



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Drive
Redding, CA 96002
www.ca.blm.gov/redding



Instructions for Obtaining a Recreational Mineral Collection Permit Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area

The enclosed information and applications are provided for your use in obtaining a Permit for recreational mineral collecting at the Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area. You will find: (1) a question and answer sheet; (2) one application with stipulations and; (3) a map showing the approximate locations of the various permit sites. Please read the enclosed information.

When applying for a permit, indicate under Item #3 of the Application Form your first choice site and any alternative sites you would prefer in case your first choice is unavailable. If none of your choices are available, you will be contacted regarding the availability of other sites. You may contact the Redding Field Office and inquire about available sites prior to your selection.

Also, please indicate under Item #4 the dates(s) that you wish to use the permit site. A site may be used for a maximum period of thirty days under a permit. Extensions may be granted in rare circumstances when there is no interest in a reserved site from other applicants and the applicant is not camping on public lands.

Please mail the completed form and the use fee of \$5.00 per site, per day to the address above. **Permit fees are non-refundable.** Payments should be made by check payable to USDI Bureau of Land Management. Credit cards payments can be made over the phone for Visa or MasterCard Holders only. We will not issue you a permit until the permit fee is paid.

Because recreational mineral collecting is becoming increasingly popular, please submit your application far in advance so we have time to process your paperwork and assign you a site. Once we have received your completed and signed applications and use fee, your permit will be mailed back to you at the address that you indicated under Item #1.

If you have any questions concerning the application or permit, feel free to contact us at 530-224-2100.

Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area

Commonly Asked Questions

How do I get to Butte Creek?

From Chico, take Highway 32 northeast towards Chester, past Forest Ranch, turning right on Garland Road (approximately 18 miles from Chico). Follow Garland Road to Doe Mill Road (also called 210C) to Butte Creek Bridge. From Paradise, take the Skyway north towards Stirling City, past Magalia turning left on Powelton Road (about 5 miles north of Magalia). Follow Powelton Road to Doe Mill Road towards Butte Creek Bridge.

Do I need a BLM Permit?

A BLM permit is required for mineral collection.

Why do I need a BLM permit for mineral collection on Butte Creek?

Butte Creek is a unique area that was placed under protective mineral withdrawal on January 18, 1973, that segregated the area from all forms of appropriation, including the mining laws. No mining claims may be located. These sites are very popular and the permit system gives everyone an equal opportunity to collect placer gold in this beautiful area.

How does the site system work at Butte Creek?

Areas open to recreational mining have been divided into approximately 100 yard sites. These sites are marked by signs with the site numbers on them. Signs are posted on trees or rocks and are visible from the creek or the Butte Creek trail. Up to eight people can reserve a site for a fee of \$5.00 per site per day for mineral collecting purposes. **PERMIT FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**

What does a BLM permit give me permission to do?

A BLM permit for recreational mineral collection gives you, and your group, exclusive permission to collect minerals within a specified site. **Please be aware that this is a multiple-use Recreation Area and that other users, (people fishing, swimming, picnicking or camping) may still use your site for those purposes.** Your patience and cooperation is requested with other recreational users on the creek to ensure that everyone has a fun time in this unique area.

Can I camp in the area?

There are no developed campsites in this area. Primitive camping is available within this area. No water, restrooms, garbage cans, fire rings, or picnic tables are provided, so please **PACK OUT** all of your trash and use **SELF CONTAINED TOILET FACILITIES** for solid human waste. The only sites with flat ground nearby are sites 5 to 11. Remember, you are not reserving a camping space with a permit, only a mineral collection site on the creek. There is a 14 day camping limit.

How many people can use a site?

Camping and parking space is extremely limited in the area. Because this area is becoming increasingly popular, overcrowding is starting to occur. Therefore, up to eight (8) people can use a site for mineral collection purposes and camp overnight for up to 14 days in a calendar year. People using the mineral collection site must be identified on the permit application.

How long can I use a site with a permit?

A permit can be issued for up to 30 days. In order to reduce long-term camping and sanitation problems, extensions are not authorized for camping beyond 14 days per calendar year.

Can I high bank or remove material from the land into the creek?

High banking is prohibited and is defined as any removal of earth from above the water level and sluicing or panning the material back into the creek.

What are the various sites like?

Sites 5 to 11: Are the most popular because the ground is generally flat and people often camp by their permitted site. The road leading to these sites can be very muddy and four-wheel drive access may be required. These sites may not be accessible by motor vehicle during heavy rainfall years.

Sites 12 to 18b: Have fairly easy access; a short walk by trail (10-600 yards), then a steep climb down the bank (about 100 yards) into the canyon. No camping is available adjacent to these sites, although vehicle camping is allowed in the bridge parking area.

Sites 19 to 26: Can be difficult to get to, down steep canyon faces in the canyon. There is no road access directly in to the creek. Site markers are located adjacent to Butte Creek Trail.

Can I build a campfire?

You may build a campfire if you have been issued a campfire permit and the area is not posted as closed to campfires. If you build a campfire, be sure to completely extinguish your unattended campfire and scatter your rock rings before you leave. Check with California Department of Forestry and Fire (CDF), U.S. Forest Service, or BLM for current fire restrictions in the area.

Can I hike or fish?

Butte Creek Trail follows most of the western edge of the creek. The lower segments of the trail are fairly difficult, so watch your step. Fishing for Rainbow trout is pretty good in the creek. Be sure to have your fishing license and follow all California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.

Why is there a use fee?

Before permits were required, Butte Creek was extremely overcrowded and disputes between mineral collectors, campers, and other recreational visitors were commonplace. The permit system was developed to protect the creek resources, improve the recreational experience of all visitors, and provide opportunities for mineral collection. Operation of the permit system, which includes compliance checks by BLM Rangers, costs more money than BLM is normally appropriated. Use fees collected at Butte Creek are used to help operate the permit system and improve the recreation area.

When is the mineral collection season for Butte Creek?

Mineral collection season for the Butte Creek starts the beginning of May through October each year. Depending on weather BLM may close road access.

Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area Stipulations

1. The permit is issued for the period specified herein. It is revocable for any breach of conditions hereof or at the discretion of authorized officer of the BLM, at any time upon notice. This permit is subject to valid adverse claims heretofore or hereafter acquired.
2. This permit is subject to all applicable provisions of the regulations (43 CFR Group 8300) which are made a part hereof.
3. This permit is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, which sets forth the Equal Opportunity clauses. A copy of this order may be obtained from the signing officer.
4. This permit may not be reassigned or transferred by permittee.
5. Permittee shall pay the sum of estimated user fees in advance of permit issuance. Adjustments to use fee charges will be based on actual use reported on the Post Use Report.
6. Permittee shall observe all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations applicable to the premises; to erection or maintenance of signs or advertising displays including the regulations for the protection of game birds and animals, and shall keep the premises in a neat, orderly manner, and sanitary condition.
7. Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress forest, brush, and grass fires, and to prevent polluting of waters on or in vicinity of the public lands.
8. Permittee shall not enclose roads or trails commonly in public use.
9. Permittee shall pay the United States for any damage to its property resulting from this use.
10. Permittee shall notify the authorized officer of address change immediately.
11. Permittee shall not cut any timber on the public lands without prior written permission from the authorized officer.
12. Permittee shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the United States and/or its agencies and representatives against and from any and all demands, claims, or liabilities of every nature whatsoever, including, but not limited to, damages to property, injuries to or death of persons, arising directly or indirectly from, or in any way connected with the permittee's use and occupancy of the public lands described in this permit or with the event authorized under this permit.
13. Authorized representatives of the Department of the Interior, other Federal agencies, and game wardens must at all times, have the right to enter the premises on official business.
14. Permittee shall abide by all special stipulations attached hereto.
15. Permittee shall not disturb archeological and historical values, including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic buildings, and artifacts.
16. Permittee shall leave in place any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations.
17. The granting of this permit does not constitute, in any way, a commitment by the United States to continue authorization of the permitted use beyond the permit period.
18. Disorderly, or otherwise objectionable conduct by the Permittee or those occupying the premises with his/her permission shall be cause for termination of the permit.
19. This permit shall not be exclusive. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the permitted site for any purpose, provided such use does not interfere with the rights and privileges hereby granted.
20. The Permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of public land and associated waters within the permit area (e.g. hiking, fishing, swimming, camping etc...).
21. This permit is subject to all valid rights, reservations, privileges, claims, etc.

22. Avalanches, wildfires, snake bites, rising waters, high winds, falling trees, wet roads, and other hazards are natural phenomena in the outdoors that present risks which the permittee assumes. The permittee assumes responsibility of inspecting the permit area and the adjoining area for hazardous conditions.
23. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to authorize the Permittee to erect, construct, or place any building, structure, road, or fixture on lands subject to this permit. Any use of lands shall be subject to the condition that upon leaving the lands, natural conditions will prevail, or as nearly as possible, be restored after each use.
24. The user fee shall be \$5.00 per day for each site that is approximately 100 yards long and signed on the river.
- 25. Permittee or his/her agents will be held liable for the cost of fire suppression and damages caused by any wildfire that starts through negligence on his/her part, or members of the party under his/her control.**
26. Permittee is required to have his/her possession a valid California Department of Fish & Game Dredging permit, if dredging, and present the permit upon the request of the Authorized Officer or his representative.
27. All persons camping on public lands shall have a valid campfire permit when not using self-contained stoves. While camping and using a cooking/warming fire, Permittee shall keep a shovel with a blade at least 5" x 7" and handle at least 12" long at the campfire site for clearing the site to mineral soil, fire suppression, and for extinguishing the fire before leaving the campfire site.
- 28. Permittee shall pack out and properly dispose of all waste and refuse resulting from use of the site. Including sewage or human waste, garbage and rubbish of all kinds. No on-site disposal of waste materials of any kind, other than burning of burnable wastes in a campfire, is permitted**
29. Self-contained toilet facilities must be used by all permit holders that are camping on public lands in the Forks of Butte Creek Area. These facilities must be available for inspection by the authorized officer or representative.
30. Permits may be revoked by the Authorized Officer for any violation of the permit terms or stipulations with no refund. Violations of permit terms are prosecutable under Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
31. Permittee must adhere to all county, state, and Federal laws, regulations and ordinances.
32. Permits may be modified or cancelled at the discretion of the Authorized Officer.
33. Mechanized or motorized equipment, including pumps and highbankers may NOT be used in areas withdrawn from mining law, including the Forks of Butte Creek Recreation Area.
34. Permittee is required to confine recreational mineral collecting activities to the assigned site.
- 35. High banking is prohibited. This includes any digging of holes or trenches on the terrace areas above the stream, and then sluicing the earth and rocks into the stream.**
36. Permitted shall identify all participants on the permit application and must not exceed eight participants.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area
Recreational Use Permit**

Instructions: Complete Items 1 through 14, and return to the Redding BLM Field Office 355 Hemsted Dr. Redding, CA 96002.

WHEN SIGNED BY AUTHORIZED BLM OFFICIAL, THIS PERMIT AUTHORIZES

1. Your Name: _____	2. E-mail Address _____
3. Address (include zip code) _____ _____	4. Phone Number (Include Area Code) _____
	5. Fax Number (Include Area Code) _____
	6. Applicant is: Individual Organized Group
7. Name(s) and phone number(s) (include area code(s)) of person(s) authorized to conduct business with BLM concerning the permit.	
1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____
5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____

8. To use the following public lands/related waters:

Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area – Site # _____ (Alternate Site # _____)

(Please read the attached Forks of Butte Creek Special Recreation Management Area Stipulation)

9. For the following purpose (provide full description of activity or event including number of anticipated participants).

Method of Mineral Collection:

10. Dates of proposed use: Beginning Date: _____ Ending Date: _____

11. Describe facilities including water and sanitation facilities you intend to provide.

12. Do you have a permit with BLM/USFS? Yes No If so, where?

13a. Have you had a permit previously? Yes No If so, where?

13b. Have you ever been denied or had a permit revoked? Yes No If so, where?

13c. Have you forfeited a bond or other security? Yes No If so, where?

13d. Are there any pending investigations against you? Yes No If so, where?

13e. Have you been convicted of violations regarding natural resources, cultural resources or any activity related to your proposed permit? Yes No If so, where?

14. Certification of Information: I CERTIFY the information in this application is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is given in good faith. I acknowledge that I (we) am (are) required to comply with any conditions or stipulations that are required by the BLM when the permit is issued.

(Signature of Applicant) _____ (Date) _____

Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and Title 43 U.S.C. Section 1212 makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

FOR BLM USE ONLY

This application is hereby approved subject to the conditions and special stipulations on reverse and any attachments.

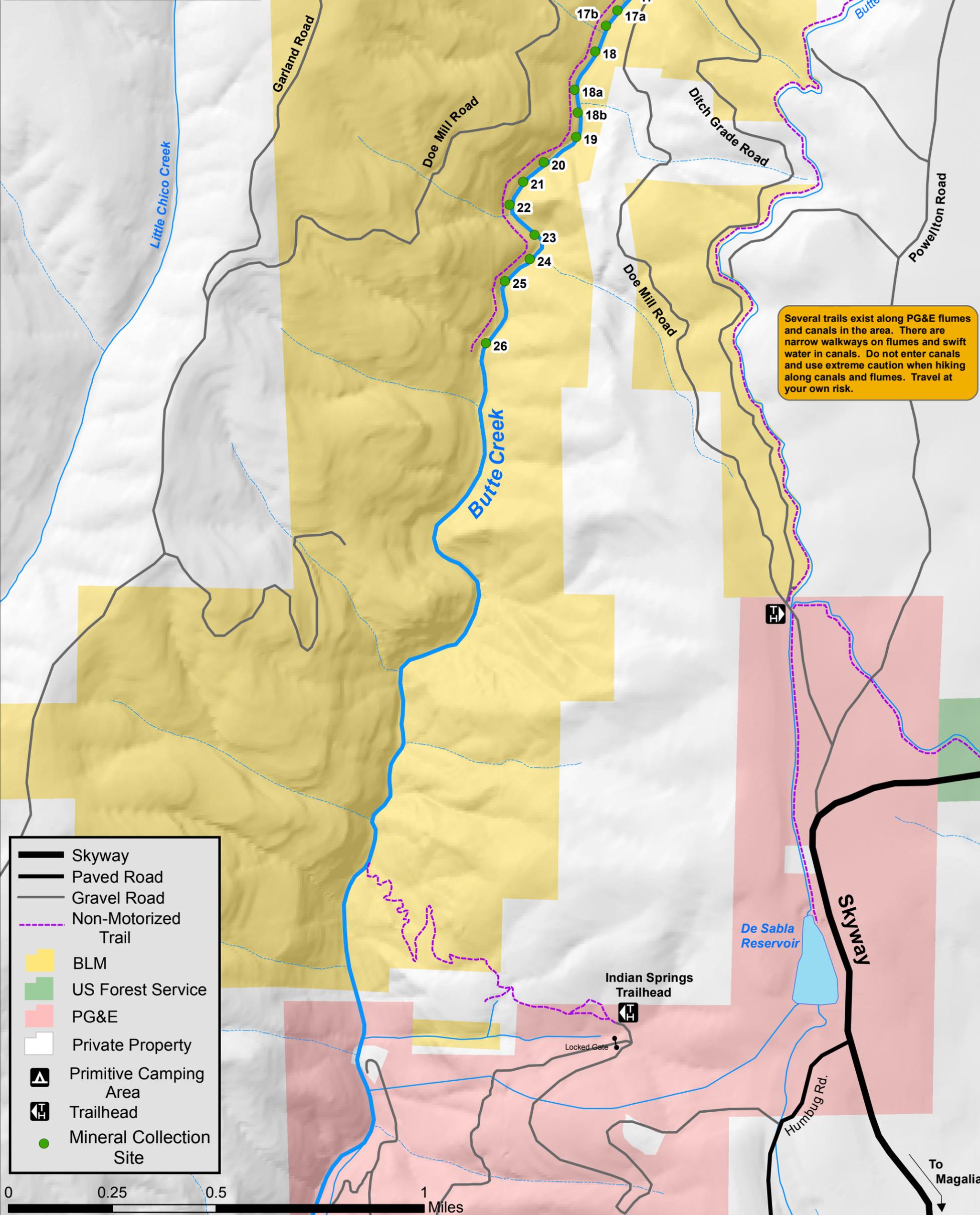
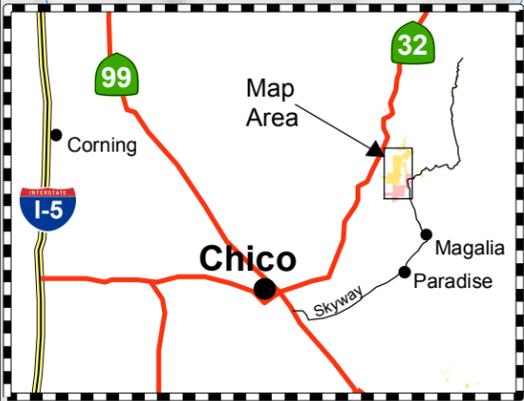
(Signature of BLM) _____ (Date) _____

PERMITTEE MUST HAVE THIS PERMIT (OR LEGIBLE COPY) IN POSSESSION DURING USE IN PERMITTED AREAS.



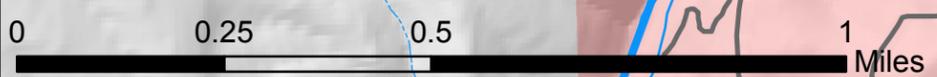
Forks of Butte Creek Recreation Area

Bureau of Land Management, Redding Field Office (530) 224-2100 www.blm.gov/ca/redding



Several trails exist along PG&E flumes and canals in the area. There are narrow walkways on flumes and swift water in canals. Do not enter canals and use extreme caution when hiking along canals and flumes. Travel at your own risk.

- Skyway
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Non-Motorized Trail
- BLM
- US Forest Service
- PG&E
- Private Property
- Primitive Camping Area
- Trailhead
- Mineral Collection Site



Butte Creek Recreation Area Vicinity Map

