



# The Post

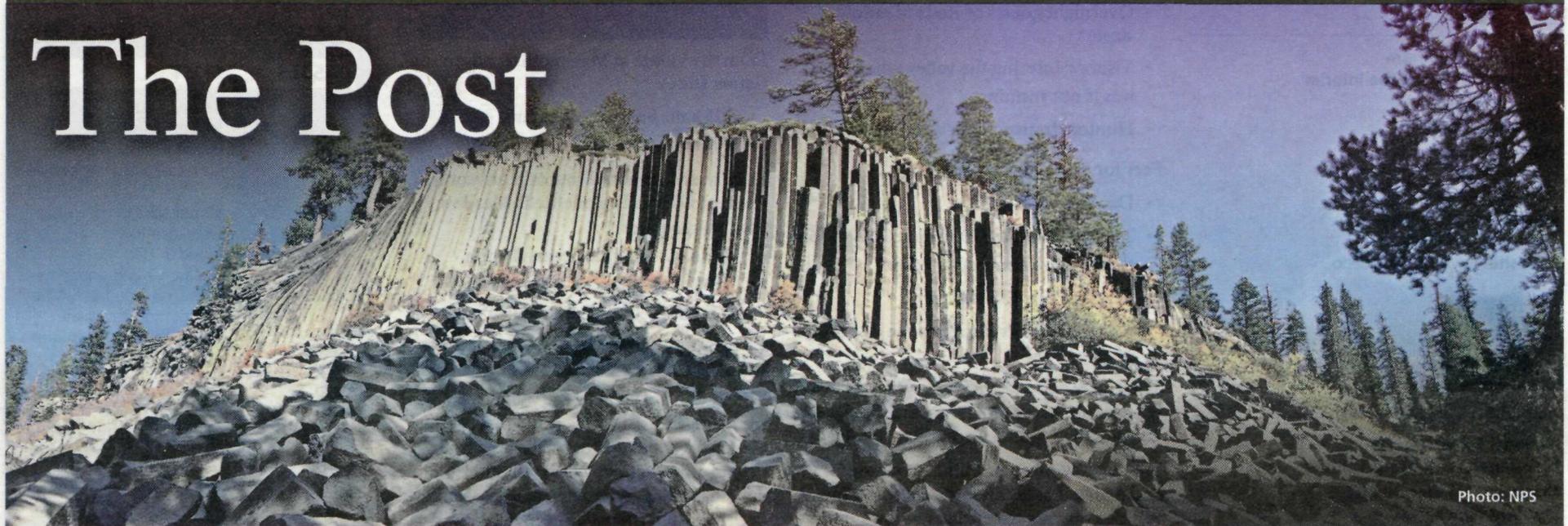


Photo: NPS

## Living with Wildland Fire

Fire is a way of life in California and throughout the west and smoke fills the skies for some time every summer. The effects of fire on the landscape can be seen from the shrublands to the red fir forests. With changing climate, California is experiencing warmer, drier winters and that, coupled with a century of fire exclusion, is contributing to more frequent unprecedented damaging and deadly fires.

### History of Fire

For thousands of years prior to the 20th century, fire shaped the landscape. In general, forests were more open with fewer, yet larger, trees. In 1992, the Rainbow Fire burned hot and fast through the Reds Meadow Valley. The fire consumed all vegetation in its path and threatened structures and human life. Based on fire history studies

the forests in the Reds Meadow Valley used to burn every 14-18 years. The Rainbow Fire burned in areas where natural fires had been suppressed for over 100 years, leaving excessive fuel and dense stands of trees. The Rainbow Fire is a good example of what can happen when fire is removed from an ecosystem for years and fuels are allowed to build up and trees crowd the forest.

### Are there Benefits of Wildland Fire?

Yes. Changes created by fire are important. Fire, when managed properly, creates habitat diversity and valuable homes for wildlife, improves the health of ecosystems, and also protects human life and property. Fire plays an important role by clearing limbs, dead leaves, needles, small trees and shrubs from the forest floor. Fire also helps manage insect populations that prey on trees.

### Wildland Fire Management Today

Today, managers work to thin and clear forests with prescribed fire, mechanical thinning, and pile burning. These management strategies, along with preventing human started fires, help to decrease the potential of catastrophic fires and promote healthier forests. When people live in or near fire prone areas, careful planning and work is required to manage forests and protect the community. Reducing fuel is a critical component in protecting life, property and the ecological health of the forest. During managed wildfires or prescribed burns, smoke may impact nearby communities. However, the duration and intensity of the smoke is generally much less than a large catastrophic wildfire.

Devils Postpile National Monument and the Inyo National Forest are working together to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and

improve forest health. The monument recently completed an update to the Fire Management Plan, which will allow for prescribed fire, manual fuel treatments, and managed wildfire throughout the monument. To review the plan, visit [www.parkplanning.nps.gov/depo](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/depo). The Inyo National Forest is working on a hazardous fuels reduction project in Reds Meadow Valley. [www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54312](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54312)

Be a part of the solution this summer and help eliminate human-caused wildland fires on public lands by making sure camping and cooking fires are put out, smoking only in designated or open areas, and honoring fire restrictions.

### Campground Closure

The Devils Postpile campground, closed since 2016, will not be reopened in 2019 due to winter storm impacts. This will again give day-use visitors greater opportunities to access and enjoy this riverfront area. As the benefits of the closure for visitors have become more apparent, the monument is interested to hear whether you think the 20-unit campground is the best use of this space or if it should be reimagined for day-use activities. Comment cards are available at the ranger station.



Photo: NPS

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Devils Postpile  
National Monument  
Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 3999  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
Phone: (760) 934-2289  
Fax: (760) 934-4780  
Web site: www.nps.gov/depo



National Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mammoth Ranger District  
Inyo National Forest  
Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 148  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
Phone: (760) 924-5500  
Fax: (760) 924-5547  
Web site: http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo

#### Shuttle Bus and Fee Information

The bus is mandatory for most visitors. See the chart below for prices. Passes can be purchased inside the Adventure Center, located at the main gondola building at Mammoth Mountain.

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 passes.

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

If you are one of the following, you qualify as an exception to the bus system and will be allowed to drive into the valley, and must pay a fee at the Minaret Vista Station.

- Visitors displaying a disabled persons parking placard or plate
- Visitors staying in a designated campground in the valley (backpackers must use the shuttle)
- Visitors towing livestock trailers

## Park the Car and Ride the Bus!

- Overnight guests of Reds Meadow Resort
- Visitors entering the valley when the bus is not running
- Hunters transporting weapons or game

Fees for exception vehicles:

- Day Pass: \$10/vehicle
- Three Day Pass: \$20/vehicle (Good for three of five consecutive days)
- Season Pass: \$35/vehicle
- Campers: \$10/vehicle for the duration of stay

Three-day and season passes for exception vehicles are accepted at Mono Lake South Tufa and Schullman Grove Day use Areas.

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

#### Schedule

From the Village at Mammoth to Adventure Center (free):

- 7:15 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m.
- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. every 30 min.

From the Mammoth Mountain Adventure Center to Devils Postpile/Reds Meadow (bus pass required):

- 7:30 a.m.–9:45 a.m. every 45 min.
- 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. every 20 min.
- 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. every 30–45 min.

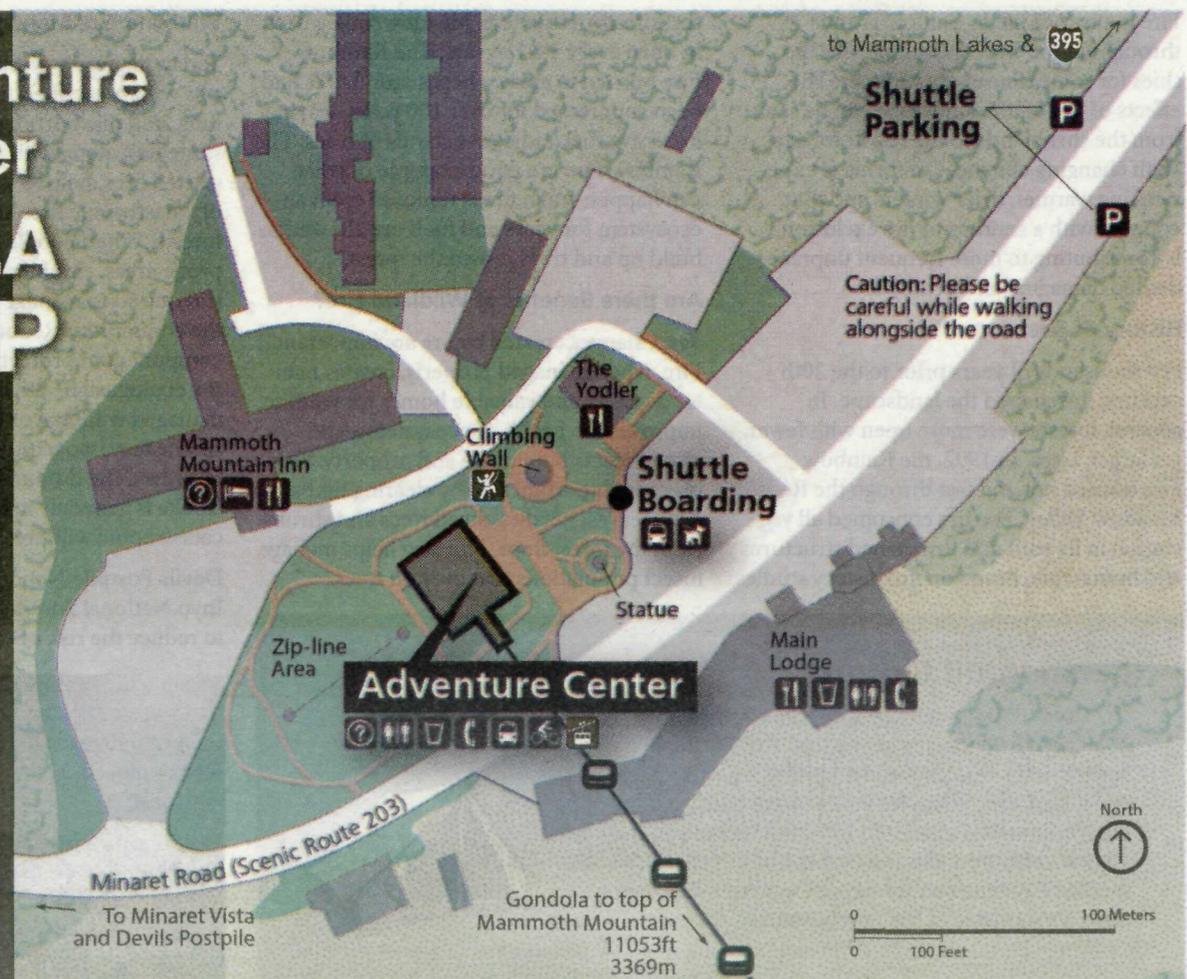
#### The Need for a Shuttle System

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.

## Shuttle Bus Passes

PASSES	COST
Day Pass	\$8 per adult, \$4 per child (aged 3-15) Children 2 and under are free.
Wilderness Hikers	\$8 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	\$16 per adult, \$8 per child (aged 3-15) Children 2 and under are free.
Season Pass	\$40 per adult, \$20 per child (aged 3-15) Children 2 and under are free.

## Adventure Center AREA MAP



# 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 opening through Labor Day. It will be open in September and October as staffing allows. Maps, information, books and some souvenirs are available.

## CAMPING

### Inyo National Forest

There are seven Forest Service campgrounds in Reds Meadow Valley. Five campgrounds are first-come, first-served. Please call ahead to ensure that the campground that you want to stay in is open: 760-924-5500. Two group campgrounds are available by reservation. Agnew Campground has three equestrian campsites and are also by reservation only.

### Special Campground Information

At the time of printing, exact opening dates for campgrounds in the Reds Meadow Valley were unknown. Please call ahead to ensure that the campground in which you wish to stay will be open. The Inyo National Forest is working to open these sites as soon as possible. Please call ahead for the most current information.

### Campground Closing Dates

All campgrounds in the Reds Meadow Valley close on or before October 15, depending on weather. Call ahead for exact dates. Typically, campgrounds are open through the Labor Day weekend and some stay open into early October. There is no overnight parking in the valley after October 14.

## PICKNICKING

### Devils Postpile

Numerous picnic sites are available near the San Joaquin River at Devils Postpile National Monument.

### 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: 760-924-5505.

## SHOWERS

The Reds Meadow hot spring fed showers will not open this season. The tub will be locked for safety reasons. Showers will be available at the Reds Meadow Resort and Packstation. Showers are \$7.00. Towels are available for \$1.00.

## FOOD SERVICES

Food service is available at the Reds Meadow Resort. A store and a restaurant are open from 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 under 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

Fishing is allowed in the monument. A fishing license is required for adults ages 16 and older. Regulations can be found in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife'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 Wildlife at 559-243-4005 ext. 151 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 and on the Inyo National Forest. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering the monument or forest. 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 and the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, unless specifically authorized (18 USC 930(a)).

## STOCK USE

### Devils Postpile

Stock are allowed on monument trails with the exception of the Devils Postpile Trail and a short section of trail near Rainbow Falls. Ask for a detailed map at the Ranger Station.

Stock should enter the monument via the Rainbow Falls Trailhead. Parking and maneuvering in valley parking lots can be very challenging for large vehicles and trailers. Please use caution on the narrow Reds Meadow Road and in parking lots.

Off-trail stock use is prohibited. River crossing is only permitted at the designated stock bridge located in on the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trails within the monument. 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 lake shores. 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.

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.



## Length Limits on the Postpile Road

To decrease risks and provide for the safety of all visitors traveling on the narrow road accessing Devils Postpile National Monument, Devils Postpile has restricted the length of vehicles on the section of road in the monument to 25 feet. This does not apply to the entire road. This only applies to the short section of road that spurs off the Reds Meadow Road and enters the national monument.

Commercial vehicles cannot drive on the Reds Meadow Road. For more information contact the Superintendent.

Recreational vehicles longer than 25 feet are advised to use Forest Service campgrounds that will accommodate 25 foot vehicles and utilize the Reds Meadow Shuttle bus if visiting Devils Postpile. The shuttle bus is free between Agnew Meadows and Reds Meadow Resort.

Groups eligible for an educational fee waiver traveling in buses longer than 25 feet should contact Devils Postpile National Monument for information pertaining to special use permits.

The road is narrow and visibility is limited. All vehicles should use caution on both the Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile roads.



Photo: NPS



At which stop will I find...

- Wildflower Walk..... 1
- Shadow Lake/River Trail..... 1
- Starkweather Lake..... 2
- Payphones..... 4 6 10
- Ranger Station, Programs..... 6
- Devils Postpile Trail..... 6
- First Aid/Emergency Care..... 6
- Bookstore/Souvenirs..... 6 10
- Sotcher Lake..... 7
- Rainbow Falls Trail..... 9

### What to Do in the Area?



Attend a Ranger Program.



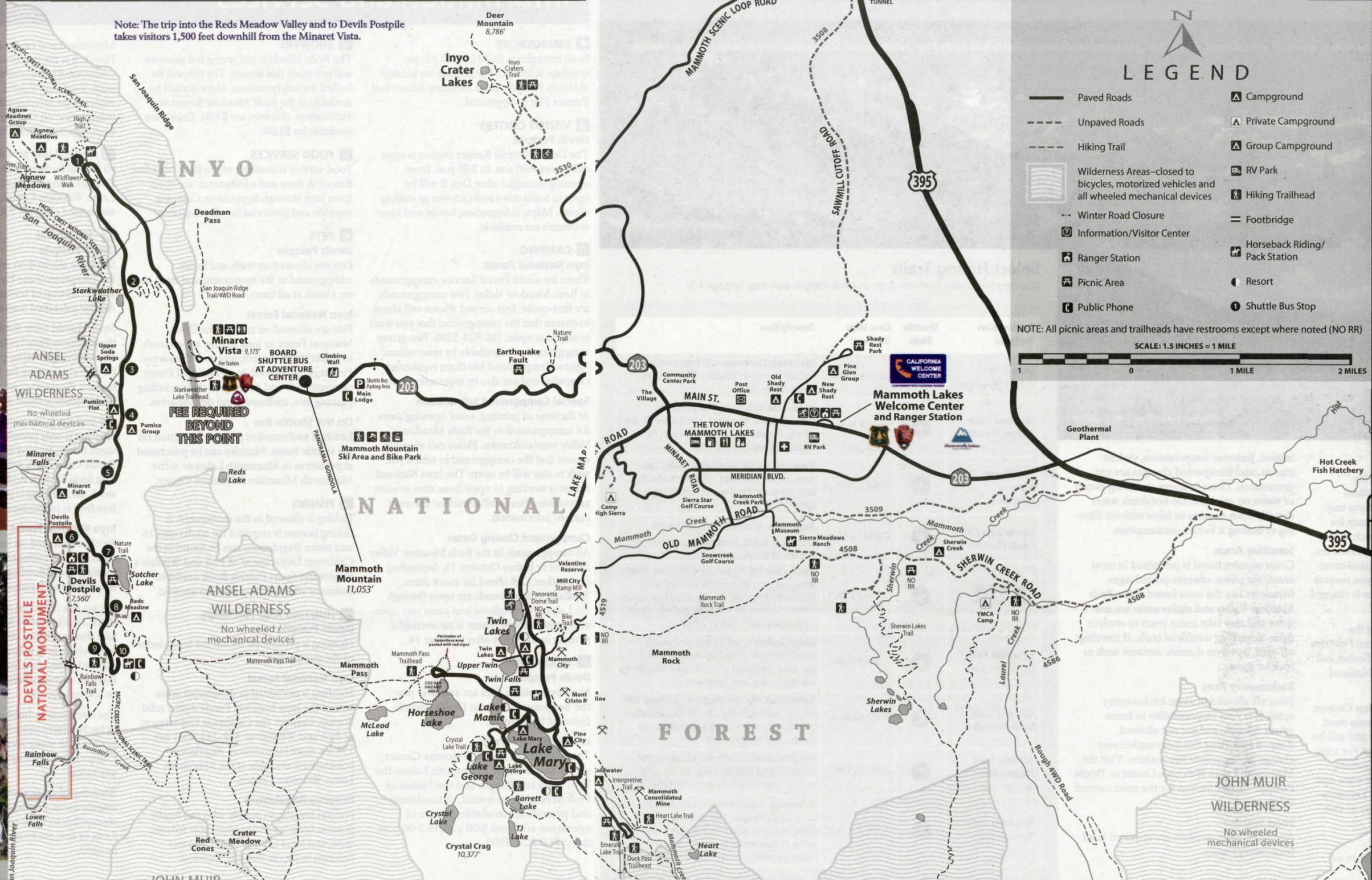
Cast your line.



Take a hike!

## Area Map

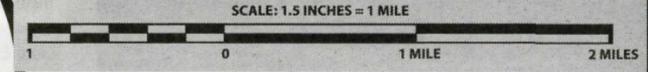
Note: The trip into the Reds Meadow Valley and to Devils Postpile takes visitors 1,500 feet downhill from the Minaret Vista.



### LEGEND

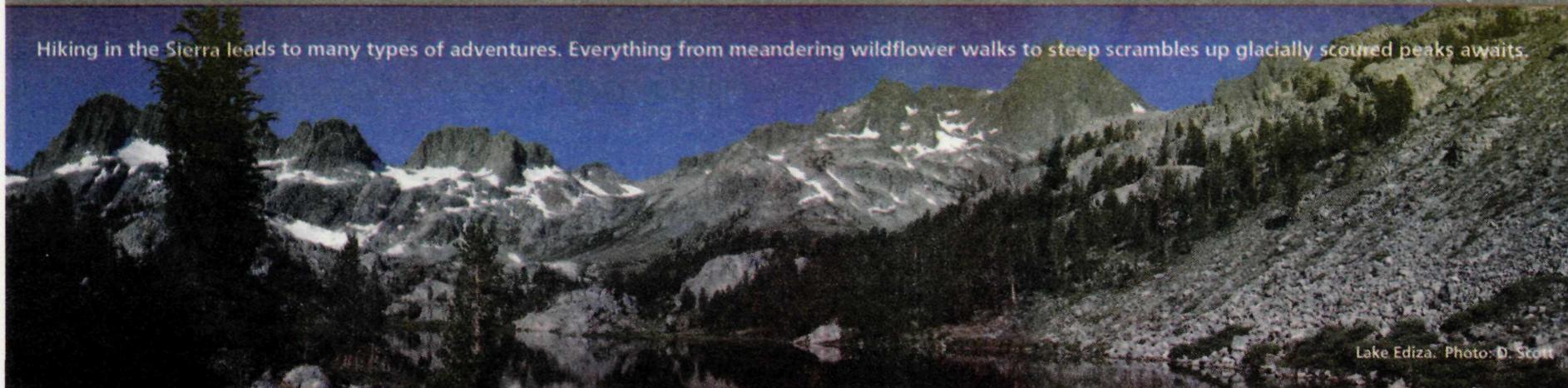
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Hiking Trail
- Wilderness Areas—closed to bicycles, motorized vehicles and all wheeled mechanical devices
- Winter Road Closure
- Information/Visitor Center
- Ranger Station
- Picnic Area
- Public Phone
- Campground
- Private Campground
- Group Campground
- RV Park
- Hiking Trailhead
- Footbridge
- Horseback Riding/Pack Station
- Resort
- Shuttle Bus Stop

NOTE: All picnic areas and trailheads have restrooms except where noted (NO RR)

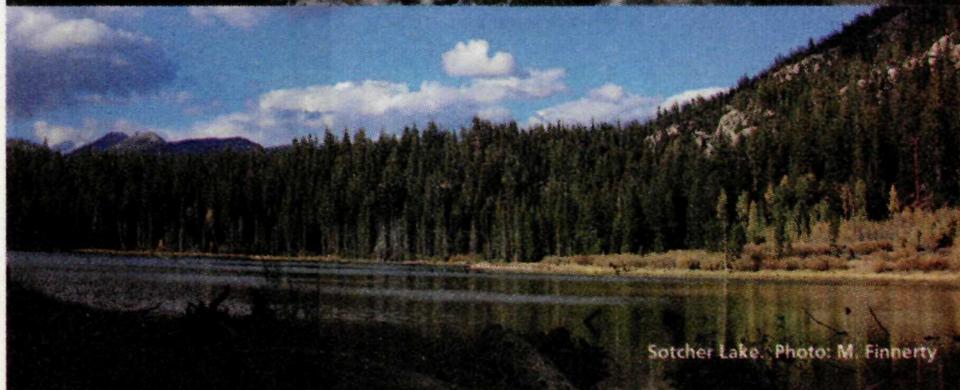


# Hiking

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



Lake Ediza. Photo: D. Scott



Sotcher Lake. Photo: M. Finnerty

## 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 \$5 per person reservation fee plus a \$6 per reservation transaction fee is charged at the time you reserve with [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). No fee is charged for walk-in permits.

Permits and maps are available at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. For trips originating in the Inyo National Forest, call (760) 873-2483 or visit the Inyo National Forest website.

For 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. For trips originating in Sequoia or Kings Canyon, please call (559) 565-3341 or visit [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki). For trips originating in Yosemite call (209) 372-0826 (summer only) or visit [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

## 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. Meadows like the ones found in the Reds Meadow Valley and alpine areas 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 areas.

## Select Hiking Trails

(Numbers correspond to shuttle stops on Devils Postpile park map on page 4-5)

Destination Trailhead	Shuttle Stop	One Way (mi / km)	Description
Lake Ediza Agnew Meadows	1	6mi / 9.7km	<b>Moderate/Strenuous</b> Follow switchbacks through an open hillside to spectacular views of the Sierra.
Shadow Lake Agnew Meadows	1	3mi / 4.8km	<b>Moderate</b> 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	<b>Easy</b> 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	<b>Easy</b> 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	<b>Moderate</b> Rolling terrain with some short steep sections through forest and open burn area from the '92 Rainbow Fire. Great views. Trail can be hot, exposed and sandy. Be prepared with plenty of water.
Rainbow Falls Devils Postpile	6	2.5mi / 4km	<b>Easy/Moderate</b> 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	<b>Strenuous</b> This can be done as a long day hike or overnight trip. 2,700 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	<b>Easy/Moderate</b> 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	<b>Moderate</b> Slightly shorter than the trail from Devils Postpile, the terrain is similar. Bring plenty of water on this hike. Swimming at the base of the waterfall is not recommended and could result in death.

## Let's Get Every Kid in a Park!

"Oh the places you'll go, Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way!" Dr. Suess' rhyming and rallying charge captures the spirit of the Every Kid in a Park initiative, launched by the White House and Federal Land Management Agencies. In celebration of the National Park Service Centennial, fourth graders can obtain a pass that provides free access to students to all federally managed lands and waters. By introducing America's youth at an early age to public lands, near and far, this program is a call to action to get all children to experience breathtaking places and meaningful stories throughout the nation.

Fourth graders can start the adventure by visiting: [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov).

After playing an online game, the student can print a voucher which

can be exchanged for a durable plastic Interagency Fourth Grade Annual Pass at federal lands centers that issue passes, such as the Welcome Center in Mammoth Lakes. This pass is good for the current school year and summer.

To visit the Reds Meadow Valley and Devils Postpile National Monument, fourth grade students with plastic Interagency Fourth Grade Annual Pass can ride the Reds Meadow Shuttle bus for free. Those travelling with the student will need to pay for a bus ticket. Vehicle access is free when the shuttle bus isn't running. This pass cannot be used to discount camping fees. In other federal public lands where an entrance fee is charged per vehicle, anyone in a vehicle with a 4th grade student that has a pass will be admitted for free.

With millions of acres of federal lands

across the nation, there might be a place for students to explore right in their own backyard! Public lands provide opportunities for youth to be active, spend time with friends and family, and learn in outdoor classrooms and where history was made. Through these experiences, the initiative hopes to inspire the next generation of stewards, motivated to protect our public lands for future generations.

The Every Kid in a Park initiative has also provided additional opportunities for youth to explore the federal public lands throughout this area. Devils Postpile National Monument is one of 186 federal sites to receive an Every Kid in a Park field trip grant from the National Park Foundation. This summer, participants will be engaged stewards of public lands—learning and volunteering to help protect

public lands while exploring the Inyo National Forest, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Yosemite National Park.

Whether you're in fourth grade, or a fourth grader at heart, public lands are for us to explore, so get on your way!



## Be a Junior Ranger!

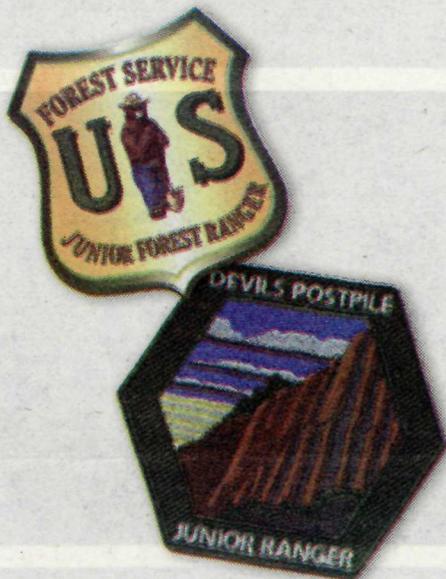
Want to learn more about Devils Postpile or the U.S. Forest Service? The Devils Postpile Junior Ranger and the National Junior Forest Ranger Programs are great ways to do it.

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](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers).

These programs are open to any age.



## 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 all of those people watched over the plants, animals, geology, 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:

- 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 areas such as 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, write descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call (760) 934-2289. If someone's life is in danger, call 911.

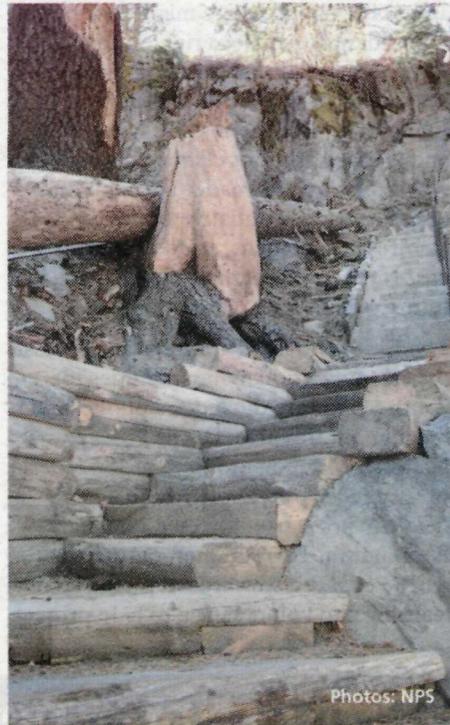
## Do your part. Recycle.

Recycling facilities are located at all valley trailheads. Glass, plastic, and aluminum are all recyclable.



## Trail to the Base of Rainbow Falls

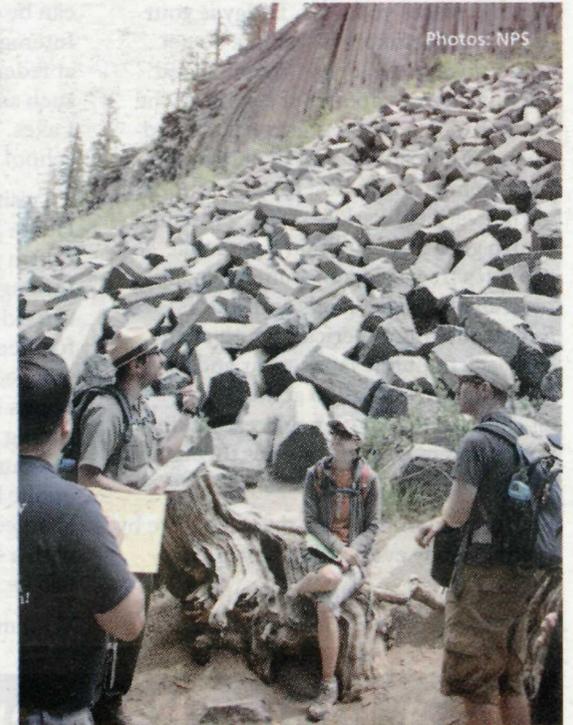
The trail to the base of Rainbow Falls is open! This challenging project was completed by Devils Postpile National Monument staff with assistance from the Inyo National Forest, the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corp and Yosemite National Park staff. As you enjoy the waterfall from the overlooks, remember that the new trail to the base of the falls is just below, so don't throw or drop objects off the cliffs. Enjoy a safe visit to the base of the falls by watching your footing on the steep trail and using caution around the water as the San Joaquin River is swift, cold and deep below the falls. Never try to swim under the falls due to unpredictable hydraulics. Please stay on the trail.



Photos: NPS

## Ranger-led Programs

Join a ranger on a walk to the Devils Postpile formation, become a Junior Ranger, or stop by the Ranger Station to learn about wildlife, geology, or plants. Walks, table talks, activities, and night sky programs are free and open to the public. We invite you to join us! Most programs are scheduled in summer from opening through Labor Day (early September). When you arrive, check the bulletin boards at the Ranger Station for program schedule and details.



Photos: NPS

## Keeping Wildlife Wild

Black bears and other wildlife are frequently seen in the Reds Meadow Valley and in Devils Postpile. In order to keep these animals wild, follow these tips.

### Food and Scented Item Storage

- Proper food storage is required. Also store anything with an odor. "Food" is considered to be anything with an odor including used paper plates, dishes, and toiletries. Bear boxes are located in every campsite in the valley. Do not leave food in your vehicle over night.
- Backpackers must use bear resistant canisters. They are available for rent at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.

### 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 any area.
- If you see a bear, keep your distance. Back away slowly.
- Never approach wildlife.
- Remember, we are visitors to their homes. Respect all wild animals.



## Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) is a non-profit organization that provides vital services to Devils Postpile National Monument and the Inyo National Forest which may not be available through federal funding. They provide books and educational materials in their bookstore at Devils Postpile, the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center.

ESIA provides a connection to the Eastern Sierra and public lands through interpretive and educational opportunities. ESIA achieves its mission by operating quality bookstores and through sponsoring interpretive projects and programs. Learn more at one of eleven locations or at [www.esiaonline.org](http://www.esiaonline.org). Proceeds from sales support local interpretive programs and projects.



INSPIRE-EDUCATE-EXPLORE

