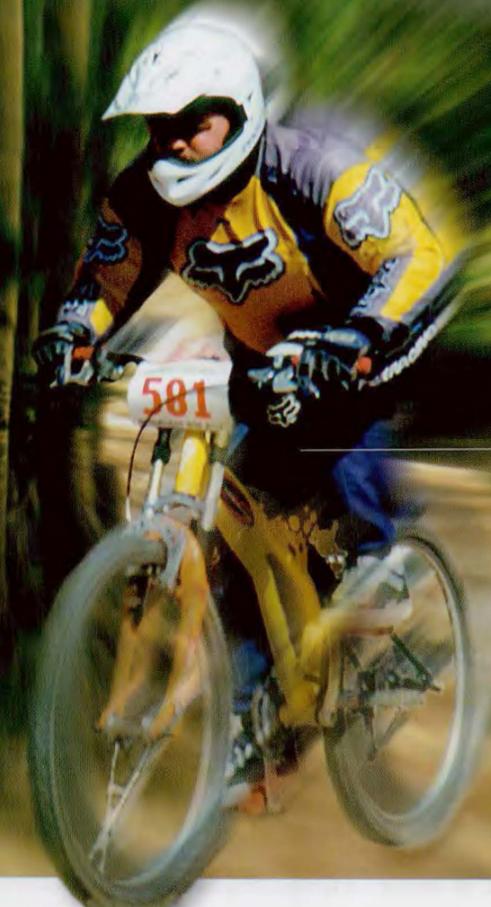




Bureau of Land Management
Bakersfield Field Office

Keyesville Special Management Area



Welcome to the Keyesville Special Management Area

The Keyesville Special Management Area (SMA) consists of 7,133 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management southwest of the Lake Isabella Dam. The area is bounded by Sequoia National Forest to the north and west. To the south lies the town of Lake Isabella. Highway 178 runs along Keyesville's south side while Highway 155 separates the area on its east from the Lake Isabella Reservoir.

Ecologically, the area is a blue oak and foothill pine woodland. The Kern River provides a special riparian area. Common birds include Acorn Woodpeckers, Californian Quail, and Scrub Jay. Western Fence Lizards and Side-Blotched Lizards can be seen sunning on rocks. Also look for deer and coyote signs.

Grazing is allowed within the area and visitors should be alert for cattle on the roadways. Livestock must not be harmed or harassed in any way.

The SMA is managed to provide river access and an alternative to the highly developed and more crowded campgrounds found around the lake. Dispersed camping is allowed in the area, and designated multi-use trails offer a variety of recreation opportunities.

Enjoy your visit.

Keyesville is best known as a historic mining area. However, it was first occupied by Palagewan Tubatulabal Native Americans. Evidence of their use is scattered throughout Keyesville.

Historically, The Keyesville area played a significant role in the early American western expansion, settlement, and mineral exploitation in California. Joseph R. Walker, who led one of John C. Fremont's expeditions over Walker Pass in 1834, earned the honor of being the first white American to enter the Kern Valley. In 1851, gold was first discovered on Greenhorn Creek near the Kern River by an exploration party sent out by John C. Fremont. After discovery of placer gold in the Kern River in the spring of 1854, a stampede of miners moved to the area with prospectors finding rich placer gold yielding as much as \$50 per pan and several lode deposits. The most well known lode mine was located c.1854 by Captain Richard Keyes, which soon led to Keyesville, the first American community in what eventually became Kern County. Soon afterward, Captain Maltby discovered the nearby Mammoth mine. By January 1855, the region was swarming with miners and, for the next several years, Keyesville was the talk of the area. In August 1855 five or six arrastras (crude machines used for ore crushing) were running and by spring 1857, 16 were running.

In 1856 Keyesville was a township but not in the usual sense of the word. It was made up of tents and small shacks on trails that served as streets. Storekeepers formed the first businesses and then came two places to have a meal. In its heyday, the town of Keyesville consisted of 5 or 6 stores, 3 hotels, 4 saloons, a brewery, two livery stables, a wagon-making shop, 2 blacksmith shops, a barber shop, 2 butcher shops, a shoemaker's shop, 8 houses, express and post offices (James Blackburn became the first postmaster). There were boarding houses and saloons at the individual mines. The town settled down more and more as families moved in but there were no schools or churches in the area. The region was so remote and

steep that supplies coming in from the nearest settlement of Visalia (110 miles northwest) had trouble traveling across the terrain so mule teams had to be doubled and logs had to be hauled behind the wagons to keep control on the way down. The town of Petersburg, near the summit of Greenhorn Mountain, was established about 1858 and became an important overnight stop and supply point. By 1858 there were five water driven mills with 22 stamps. However, the floods of 1861 - 1862 destroyed them all.

When tensions developed in 1856 between San Joaquin Indian tribes and white settlers, a "fort" was hastily dug on a knoll and riders dispatched to Fort Tejon and Los Angeles (140 miles south) for reinforcements. Later, when soldiers arrived, they found no Indians in the area but occupied Keyesville for a while afterward. The earthen Keyesville Fort was constructed during the Tule River Indian War of 1856 to protect the settlers, but was never utilized.

A tragic incident occurred in 1863. Because of Indian uprisings in Owens Valley, over the Sierra Nevada Range northeastward, soldiers were dispatched to help with squelching the problem. They encountered a group of peaceful Indians, who had refused to participate in the Owens Valley uprisings, living seven miles from Keyesville. The soldiers coldly murdered the group and proclaimed "not a soldier injured."



In all, 800 to 1,000 men worked the mines in Keyesville. The main producing mines were the Mammoth, Keyes, Scorpion and the Buckeye. After the high-grade placer deposits had been exhausted, the Euro-Americans moved on to other areas, but Chinese miners continued to work the gravels in Keyesville well into the 1860s. In the late 1850s production of gold fell off quickly and finally quit. In 1859 a drought caused the miners unsettling problems. The die-hards hung in but the late

Keyesville History

1859 Keyesville was almost a ghost town. Between the drought and the flooding Keyesville pretty much came to a halt in and around 1865. A 20-stamp mill was erected in 1865 on the Kern River, but the mill proved inefficient and only ran a short time.

Mines in Keyesville were idle until a 1897 revival. During that time, a 5-stamp mill was erected at the Keyes mine and a 10-stamp mill at the Mammoth. Both mines were intermittently active until about World War II. The Keyes mine produced a total of \$450,000 and the Mammoth about \$500,000. Due primarily to the high cost of underground mining of the relatively small ore bodies, mining has given way to cattle ranching although small scale underground hard-rock and placer gold mining continues today.

The historic townsite of Keyesville is situated on private land with very few of the town buildings still remaining. Houses and buildings in Keyesville today are from recent vintage. The "fort" that miners used in their defense can still be seen and the Keys Mine is located in a gulch nearby.

Historic resources include placer and hardrock gold mines, the Walker cabin, cemetery, Keyesville village, and the fort. Various cultural resources are located within this area with many areas of bedrock mortars. Remember, historic and archaeological sites are fragile, nonrenewable resources. It is illegal to remove artifacts or other objects of antiquity from public lands. Enjoy rock art by viewing, sketching, or photographing. Do not use chalk or other materials to trace or otherwise touch rock art. Also, archaeological and cultural sites are often places of ancestral, religious, or cultural importance to local Native Americans. Visit the Native American Cultural Heritage Center in Wofford Heights to learn more.

Enjoy looking at all Keyesville resources but leave them undisturbed for others to enjoy and for future scientific study.

And always remember, old mines are dangerous.
STAY OUT!



OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

Do you enjoy the great outdoors? Then become a member of *Tread Lightly!*. We're a grass roots organization dedicated to increasing awareness on how to enjoy the land without damaging it. Call 1-801-627-0077 to find out more about *Tread Lightly!*, and how you can learn to protect the land you enjoy today!

TREAD LIGHTLY!
ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND
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For Medical Emergency
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Boating

Recreation

White Water Boating

By far the most dramatic natural feature of the area is an approximately 3.5-mile stretch of the Lower Kern River Gorge. This important white-water river attracts about 12,000 commercial and non-commercial rafters from all over the USA each year.



Isabella Lake, created in 1953 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, stores run-off during two-thirds of the year and releases it to Kern County farms in the summer months. The boating season thus coincides with agricultural releases providing the Lower Kern River with reliable flows well past the natural season of the Upper Kern. - typically from May into September. Summer flows range from 800 to 3,000 cubic feet per second and are consistent at night and on weekends. About 600 cubic feet per second are diverted at Isabella Dam and returned to the river at Borel Powerhouse (six miles down stream) increasing flows downstream at that point.

Boat launch sites are located in Keyesville at Slippery Rock, BLM South, and the low water launch near the Highway 178 bridge. For more detail on white-water boating, consult the Boating Trail Guide for the Upper and Lower Kern River available from the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service.

Off Highway Vehicles

The Keyesville area receives a high amount of recreational use because of the access to the Lower Kern River and the availability of trails for off-highway vehicles (OHVs). The visiting public comes from nearby communities and as far away as Los Angeles. Motorcycles, dune buggies, and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) must remain on designated trails within the Keyesville Special Management Area. All other vehicles may operate on publicly maintained roads, travel to and from dispersed camping sites, and travel to other locations on public land on existing roads provided such travel is necessary for

Biking

access only. Cross country travel is never allowed. If your vehicle is not street-legally licensed, a Green Sticker, or in some cases, a Red Sticker, is required. These stickers are available at your local Department of Motor Vehicles Office.

California OHV noise regulations became effective January 1, 2003. Help protect your sport by meeting the noise standards.

If your off-highway vehicle was manufactured	Noise limit is
Before January 1, 1986	101 dbA
On or after January 1, 1986	96 dbA
If your competition* off-highway vehicle was manufactured	Noise limit is
Before January 1, 1998	101 dbA
On or after January 1, 1998	96 dbA

* Competition off-highway vehicles are those that are not manufactured to comply with EPA noise or California emission standards. For information on the designation of your OHV, refer to your owner's manual or contact your local dealership.
Testing is done using the procedures established by the Society of Automotive Engineers under Standard J-1287. For more information, visit California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division's website at - www.ohv.parks.ca.gov

Please note that a properly installed spark arrester is required on an off-road vehicle.

These lands are very fragile and can be easily damaged if you are not careful. Historic and prehistoric resources lie throughout the area. Please help protect your public lands by operating your vehicle in a sane and safe manner.

FOR A SAFE TRIP

- ◆ Know the operating limits of your vehicle. Keep it in good repair.
- ◆ Know your limitations in handling the vehicle.
- ◆ Carry emergency repair equipment as well as food and warm clothes.
- ◆ Wear proper protective gear and safety clothes.
- ◆ Supervise young drivers.
- ◆ Ask vehicle dealers, associations, and clubs about safety classes and information.

BE AWARE OF STATE LAWS

- ◆ Are you and your vehicle properly licensed?
- ◆ Does your vehicle comply with the state code?
- ◆ Does your vehicle have an approved muffler and spark arrester?
- ◆ Is your vehicle allowed on public roads (street legal)? Many dirt bikes and 3- and 4-wheel ATVs are not.
- ◆ Contact a BLM Ranger or your state motor vehicle division for answers to questions about vehicle laws.

Camping

Mountain Biking

Mountain bicycles are welcome on all Keyesville trails and roads. Each year in March or April, the mountain bicycle event, the Keyesville Classic, is held in the area. Check Keyesville kiosk postings for the dates of the event for the current year.



Shooting

Because of the large number of people visiting the area, especially during the summer months, the discharge of firearms presents a serious safety problem. Therefore, except for legal hunting, shooting is not allowed in the Keyesville Special Management Area.

Please contact a BLM Ranger for further information.

Camping



Part of the experience of Keyesville is primitive camping along the Kern River. Dispersed camping is allowed in Keyesville at any site accessible from a designated route

of travel (shown on the map). Please observe the following camping rules:

- ◆ Because there is no trash pick up, be sure to pack out everything you pack in. During summer months, two large trash dumpsters are provided for your convenience on either side of the river.
- ◆ Collecting wood for campfires is not allowed. You must supply your own wood or charcoal. Firewood can usually be purchased in Lake Isabella, Wofford Heights, or Kernville. Place excess firewood by the restrooms for others to use. Wild fire is always a problem so be sure to

Fishing

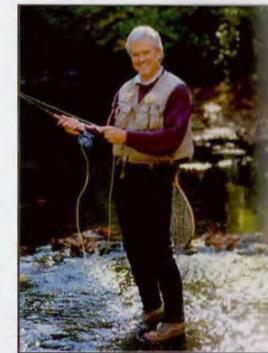
confine campfires and be sure the fire is DEAD OUT. A free campfire permit is required for this area and is available from the BLM office or a BLM employee. Fires may be banned completely during periods of high fire danger except in the "fire safe area" shown on the map.

- ◆ Drinking water is not available and river water could contain a parasite called Giardia.
- ◆ Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days and no more than 28 days during the calendar year.
- ◆ The Kern River is extremely dangerous, even the sections that look calm. Use caution when near the water and never enter the river without a life jacket.

Pets are welcome in Keyesville if kept on a leash. Please clean up after your pet!

Fishing

Another attraction to the Keyesville area is fishing. Some anglers try their luck in the Kern River for trout and bass. But be careful, the rocks along the river were polished smooth by spring floods before the Lake Isabella dam was built and the river current can be swift and dangerous.



Recreational Mining

Recreational mining is permitted in areas withdrawn from the general mining laws.

Recreational gold mining is a privilege. Be aware that panning, sluicing, and suction dredging can adversely impact water quality, vegetation, fish, wildlife, and ultimately people. During the process of separating gold from the sand and gravel, silt may be washed into streams, creating turbid water.

The 400 acre Keyesville Recreational Mining Area is located within the 7,133 Keyesville Special Management Area. The recreational mining area is one-half mile wide and encompasses one and one-quarter miles of the Kern River.

Mining

A popular location in the spring of the year, and also within the recreational mining area, is lower Hogeye Gulch. The recreational mining area is about two miles northwest of the community of Lake Isabella, about one-quarter mile below State Route 155. The west side of the river is accessed via



paved Keyesville Road, and on the east by the dirt road that leads to the Slippery Rock launch area. Panning, dredging, sluicing, suction dredging and dry washing are allowed. All activities are subject to any other applicable Federal, State, or County laws or regulations.

Other rules which apply include:

- ◆ You must have a valid permit from the California Department of Fish and Game to operate a suction dredge.
- ◆ Camp fires require a current fire permit. Camping is permitted up to 14 days within any 30 day period and up 28 days in a year.
- ◆ Only hand tools may be used, motorized equipment including pumps (except dredges), chain saws and mechanized earth moving equipment (backhoes, bulldozers) are prohibited.
- ◆ Dredges working Hogeye Gulch must have an intake nozzle diameter of 3 inches or less.
- ◆ When working in the Kern River, dredges must be at least 100 feet apart. Cables may not cross the river, and must not create hazards for boaters.
- ◆ Water may not be pumped from water courses for any purpose.
- ◆ High banking, hydraulic mining and ground sluicing are not permitted.
- ◆ Sluices / riffle boxes / dry washers must have collecting surfaces of no greater than 6 square feet.
- ◆ Explosives, mercury or other hazardous chemicals may not be used.

Safety

- ◆ Vegetation may not be disturbed.
- ◆ Any subsurface archaeological, historical, or paleontological remains discovered during mining activities must be left intact; all work in the area should stop and the Bakersfield Field Office Manager should be notified immediately. Resumption of work may be allowed upon clearance by the Field Office Manager.

TREAD LIGHTLY

Travel only where motorized vehicles are permitted.



Respect the rights of others to enjoy their activities undisturbed.

Educate yourself by obtaining maps and regulations, comply with signs and barriers, and ask owners' permission to cross private property.

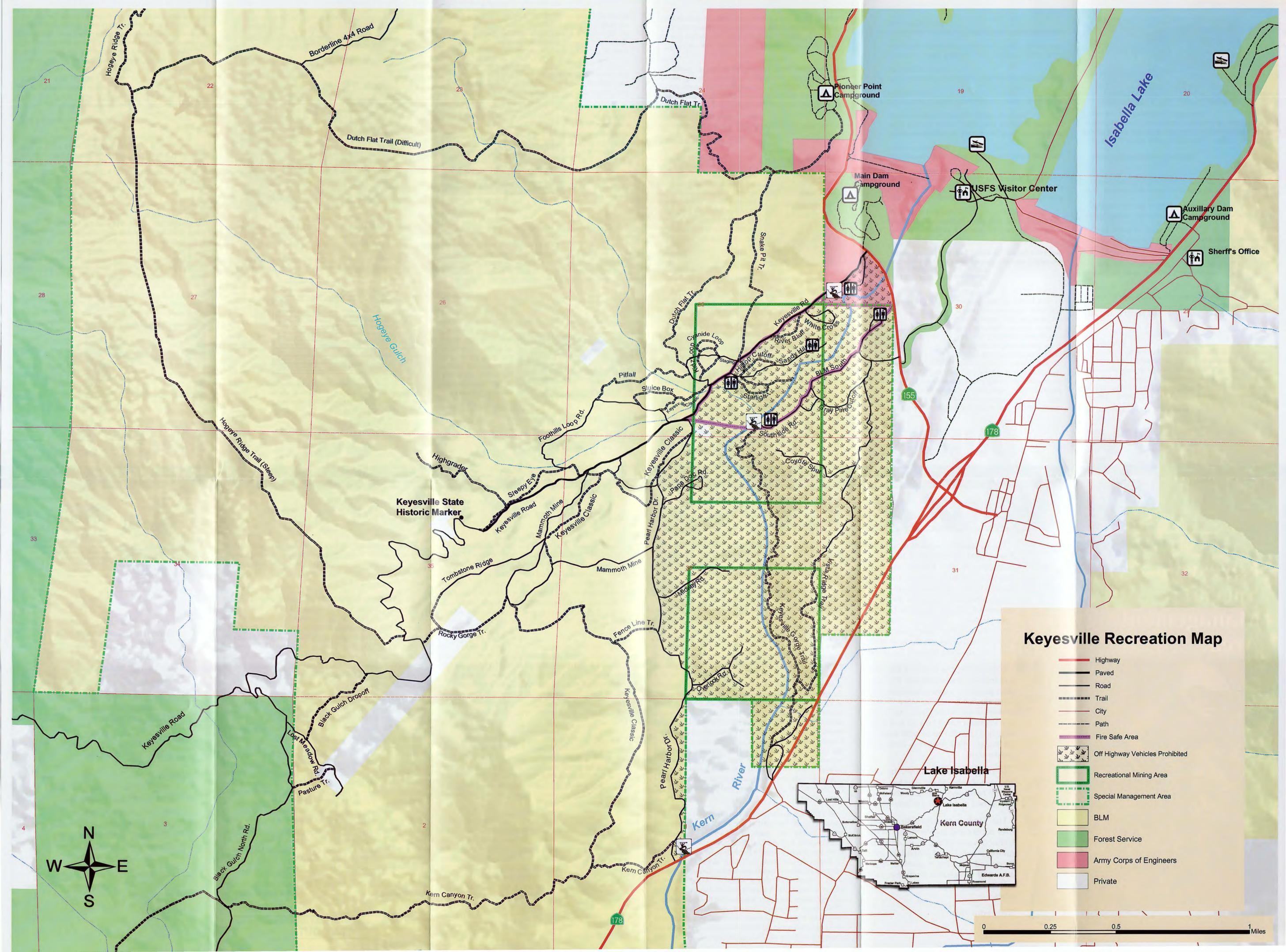
Avoid streams, lake shores, meadows, muddy roads and trails, steep hillsides, wildlife and livestock.

Drive & travel responsibly to protect the environment and preserve opportunities to enjoy motorized vehicle use on public lands.

Special Riverside Hazards

Be aware of and avoid rattlesnakes, stinging nettle, and poison oak. Do not drink water from the river and dispose of all trash properly (carry it out or dump it in available bins). Preserve your beautiful public lands.





Keyesville Recreation Map

- Highway
- Paved
- Road
- Trail
- City
- Path
- Fire Safe Area
- Off Highway Vehicles Prohibited
- Recreational Mining Area
- Special Management Area
- BLM
- Forest Service
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Private

