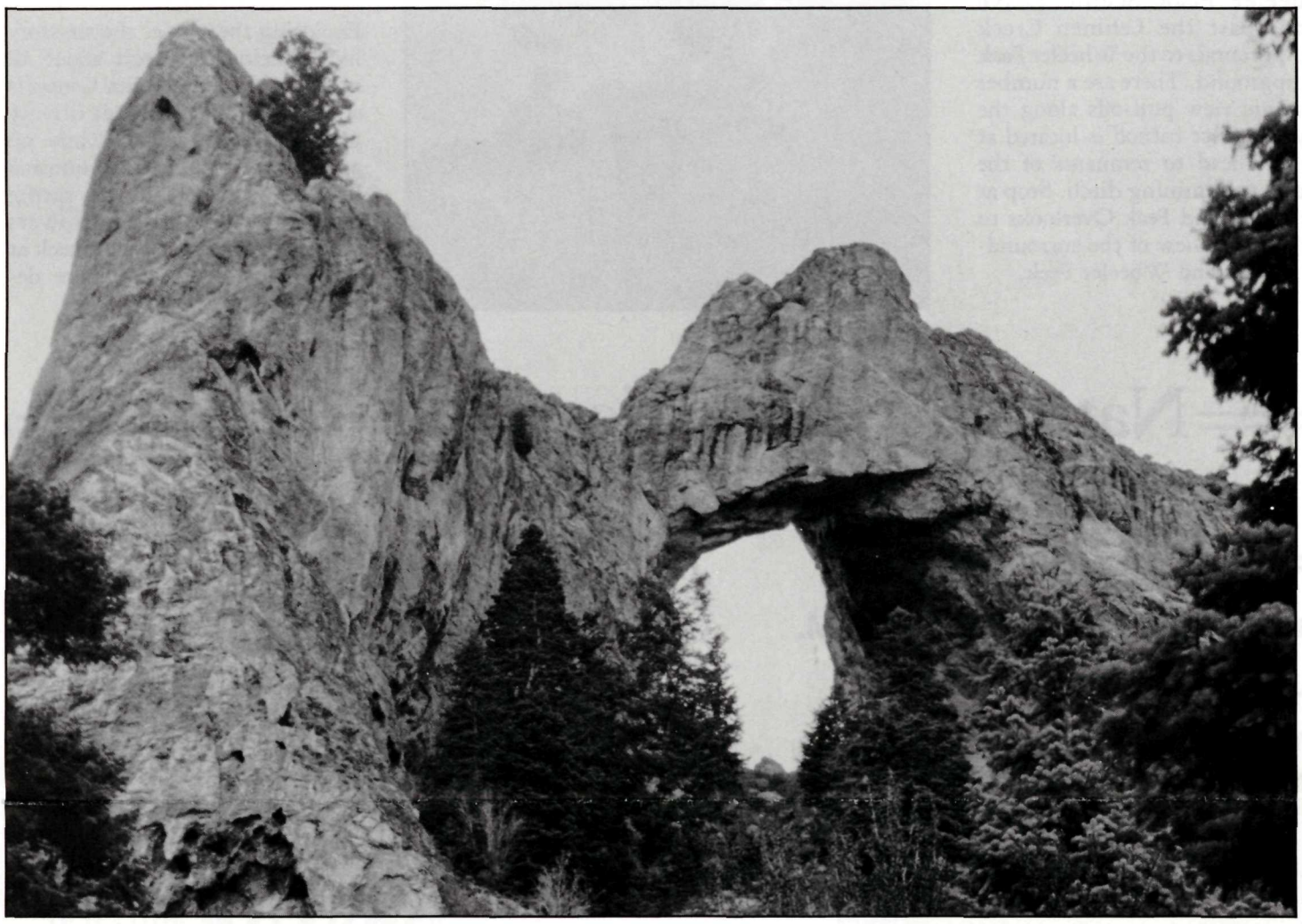
BRISTLECONE
GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

SUMMER, 1990 INFORMATION ACTIVITIES



Park Drafts Management Plan

A General Management Plan (GMP) is being developed at Great Basin National Park which will guide the management direction of the park for the next 10 to 20 years. An opportunity for public participation and comment will be available, shortly. Interested individuals can add their names to the GMP mailing list at the park's visitor center information desk. They will, as a result, receive GMP information and have the opportunity to respond to planning issues and proposed management directions.

The management of a national park is a complex task. On many issues, there are management policies which have been established to guide the uniform direction taken by all national parks across the nation. In other instances, local issues and circumstances dictate the establishment of a local planning document to provide specific guidance. This document, the General Management Plan, is designed to review both the facility needs of the park, as well as the management direction to be taken on a wide range of issues.

Local issues, such as grazing, mining, interpretive services, fishing and wildlife management, cave management and special uses (i.e. snowmobiling, mountain biking, hang gliding, etc.) will all be addressed in the General Management Plan, as they relate to Great Basin National Park. Similarly, the potential need for new facilities, such as campgrounds, visitor centers, staff housing, roads and trails, and their proposed locations, will be reviewed.

The planning process began at Great Basin National Park shortly after its establishment on October 27, 1986. The effort is being guided by a team of professional park planners from the National Park Service's Denver Service Center. On site park staff also play a major role in creating the Plan, as do all the members of the general public who wish to participate.

To date, public scoping meetings have been held to invite the identification of issues which need to be addressed in the Plan. Those issues identified were compiled in an Alternatives Workbook, which was distributed to everyone on the mailing list, for their further review and comment. Responses regarding the recommended directions to be taken were then consolidated and analyzed.

The planning process is now approaching another major opportunity for public involvement. The Draft General Management Plan, which will include the selection of a preferred alternative, is scheduled for release in January, 1991. Upon release, public comment will be sought regarding all issues of concern.

Any interested individuals who are unable to sign up for the mailing list at the visitor center, may do so by writing to the Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, Baker, Nevada 89311, and indicate their interest. A copy of the Draft General Management Plan will be mailed as soon as it becomes available. A public comment period will be open for at least 30 days, following distribution of the Draft GMP.

Public input is an important factor in determining the final management direction to be taken at Great Basin National Park.

Welcome to Great Basin National Park

Welcome to Great Basin National Park; an area of surprising beauty and diversity. As the nation's 49th national park, Great Basin enters a select corps of the finest and most valued portions of this nation's heritage which are protected as units of the National Park System. A concept which began with Yellowstone National Park in 1872 and has spread throughout the country and, indeed, around the globe, now has incorporated one of the most superlative examples of Great Basin geology, biologic diversity and scenic grandeur.

As you visit Great Basin National Park this season, we hope that you take advantage of the naturalist programs and activities which will provide a greater understanding of this special place. Join a ranger on a walk to an ancient grove of bristlecone pines, or attend an evening campfire program to learn more of the history, geology or wildlife of the park. Schedules and program descriptions are to be found elsewhere in this newspaper. We sincerely believe that a more complete understanding of what you see here, will help to enhance your appreciation of the park.

While Great Basin National Park is new, and changes in facilities and operations will continue for many years, there is one constant trait which is already present. The sublime beauty of the area is here for all to enjoy. Whether you view the park while traveling in your family car along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, while walking one of the trails to an alpine lake, or while backpacking the crest of the range, the scenic and natural splendor will refresh and renew. Enjoy your stay.

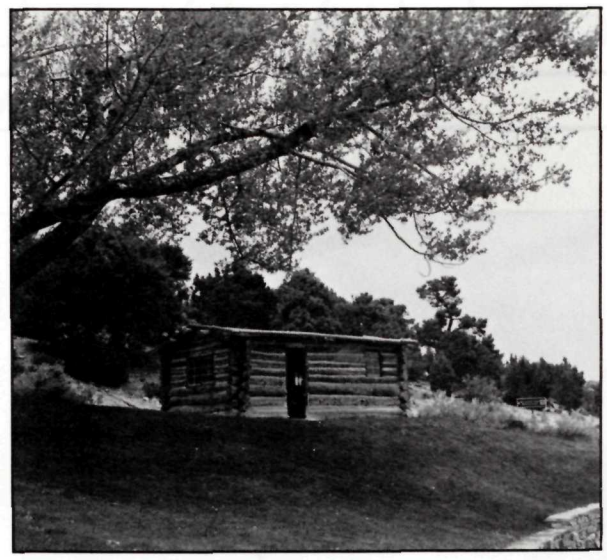
Albert J. Hendricks
Superintendent

Exploring the Park

The Visitor Center is open 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and is the best place to begin your visit to Great Basin National Park. Here you can get your tickets for one of the many daily tours through Lehman Caves, view a movie or slide show and obtain general information and books that will aid you in the enjoyment of the park.

Near the Visitor Center is a picnic area, the historical **Rhodes Cabin** and a short nature trail. The **Mountain View Nature Trail** is a half mile (¾ km) self-guided loop that begins near the Rhodes Cabin. The guide booklet obtained at the Visitor Center adds information on trees, flowers, animals, geology and cave insights found along the trail.

Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive winds past the Lehman Creek Campgrounds to the Wheeler Peak Campground. There are a number of scenic view pull-offs along the way. The first turnoff is located at the trailhead to remnants of the Oscola gold mining ditch. Stop at the Serene and Peak Overlooks to get a better view of the surrounding valleys and Wheeler Peak.



If you plan to photograph Wheeler Peak and its close neighbor Jeff Davis Peak, the early morning is the best time to see the alpenglow contrasting with the snow covered peaks and deep blue sky.

Exploring the area of the six story high **Lexington Arch** about 18 miles south of the Visitor Center is an adventure. It includes driving gravel roads and a 2 mile hike up an obscure trail to this unusual limestone feature. In the spring you'll find many wildflowers blooming along the way. Check at the Visitor Center for more detailed directions.

Naturalist Activities

Cave Tours:

—Hourly Tours, Monday–Friday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

—Every half hour, Saturday and Sunday, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

—Candlelight Tours, 6 P.M. daily.

—Spelunking Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 P.M. Reservations recommended.

Tour Fees	
Adults (Age 16 & older)	$3.00
Children (Age 6 to 15)	$2.00
Children (Age 5 & under)	Free
Holders of Golden Age Passports	$1.50
Spelunking	$6.00

Holidays

Tours are offered on busy holiday weekends as frequently as possible. However, holiday weekend tours frequently sell out early in the day. Since tours are on a first-come, first-served basis, we encourage purchasing tickets as soon as possible upon your arrival.

Patio Talks:

—Daily at 10:15 A.M. and 2:15 P.M. at Visitor Center patio.

Conducted Walks:

—Bristlecone Pine Walk: Four miles; four hour naturalist walk to the bristlecone pine grove. Meet at Wheeler Peak Campground trailhead. Daily at 1:30 P.M. June 10 through Labor Day.

—Nature Walks: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday at 3:30 P.M. Sunday at 10:00 A.M. Check at Visitor Center or on park bulletin boards for topic and location.

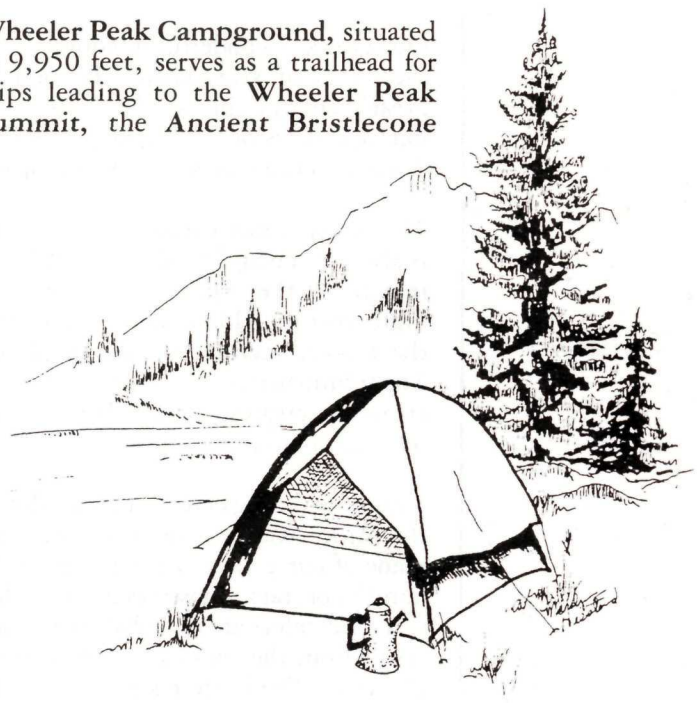
Evening Campfire Programs:

—Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds.
Nightly at 8:30 P.M., June–July 13.
Nightly at 8:00 P.M., July 14–Labor Day.

Camping in Great Basin

If you are interested in staying overnight in Great Basin National Park, there are several camping areas from which to choose. **Wheeler Peak** and **Upper** and **Lower Lehman Creek** campgrounds are developed sites, complete with restrooms, picnic tables, tent-pads and barbeque pits.

Wheeler Peak Campground, situated at 9,950 feet, serves as a trailhead for trips leading to the **Wheeler Peak Summit,** the **Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest,** and **Stella** and **Teresa Lakes. Upper** and **Lower Lehman Creek** campgrounds (with pull-through sites for small RV's and trailers) and **Baker Creek Campground** are situated at more moderate elevations alongside a pleasant stream. There is a nightly fee of $5.00 per campsite at the Lehman Creek Campgrounds where drinking water is available. Please remember that water from other park campgrounds should be boiled **for at least five minutes** to ensure that it is safe.



Other undeveloped camping facilities within the park include **Snake Creek** and **Shoshone** campgrounds. These areas provide picnic tables, tent sites, and pit toilets — there is no water available at these sites.

All park campgrounds are on a first-come, first-serve basis — no advance reservations can be made. Please do not "save" or "reserve" campsites for friends and relatives who may be arriving at a later time.

Campgrounds

LOWER LEHMAN CREEK CAMPGROUND: 7,500 feet; eleven sites; water; pit toilets; 2½ miles from the Visitor Center. **Open Year-Round.**

UPPER LEHMAN CREEK CAMPGROUND: 7,800 feet; 24 sites; pit toilets; one handicapped site; group picnic site available by reservation; 3 miles from the Visitor Center. **May 21–October 15.**

BAKER CREEK CAMPGROUND: 8,000 feet; 20 sites; pit toilets; 3 miles from the Visitor Center. **Approximate open dates: May 21–September 21.**

WHEELER PEAK CAMPGROUND: 9,950 feet; 37 sites; water; pit toilets; 12 miles from the Visitor Center. **June 7–October 15.**

Important Information

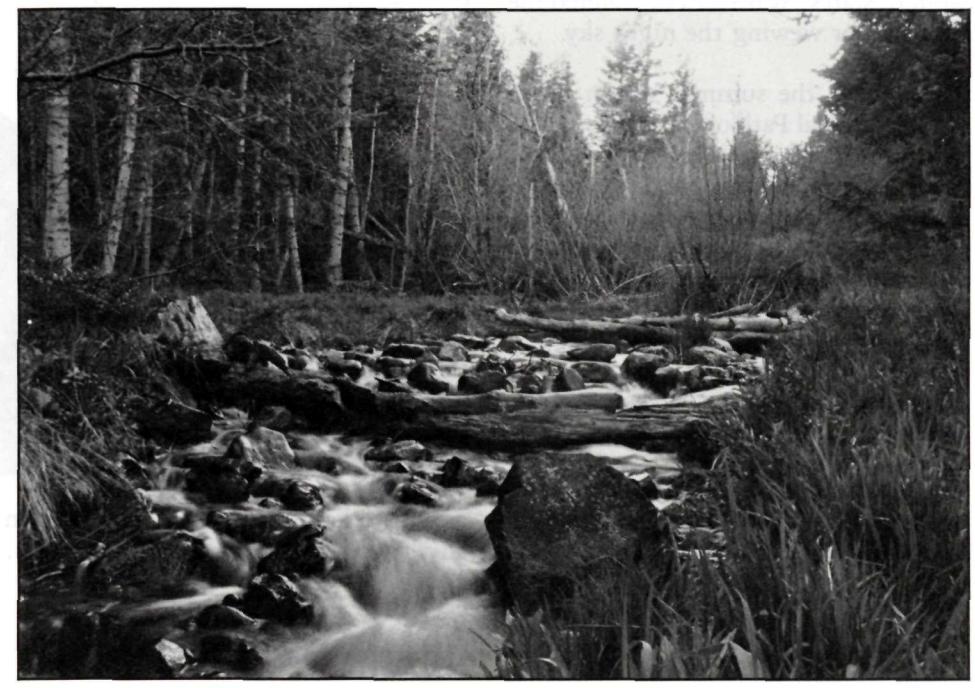
Plants and Animals — Please leave plants and animals in their natural setting for others to enjoy. Picking wildflowers is not permitted. Do not approach or feed wild animals. Many animals carry diseases and should never be touched or fed. Feeding, harming, or killing wildlife is prohibited.

Pets — Pets must be on a leash and under physical control at all times. Pets are not permitted on trails, in the backcountry, the Visitor Center, nor on ranger-led activities.

Fishing — A Nevada fishing license is required in Great Basin National Park.

Snowmachines — Snowmobiles and other over-snow vehicles are not permitted on or off-road in Great Basin National Park.

Water Warning — Mountain stream water is very tempting to drink but may carry organisms that cause intestinal infections such as giardia. These microscopic organisms are transmitted into the water systems by livestock, wildlife, and humans. Water should be brought to a boil for five minutes to kill harmful organisms prior to consumption. Backpackers should bury human wastes at least 100 feet from any water sources.



Wood-Cutting — Campers are allowed to collect dead and down wood only. Persons with Forest Service and BLM wood-cutting permits should be aware of agency boundaries.

Winter Road Closures — Roads to Park Headquarters at Lehman Caves are plowed during the winter months. The Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive is plowed to the parking lot at Upper Lehman Creek Campground. There is no snow removal beyond this point. The Lower Lehman Creek Campground loop is plowed during the winter.

Backcountry Registration — Visitors planning to spend time in the backcountry are urged to register at the Front Desk of the Visitor Center. The Backcountry Registration system is voluntary but it is recommended visitors register for their safety.

"After Sunset" The Night Skies of Great Basin National Park

Glowing embers snap. You sit by the campfire looking into dancing flames, reliving the day's experiences. Perhaps you were fascinated by the beautiful formations decorating Lehman Caves, or the raw beauty of Wheeler Peak and the tenacity of the ancient Bristlecone pines living on its flank. What a shame this day should end. As your eyes lift to watch the flight of glowing sparks, you see among the rapidly dying points of light, other gleaming sparks . . . stars.

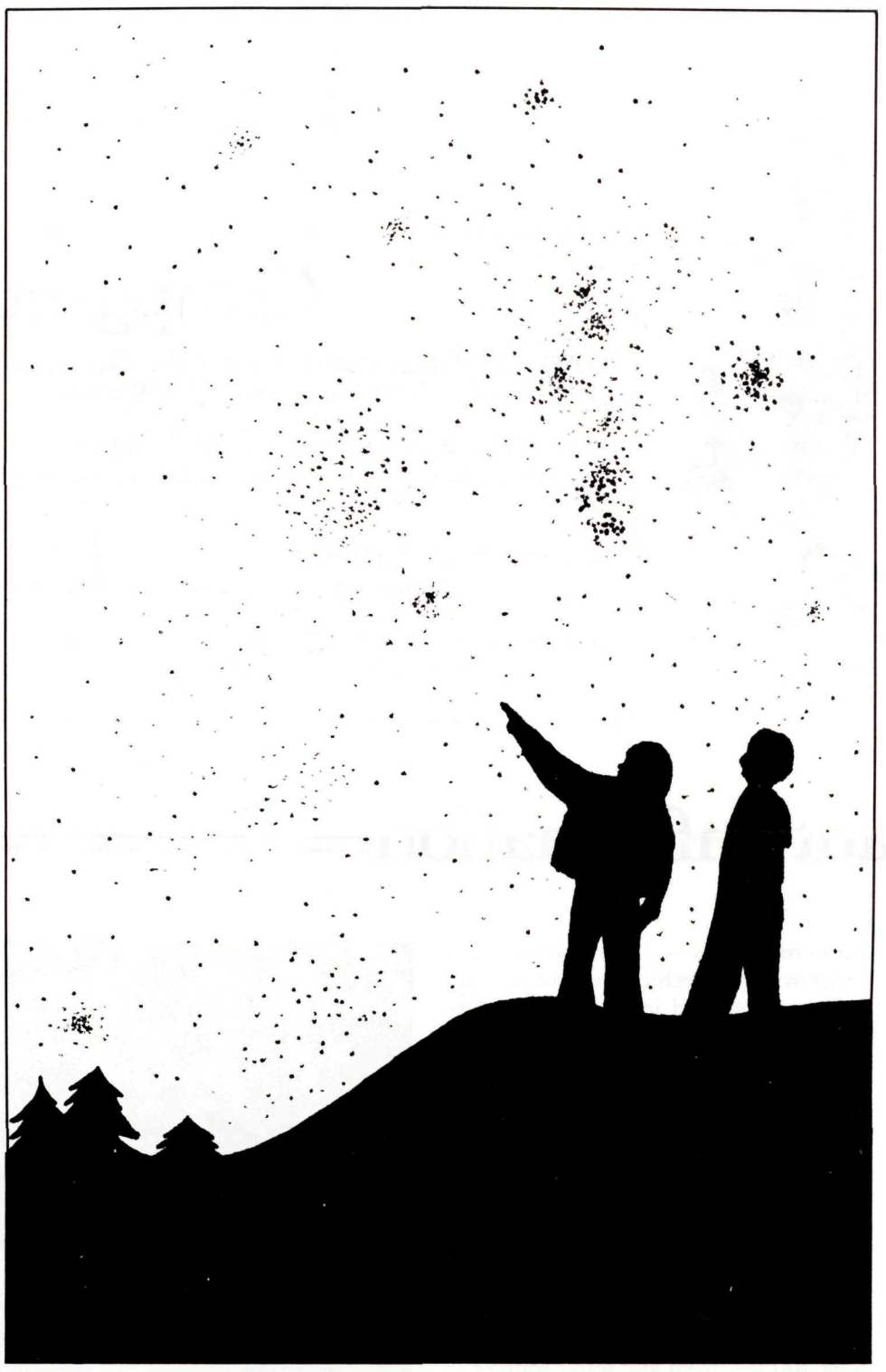
You stand, and turning away from the fire's glare, you see stretching across the vault of the night sky, the luminous glow of our galaxy, the Milky Way. In every direction the sky is ablaze with stars of various brightness and subtle colored hues. Another marvel of Great Basin National Park has revealed itself.

The area encompassing the park, as well as a great percentage of the Great Basin proper, is a stargazers delight. With a combination of unusually clear skies, cool dry air, minimal air turbulence, and freedom from man-made light pollution, all these positive factors can result only in a paradise for both the casual night-sky observer as well as the serious astronomer.

In 1984, the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Tucson, Arizona, conducted a study which determined that of fifty-six mountain peaks located throughout five western states, Wheeler Peak offered the best site for viewing the night sky.

Throughout the summer season Great Basin National Park offers evening campfire programs pertaining to the enjoyment and understanding of our starry sky. Free of the negative effects of auto, manufacturing, and light pollution, we only have to lift our eyes to the celestial world overhead to be, once again, as children: full of wonder.

Some helpful hints to better enjoy the night sky:



A Planisphere . . . Your roadmap to the stars. A wonderfully simply device; the planisphere allows the aspiring stargazer to "dial in" the sky as it appears on any given date and hour of the night. Names of constellations, stars, and the approximate location of the planets are at your fingertips. Planispheres, as well as books on astronomy, are available in the visitor center and Lehman Caves Cafe/Gift shop.

Celestial suggestions:

Our eyes are wonderful windows to the pleasures of stargazing. Binoculars greatly enlarge this window, while various apertures of telescopes can lead to discovering the deepest regions of space.

The moon, viewed through binoculars, is always exciting. Study the terminator region on the moon, where day and night merge. This is best seen during the moon's waxing or waning phases. The terminator region is where shadows create the greatest contrast between craters and mountain ranges.

Summer evenings are best for exploring the Milky Way. As we look toward the plane of our galaxy, we begin to detect families of stars, known as galactic clusters. Star colors are also observed. These result from the various temperatures of the stars. The hottest stars being blue and white; the cooler stars yellow and orange-red.

The swift ones:

Only your eyes are necessary during the late evening and early morning hours of August tenth through the fourteenth. This is the time for the Perseid Meteor Shower. Remnants of a comet, the Perseids are among the finest of meteor displays. A clear, moonless night may produce as many as one hundred sightings per hour by you and friends as this swift visitor streaks through our atmosphere.

Saturn:

Spending this summer in the Sagittarius constellation, Saturn is the showpiece of the solar system to several skygazers. A telescope of even modest size will reveal its beautiful ring system.

Enjoy the wonders of Great Basin National Park. The sky's the limit.

Weather Warnings

A wide range of weather conditions may be experienced during your visit to Great Basin National Park. Temperatures of 90 degrees Fahrenheit or more are common during the summer months at lower elevations. Cooler temperatures are common at higher elevations and snowstorms are possible in the mountains any month of the year.

Mountain Sickness is a condition brought on by ascending to high elevations too rapidly. *Difficulty in breathing, nausea, headache, and lethargy* are symptoms of a person experiencing mountain sickness. This condition is caused by a lack of oxygen at higher elevations. A victim with mountain sickness could be in serious danger and the proper remedy is to descend to lower elevations immediately. Persons with heart conditions should avoid strenuous activity at higher elevations.

Hypothermia is always a potential danger. It is a condition in which a person's entire body temperature is lowered. It can be avoided by wearing appropriate clothing and being prepared for sudden changes in the weather.

Avalanches are common at the higher elevations of the Snake Range during the winter and spring months. Many ski trails cross avalanche paths and runouts. Skiers should be alert for avalanche hazards, carry proper equipment, and check with park rangers about current avalanche conditions. Winter mountaineers are urged to register at park headquarters.

Livestock in the Great Basin

by Dr. Ray Jaindl

As early as 1847, pioneers recognized the potential opportunities for livestock production in the Great Basin. The diverse topography found here provides a unique situation. The desert valleys receive relatively little snow allowing the grasses and shrubs to be used as forage to feed sheep and cattle during the winter. In the spring and early summer when the desert becomes hot and dry, the livestock can follow the retreating snows into the mountains where the forage is lush and nutritious, the temperatures are cooler, and water is available.

Our forefathers' philosophy that our natural resources were unlimited resulted in excessive use of the natural resources found throughout the United States; this included the rangeland resource in the Great Basin province. By the early 1900's the effects of excessive use were observed through a decrease in native plants, an increase in weeds, and an increase in erosion of the soil from overgrazed lands. In response to these changes, livestock numbers decreased as landowners attempted to match grazing to the forage the land could naturally produce without ill effects.

The number of livestock which the land can support has continued to decline, though cattle and sheep stocking rates are decreasing. This is a result of events which occurred during the initial settlement of the Great Basin. Excessive use of forage, fire control, and the introduction of weeds initiated major vegetation changes. This includes an expansion of the range of pinyon and juniper trees that historically were limited to a smaller area. These trees compete with native grasses and flowers which used to occupy those areas. The resulting change in vegetation has led to a loss of forage for wildlife and livestock, and an increase in soil erosion.

Congress created Great Basin National Park to preserve a part of the Great Basin ecosystem for the benefit and inspiration of the people. Congress also mandated that livestock grazing be allowed to continue in Great Basin National Park.

When visiting the park this summer, you may encounter a cow and a calf grazing in a meadow, or a band of sheep herded by a Basque shepherd. These animals continue to follow the pattern of desert winter and mountain summer grazing that was established by the early pioneers of the Great Basin. The sheep and cows you encounter generally belong to local ranches which were established in the late 1800's. The forage on Great Basin National Park provides an important part of the livestock food source integral to these local family ranches.

Great Basin National Park has initiated a program of resource management which is taking into consideration the historical influences as well as the influences of today — influences such as fire suppression, visitor impacts, and livestock grazing. This program includes a study of grazing and the range resource. It will lead to a management strategy which will insure survival of that part of the Great Basin ecosystem found in Great Basin National Park.

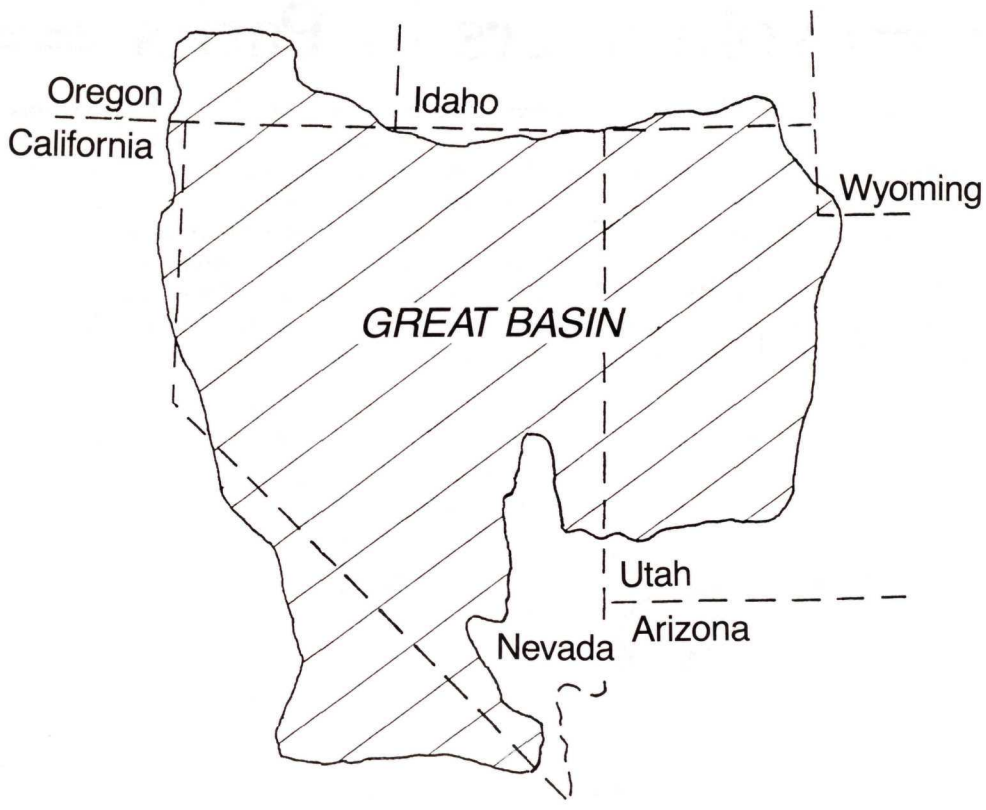
What is the Great Basin

"Surrounded by lofty mountains, contents almost unknown, but believed to be filled with rivers and lakes which have no communication with the sea, deserts and oases which have never been explored . . . but in America such things are new and strange, unknown and unsuspected, and discredited when related."

John C. Fremont

Ever since Europeans arrived in the New World, expeditions searched for a passage to Asia. Stories told of a mythical San Buenaventura River that provided an easy passageway through the mountains of the west to the Pacific Ocean. Adding credence to this tale was the discovery of Great Salt Lake by fur trapper Jim Bridger. The salty lake, explorers reasoned, must be an arm of the ocean.

In the spring of 1827, Jedediah Smith led the first Euro-American party to traverse this American wilderness known as the Great Basin. The explorers headed south through Utah, passing by present day Zion National Park, to reach southern California. After being detained in California by the Mexican authorities, Smith and two of his men crossed the Sierra Nevada and travelled



east across the Great Basin. Smith, describing his route across the Great Basin as "completely barren and destitute of game," was perhaps the first white man to fully understand this internally draining basin. Unfortunately, Smith died in 1831 before he was able to describe and map the Great Basin.

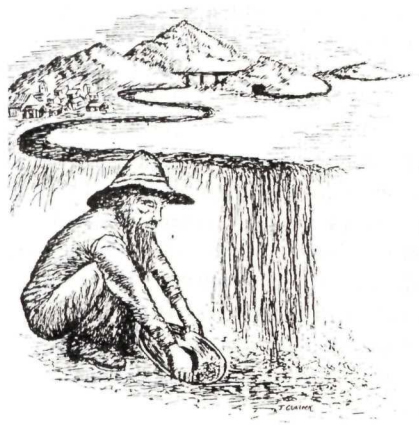
Almost twenty years later, John C. Fremont's expedition of 1843–44 crisscrossed the same area. His report, describing the province as "truly a great basin," was the first document to explain the Great Basin. Since Great Salt Lake was not an arm of the Pacific Ocean, the last hope for a passage to the Pacific Ocean was gone. It was the end of an exciting era of exploration that began with Columbus' discovery of the New World.

We know today that the Great Basin is a vast geographic region that stretches from the Wasatch Mountains of Utah to the Sierra Nevada of California and from the Idaho-Nevada border in the North to the Death Valley and Las Vegas region in the south. Water draining off the more than two hundred mountain ranges in the Great Basin does not flow into the oceans. Instead it drains inland to soak into the ground, evaporate into the atmosphere, or accumulate in landlocked lakes.

To protect and interpret this area, Great Basin National Park was created on October 27, 1986. The park represents the unique geology, flora, fauna, and history of the Great Basin. Modern travelers follow in the early explorers' footsteps as they discover the many secrets in this land of "contents almost unknown."

The Osceola Ditch Story

In 1872, prospectors James Matteson and Frank Heck discovered gold three miles northwest of what is today Great Basin National Park. Over the next six years some 100 claims were staked in the quartz veins of the new Osceola mining district. The production of the lodes, however, was not enough to operate the mines at a profit.



In 1877 placer gold was discovered by John Versan, and mining began to flourish. Within two decades the town of Osceola grew to a population of more than 1500 people and uncovered almost two million dollars worth of gold, including a nugget weighing 24 pounds, worth almost a quarter million dollars at today's prices. Though unimaginable wealth lay buried in the gravel of Dry Gulch, too little water still made large-scale operations impossible.

In 1884–85 the Osceola Gravel Mining Company constructed a 16-mile ditch to carry the water from six creeks on the west side of the Snake Range to their placer operations. It did not meet the company's needs, however, and on September 12, 1885 the *White Pine News* reported that the hydraulic mines were "running very slow at present on account of the scarcity of water — only averaging about two hours per day."

In September 1889 construction began on a second, 18-mile ditch to collect water from Lehman Creek and its tributaries on the east side of the mountain range. Water rights were purchased from Absalom Lehman, who had recently discovered Lehman Caves. Several hundred men using hand tools, wagons, horses and mules labored ten months to complete the ditch. Local sawmills produced lumber for 2.2 miles (3.5 kilometers) of wooden flumes, and the support beams for a tunnel 633 feet (193 meters) long blasted through a ridge near Strawberry Creek.

The Osceola Ditch was completed on July 4, 1890 at a cost of $108,223, an expensive gamble in a business where profitable yields were not guaranteed. Indeed, gold production did not meet expectations. The gross yield of the Osceola Gravel Mining Company in 1890 was only $16,191, and in 1892 only $20,223. Beginning in 1892 placer mining was further hampered by water shortages caused by mild, dry winters. Water theft, leaky wooden flumes, and legal battles over water rights reduced the water supply even more. In 1901 the Ditch was abandoned, and by 1905 mining activity at Osceola came to a virtual standstill.

Mining has continued sporadically at Osceola over the past several decades. Production was renewed from 1936 to 1942, and again following World War II. Even today, numerous claims remain at the site, many of them re-working the tailings left by prior mining efforts. All told, Osceola has produced almost $3½ million worth of gold.

Portions of the Osceola Ditch remain today, and may be seen at many places in the Park. Stop at the wayside exhibit halfway up the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, and walk the ⅓ mile trail to a surviving remnant of the Ditch. Imagine the busy work camp once located in the clearing at the end of the trail, as the ditch was built.

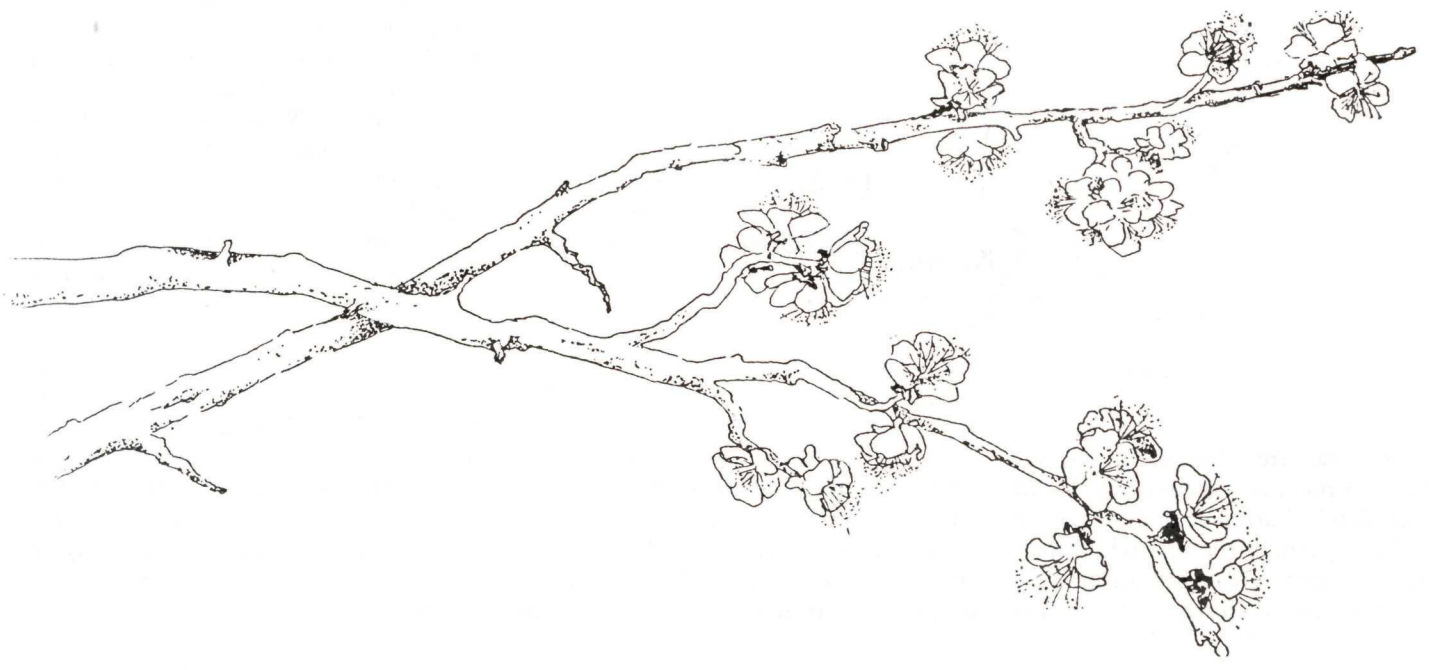
Watch for the portions of the ditch winding along the hillsides on your way up the Scenic Drive. If you're especially adventuresome, drive up the Strawberry Creek road for another close-up look. Inquire at the visitor center about road conditions.

If your visit falls near the 4th of July, take advantage of special programs offered by the Park Service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Osceola Ditch's completion. Though only portions of the Ditch remain, it stands as a monument to the transient yet important role mining played in the history of the Great Basin.

Volunteers in Parks

In 1970 the National Park Service enacted the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program. There are 101 different ways in which volunteers are used within the NPS, here at Great Basin National Park they primarily work as Campground Hosts. However, we have had volunteers assist with mapping, photography, range management and archeology.

The Campground Host is a volunteer with a particular interest in meeting and assisting park visitors. They are self-sufficient and can contribute 40 hours of their time to the park each week. They are usually retired couples but individuals, couples and families can provide this valuable service. The primary duties are to provide information, distribute maps and brochures, help visitors register and find campsites, provide emergency assistance, and assist the Park staff. Hosts are provided a free campsite, laundry facilities and receive a small reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses. This year we are pleased to have Campgrounds Hosts for the entire summer season.



Gordon and LaRoyce Millward from St. George, Utah are the hosts at Lehman Creek Campground for the summer months. LaRoyce is spending part of the summer working for one of the local restaurants.

George and Frances Kelley from Boynton Beach, Florida are the hosts at Wheeler Peak Campground for the summer. George is an active member of the Boynton Beach Rotary.

Charles and Edwina (Babe) Danzinger from Las Vegas, Nevada are the hosts at Baker Creek Campground. They are splitting the summer months with the Williams'. On their days off, you may find them heading up one of the many trails of the park.

L. W. and Mildred Williams from Kerrville, Texas will be the hosts at Baker Creek Campground for the second half of the summer. They are looking forward to having their son from Boise, Idaho visit and be able to view the Park from his plane.

The Mystery of Bristlecone Pines

Windswept, twisted — the ancient bristlecone pines cling stubbornly to life. At treeline, in an environment of fierce winter storms and wind-driven ice, their scattered ranks include individuals that are among the oldest living things known.

We do not know why the Great Basin bristlecone pine (Pinus longaeva) lives so long. By studying the treeline habitat of the oldest bristlecones we are able to offer two possible explanations.

Bristlecone pines are typically high-elevation trees. The ancient ones are found at elevations of 9,500 to 11,000 feet. The species is not confined there, however. Some grow considerably lower in environments of relatively abundant soil and moisture. These trees live in a less stressful environment. The growing season is longer and water is not a limiting factor. Strangely enough the trees that have a relatively easy life live only three to four hundred years. Growth rings are more widely spaced and the wood is less resinous and dense than the treeline specimens.

In contrast, higher elevation forms of the bristlecone pine live for thousands of years in an environment where the growing season is barely long enough — only three months or less of temperatures warm enough for the growth of new foliage. Available water is limited, as moisture is frozen for three-quarters of the year and there is little soil to absorb and hold water. The growth rings are incredibly fine, the wood extremely dense, tough, and resinous.

It is thought that the dense, resinous wood is resistant to attack by weather and disease. The trees do not succumb as readily to the forces of destruction as the lower-elevation forms and so they persist for thousands of years.

It is also possible that the ancient bristlecones live for thousands of years because of their adaptability to changing conditions. In dry years the living tissue dies back to an amount that can be supported by the available moisture. In this way, the bristlecone pines survive the driest years and continue to cling to life for thousands of years.

Whatever the reason for the exceptional life span of these bristlecone pines, their persistence in the face of adversity make them one of the most intriguing features of Great Basin National Park. The most accessible stand is located in the Wheeler Peak cirque. To reach this grove, drive to the end of the twelve mile Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Park in the hiker's parking lot. The trailhead is located at the entrance to the Wheeler Peak Campground. Take the trail to the left, about three and a half miles round trip.

Visit the ancient trees on your own or, join a ranger on a guided walk. Daily ranger led hikes to the bristlecone grove are offered in the summer, from approximately mid-June (when the trail becomes snow-free) to mid September. The Bristlecone Pine Hike meets at 1:30 P.M., at the trailhead located at the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive.

Backcountry Ethics

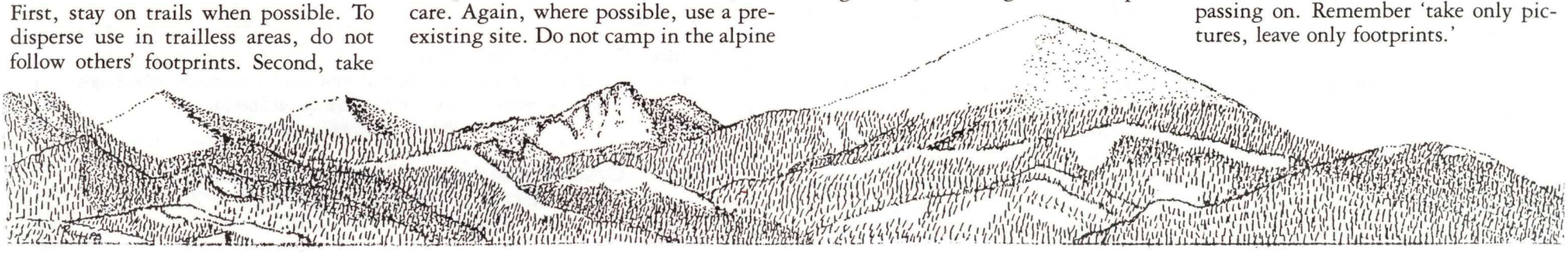
Great Basin National Park offers a wide range of exciting backpacking trips. Spectacular peaks and picturesque alpine lakes and meadows await the backcountry traveler. In addition, many trails are sparsely used offering solitude for those who desire. To preserve these fine opportunities all backcountry campers must follow certain guidelines for low impact camping.

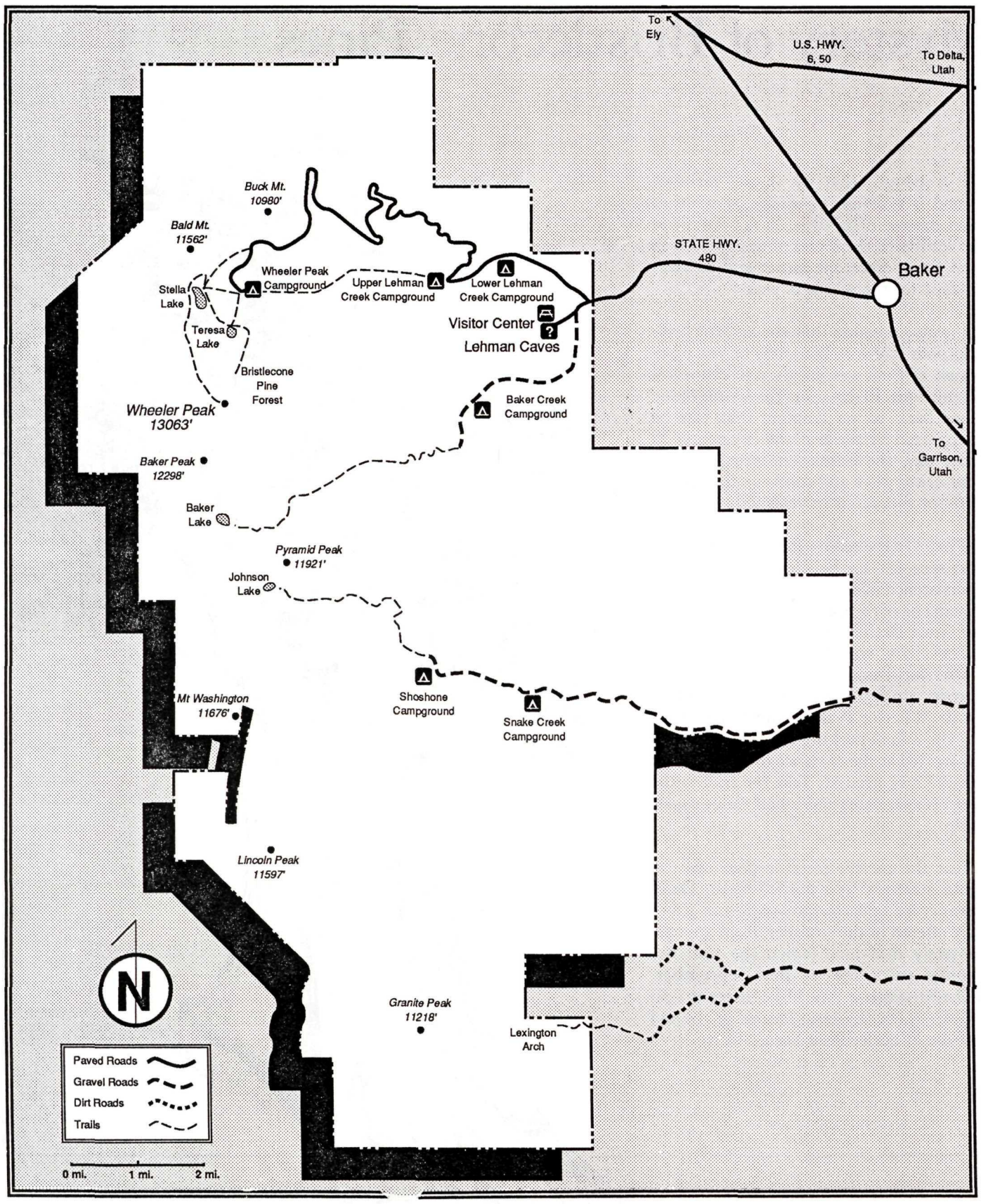
First, stay on trails when possible. To disperse use in trailless areas, do not follow others' footprints. Second, take extra care with fire. Do not build a fire above 10,000 feet elevation. Collect only dead and downed wood and do not collect bristlecone pine wood under any circumstances. When possible use existing fire rings and do not leave any fire unattended. The park urges the use of backpack stoves instead of fires for backcountry cooking.

Campsites should be selected with great care. Again, where possible, use a preexisting site. Do not camp in the alpine zone above treeline or in a bristlecone pine forest. Campsites should be at least 100 feet from any stream, lake or spring. Human waste should be buries safely away from water sources. Trash must be packed out.

Horses, llamas, and mules are allowed in the backcountry. Manure piles should be scattered and animals tied to pickets or nightlines, not to vegetation. No pets or bicycles are permitted in the backcountry.

These guidelines are established in order to protect the resources within the park from caused impacts. Low impact camping will provide future generations the chance to experience the thrill of the backcountry which we can enjoy today. Anyone who takes a backcountry trip will agree it is an experience worth passing on. Remember 'take only pictures, leave only footprints.'





Visitor Services

THE BORDER INN
Restaurant, bar, slots, gifts, gasoline, diesel, motel, showers. Open 24 hrs. Utah-Nev. stateline on Hwy. 6 & 50 (702) 234-7300.

GREAT BASIN GIFTS
A shop full of handmade gifts by local artists. 104 Eureka Street, Baker, NV 89311. (702) 234-PARK "7275."

INDIAN ARTIFACT REPRODUCTIONS
Contact Brian at the Round House. 234-7217.

LEHMAN CAVES GIFTS & CAFE
Cafe, gifts. Park Headquarters. (702) 234-7221.

METALLIC ARTS
Wood carving and metal sculpture. Rick Jordan. Downtown Baker. (702) 234-7240.

THE OUTLAW
Restaurant, bar, slots, gifts. Downtown Baker. (702) 234-7302.

SILVER JACK MOTEL AND GIFT SHOP
Motel and gift shop. Downtown Baker. (702) 234-7323.

STEADMAN'S BAKER SERVICE
Camping, supplies, groceries, gasoline, beer/wine, ice, monor auto repairs, and auto parts. Downtown Baker. (702) 234-7264.

THE WOOD WIZARD
Western-style chain saw art and sculpture by Altheus, also known as Patrick Garrett. Located on Cave Road. Come in for demo. 234-7373.

THE "Y" TRUCK STOP
Restaurant, bar, slots, gifts, gasoline, diesel, trailer hookups, new laundry facilities. Jnct. U.S. 6 & 50 and Nev. Hwy. 487. (702) 234-7223.

SERVICES IN ELY, NV.
Call (702) 289-8877.

This newspaper was produced by the staff of Great Basin National Park, and paid for by the Great Basin Natural History Association.

Great Basin Natural History Association

Great Basin Natural History Association is a non-profit organization, working in conjunction with Great Basin National Park to help make quality interpretation available to all park visitors.

The Association offers a variety of services. Most important is the operation of an educational bookstore stocking books, videos, maps, and other materials to enhance and enrich the visitor's experience and to provide "take home" literature for future reference. Income generated by the bookstore underwrites specific interpretive programs not funded by the U.S. government.

In 1989, funds were used to publish a highly illustrated booklet, *Trails to Explore in Great Basin National Park,* which describes the flora, fauna, and hiking conditions of the Park's most popular trails. You may have already used one of the multi-colored site bulletins printed by the Association and available free at the information desk in the Visitor Center. The newspaper you are currently reading is another visitor benefit.

This season's receipts from the bookstore will be used to further scientific and historic research, publish a children's park book, provide periodicals for the reference library, and sponsor guest speakers.

You can help by purchasing materials at the Visitor Center Bookstore and making contributions. Memberships are available to those who are supportive of the goal of the Great Basin Natural History Association to further the educational and scientific mission of the Park. Members receive a 15% discount at the bookstore and at many other national park cooperating association outlets across the country.

GREAT BASIN NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Membership Application

Name:_____
Address:_____
City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____
Telephone:_____
Occupation:_____
Membership Expiration Date:_____
(Memberships are annual, expiring on December 31 of the year the membership was obtained.)

You may become a member at the Visitor Center Bookstore or by sending $5.00 to the following address:

Great Basin Natural History Association
Great Basin National Park
Baker, Nevada 89311