

June 1, 2010



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Pacific Crest Trail Association
5325 Elkhorn Blvd., PMB #256
Sacramento, California 95842-2526

Dear Members:

The summer season is approaching which will likely attract many hikers to the Pacific Crest Trail. Though it is not the intention of the U.S. Border Patrol to hinder access or enjoyment of the national forests, it is important to inform the public of federal laws as they pertain to crossing the international border. It is the desire of the U.S. Border Patrol to spread awareness of these laws to reduce inadvertent problems at the U.S./Canada border.

There are three statutes in particular that hikers should keep in mind when planning their itineraries:

- **19 U.S.C. Section 1459** – States that individuals arriving other than by conveyance must enter the United States only at a border crossing point...and present themselves and all articles accompanying them for inspection.
- **8 U.S.C. Section 1225(a)(3)** - States that every applicant for admission to, or transit through, the United States, must be inspected by immigration officers.
- **8 C.F.R. Section 235.1(a)** - States that application to lawfully enter the United States shall be made in person to an immigration officer at a U.S. Port of Entry when the port is open for inspection.


Though their intentions may be harmless, people who cross the international border at places other than a designated Port of Entry risk a criminal penalty of up to one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine (19 U.S.C. 1459(g)) and a civil penalty of \$5,000 for the first violation and \$10,000 for each subsequent violation (19 U.S.C. 1459(f)).

The closest Ports of Entry to the Pacific Crest Trail are:

- Sumas, Washington Phone (360) 988-2571 Open 24 hours a day,
7 days a week
- Nighthawk, Washington Phone (509) 476-2125 Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
- Oroville, Washington Phone (509) 476-3132 Open 24 hours a day,
7 days a week

We ask for your assistance in educating the public by forwarding this information to all Pacific Crest Trail Association members and posting it on your public web site. Spreading awareness of these customs and immigration laws will greatly assist us with the mission of securing our nation's borders. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Spokane Sector Public Information Office at (509) 353-2747.

Sincerely,



Tim A. York
Acting Chief Patrol Agent
Spokane Sector Headquarters

cc: U.S. Forest Service (Regions 4, 5, & 6)
USDI National Park Service (Pacific Northwest Region)
Bureau of Land Management (States offices of CA, OR, and WA)
California State Parks