

**Visitor Guide to Devils Postpile and the
Reds Meadow Valley**

2011-2012

National Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

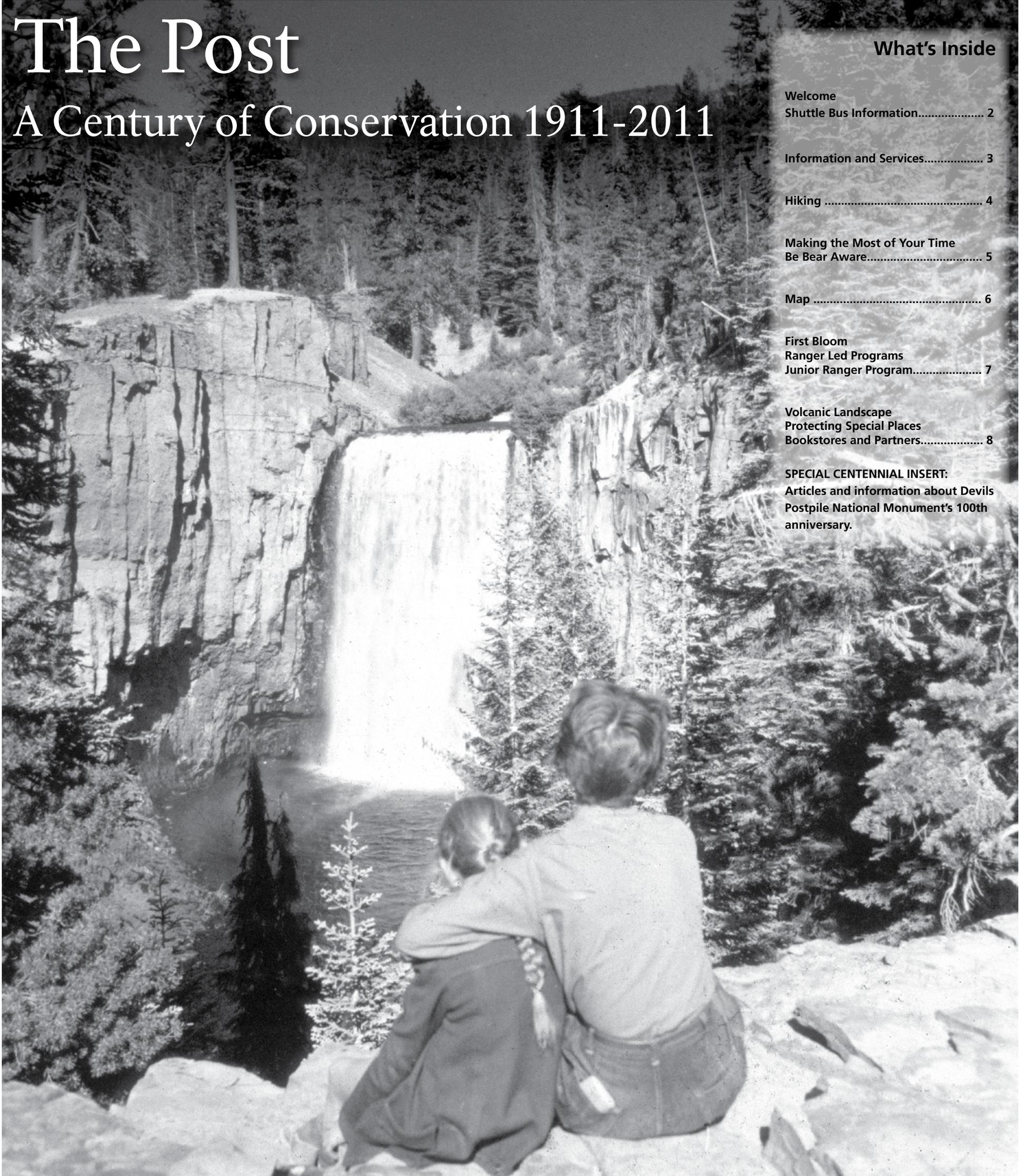


The Post

A Century of Conservation 1911-2011

What's Inside

Welcome	
Shuttle Bus Information.....	2
Information and Services.....	3
Hiking	4
Making the Most of Your Time	
Be Bear Aware.....	5
Map	6
First Bloom	
Ranger Led Programs	
Junior Ranger Program.....	7
Volcanic Landscape	
Protecting Special Places	
Bookstores and Partners.....	8
SPECIAL CENTENNIAL INSERT:	
Articles and information about Devils Postpile National Monument's 100th anniversary.	





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Devils Postpile
National Monument

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Park the Car and Ride the Bus!

Shuttle Bus and Fee Information

The bus is mandatory for most visitors. See the chart below for prices. Tickets can be purchased at any Mammoth Mountain ticket sales outlet including the Adventure Center, located in the main gondola building.

Parking for the shuttle bus is along the roadside near Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge. **Leashed and muzzled dogs are welcome on buses.** Please be careful walking along the roadside from the parking areas to the Adventure Center to purchase bus tickets.

The trip into the valley takes about 30 minutes. Be prepared for a variety of conditions. Hiking shoes, sunscreen, water, and food are recommended.

There are a few exceptions to riding the bus. If you are one of the following, you are an exception and must pay a fee at the Minaret Vista Station.

- Visitors displaying a Disabled Persons Parking Placard or Plate
- Visitors with an inflated float tube or non-motorized vessel for use on valley lakes
- Visitors staying in a designated campground in the valley (backpackers must use the shuttle)
- Visitors towing livestock trailers
- Overnight guests of the Reds Meadow Resort
- Visitors entering the valley when the bus is not running
- Hunters transporting weapons or game.

For vehicles that are exceptions to the shuttle bus, a standard amenity fee of \$10/vehicle/day is charged. The fee for valley campers is \$10/vehicle/duration of stay. A three-day pass is \$20/vehicle and is good for any three of five consecutive days. A season pass is \$35/vehicle. Both the three-day and season passes are also accepted at Mono Lake South Tufa and Schullman Grove Day Use Areas.

Interagency Annual Passes, Senior Passes, and Access Passes are only accepted for vehicles that are exceptions to the shuttle bus. Interagency passes are not valid for shuttle bus tickets.

Schedule

Buses leave from the Village at Mammoth Lakes at 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am.

Buses leave from the Mammoth Mountain Adventure Center at the following times:

- 7:15am – 8:15 a.m. once an hour
- 9:00am – 5:00 p.m. every 20 minutes or less
- 5:00pm – 7:00pm every 30 minutes

The Need for a Shuttle System

The Reds Meadow Valley is a special place, whether you're coming to hike to Rainbow Falls, inspect the columnar jointing of the Postpile or fish in Sotcher Lake. This is largely due to the 32-year-old shuttle system—one of the most successful in the country.

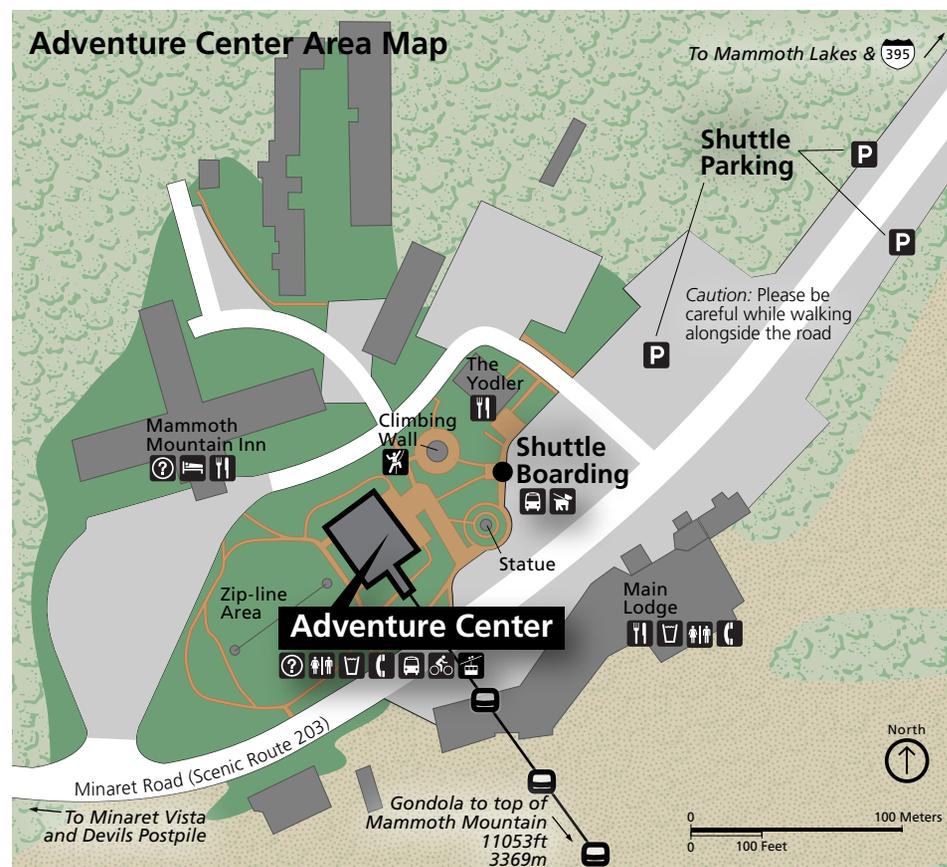
The shuttle has allowed the valley to recover from intense use that occurred throughout the 1970's. It has protected the area from degradation caused by high visitation and limited parking.

Whether riding the shuttle or driving into the valley in an exception vehicle, everyone enjoys a safer experience as a result of the shuttle operation.



At which stop will I find...

Food and Bottled Water.....	10
Wildflower Walk.....	1
Shadow Lake Trail.....	1
Ranger Station, Programs....	6
Devils Postpile Trail.....	6
Starkweather Lake.....	2
Sotcher Lake.....	7
Rainbow Falls Trail.....	9
Showers.....	8
Bookstore/Souvenirs.....	6 10
Payphones.....	4 6 10
First Aid/Emergency Care.....	6



Shuttle Bus Passes

PASSES	COST
Day Pass	\$7 per adult, \$4 per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free.
Wilderness Hikers	\$7 per adult, \$4 per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free. One time fee for the duration of stay in the valley, based on permit or reservation.
Three-day Pass	\$14 per adult, \$8 per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free.
Season Pass	\$35 per adult, \$20 per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free.

On the Cover: Visitors enjoy the beauty of Rainbow Falls in the 1950's.

Welcome to the Reds Meadow Valley

Welcome to Devils Postpile and the Reds Meadow Valley. Your visit this year provides an especially rich opportunity to enjoy and discover the beauty and history of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River. 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of the conservation victory of the designation of Devils Postpile National Monument.

Layered within this natural wonder is the history of peoples who have lived and worked for the stewardship of this national treasure.

Visitors found that the intimate settings of this spectacular landscape offered experiences which were exhilarating and memorable. Monument and forest rangers welcomed visitors and assisted them in this place of high altitude and high adventure.

The past one-hundred years have brought with them growing knowledge and appreciation of the beauty and scientific value of the valley.

For nearly a century, the USFS and

NPS have been working together to manage the monument and surrounding national forest land. This partnership promotes opportunities for a quality visitor experience and enhanced resource protection by sharing resources and developing creative solutions to challenges.

During your visit, enjoy the valley's meadows, forests, streams, and glacially-sculpted volcanic rocks. If we all contribute to the appreciation and stewardship of this place, we will offer

future visitors the experience that we are all celebrating this year.

Deanna M. Dulen, Devils Postpile National Monument Superintendent

Ed Armenta, Inyo National Forest Supervisor

Information and Services

EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, dial 911. Cell phone coverage is limited. Pay phones are located at Devils Postpile, Reds Meadow Resort and Pumice Flat campground.

VISITOR CENTERS

Devils Postpile

The Devils Postpile Ranger Station is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from late-June through September 30. It will be open in October as staffing permits. Maps, backcountry permits, and other information is available. There is also a bookstore on site.

Inyo National Forest

The Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center serves the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Inyo National Forest, and the National Park Service year-round. A bookstore and permits are available. Hours of operation are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

CAMPING

Devils Postpile

Devils Postpile has a 21 site first-come, first-served campground for tents and RVs up to 37 feet in length. Sites are \$14/night or \$7/night for Senior or Access Interagency Pass holders.

Inyo National Forest

There are seven Forest Service campgrounds in Reds Meadow Valley. Five campgrounds are first-come, first-served and are \$20/night. Two group campgrounds are available by reservation and range from \$66/night to \$143/night. Agnew Campground has three equestrian campsites that are \$22/night and are also by reservation only. The Pumice Group site will be closing early for maintenance. Call for dates.

Campground Closing Dates

All campgrounds in the Reds Meadow Valley close on or before October 15, depending on weather. Call for exact dates. There is no overnight parking in the valley after October 14.

SHOWERS

There are public, hot-spring-fed showers available at the Reds Meadow Campground. The showers are open from late-June through mid-October.

FOOD SERVICES

Food service is available at the Reds Meadow Resort. A store and a restaurant are open from late-June through September. Camping supplies and groceries are also available.

PETS

Devils Postpile

Pets are allowed on trails and in the campground at the monument and must be on a leash at all times.

Inyo National Forest

Pets are allowed on trails in the Inyo National Forest as long as they are on leash or within voice control, and near the owner. Pets must be on leash in all National Forest campgrounds and developed sites including parking lots, trailheads, and day use areas.

On the Shuttle Bus

Leashed and muzzled pets are permitted on the shuttle buses. Muzzles can be purchased at pet stores in Mammoth Lakes or at the Mammoth Mountain Adventure Center.

FISHING

A fishing license is required for adults ages 16 and older. Special regulations apply for the Ansel Adams Wilderness and can be found in the California Department of Fish and Game's Freshwater Sport Fishing Book available online or where fishing licenses are sold.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS

Devils Postpile

Hunting is prohibited within the boundaries of the monument.

Inyo National Forest

Hunting is permitted in designated areas within the Inyo National Forest

with a valid license. Contact the California Department of Fish and Game at (760) 872-1171 for more information. Regulation booklets are available at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.

Firearms Regulations

Federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess firearms in Devils Postpile National Monument.

It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering the monument. For information on California regulations, visit <http://ag.ca.gov/firearms/>.

Federal law prohibits firearms in all federal facilities including the Devils Postpile Ranger Station, unless specifically authorized (18 USC 930(a)).

STOCK USE

Devils Postpile

Stock are allowed on monument trails with the exception of the Postpile Trail. Ask for a detailed map at the Ranger Station. Stock should enter the monument via the Rainbow Falls Trailhead. Off-trail stock use is prohibited. River crossings are only permitted at the designated stock bridge. The Soda Springs Bridge is not designed for stock use. Grazing is prohibited and weed free feed is recommended.

Inyo National Forest

Stock are allowed on most National Forest trails. Several trailheads are suitable for stock loading and unloading including Agnew Meadows and Rainbow Falls. Group size is limited to 15 people and 25 stock. Stock must be kept 200 feet from all lakeshores. Pellets, cubes, or grain must be used where feed is limited or grazing is not allowed. Weed free feed is recommended. Remove excess pellets or cubes and remove or scatter manure.



Photo: NPS

Fishing on the San Joaquin River in Devils Postpile National Monument

Use hitchlines or hobbles to constrain stock in backcountry campsites. Highlines are preferred in many areas to reduce impacts. Camps must be set up 200 feet from water or any trails. Watering of stock should be done away from marshy areas, ponds, lakes, and other places susceptible to bank erosion. Established fords or low, rocky spots in the bank should be used.

Devils Postpile and Reds Meadow Guide 3



Lake Ediza
Photo: David Scott



Shooting Star
Photo: Maureen Finnerty



Sotcher Lake
Photo: Maureen Finnerty

Hiking

Hiking in the Sierra leads to many types of adventures. Everything from meandering wildflower walks to steep scrambles up glacially scoured peaks awaits.

Permits

Wilderness permits are required for overnight travel into the Ansel Adams Wilderness year round. Reservations may be made up to six months in advance for trips during the quota season which is May 1 through November 1. A reservation fee of \$5.00 is charged. No fee is charged for walk-in permits.

Permits are available at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station; however, the Devils Postpile Ranger Station can only issue permits for trips originating in the Reds Meadow Valley. For trips originating in the Inyo National Forest, call (760) 873-2483 or visit the Inyo National Forest web site.

For through-hikes starting in Sequoia, Kings Canyon or Yosemite National Parks, permits must be acquired through those parks and will be valid for the duration of your trip. You do not need multiple permits for a continuous trip. For trips originating in Sequoia or Kings Canyon, please call (559) 565-3766. For trips originating in Yosemite call (209) 372-0740.

Be Prepared

Weather in the mountains changes in an instant. Extreme temperatures, violent storms, and unexpected changes are not uncommon. Dress in layers and bring plenty of water on any hike. Do not drink water directly from streams or lakes without filtering or boiling it before consumption.

Sensitive Areas

Cross country travel is permitted in most areas, but please observe posted signs. Sub-alpine meadows like the ones found in the Reds Meadow Valley and areas of alpine tundra are sensitive and may take many years to recover from “social” or unofficial trails. If traveling off-trail, travel on durable surfaces such as rock or snow.

Backcountry Fires

Fires are allowed in some backcountry areas. It is your responsibility to know where fires are and are not allowed. Keep in mind that this information may change during severe fire seasons. Visit the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center or Devils Postpile Ranger Station for the most current information.

Food Storage

Approved bear canisters are required in all backcountry sites.

Hiking Trails (Red numbers correspond to shuttle stops on Devils Postpile park map)

Destination Trailhead	Shuttle Stop	One Way (mi / km)	Description
Lake Ediza Agnew Meadows	1	6mi / 9.7km	Moderate/Strenuous Follow switchbacks through an open hillside to spectacular views of the Sierra.
Shadow Lake Agnew Meadows	1	3mi / 4.8km	Moderate Rolling trail takes hikers through open meadows and lodgepole forests to the shores of Shadow Lake. Great mountain views at the lake.
Wildflower Trail Agnew Meadows	1	2mi / 3.2km	Easy Self guided wildflower walk. Late June to the middle of July tend to be the best times for the flowers, but bring bug spray.
Devils Postpile Devils Postpile	6	0.4mi / 0.6km	Easy Wide, level trail through shaded lodgepole forest. Moderate, steep hike to the top of the Postpile.
Minaret Falls Devils Postpile	6	1.5mi / 2.3km	Easy Rolling trail through the forest travels by natural springs to the falls. Best in early summer.
Rainbow Falls Devils Postpile	6	2.5mi / 4km	Moderate Rolling terrain through forest and open burn area from the 1992 Rainbow Fire. Great views in open area. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen.
Minaret Lake Devils Postpile	6	8mi / 12.9km	Strenuous This can be done as a long day hike or overnight trip. 2700 foot elevation gain brings hikers to an emerald lake at the base of the Minarets.
Sotcher Lake Nature Trail Sotcher Lake	7	2mi / 3.2km	Easy/Moderate Self guided nature trail loops around Sotcher Lake. Hikers pass springs and waterfalls along the way.
Rainbow Falls Rainbow Falls	9	1.3mi / 1.2km	Moderate Slightly shorter than the trail to the falls from Devils Postpile, the terrain is similar. Bring plenty of water on this hike.

Celebrating 100 Years

July 6, 2011 is the 100th anniversary of the day President Taft signed the bill that created Devils Postpile National Monument. This was a conservation victory not only for the National Park Service and the National Forest Service, but for the American people and people from around the world who, to this day, return to Devils Postpile and the Reds Meadow Valley.



Photos from the Craig Family Collection, taken by Lester Craig.

Clockwise from top left: Members of the Doeinck family relax at their Postpile camp in 1939. Glen Craig and Betty and Bobbie Doeinck show of the day's catch in 1933. The Craig Family enjoys their favorite "swimming hole" at Devils Postpile. Glen and Margaret Craig and Andy Giampoalo at Beck's Cabin, 1940. The trail to Beck Lake 1940. Members of the Craig and Doeinck families at the top of Devils Postpile.

Section two of the bill, entitled "For the preservation of American antiquities," do proclaim that there are hereby reserved from all forms of appropriation all prior valid ad- tracts of land in the State of California shown as the Devil Postpile National Monument on the diagram forming a part

A Century of Conservation and Partnerships

One hundred years ago, a proposal to blast portions of the Devils Postpile formation came across the desk of US Forest Service Engineer Walter Huber.

The intent was to create a dam that would flood the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River and provide power to local mining operations.

The proposal was submitted in the midst of the battle over the damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite and several other conservation struggles.

Huber regarded the proposal as a “wanton destruction of scenery” and

advocated for the creation of a monument to protect Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls.

Support for monument designation came in many forms including a letter from the Sierra Club signed by John Muir.

University of California Berkeley Engineering professor and Sierra Club leader Joseph N. LeConte based his support for the monument on the geologic significance of the postpile.

Using the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906, President Taft signed

the proclamation that created Devils Postpile National Monument on July 6, 1911.

In the century since, countless visitors have enjoyed the inspirational and educational qualities of Devils Postpile and the valley. Despite this, challenges emerged jeopardizing both the character of the landscape and the visitor experience in it.

As the interstate highway system developed after World War II, a proposal for an eight-lane trans-sierra highway connecting Fresno to Mammoth Lakes threatened Reds Meadow Valley.

Business owners and packers recognized that the highway would result in destruction both to the landscape, and to the character of the community.

Beginning in the 1950s, local community members led an effort to stop the highway and protect the Central Sierra. Many people contributed to the effort including then-Governor Ronald Reagan and his Secretary of Resources Ike Livermore.

After a long battle, the highway was stopped in 1972. With the expansion of existing Wilderness areas and the designation of the Ansel Adams Wilderness in 1984, Devils Postpile and the surrounding valley and peaks were

further protected for the future.

As knowledge of the beauty of the valley grew, vehicle congestion increased. In the 1970's, the dirt road from Mina-ret Summit was paved to mitigate dust. That created even more vehicle congestion, which altered the rustic feel of the valley and contributed to significant resource damage.

In 1979, the monument, the Inyo National Forest, Reds Meadow Resort, and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area partnered to create the shuttle bus system.

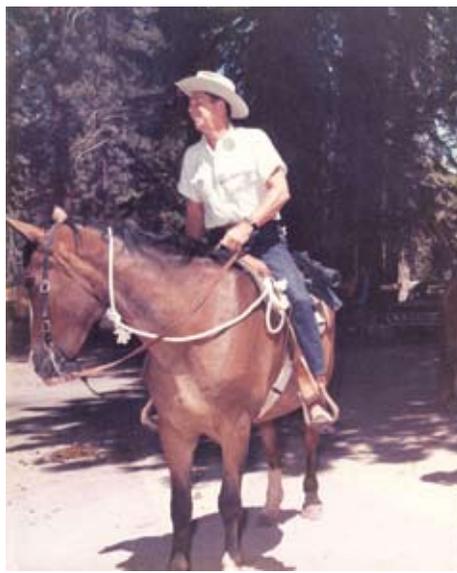
Shuttle service limited the number of vehicles on the road, reducing traffic congestion and accidents, while also allowing more visitors into the valley and alleviating resource damage.

Today, the cooperative and complimentary management of the monument and surrounding national forest continues to promote a quality visitor experience and resource protection.

Devils Postpile embraces a traditional national park experience. Natural systems prevail, giving visitors the opportunity to witness ecologic processes first hand, participate in interpretive activities, and be inspired by the wonders revealed through growing scientific knowledge.



Forest Service Engineer Walter Huber



Then-governor Ronald Reagan on horseback

Looking to the Future: An Update on the GMP

The Future of Devils Postpile

This summer, Devils Postpile National Monument will be releasing preliminary or draft alternatives for the general management plan (GMP) currently under development to help guide the monument as it enters its second centennial.

A general management plan provides the framework for managing natural and cultural resources and providing experiences for visitors like you for the next 15-20 years.

The monument is working closely with the Inyo National Forest to develop a shared vision for the monument and Reds Meadow Valley and manage it to provide high quality visitor experiences as it looks forward to the next 100 years.

What does this mean for you?

Visitors contributed their thoughts and ideas during the initial scoping for the GMP. Many ideas we heard from the public are included in the preliminary

alternatives, which represent initial ideas for how the monument might address specific issues or areas of management concern.

Your involvement is important and we want to hear your ideas for the future. With your input, we will refine ideas and further develop alternatives.

How can you find out more?

A newsletter is being designed for the GMP that outlines the preliminary alternatives. Copies will be available online, at the Ranger Station, and by request beginning in mid-July. For more information, and to sign up for our mailing list, please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/depo>.



Visitors at Soda Springs experience first hand the value of monument resources. Planning efforts like the GMP aim to better protect these resources for future generations.

Emerging Science: The Future of the Valley

Science has always been the driving factor in the preservation of natural and cultural resources. Science at Devils Postpile is no exception.

During the efforts that led to the designation of Devils Postpile, many observers recognized Devils Postpile's significance as a "wonderful natural curiosity" warranting future scientific study. The presidential proclamation that created the monument identified its "scientific interest" as the key factor in its establishment.

Although Devils Postpile was not surveyed by geologists until the early twentieth century, the formation and other features in the surrounding landscape gained recognition as excellent examples of the volcanic and glacial processes that shaped the Sierra Nevada as a whole.

U.S. Geologic Survey scientist Francois Matthes published the first scientific study of Devils Postpile in 1930 as part of his larger project to describe the geologic history of Yosemite and the High Sierra.

He described the Postpile as "a feature of unusual interest to the scientist as well as to the layman." While Matthes recognized the Postpile as the area's most unusual and recognizable geologic feature, he saw it as only one example of the fascinating geology of the entire Mammoth region.

Scientists and researchers have recognized scientific value in the monument far beyond what was known in the early twentieth century.

After assuming oversight of the monument in 1933, the National Park Service increased the emphasis on science and education. Over time, the National Park Service coordinated scientific studies of monument resources in order to better understand their origins and connections to the surrounding landscape.

Geologic information released 100 years after the monument's establishment revealed that the San Joaquin River has remained at the same elevation for more than two million years!

But often, in an effort to discover what really happened, emerging science leaves us with fewer answers than we had before. New research suggests that what was once thought about the origin of the postpile lava flow is likely not true. The origin is once again a subject for scientific debate. But that discovery opens up a wide range of possibilities for future research.

The efforts to understand the natural environment at Devils Postpile and the Reds Meadow Valley do not stop at the clues revealed in the rocks.

To put together the entire ecological puzzle, Devils Postpile, with the support of the US Forest Service, NPS Sierra Nevada Inventory and Monitoring program along with Sequoia and Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks, has completed a variety of natural resource-based studies.

The small scale of the monument makes it an ideal place for landscape-level studies and data collection when



Resource managers and hydrologists measure stream flow in the Upper Middle Fork San Joaquin River through Devils Postpile as a way of monitoring water levels throughout the year.



Interpretive park rangers turn science into learning, inspiring monument visitors to protect places like Devils Postpile for years to come.

compared with the larger Sierran ecosystem. The monument has completed studies on air and water quality, as well as inventories of flora, and fauna.

Studying natural processes is also important in piecing the ecological puzzle together. Climate science is evolving in the Sierra and part of that is studying water and weather.

Through interagency partnerships, a web feed of the data from the Soda Springs Meteorological Station and Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River Gage has been established to bring science to park visitors.

All of what has been learned in the past 100 years in Devils Postpile and the Reds Meadow Valley has answered many questions about the geology, flora, fauna, and natural processes.

It has also raised new ones. In 2011, the world's population reached 7 billion.

As the population continues to rise, pressures on the world's protected areas also rise. How will parks, monuments, and Wilderness areas respond? How will they be enjoyed, utilized, and protected by both visitors and managers today and in the future?

Emerging science will be a huge part of the answer, but will likely not be the entire solution. The continued enjoyment, support, and protection of these special places by visitors will also have a profound effect on the way these landscapes are protected for years to come. Everyone has a role to play in the next 100 years of this great valley.

As you spend time in the Reds Meadow Valley this summer, think about what it means to you. What are your connections to this place, and what can be done so that future generations have the opportunities to make their own connections to these protected places as you have done?

Schedule of Events and Programs

PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

Program Title	Description	Time	Dates	Location
Devils Postpile Walk	Join a ranger to learn about the many reasons the Devils Postpile and the surrounding environment is so special.	11:00 a.m.	June 24-September 5 daily	Devils Postpile Ranger Station
Skins and Skulls	Join a ranger for an informal, hands-on program about wildlife of Devils Postpile.	1:30-3:30 p.m.	June 24-September 5 daily	Devils Postpile Ranger Station
Star Party	Meet Rangers for an astronomy program and telescope viewing. 1 hour.	9:00 p.m.	June 30	Minaret Vista
Evening Campfire Programs	Evening Campfire Programs. Topics vary. Friday and Saturday nights. 45 minutes.	Varies by time of year.	July 1-September 5 Friday and Saturday	Devils Postpile Amphitheater
Historic Photography Exhibit	Photos provide a glimpse into days gone by. Courtesy of the Craig Family	Daily	June 1-July 31	Mammoth Lakes Library
The Postpile, People, and Progress—The History of a Monument	Meet a Ranger at the base of Devils Postpile for a 20 minute talk about the history of the Postpile and the people who preserved it.	2:00 p.m.	July 1-August 21	Base of the Devils Postpile Formation
Star Party	Meet Rangers for an astronomy program and telescope viewing. 1 hour.	9:00 p.m.	July 28	Minaret Vista
Wonders of the Night Sky	Meet at Devils Postpile for a program about the night sky followed by a full moon and meteor shower viewing at the Minaret Vista at 9:30 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	August 13	Devils Postpile Amphitheater/Minaret Vista

SPECIAL PROGRAMS JULY 7-9

Program Title	Description	Time	Dates	Location
Preserving a Valley: Stopping the Trans-Sierra Highway	Meet at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center to celebrate one of the largest community-based conservation victories in the preservation and protection of the Reds Meadow Valley and Devils Postpile. Refreshments will be served.	5-7:30 p.m.	July 7	Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center
Celebrating a Century of Conservation	Join us at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center Auditorium for a ceremony commemorating a century of preservation, partnerships, and progress.	9-10:30 a.m.	July 8	Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center Auditorium
Wilderness, Trails, and Forest Service Packers	Drop by the Reds Meadow Cabin to learn about the history of US Forest Service packing in the valley and meet some very special four-legged guests.	10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	July 8,9	Reds Meadow Cabin (Reds Meadow Campground)
The History of National Park Service Horse Patrol	Join National Park Service Ranger Billie Patrick at the Rainbow Falls Hitching Post any time between 12-2:00 p.m. to see National Park Service horse patrol in action and learn about its history.	12-2:00 p.m.	July 8,9	Rainbow Falls Hitching Post Area
The Geology of Devils Postpile and the Reds Meadow Valley	Join Geologist Wes Hildreth on a 1.5 hour geologic tour to learn about the astounding geology of Devils Postpile and the Reds Meadow Valley. Meet at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station.	2-3:30 p.m.	July 8	Devils Postpile Ranger Station
John Muir and the Sierra Club	Meet for a 1-hour living history presentation by local John Muir expert Lee Stetson.	8:00 p.m.	July 8	Mammoth Welcome Center Auditorium
Bird Banding Demonstration	Drop by to learn about bird banding and bird monitoring in Devils Postpile from Point Reyes Bird Observatory Eastern Sierra Project Director Stella Moss.	7-10:30 a.m.	July 9	Devils Postpile Amphitheater
The Geologic Story of the Reds Meadow Valley	Join Geologist Wes Hildreth on a moderate 3-hour hike to sample the in-depth geologic story of Devils Postpile and the Reds Meadow Valley. Wear hiking shoes or boots.	1-4:00 p.m.	July 9	Devils Postpile Ranger Station
Layers of Stories: Nature and History in the Middle Fork Valley	Join National Park Service Historian Christopher E. Johnson to learn about the engaging history of the monument and the valley. Meet at the Devils Postpile Amphitheater.	8:30 p.m.	July 9	Devils Postpile Amphitheater

Making the Most of Your Time

If you have two to three hours...

Ride the shuttle from the Adventure Center to the Devils Postpile Ranger Station (shuttle stop 6) and either hike to Devils Postpile or join a ranger-led hike to the main feature of the monument, an easy half-mile walk. If you have extra time, climb the steep, but short (0.25 mile) and rewarding trail to the top of the Postpile for a spectacular view of the entire valley. Once on top, you will find evidence of past glacial events in the form of striations or grooves and glacial polish.



Photo: NPS

Glacial striations at the top of the postpile

If you have three to four hours...

Start at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station. Hike to the 101-foot Rainbow Falls via the San Joaquin River and the open vistas left by the Rainbow Fire in 1992. Bring plenty of water. You can hike from Rainbow Falls to the Rainbow Falls Trailhead (shuttle stop 9) or to the Reds Meadow Trailhead (shuttle stop 10) and pick up the shuttle during peak season. The distance is about 3.5 miles to stops 9/10. If the bus is not running, hike back to the monument for a 5-mile round trip hike.



Photo: NPS

Rainbow Falls in June

If you have a full day...

Start at the Agnew Meadows Trailhead (shuttle stop 1) and hike up to Shadow Lake. Beautiful views of the high peaks of the Sierra await dedicated hikers. This moderate 6-mile round trip trail takes you through open meadows, past cascading waterfalls to the subalpine lake. Bring plenty of water and dress for rapidly changing weather. Early season hikers, be aware, alpine and subalpine lakes may be frozen and trails may be snowy until July. Check with a ranger for more information.



Photo: Jon C. Regelbrugge

Shadow Lake

If you have multiple days...

Opportunities for multi-day trips abound in the valley. Popular trips to alpine lakes include Thousand Island, Garnet, and Fern Lakes (2-3 days). Yosemite or Kings Canyon National Parks can be reached via the John Muir or Pacific Crest Trails in 3-4 days. These are just a few of the many adventures that await hikers able to spend a few days in the backcountry. They represent some of the most iconic and magnificent scenery in the Sierra Nevada.



Photo: David Scott

Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite

Keeping Wildlife Wild

Black Bears are frequently seen in the Reds Meadow Valley and in Devils Postpile. Seeing one in the wild is an amazing and inspiring experience. In order to keep these magnificent animals wild, follow these tips to keep you safe from bears and the bears safe from you.

Food and Scented Item Storage

- Proper food storage is required. "Food" is considered to be anything with an odor including used paper plates, dishes, and toiletries. Bears allowed to access human food often become aggressive.
- Bear boxes are located in every campsite in the valley. Do not leave food in your vehicle over night. Use the bear boxes.
- Backpackers must use bear resistant canisters. They are available for rent at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station.

Hiking and Camping Safety

- Keep a clean and organized camp. Keep all food within reach in case a bear should wander through camp.
- When hiking through areas of dense vegetation or loud water, make noise to let the bear know you are in the area.
- If you see a bear, keep your distance. Never run from a bear or climb a tree. Black bears are very fast and are excellent tree climbers. Back away slowly from the animal and wait for it to leave the area.
- Remember, we are visitors to their homes. Respect all wild animals.



Photo: NPS

Where there is a black bear cub, there is usually a black bear mom. Give all bears in the valley plenty of space. If you encounter one, back away slowly and wait for the bear to leave the area.

Do Your Part: Recycle!

Americans generate about 251 million tons of garbage each year. Although some amount of waste is inevitable, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service would like to encourage all visitors to recycle what they can. We can all make a difference.

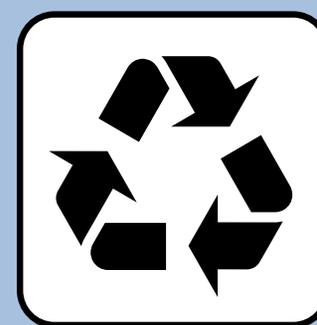
Recycling receptacles can be found at these locations:

- Devils Postpile Campground
- Forest Service Campgrounds
- Devils Postpile Ranger Station
- The Devils Postpile formation
- Starkweather Lake parking
- Sotcher Lake parking
- Agnew Meadows Trailhead
- Rainbow Falls Trailhead

The following items can be recycled:

- All numbered plastics
- All colored and clear glass*
- Aluminum cans

*Only at Devils Postpile Ranger Station and Campground.



Area Map

Note: The trip into the Reds Meadow Valley and to Devils Postpile takes visitors 1,500 feet downhill from the Minaret Vista.

Where can I...

Hike the high Sierra?
Agnew Meadows Trailhead



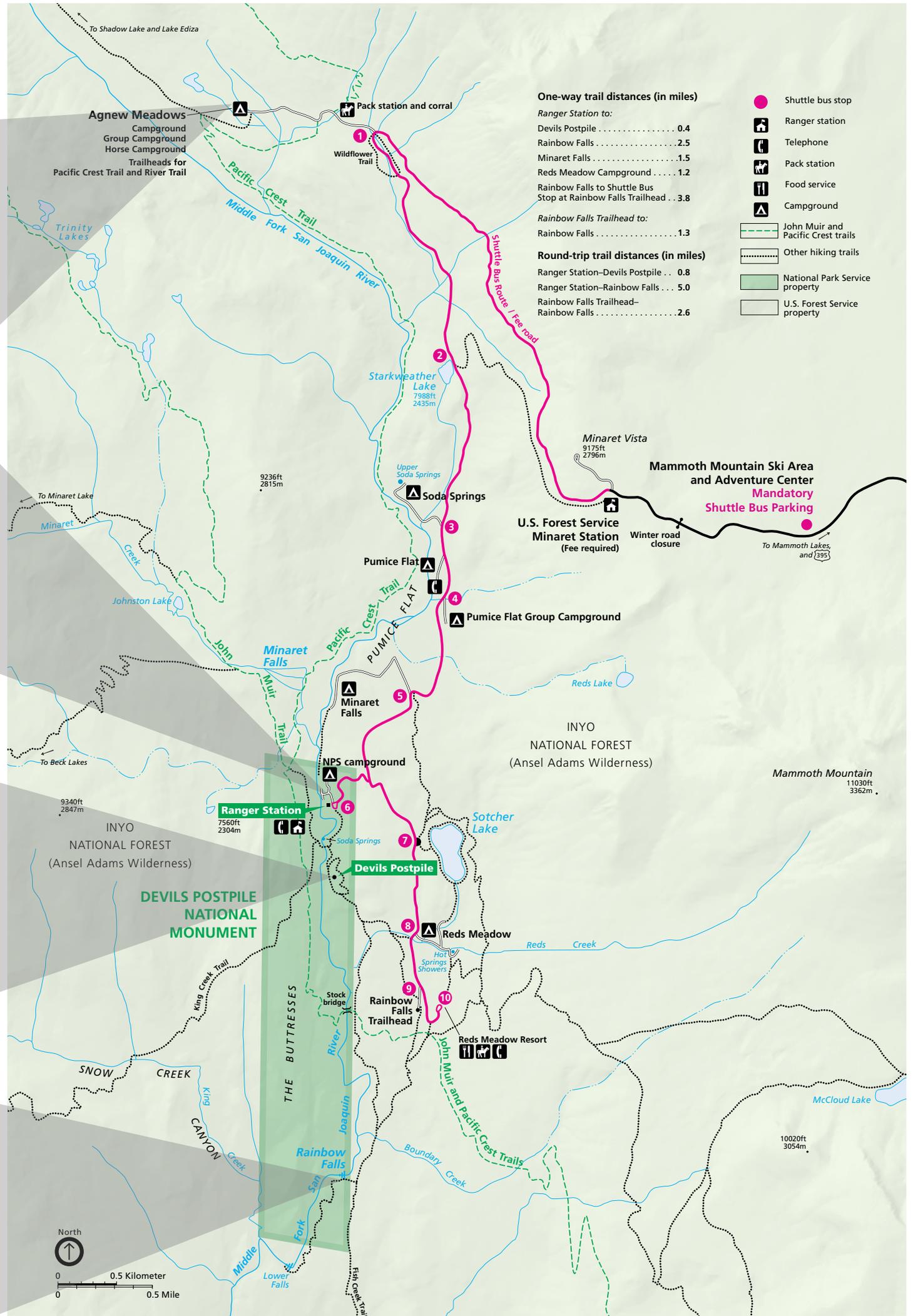
Attend a ranger program?
Devils Postpile Ranger Station



See stunning geologic features?
Devils Postpile Trail



Find a rainbow on a sunny day?
Rainbow Falls



First Bloom a Success at Devils Postpile and Beyond

In 2009, Devils Postpile began a partnership with the Bishop Paiute Tribe through a grant from the National Park Foundation and a program called First Bloom.

The National Park Foundation's First Bloom initiative provides an opportunity for fourth to sixth grade students across the country to engage with their local national parks and historic sites. The participants and organizations have the chance to learn, hands-on, about the environment in a living classroom: the national parks.

This unique educational experience includes several workshops and hands-on activities led by park rangers. The project culminates in a competition where each group will design and plant an indigenous garden in their local national park or community.

Now in its second year, the partnership has continued and expanded to include partners such as the Tuniwa Nobe Tribal Literacy Program and surrounding national parks.

Between 2009 and 2011, the 60 or so First Bloom participants have planted several gardens including two that they designed and planned themselves. They utilized basic math and measurement skills in the planning process.

Their gardens include only plants that are native to the Owens Valley and have Paiute names. That not only teaches the kids about the importance of native plants, but about the importance of those plants to their heritage.

The two gardens designed and planted by the participants are both in their local community of Bishop, California.

One is located at the Paiute-Shoshone Cultural Center and the other at the Pine Street Elementary School.

Both of these projects have added beauty to the community and have given the kids a sense of ownership of the gardens. The participants are also responsible for the basic maintenance of the gardens, including weeding and pruning of plants.

As part of an effort to educate participants about national parks and environmental stewardship, the program also provides the participants with the opportunity to visit the national parks in their "backyards".

Through partnerships with Death Valley and Yosemite National Parks, Manzanar National Historic Site, and of course, Devils Postpile National Monument, the kids are able to not only visit those parks, but attend special programs and complete a stewardship-based service activity while they are there.

The group has also partnered with representatives from the Bureau of Land Management to work on projects in and around their local community, which has expanded the outreach of the program tremendously.

Through the gardens and field trips, the youth learn not only about parks, but the importance of native plants in those parks and in their community.

Currently, over 30 parks and partner organizations participate in the First Bloom program throughout the country. The participants in the program maintain a blog and a web site at www.first-bloom.org.



Photo: NPS

First Bloom participants work with a National Park Service Ranger on a service project restoring native lodgepole pine to a heavily impacted area near the San Joaquin River in the monument.

Be a Junior Ranger!

Want to learn more about Devils Postpile or the U.S. Forest Service? The Devils Postpile Junior Ranger and the National Junior Forest Ranger Programs are great ways to do it.

Activities for all ages are included in the booklets, available free of charge at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station or at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.

Ever wondered if there's an online program? To become a National Park Service Web Ranger, visit www.nps.gov/webrangers.

These programs are open to any age.



Ranger-led Activities

How was the Postpile formed? What is a Wilderness area? Will I be eaten by a bear? Visitors to the monument and the national forest bring with them many questions. Ranger led programs are a great way to have those questions answered and to learn more.

Programs are offered at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and at Devils Postpile National Monument throughout the summer season. Beginning in late-June, Rangers will lead daily walks to Devils Postpile at 11:00 a.m. Other programs will be offered including talks about local wildlife, hiking and backpacking, and evening campfire programs and hikes.



Photo: NPS

Hikes to Devils Postpile begin at the Ranger Station daily at 11:00 a.m. in the summer.

For more information or for a schedule of program times and locations, visit the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center or the Devils Postpile Ranger Station.

Devils Postpile and Reds Meadow Guide 7

A Volcanic Landscape

The Reds Meadow Valley is a treasure chest of volcanic rocks. At higher elevations near the Minarets you will find old, metamorphosed volcanic rocks that have changed greatly over time as the Sierra Nevada rose.

In and around Devils Postpile National Monument you will find rocks from younger flows and eruptions such as pumice, rhyolite, basalts, and andesites that have changed little since they cooled from lava into rock.

To visit the different flows in the valley, follow the trails marked in red. Use the map on the right to identify rocks as you hike through the monument.

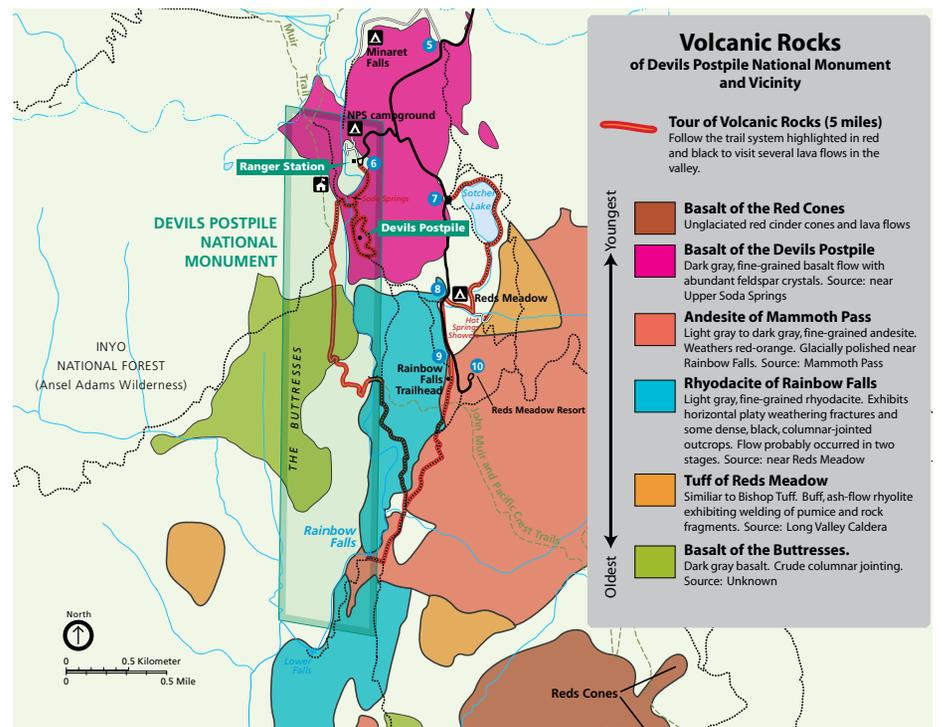
What you need:

- at least 3 hours
- at least 1 liter of water
- a map

What to expect:

- Moderate terrain with short, steep sections
- Sun and shade
- Amazing scenery

You will find scenery enjoyed by relatively few visitors. If you have the time and energy, hike South on the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail to the Red Cones for unparalleled views of the valley and a visit to the only intact, unglaciated volcanic cones in the valley.



Enjoy a Safe Visit

Dehydration

The main cause of medical emergencies in the valley is dehydration. Hiking to Rainbow Falls and other destinations can be hot, dry, and dusty. Bring plenty of drinking water for everyone in your hiking party. Drinking directly from rivers is not recommended without filtering or boiling the water first.



Hikers filtering water at a mountain lake.

Swift Water

The San Joaquin River runs cold and fast in June and July. Swimming during periods of high water is dangerous. Floating the river within Devils Postpile National Monument is not permitted. Because currents below Rainbow Falls are hazardous, swimming below the falls is not recommended.



Minaret Falls during spring runoff

Protecting Special Places

Visitors to the Reds Meadow Valley are the area's most important guardians. The valley has more than one hundred thousand people visiting each year. If we can get all those people to watch over the plants, animals, geologic features, historic and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these resources could be!

Unfortunately, there are people who either intentionally or unknowingly harm resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts in the monument:

- feeding or approaching wildlife
- hunting animals
- collecting reptiles or butterflies
- collecting plants or pine cones
- taking archeological/historic items
- carrying or using metal detectors to locate/collect historic objects

- driving vehicles into sensitive meadows and off roadways
- camping outside of designated campgrounds
- using weapons

Outside of the monument boundaries, the following is prohibited:

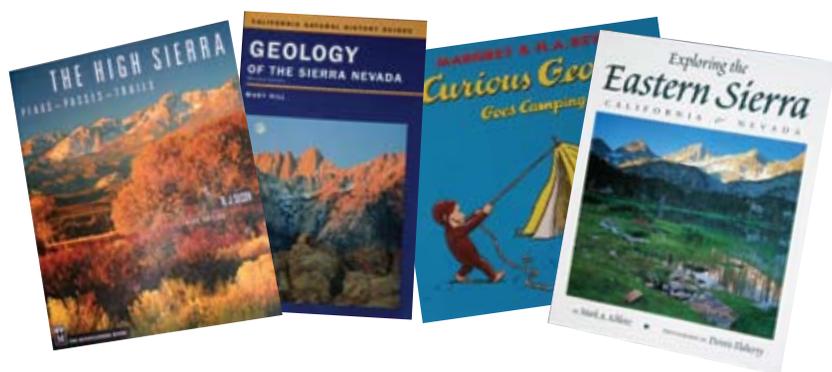
- feeding or approaching wildlife
- driving vehicles into sensitive meadows and off roadways
- camping outside of designated campgrounds except with a valid wilderness permit.

If you see activities that could harm people or resources, jot down descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and contact park personnel at (760) 934-2289. If someone's life is in danger, call 911.



Sequoia Natural History Association

The Sequoia Natural History Association is a non-profit organization that provides vital services to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Devils Postpile National Monument, which may not be available through federal funding. They provide books and educational materials in their bookstore at Devils Postpile. To browse their online bookstore visit: <http://www.sequoiahistory.org/>.



Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association is a non-profit organization which works in cooperation with the Inyo National Forest to promote and enhance the visitors' understanding and enjoyment of the natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources of National Forests. Proceeds from bookstores and your donations support interpretive programs, printed materials and visitor center displays. To browse their online bookstore, visit <http://www.esiaonline.com>.

