

# Bristlecone

Great Basin National Park Newsletter  
Summer 2000 - Spring 2001

## Welcome to Great Basin National Park!

No matter where you began your trip, you've already been in the Great Basin--so named because its rivers do not flow to any ocean. Great Basin National Park was created in 1986 to protect a small but treasured piece of this region stretching from eastern California across Nevada to the Wasatch Range in Utah.

This is a place to discover. For beyond the mask of endless sagebrush carpets and mountain ranges lies the true life of the Great Basin, an amazing diversity of plants, animals, and people adapted to desert conditions and the mountain "islands" that alternate with valleys. Within the park, every few thousand feet of elevation gain yields new vistas and varied ecological communities. Temperatures cool and water appears in aspen-lined mountain streams, sudden springs, and Nevada's only glacier.

This is a place to sense the universe of time and nature. Walk by millions of years of geologic development in Lehman Caves. Respect the survival skills of a 4,000-year-old living bristlecone pine tree or a tiny hummingbird who flies north from southern Mexico to nest here each spring. Look for packrat nests or "middens" in cliff cracks; some have been continuously used for forty thousand years. Look up at the night sky and consider our small solar system among the myriad brilliant stars visible in clear air. Stop in Baker and ask the local people about their history and what they call this "remote and vast region of extraordinary beauty and solitude."

This is your national park. It is our job as your employees to provide for your enjoyment and to preserve these natural and cultural resources for your children's children and beyond. Read inside about the programs we offer you and our resource preservation projects. Whatever your activities here, have a wonderful time in this magical place.

*Becky Mills*

Becky Mills  
Superintendent

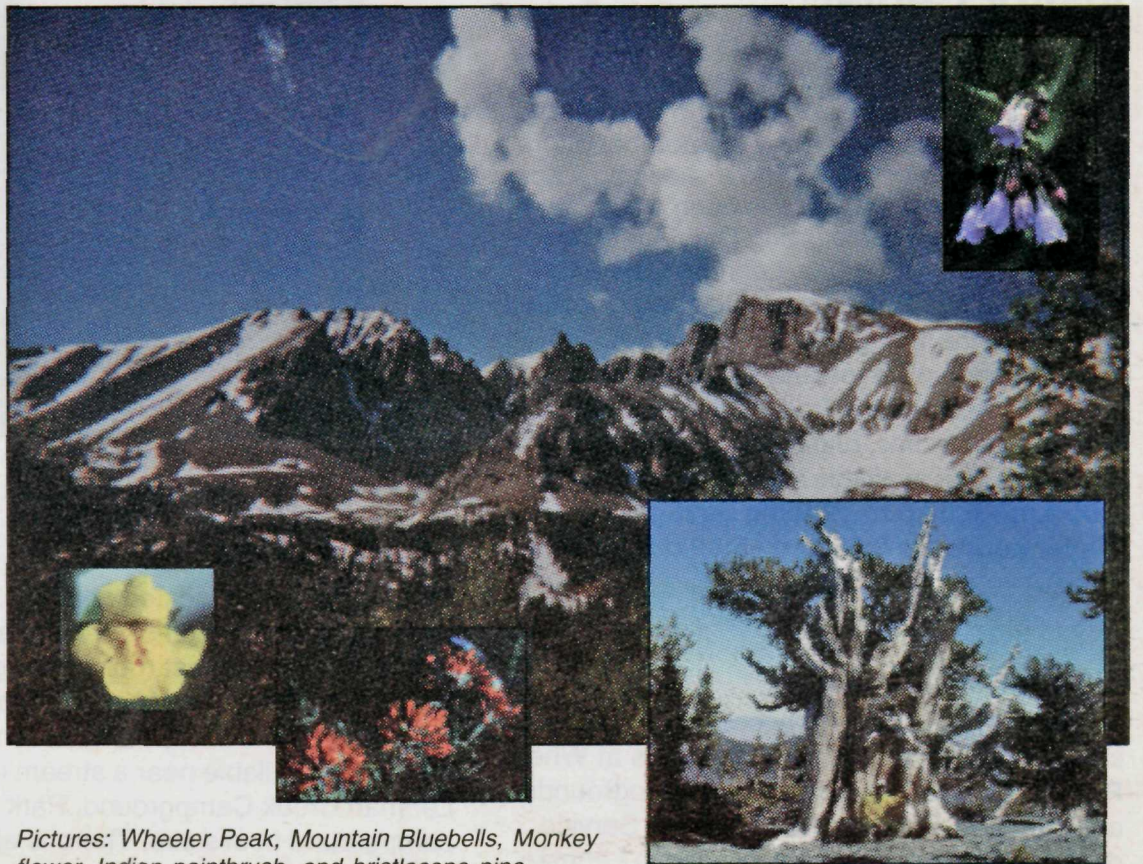
### In case of emergency, dial 911.

A public phone is located in front of the Visitor Center.

Great Basin National Park (775) 234-7331  
Baker, NV 89311 (general information)  
www.nps.gov/grba (775) 234-7331 ext. 242  
(summer cave ticket sales)

This document can be available in alternate formats. Please contact the visitor center in advance to make a request. Alternate formats include braille, large print, and audio cassette.

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Pictures: Wheeler Peak, Mountain Bluebells, Monkey flower, Indian paintbrush, and bristlecone pine.

## What is the Great Basin?

The Great Basin can be defined in three different ways: hydrologically, geologically, and biologically. The boundaries defined by these various definitions are not identical, but all encompass a vast region of the West. The hydrographic definition is most commonly used.

### Hydrographic Great Basin

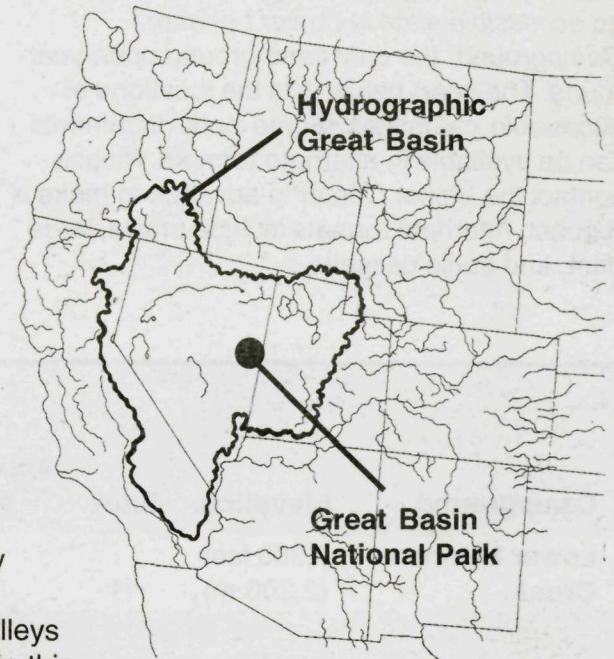
The Great Basin is an approximately 200,000 square mile area that drains internally. No creeks, streams, or rivers find an outlet to either the Gulf of Mexico or the Pacific Ocean. The term "Great Basin" is slightly misleading because the region is actually made up of about 200 small basins, many with steep mountains between them.

### Basin and Range

The Basin and Range region is recognized by its unusual topography of mostly north-south trending tilted mountain ranges separated by flat valleys (or basins.) The crust has stretched in this region an average of 20-50%, which created this distinctive landform.

### Great Basin Desert

The Great Basin Desert is defined by plant and animal communities. The climate of the Great Basin is affected by the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains. It is a temperate desert with snowy winters and hot, dry summers. The valleys are dominated by sagebrush and shadscale. The biologic communities on the mountain ranges differ with elevation, and the ranges act as islands isolated by seas of desert vegetation in the lower, drier valleys.



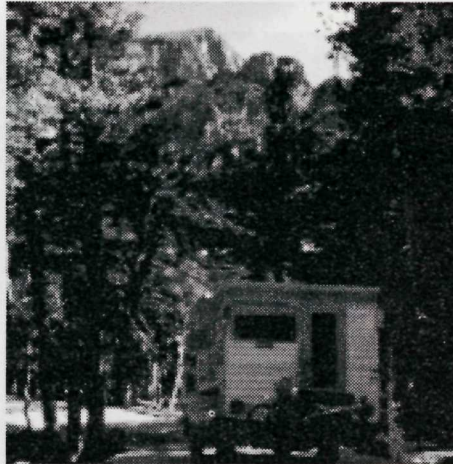
# Park Facilities

## Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is located at the end of the main park entrance road (NV Hwy 488). The Visitor Center contains exhibits, the Great Basin Association bookstore, and a theater that offers a film about Lehman Caves and a slide show about the park. The Visitor Center is open every day of the year except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Lehman Caves Gift and Café (open April through October) is located adjacent to the Visitor Center. Ranger-guided tours of Lehman Caves and the self-guided Mountain View Nature Trail begin at the Visitor Center. Rest rooms, drinking water, and a pay phone are also available. **Summer hours are 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time). Winter hours are 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time).**

## Accessibility

The Visitor Center is fully accessible to mobility impaired persons. Campfire programs at Wheeler Peak and Upper Lehman Creek Campgrounds are reached by accessible dirt paths. Service dogs (seeing eye dogs) are allowed in Lehman Caves. Due to the nature of Lehman Caves, only the first room in the cave, the Gothic Palace, is accessible to people with wheelchairs or walkers. First room tours are offered daily. Please see pages 4 and 5 for times and prices. Four campsites are accessible. These sites have special picnic tables, cement pads, and paved pathways leading to nearby rest rooms. *There are no accessible sites in Lower Lehman Campground, the only campground open year-round.* The chart below lists the locations of accessible campsites. Some park documents can be available in alternate formats. Please contact the Visitor Center in advance to make a request. Alternate formats include braille, large print, and audio cassette.



Wheeler Peak Campground

## Picnic Areas

The picnic area is located near the Visitor Center parking lot. This area has several accessible tables, accessible rest rooms, fire grills, and water. The picnic area is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. *all seasons except after recent snow.* Picnic tables are available near a stream in the Upper Lehman Creek Campground. Park near the campground host's site. There is also a group picnic area available by reservation in the Upper Lehman Campground.

## Dump Station

The dump station and trash receptacles are located approximately one half mile inside the park on the entrance road (NV Hwy 488). Potable water is available. *The facility is only open in the summer season.* The dump station fee is \$2.

## Group Campground

The Grey Cliffs Campground is open to groups only. The campground has pit toilets and no potable water. Fees apply. Call the park at (775) 234-7331 x207 for reservations.

## Campgrounds

Great Basin National Park has four developed campgrounds. These campgrounds have vault toilets, picnic tables, tent pads, and campfire grills. There are very few campsites that can accommodate long trailers or motor homes. There are no hookups or leveled parking sites. *Only the Lower Lehman Creek Campground remains open all seasons.* Water is only available in the summer season at the campgrounds, but can be obtained year-round from the Visitor Center rest rooms, water fountain, or spigot (located at the north end of the building).

### Nightly fees:

Per site (regular fee)	<b>\$7.00</b>
With Golden Age card	<b>\$3.50</b>
With Golden Access card	<b>\$3.50</b>

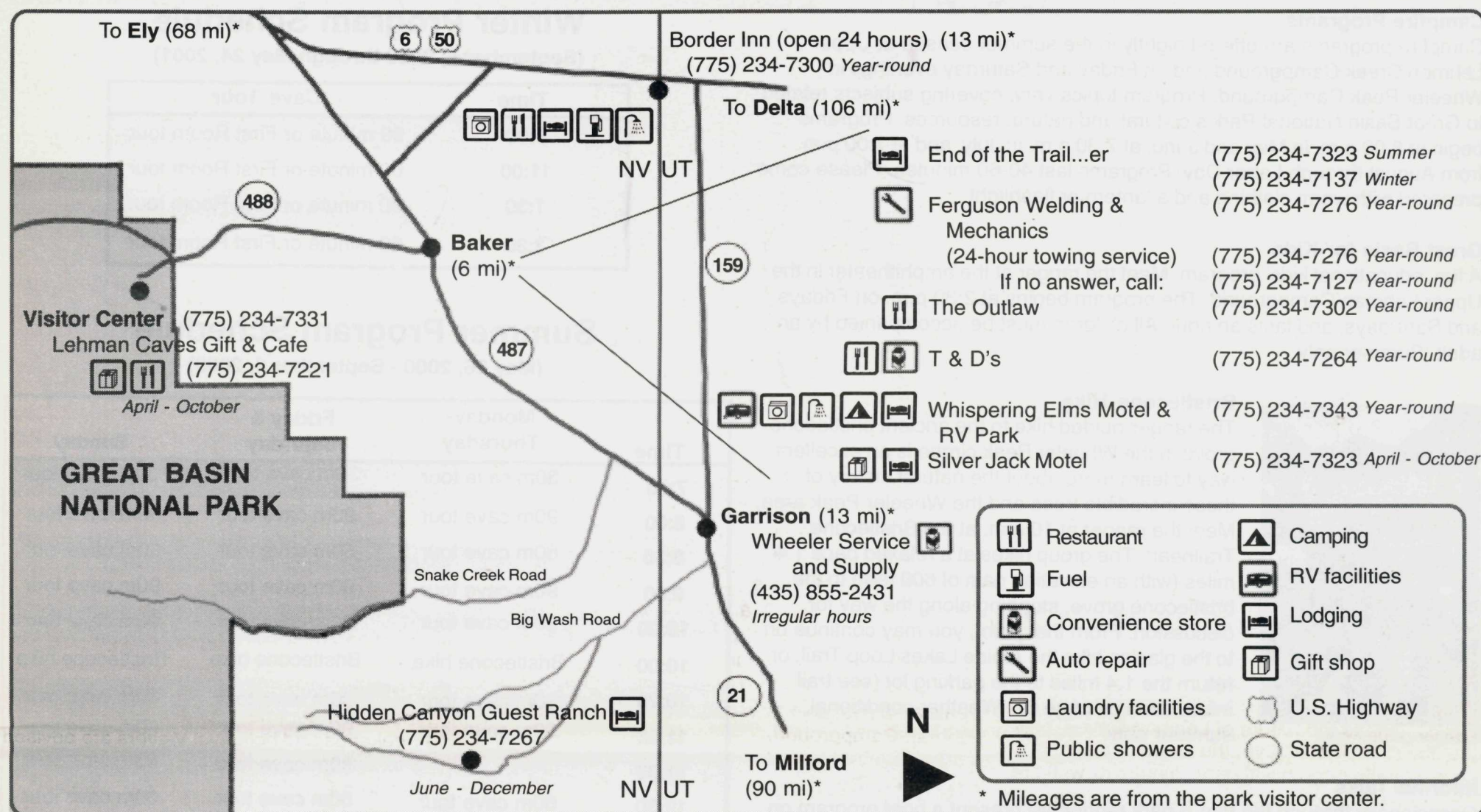
All campsites are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. No advance reservations can be made. Campsites may not be "saved" or reserved for members of a party arriving later. No more than two vehicles and eight people are allowed per campsite. The developed campgrounds fill often during the busier summer months, especially during weekends and holidays. Visitors are advised to find a campsite as early in the day as possible. Please be sure to store all food-related items in your vehicle so they will not become a temptation to skunks, rodents, deer, or other animals.

Free primitive camping facilities also exist along Snake Creek and Strawberry Creek roads. All sites have fire grates. Snake Creek sites have picnic tables; some also have pit toilets. If the developed campgrounds are full, camping is usually available at the park's primitive sites, on neighboring U. S. Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land (page 6), or in nearby privately owned campgrounds (page 3).

Campground	Elevation	Sites	Accessible sites	Pull-through sites	Usually open*	Evening Program	Distance from Visitor Center	Comments
Lower Lehman Creek	7,300 feet (2,200 m)	11	0	6	Open year-round.	No	2 1/2 miles (4 km)	Nearest campground host is at Upper Lehman Creek.
Upper Lehman Creek	7,752 feet (2,362 m)	24	1	0	May through October.	Nightly in summer.	3 miles (5 km)	Group picnic area available by reservation.
Baker Creek	7,530 feet (2,295 m)	32	2	6	May through October.	No	3 miles (5 km)	Access is via a graded gravel road.
Wheeler Peak	9,886 feet (3,013m)	37	1	0	Early June through September.	Fridays and Saturdays in summer.	12 miles (19 km)	Access is from the narrow, curvy Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Vehicles over 24 feet long not recommended.

\* Specific campground opening and closing dates are determined by weather.

# Area Services



## Contributing Local Businesses

The Great Basin Natural History Association would like to thank the following businesses for their help in producing this year's *Bristlecone*.

### Lehman Caves Gift & Cafe

Famous for their homemade ice cream sandwiches, located **NEXT TO THE VISITOR CENTER** at Lehman Caves. The cafe serves old-fashioned ice cream, a light breakfast, soup and sandwich lunches, hot drinks, soda fountain soft drinks, and homebaked desserts. The gift shop has Great Basin and Lehman Caves souvenirs, children's and adult t-shirts, books, toys, Native American jewelry, Great Basin pottery and travel needs. Open April 1st through late October. (775) 234-7221

### Steptoe Valley Inn

Picture perfect Bed & Breakfast Inn in Ely, NV near railroad museum. Elegantly converted 1907 building with lots of TLC, 5 rooms, private baths, private balconies, full breakfast, rose garden, gazebo, outside smoking. Open March through December. 220 E. 11th St., Ely, NV 89315. (775) 289-8687. [www.nevadaweb.com/steptoe](http://www.nevadaweb.com/steptoe)

### T & D's Country Store, Restaurant and Lounge

Located in downtown Baker, 5 miles from Great Basin National Park entrance. Groceries, packaged liquor, ice (crushed & block), propane, NV fishing licenses, lunch & dinner (dine-in or take out). Full service bar with pool table & large screen TV.

### Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch

Horseback riding, ATV tours, paintball games, recreation area, guided hiking, camping, lodging in tepees or cabins, hot showers, free laundry with lodging, seasonal activities, relaxing environment. 15 miles from Baker, located in the mountains at the eastern edge of Great Basin National Park with easy access to Big Wash Trail. Available June-December. Reservations required. Robin Crouch, P.O. Box 180, Baker, NV 89311. Call (775) 234-7267 or inquire at the Silver Jack Motel.

### End of the Trail...er

Been on the trail all day? Need a place to unsaddle your bronc, take off your boots and hang up your hat? How about your own private bunkhouse with 1 queen bed, 2 doubles and a single. Clean & quiet. Trail dust on your duds? Toss them in the washing machine. Then sit on the deck and watch the sun go down. Kitchen is complete with pots, dishes and modern appliances. TV and phone. Sorry no pets or smoking. For reservations ask for "The End of the Trail...er" at (775) 234-7323 (summer) or (775) 234-7137 (winter).

### Silver Jack Motel and Gift Shop

Clean, quiet, comfortable rooms. Unique gift shop featuring many one-of-a-kind gifts and art from local crafts people and artists. Original Great Basin design t-shirts, campfire wood available. Open April through October. (775) 234-7323

### The Border Inn

24 hour service. Motel, restaurant, bar, slots, pool table, video games, showers, gas, diesel, phone, laundry and souvenirs. Free dry camp. Located on the Utah-Nevada state line on Highway 6 & 50. Thirteen miles from the park. (775) 234-7300

### Whispering Elms RV Park

Clean motel with showers and laundry facilities. RV hookups, tent camping, BBQ grills, trees and grass. Open year round. Located in Baker behind the Running Iron Bar. (775) 234-7343

### Running Iron Bar

Full service bar with a friendly atmosphere. Packaged liquor, pool table, mini arcade, cable TV. Open year round. Located on the north end of downtown Baker. (775) 234-7220

# Ranger Programs

## Campfire Programs

Campfire programs are offered nightly in the summer season at Upper Lehman Creek Campground and on Friday and Saturday evenings in Wheeler Peak Campground. Program topics vary, covering subjects related to Great Basin National Park's cultural and natural resources. Programs begin at 8:00 p.m. in May and June, at 7:30 p.m. in July, and at 7:00 p.m. from August through Labor Day. Programs last 40-60 minutes. Please come prepared with warm clothing and a lantern or flashlight.

## Great Basin for Kids

A fun, educational kids' program. Meet the ranger at the amphitheater in the Upper Lehman Campground. The program begins at 2:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and lasts an hour. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Summer only.



NPS Photo  
Ranger-guided hike

## Bristlecone Hike

The ranger-guided hike to the ancient bristlecone grove in the Wheeler Peak cirque is an excellent way to learn more about the natural history of these incredible trees and the Wheeler Peak area. Meet the ranger at 10 a.m. at the Bristlecone Trailhead. The group hikes at a relaxed pace 1.4 miles (with an elevation gain of 600 feet) to the bristlecone grove, stopping along the way for discussion. From that point, you may continue on to the glacier, hike the Alpine Lakes Loop Trail, or return the 1.4 miles to the parking lot (see trail information on page 6). Weather conditional, summer only.

## Informal Talks

Occasionally through the day, a park ranger will present a brief program on the back patio behind the Visitor Center. Topics and times vary. Also, rangers at the Visitor Center will be happy to answer any questions about the area's history, geology, and other features.

## School Trips

Special cave tours, guided hikes, and talks on a variety of subjects are available (subject to staff availability) for school groups. Fee waivers are possible for most groups. Groups can most easily be accommodated in fall or early spring. Teachers should call the park well in advance of a proposed trip for information and reservations.



## Federal Recreation Passports

**National Parks Pass**.....\$50.00

Valid for one year from the date of purchase. Valid for entrance fees for National Park Service sites only. Not valid at U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management sites or for camping or cave tours. The parks will still honor the Golden Eagle Passport (which also permits free entrance to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management fee areas). The National Parks Pass can be upgraded to a **Golden Eagle** with a stamp for an additional \$15.00.

**Golden Age Passport**.....\$10.00

(Permanent U.S. resident, 62 or older)  
Lifetime passport. Valid for entrance fees and half-price camping. Valid for half-price cave tours for the card holder only.

**Golden Access Passport**.....Free

(Permanent U.S. resident, disabled)  
Lifetime passport. Valid for entrance fees and half-price camping. Valid for half-price cave tours for the card holder only.

## Winter Program Schedule

(September 5, 2000 through May 24, 2001)

Time	Cave Tour
9:00	90 minute or First Room tour
11:00	60 minute or First Room tour
1:30	90 minute or First Room tour
3:30	60 minute or First Room tour

## Summer Program Schedule

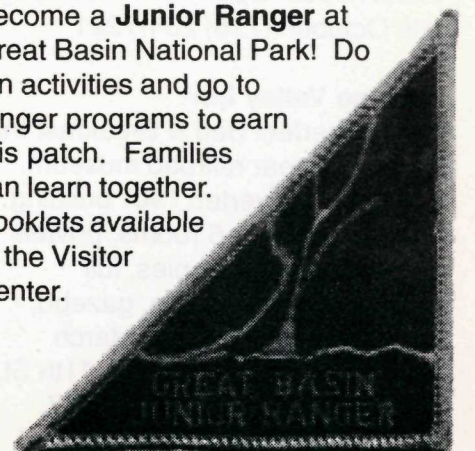
(May 26, 2000 - September 4, 2000)

Time	Monday-Thursday	Friday & Saturday	Sunday
7:20	30m cave tour	30m cave tour	30m cave tour
8:00	90m cave tour	90m cave tour	90m cave tour
8:30	60m cave tour	60m cave tour	60m cave tour
9:00	90m cave tour	90m cave tour	90m cave tour
10:00	90m cave tour	90m cave tour	90m cave tour
10:00	Bristlecone hike	Bristlecone hike	Bristlecone hike
10:20	30m cave tour	30m cave tour	30m cave tour
11:00	90m cave tour	90m cave tour	90m cave tour
11:30		60m cave tour	60m cave tour
12:30	60m cave tour	60m cave tour	60m cave tour
1:30		60m cave tour	60m cave tour
2:00	90m cave tour	90m cave tour	90m cave tour
2:20	30m cave tour	30m cave tour	30m cave tour
2:30		Great Basin for Kids	
3:00	90m cave tour	90m cave tour	90m cave tour
3:20	30m cave tour	30m cave tour	30m cave tour
4:30	60m cave tour	60m cave tour	60m cave tour
<b>Evening</b> (see details above)	Campfire program* Upper Lehman CG	Campfire program* Upper Lehman CG	Campfire program* Upper Lehman CG
<b>Evening</b> (see details above)		Campfire program* Wheeler Peak CG	

\* Campfire programs offered as weather and staffing levels permit.

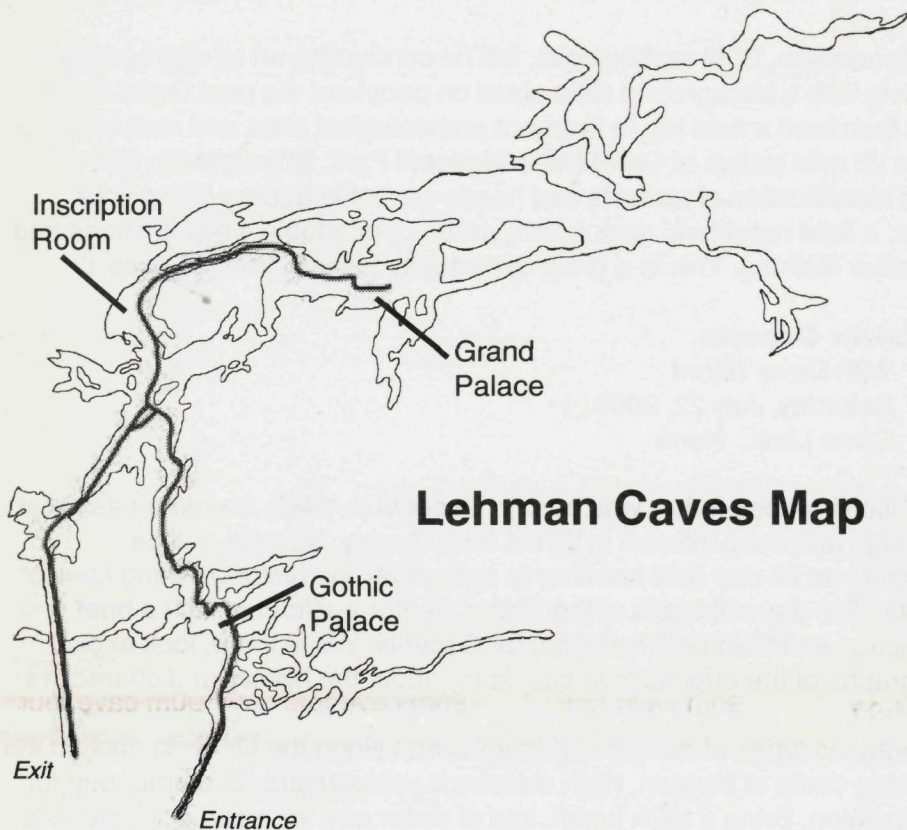
Assisted listening devices are available at the Visitor Center. No microphones are used during any ranger program.

Become a **Junior Ranger** at Great Basin National Park! Do fun activities and go to ranger programs to earn this patch. Families can learn together. Booklets available at the Visitor Center.



## Lehman Caves

Along the tour route in Lehman Caves, visitors will see stalactites, stalagmites and draperies, as well as some rarer cave formations: helictites (calcite formations that curve and seem to defy gravity) and shields (flat plates, pictured at right). All cave tours are guided by a park ranger, who will explain some of the history and geology of the cave.



### Tour Information

Lehman Caves can only be entered with a guided tour. Cave tours are 30, 60, or 90 minutes long. The full tour route is 0.54 miles round-trip. Longer tours go further along the same route than shorter tours. The 60 minute tour turns around in the Inscription Room. The 30 minute tour visits only the Gothic Palace, the first room in the cave. **Children under 5 years of age are not permitted on the 90 minute tour.** The limited attention span of younger children can detract from the enjoyment of other people on the tour. Cave tours are limited to 25 persons. Cave tours often sell out. To ensure space, buy your tickets early in the day, or in advance over the telephone (see below).



	90 Minute Tour	60 Minute Tour	First Room Tour (30 Minutes)
<b>Adult</b> (12 & older)	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
<b>Child</b> (11 & younger)	\$3.00*	\$2.00	Free
<b>Golden Age</b> (card holder only)	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
<b>Golden Access</b> (card holder only)	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00

\* Children under 5 are not allowed on the 90 minute tour.

### Safety Information

- The elevation of the cave entrance is 6,825 feet (2080 m).
- There are steps and slopes along the cave tour route.
- Watch your head. Low ceilings may require frequent ducking.
- Trails may be wet and slippery. Shoes should have good traction. Watch your step and always use handrails where provided.
- Stay with your tour, as the ranger will turn off the lights as the group leaves an area.
- The cave is a constant 50° F (10° C). A light jacket or sweater is recommended.

### Regulations for Cave Protection

- Do not touch or collect anything natural in the cave.
- No food, gum, tobacco products, or beverages (including water) are allowed in the cave. *(Please speak to a ranger if you need an exemption from this for medical reasons.)*
- Narrow passages make it necessary that excess items (such as purses, camera bags, fanny packs, backpacks, strollers, tripods, and walking sticks) not be taken in the cave. These items should be secured in your vehicle.
- Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Stay on the trail.
- Flash photography is allowed; please be considerate of others.

### Advance Ticket Sales (summer only)

Through the Great Basin National Park advance ticket sales, visitors may purchase tickets for tours of Lehman Caves up to one month before the date of the tour. Advance ticket sales are available only for tours during the busy summer season, from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend (May 26, 2000) through Labor Day (Sept. 4, 2000). A maximum of 12 out of the total 25 spaces per tour are available for advance sale.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Visitor Center or by phone at (775) 234-7331, ext. 242. All tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase. MasterCard and Visa are accepted for phone orders. Phone orders are taken from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time. All advance sales are final, so please plan carefully.

People who have purchased advance tickets must pick up their tickets at the Visitor Center desk at least 15 minutes prior to tour time. Spaces for unclaimed tickets will go on sale to walk-in customers. Golden Age and Golden Access cards must be presented to be eligible for a discount. Unclaimed tickets can not be refunded.



Gothic Palace, Lehman Caves NPS Photo

# NHA Summer Activities

The Great Basin Natural History Association\* will be offering several seminars this summer, open to park visitors and surrounding area residents. Through the Nevada Humanities Committee, the Association will be hosting guest speakers and displays, as well as showing various videos on topics ranging from ranch life, to the early Indians of the Great Basin. These programs are designed to deepen appreciation of a land that is anything but the "barren wasteland" that it was described as by early explorers. Seminars are taught by experienced and professional instructors. Some seminar class sizes are limited to ensure a quality experience for participants, so early registration is advised. **All programs are free; however donations will be highly appreciated so that we can continue to provide the public with quality programs.**

All programs are subject to change so please call ahead to confirm the dates and times. If you would like to register for a seminar or need additional information, please contact Cindy Berger, Executive Director, Great Basin Natural History Association, Great Basin National Park, Baker, NV 89311 or call (775) 234-7270. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

## Lecture

### Resource Management at Great Basin National Park:

Find out what cutthroats, aliens, and dark places have in common.

Panel Guests: Don Duff, USFS/Trout Unlimited

Joe Sirotnak, Great Basin National Park ecologist

Abby Wines, Park interpreter/resource management

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Baker Hall, Baker, Nevada

Learn more about some of the resource management issues at the park. Panel experts will discuss the reintroduction of the Bonneville Cutthroat trout, the ongoing battle against nonnative plants, and abandoned mine lands.

## Speakers

Our guest speakers will be giving Chautauqua presentations. In Chautauqua performances, a scholar portrays a historical character. Please call the Great Basin NHA for exact times and locations

### Thaddeus Dunkley, Black Cowboy

Portrayed by James Armstead

Saturday, June 17, 2000

Thaddeus Dunkley's remarkable life sheds light on the everyday life of the cowboy and provides insight into the African-American experience in the West. He escaped during the Civil War and fled to Texas where he became a cowboy. In 1866 he participated in the first cattle drive to the northern ranges in Montana. He became an expert cow puncher and horse wrangler and spent 60 years in ranch life, dying in 1941.

### Brigham Young, the Lion of Zion

Portrayed by Fred Horlacher

Monday, July 24, 2000

Garrison, Utah LDS Church

As a religious and governmental leader, Brigham Young was a monumental figure in the development of the American West. This presentation provides personal insight into Young's goals, organizational skills, moral values, and family relationships. Find out how this religious pioneer was able to overcome poverty and the lack of formal education to become a forceful American leader.

## Seminars

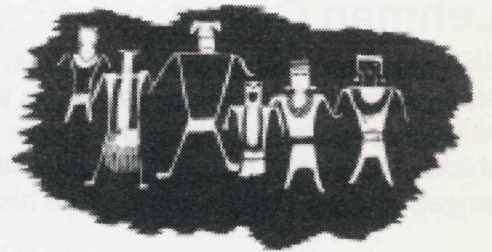
### Archeological Intrigue of the Past

With Mark Henderson,

BLM archeologist

Saturday, July 1, 2000

Class Limit: 20



Mark Henderson, BLM archeologist, will be conducting an all-day seminar beginning with a background slide show on people of the past Great Basin. He will then lead a field trip to Fremont archeological sites and rock art sites within a 25 mile radius of Great Basin National Park. This field trip will include identification of artifacts and hands-on flint knapping. Bring your camera, a field notebook, sack lunch, water, comfortable walking shoes and all-weather clothing. This is a great opportunity to learn from an expert!

### Rediscover Osceola

With Dave Tilford

Saturday, July 22, 2000

Class Limit: None

Dave Tilford, whose father was born in Osceola in 1889, and who has great knowledge and deep interest in White Pine County, Nevada, will be conducting an all-day field seminar to rediscover the historic mining town of Osceola. The day will begin at the Visitor Center auditorium with a brief introduction and then we'll head out for Osceola. While there, look at old photographs of the original townsite, learn about the history and characters who lived there, and visit the cemetery. Visit Dry Gulch where you'll learn about various types of mining and travel south along the Osceola ditch to the old mining camp of Hogum. High clearance vehicles are recommended for this excursion. Bring a sack lunch, lots of water and your cameras. Be able to answer the following question during the seminar and win a gift certificate to the Great Basin Natural History Association bookstore: Who found the largest gold nugget in Osceola and how big was it?

### Shoshone Indian Artifacts

With Laura Rainey

Saturday, August 5, 2000

Class Limit: None

Don't miss this unique opportunity to view ancient weaponry, an authentic grinding stone, arrow head collection, pottery and basketry. Western Shoshone Laura Rainey, who is opening the Great Basin Native American Cultural Museum in Ely, Nevada, will be on hand to conduct an all day seminar. She will explain the process of braintanning, primitive pottery making and ancient weaponry. She will also give instruction on beadworking and the making of dream catchers. Please join her for a rare glimpse of Shoshone culture.

### Astronomy in the Best Dark Skies

With Steven Overholt

Sunday, September 24, 2000

Class Limit: None

Satellite images of North America, taken at night, reveal that the Great Basin area in eastern Nevada is one of America's best remaining dark skies, perfect for recreational astronomy. Please join Steven Overholt, and other members of the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers, for an evening of awe-inspiring beauty. We'll start with a slide show presentation in the evening and by twilight we'll be out under the stars, looking at them through Utah and Nevada's two largest telescopes!

\* We will be changing our name to Great Basin Association.

# Activities Outside the Park

*There are a wide variety of activities in the area around Great Basin National Park. Some activities not permitted in the park are allowed in surrounding areas. The list on this page should get you started. Park rangers can provide directions to many of these sites.*

## 4X4 touring

Remote rough roads abound in the surrounding mountain ranges. It is often difficult to navigate even with a good map. Travel prepared in case of emergencies. Nevada state regulations require protective gear, a driver's license, proof of insurance, and registration for ATV use on public maintained roads. One suggestion is the network of roads near Sacramento Pass. Contact the Ely Bureau of Land Management. (775) 289-1800.

## Rockhounding

The geology and climate of Nevada and Western Utah make this area a rock collector's paradise. Most people seek trilobites, geodes or garnets. Some areas are on public land and some are on private land. Fees and/or permits may be required. Contact the Ely Bureau of Land Management (775-289-1800), Fillmore Bureau of Land Management (435-743-6811) or Delta Chamber of Commerce (1-800-864-0345). Utah and Nevada. Collecting is not allowed in national parks.

## Mountain Biking

Sacramento Pass Recreation Area--A network of 35 miles of trails leads to scenic views. Start at the rest area just east of Sacramento Pass on US 6&50. Contact the Ely Bureau of Land Management. (775) 289-1800.

## Wildlife Viewing

Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge--Warm, saline springs feed a 10,000 acre marsh, providing an oasis for birds and wildlife. The Refuge is very isolated, and has no camping or lodging. Near Dugway, Utah. (801) 831-5353.

## Camping

Dispersed camping is permitted on most public lands outside the park. Contact the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (775-289-3031) or the Ely Bureau of Land Management. (775) 289-1800.

Roadside Rest Area--Near Sacramento Pass (US 6&50). RV parking only. No tent camping.

Cave Lake State Park--Camping (no reservations), dump station, showers, hiking and fishing are available at this park. Near Ely, Nevada. (775) 728-4467.

## Caves

Crystal Ball Cave--Privately operated tours of a cave that is very different from Lehman Caves. Bring your own flashlights. Fee charged. Call in the morning or late afternoon for an appointment. Gandy, Utah. (435) 693-3145

Timpanogos Cave National Monument--Guided tours by National Park Service Rangers from early May through early November, weather permitting. Advanced ticket sales available. Near American Fork, Utah. (801) 756-5238.

## Hiking/Backpacking

Mt. Moriah Wilderness Area--Area includes beautiful canyons, an alpine plateau with ancient bristlecone pines, and 12,050-foot Mt. Moriah. Passenger car access on the east side (Hampton Creek, Hendry's Creek, or Smith Creek). High clearance vehicles may also access the area by Four Mile Road or Eight Mile Road on the west side. Mostly in the Humboldt National Forest. (775) 289-3031.

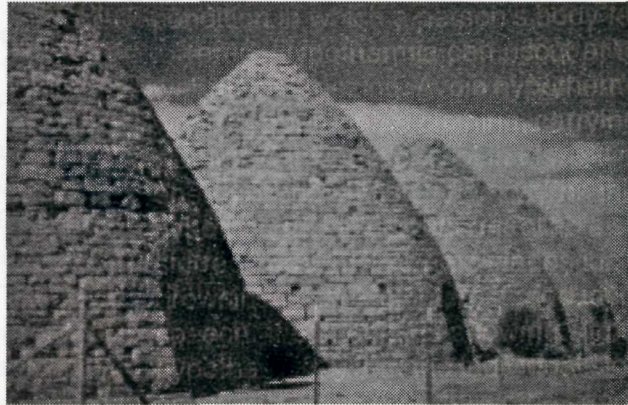
Cathedral Gorge State Park--Bentonite clay eroded into a narrow valley, caves and spires. Hiking, camping (no reservations), dump station, and showers. Near Panaca, Nevada. (775) 728-4460.

## History/Prehistory

Baker Fremont Archeological Site--Remains of pithouses built by Fremont Indians about 900 years ago. Please leave any artifacts you see in place. 2 miles north of Baker on the "cutoff road" towards Delta. Contact the Ely Bureau of Land Management. (775) 289-1800. Near Baker, Nevada.

Fremont Indian State Park--Pictographs, petroglyphs, and archeological sites. 12 trails (one is wheelchair accessible), museum/visitor center, and camping (reservations possible). Near Sevier, Utah. (435) 527-4631.

Osceola Historic Mining District--Osceola was a booming gold mining town of 1000 people in the late 1800's. The old stone store and graveyard are still visible. Please respect private property. Turn off US 6&50 east of Sacramento Pass and follow a gravel road marked for Osceola. Near Sacramento Pass, Nevada.



Ward Charcoal Ovens

Frisco Historic Mining District--Charcoal ovens and other remains of mining history remain at this site. Please do not remove items from the site. 13 miles west of Milford, Utah and 61 miles southeast of Garrison, Utah on UT Hwy #21. Near Milford, Utah.

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Park--The main features are six beehive-shaped charcoal ovens built in 1873 to fuel the smelters of the Ward Mining District. Limited picnicking and camping on site. Road accessible by passenger cars from May through October. Near Ely, Nevada. (775) 728-4467.

Ely Ghost Train (Northern Nevada Railway Museum)--Museum and historic steam train open on summer weekends. Ely, Nevada. (775) 289-2085.

Great Basin Museum--Museum of local history, including history of the WWII Topaz Relocation Center. Monday through Saturday. Winter hours vary. Delta, Utah. (435) 864-5013.

Topaz Camp--World War II interment camp for Japanese and Japanese-Americans. Ask at the Great Basin Museum. Delta, Utah. (435) 864-5013.

## National Parks

Bryce Canyon National Park--Scenic erosion-carved rocks and spires ("hoodoos") abound. Hiking, ranger-guided programs, lodge and camping (no reservations, come by early afternoon). Bryce Canyon, Utah. (435) 834-5322.

Cedar Breaks National Monument--A two thousand feet deep canyon and erosional spires are among the attractions. Hiking, ranger-guided programs, and camping (no reservations). Open from early June through mid-October. Near Cedar City, Utah. (435) 586-9451.

Death Valley National Park--Attractions include complex geology, desert ecosystems, and the lowest point in the Western hemisphere. Hiking, camping, lodges, and ranger-guided programs (including Scotty's Castle). Reservations are available for one of the campgrounds (Furnace Creek). Call 1-800-365-2267. Death Valley, California. Information: (760) 786-2331.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area--Three distinct desert ecosystems are found on the shores of this large reservoir. Camping, lodges, fishing, hiking, and boating. Near Boulder City, Nevada. (702) 293-8907.

Timpanogos Cave National Monument--Guided tours by National Park Service Rangers from early May through early November, weather permitting. Advanced ticket sales available. Near American Fork, Utah. (801) 756-5238.

Zion National Park--Spectacular cliff-and-canyon landscape. Hiking, ranger-guided programs, lodge, and camping (reservations available at Watchman Campground only, 1-800-365-2267). Near Springdale, Utah. Information: (435) 772-3256.

# Hiking Information

## Hiking Information

Great Basin National Park is best explored by hiking. This is a park where it is possible to experience true solitude. Make sure you are prepared before starting any hike. Bring clothing for all types of weather, as weather may change rapidly, especially at high elevations. Eat and drink plenty while hiking. Please see pages 10 and 11 for more information. The trails listed below are only ideas to get you started. Rangers can recommend possible routes in even more remote areas of the park. Hiking cross-country can be an exciting challenge for the more experienced hikers and route-finders.

## Winter Trail Use

The Lehman Creek Trail is marked for winter use. Often the lower part of the trail is snow-free, while the higher parts may require snowshoes or skis. Winter enthusiasts may camp at the Wheeler Peak Campground and continue to the bristlecone pines or alpine lakes (trails not marked for winter use). Experienced mountaineers climb Wheeler Peak in winter. The roads to most trailheads (other than Lehman Creek) are closed during the winter. Snow conditions are highly variable; call the park to learn current conditions.

Trail	Round-trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
<b>Mountain View Nature Trail</b>	0.3 miles (0.4 km)	80 feet (25 m)	6,825 feet (2,080 m)	This is a leisurely walk in the pinyon-juniper forest. The trail guide (available for loan at the Visitor Center desk) describes the geology and ecology of the area. The trail starts at the Rhodes Cabin next to the Visitor Center.
<b>Osceola Ditch Trail</b>	0.3 miles (0.4 km)	100 feet (30 m)	8,400 feet (2,620 m)	Begin at the signed pullout on the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Walk down slope through ponderosa pine, white fir and Douglas fir trees to the remnant of an 18 mile long channel built by gold miners in the 1880's.
<b>Lexington Arch Trail</b>	3.4 miles	820 feet	7,440 feet	This trail leads to a six-story limestone arch. The trail has some steep sections. The trailhead is outside of the park, about 30 miles (48 km) from the Visitor Center. The road is unpaved. Check at the Visitor Center for road conditions.
<b>Alpine Lakes Loop Trail</b>	2.7 miles (4.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	The trail passes two beautiful alpine lakes, Stella and Teresa Lakes. There are good views of Wheeler Peak. Begin at the Bristlecone Parking Area, near the Wheeler Peak Campground.
<b>Bristlecone Trail</b>	2.8 miles (4.6km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	Interpretive signs in the bristlecone pine grove explain the lives and significance of these ancient trees. Ranger-guided hikes on this trail are offered daily in season (page 4).
<b>Bristlecone and Glacier Trail</b>	4.6 miles (7.4 km)	1,100 feet (340 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	The Glacier Trail is the continuation of the Bristlecone Trail. It continues beyond the bristlecone pine grove to the only glacier in Nevada, nestled beneath Wheeler Peak.
<b>Lehman Creek Trail</b>	3.4 miles (5.5 km) (one-way)	2,050 feet (620 m)	7,750 feet/9,800 feet (2,360 m/2,990 m)	This trail can be accessed from trailheads in both the Wheeler Peak and Upper Lehman Creek Campgrounds. It passes through diverse habitats, paralleling a creek for parts of the trail. <i>Marked for winter use.</i>
<b>Wheeler Peak Summit Trail</b>	8.6 miles (14 km)	2,900 feet (890 m)	10,160 feet (3,100 m)	This hike should be started very early in the day, because of the risk of afternoon storms. Along most of the route, the trail follows the ridge up to the Wheeler Peak summit. It is easiest to begin the hike from the Summit Trail parking area.
<b>Baker Lake Trail</b>	12.0 miles (19.4 km)	2,620 feet (800 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	The trail begins at the end of the Baker Creek Road. It offers nice views of the surrounding peaks and ends at Baker Lake, an alpine lake with beautiful cliffs behind it.
<b>South Fork Baker Creek/ Johnson Lake</b>	11.2 miles (18.2 km)	2,740 feet (840 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	This trail splits off from the Baker Lake Trail and follows the South Fork of Baker Creek. It then joins with the Johnson Lake Trail, passing historic Johnson Lake Mine structures just before reaching the lake.
<b>Johnson Lake Trail (from Snake Creek)</b>	7.4 miles (11.8)	2,420 feet (740m)	8,320 feet (2,540 m)	Johnson Lake can also be reached by starting at the end of Snake Creek Road. This shorter, steeper route offers nice views of the Snake Creek drainage before reaching the historic Johnson Lake Mine area and the lake itself.
<b>Baker Lake/ Johnson Lake Loop</b>	13.1 miles (21.1 km)	3,290 feet (1010 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	The Baker Lake and Johnson Lake Trails can be combined as a loop hike. This makes a good overnight trip. The connecting section is a steep route over the ridge between Baker and Johnson Lakes. The ridge top offers spectacular views in all directions.



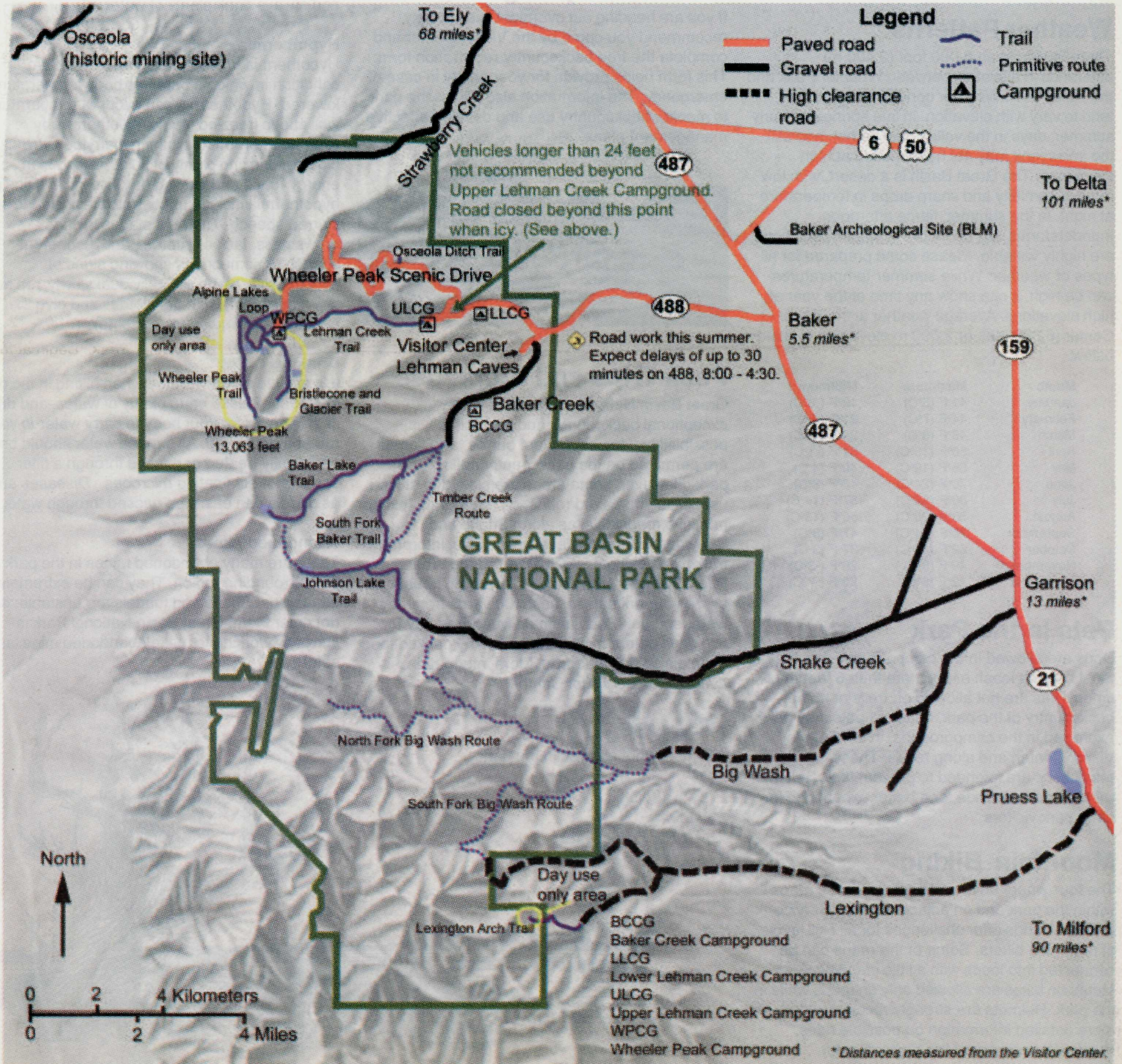
# Great Basin National Park Map

## Seasonal Road Conditions

The Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive is closed beyond Upper Lehman Creek Campground for much of the year due to snow and ice at high elevations. This road often closes in early November and reopens between late May and late June, depending on weather conditions. The Baker Creek Road also closes in winter, but usually reopens sooner. The more remote park roads (Strawberry, Snake, Lexington, etc.) are never closed, but can get very muddy or snowy depending on the weather. Please drive with caution.

## Drive Safely!

Driving conditions in the park can be hazardous. Please obey the posted speed limits. Use lower gears to control your speed on long downhill sections of road to prevent overheated brakes. Both the state of Nevada and the park require the use of seat belts. Please do not stop except at pullouts. Watch out for animals (especially deer between Lower and Upper Lehman Creek Campgrounds and marmots on the Baker Creek Road) and sight-seeing park visitors. Congestion in the Visitor Center parking area can lead to accidents. Please use caution.



## Be Prepared

Activities in natural and wild areas such as Great Basin National Park can be very rewarding, but they can also be dangerous. Please make sure you are informed and well-prepared before all excursions. That way, you are more likely to have a safe, enjoyable vacation with as little impact to the land as possible. Always carry a map, compass, food, water, rain protection, sunscreen, sun glasses, and warm clothing when hiking.

## Weather Patterns

There is almost an 8,000 foot (2,400 m) difference in elevation between Wheeler Peak and the valley floor. Weather conditions in the park tend to vary with elevation. In late spring and early summer, days in the valley may be hot, and still the snowpack may not have melted at high elevations. The Great Basin is a desert, with low relative humidity and sharp drops in temperature at night. In the summer, fierce afternoon thunderstorms are common. Weather conditions are highly variable. Please come prepared for all types of weather. While summer temperatures can be high, it can snow any time of the year at high elevations. Average weather at the Visitor Center (6,825 feet, or 2,090 m elevation) is listed below.

Month	Maximum	Minimum
January	41°F (5°C)	18°F (-8°C)
February	44°F (7°C)	21°F (-6°C)
March	48°F (9°C)	24°F (-4°C)
April	56°F (13°C)	31°F (-1°C)
May	66°F (19°C)	40°F (4°C)
June	76°F (24°C)	48°F (8°C)
July	86°F (30°C)	57°F (14°C)
August	83°F (28°C)	56°F (13°C)
September	75°F (24°C)	47°F (8°C)
October	62°F (17°C)	37°F (3°C)
November	49°F (9°C)	26°F (-3°C)
December	42°F (6°C)	20°F (-7°C)

## Pets in the Park

Dogs are allowed in the campgrounds, but they must be on a leash of not more than 6 feet at all times. Pets are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry of the park. Leashed pets may be exercised in the campgrounds, in front of the Visitor Center, and along roads. These restrictions are intended to prevent molestation of wildlife and to provide for a better experience for other park visitors.

## Mountain Biking

The four-wheel-drive and high clearance roads within the park and on adjacent Forest Service and BLM lands offer challenges for all skill levels of mountain bikers. Some of the roads can be connected into loops with a little planning. Mountain bikes are allowed only on roads while in the park. Helmets are strongly recommended. For more detailed information on possible rides, check with a ranger at the Visitor Center.

## Backcountry Camping

Backcountry camping is permitted in the park at least 1/4 mile from a developed site (i.e. road or building). Camping is not permitted in the Wheeler Peak Day Use Area or the Lexington Arch Day Use Area. Please read page 10 and 11 for regulations and safety information. More detailed information is available at the Visitor Center.

## Backcountry Registration

If you are heading out overnight, we strongly recommend you come by the Visitor Center and complete the free backcountry registration form. This form helps provide for your safety in case of emergency. The information also allows the park to monitor backcountry use and develop effective management plans.



## Pack Trips and Stock Use

Great Basin National Park offers some exceptional backcountry and trail riding possibilities. Horses, mules, burros, and llamas are permitted on the backcountry trails of the park. However, some areas are closed to stock use, including paved roads, campgrounds (except primitive roadside sites along Snake and Strawberry Creeks), developed areas, interpretive trails, the Lexington Arch Trail and the Wheeler Peak Day Use Area. Be sure to picket, hobble, or graze your animals at least 100 yards from any water source. Feed animals weed-free hay for two days before trips in the park. Any packed feed should also be weed-free. More information is available at the Visitor Center.

## ATV Use

ATV use is not allowed in the park.

## Recreation Hazards

### Altitude Sickness

Altitude sickness is a condition brought on by high elevations, often in conjunction with strenuous activity. Difficulty in breathing, nausea, incoherent speech, headache, and lethargy are symptoms of altitude sickness. The definitive cure is to have the person descend immediately. They could be in extreme danger. To help avoid altitude sickness, ascend slowly, eat lightly and frequently, and always drink plenty of water.

### Hypothermia

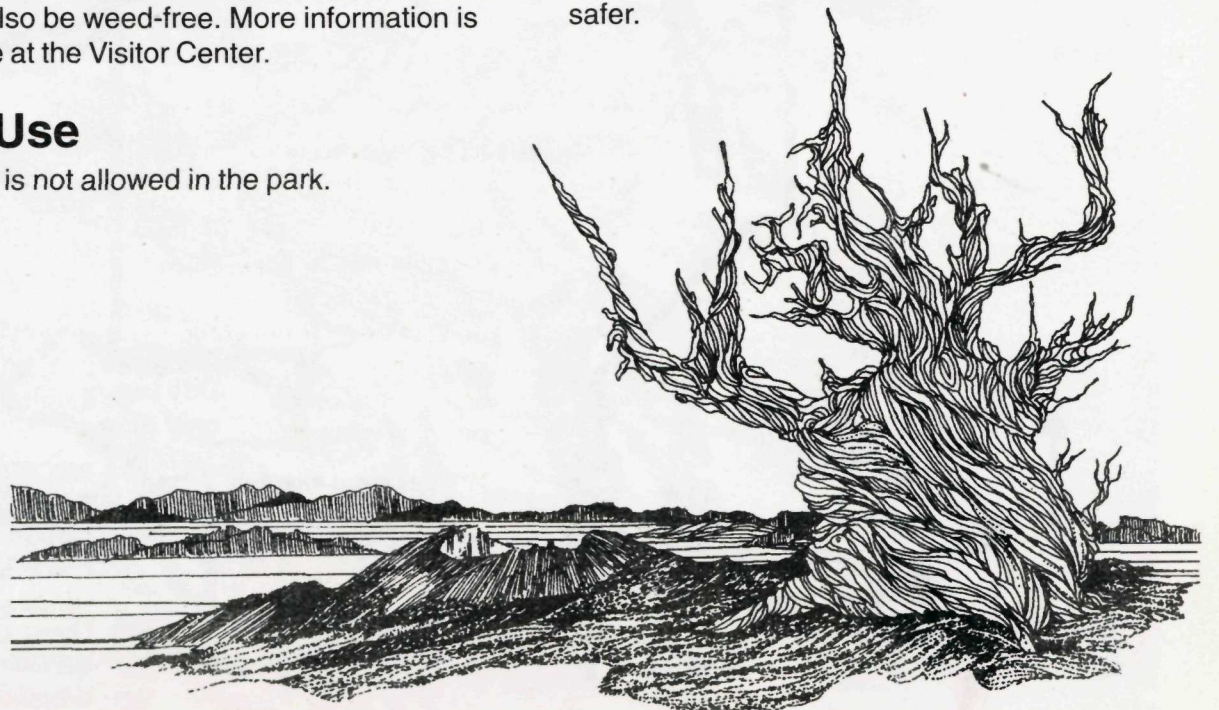
Hypothermia is a serious, sometimes fatal, condition in which a person's body temperature is lowered. Hypothermia can occur at temperatures well above freezing. Avoid hypothermia by wearing appropriate clothing, carrying extra clothes, drinking plenty of fluids, eating high energy foods and staying dry. The initial signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering and slurred speech. The next stages include drowsiness, lack of interest, and incoherent speech. If someone is showing signs of hypothermia, warm the individual slowly, replace any wet clothing with dry clothes and give the person warm liquids (no caffeine).

### Drinking Water

It is easy to be dehydrated when hiking in the dry desert air. Please bring plenty of water--and drink it! It is better for your body to carry water *in* you rather than *on* you. All surface water should be chemically treated or passed through a filter capable of eliminating microbes. Diseases such as giardia can easily be passed through water.

### Abandoned Mines

There are many abandoned mines in the park and the surrounding region. They can be extremely dangerous. Shafts and tunnels are unstable; do not enter them. Great Basin National Park is currently working to make abandoned mine lands safer.



# Recreation

## Winter Recreation

The Visitor Center and Lehman Caves are open year-round (except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days). However, the Baker Creek Road and the majority of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive (above Upper Lehman Creek Campground) may be closed between November and June.

Hikers will usually find opportunities to hike on the Baker Creek Road and Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive beyond the closure points or cross-country at lower elevations in the park. The trails are usually snow-covered.



The Lehman Creek Trail is for advanced skiers or snowshoers of all skill levels. Skiers should bring climbing skins. This is the only trail marked for winter use. Overnight trekkers should plan to spend the night in the Wheeler Peak Campground (free during winter). Beginner and intermediate skiers can ski on the Scenic Drive beyond the gate when there is enough snow.

Take caution. Winter ridgeline winds are often 25-45 mph. Avalanche conditions may exist on snowy slopes. Only people with mountaineering experience and the proper equipment should attempt to summit Wheeler Peak in winter.

## Fishing Opportunities

To tempt the angler, there are four species of nonnative trout in Great Basin National Park. Rainbow, brook, and brown trout occur in Lehman, Baker, Snake, Strawberry, Shingle and Williams Creeks. Brook trout are found in Johnson and Baker Lakes. Baker Lake also contains Lahontan cutthroat trout. There are no fish in Stella, Teresa, Brown and Dead Lakes due to low late-season water levels and winter ice.

The last nonnative trout were stocked in 1985, the year before Great Basin National Park was established. However, fish populations remain high. The park is currently involved in a long-term project to reestablish populations of the native Bonneville cutthroat trout (see page 14).

To fish in the park you need a Nevada state fishing license for anyone twelve and older. A trout stamp is required with an annual license, but not for a temporary license. Worms are permitted, but the use of other live bait, amphibians or non-preserved fish eggs is prohibited in the park. Fishing is by rod and reel only. In addition, the park encourages catch-and-release fishing with barbless hooks. This combination will help maintain healthy fish populations and allow others to enjoy fishing within the park.

## Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace refers to a type of hiking and camping which minimizes your impact to the land and wildlife. These techniques also leave the area more enjoyable for the next hiker.

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

Plan ahead for your safety and enjoyment, and to protect the landscape.

### Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces

When trail hiking, stick to the trail. Don't widen it or cut switchbacks. When hiking cross-country, pick your route to avoid impacting fragile areas, like alpine or wetland vegetation.

### Pack it in, Pack it out

Pack out everything you brought in with you, including cigarette butts and food scraps.

### Properly Dispose of Human Waste

Bury waste in a hole 4-8 inches deep. Pick a site at least 200 feet (60 m) from water, campsites, and trails. Do not leave toilet paper on the ground--pack it out with you.

### Leave What You Find

Leave the areas you have used (such as campsites) looking natural. In the park, it is prohibited to collect anything, including flowers, rocks, historical and archeological artifacts.

### Minimize the Use and Impact of Fires

Try to build small fires in preexisting fire rings, or use a camp stove. The park only permits the use of dead and down wood for fires. Bristlecone pine wood may not be burned. No fires are permitted above 10,000 feet elevation (3,060 m).

## Keeping the Wild in Wildlife

Wildlife is one of the main attractions in any park. Please enjoy your encounters, but do not feed or approach any animals. It can be dangerous because they are wild and unpredictable. Even animals that appear docile can kick or bite without warning. These bites may carry disease. Human interference can disrupt the creature's natural activities. Feeding wildlife creates health problems for them. They may become habituated to human food that lacks the nutrients required to maintain their health. Wildlife then may eat garbage, such as plastic bags, that can clog their stomachs. Such animals may starve, even when abundant natural food is available.

## Rattlesnakes

While walking along a rocky, streamside trail a hiker hears an electric BUZZZ just a step ahead. The hiker is carrying a long walking stick which is pointed instinctively at the source of the sound. The hiker's next action will depend upon his or her knowledge of the Great Basin rattlesnake.

Great Basin rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis lutosus*) are the only venomous reptiles in most of the Great Basin desert. They are best identified by their blunt, rattle-tipped tail and thick, stocky bodies. Adult Great Basin rattlesnakes average 30-36 inches in length, and are tan to yellow in color, with a series of darker oval blotches on their back.

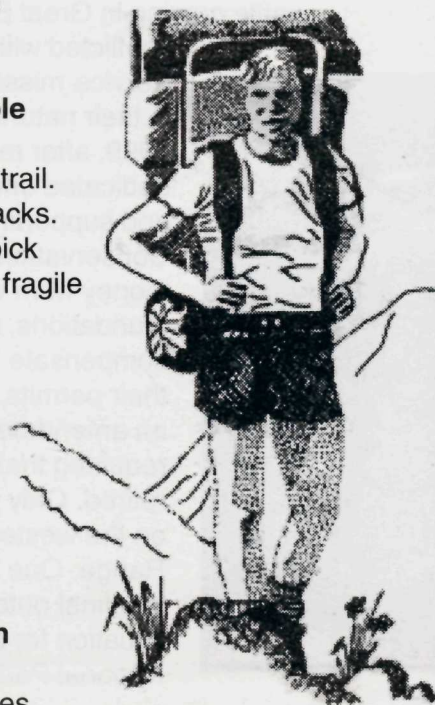
Great Basin rattlesnakes may occur up to 11,000 feet in elevation, but are more common below 8,000 feet, in a variety of habitats: greasewood/shadscale, sagebrush, pinyon/juniper, and fir/spruce. The unifying characteristic of rattlesnake habitat in the Great Basin is rock. Great Basin rattlesnakes hibernate in dens in southern exposed rock outcrops during the winter, emerging in May to

bask in the spring sun. Males and non-reproducing females disperse into surrounding areas to forage for mice, rats, ground squirrels, gophers, birds, and lizards. A mature male may move up to 2.5 miles away from the den.

Gravid (pregnant) females remain near the den, basking frequently to facilitate proper development of their embryos. In mid to late September they give birth to 5-8 live baby rattlesnakes, remaining with them for the first 7-10 days of their life. Mortality is high among newborn rattlesnakes with less than 10% surviving to sexual maturity.

Great Basin rattlesnakes are fascinating and beautiful animals. Their venomous bite, although rarely fatal and used only for feeding and defense, commands respect and common sense in their presence.

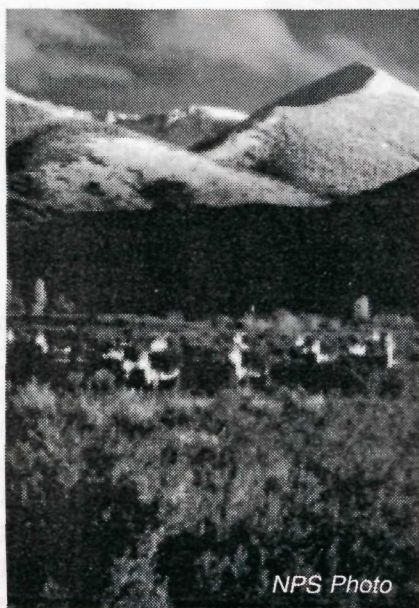
To avoid being bitten, wear high, sturdy boots. Do not put your hands or feet where you cannot see. Be aware of your surroundings. Do not kill or capture rattlesnakes. There is NEVER a case where killing a rattlesnake is safer than allowing it safe passage. Give all rattlesnakes a wide berth, 5 to 6 feet, and allow them room to escape. If you see a rattlesnake near a developed area contact a ranger to relocate it.



## Grazing in the Great Basin: A Connection to the Land

Ranching has been a cornerstone of life in the Great Basin for well over 100 years. Dependence on the land and its resources has created financial stability and a rich heritage for ranchers and their families. Through a deep understanding and honest relationship with the terrain, these ranchers have been able to prosper on what others might call a barren wasteland.

This unique and personal connection has long been a part of life in the Great Basin. A thousand years ago the Fremont farmed the present-day Snake Valley. These Native Americans used the land for about a hundred years hunting and growing crops and then moved on. Why the Fremont left this area remains a mystery. Shoshone, Paiute, and Goshute people followed, adapting admirably to the harsh conditions.



Cattle in GBNP, 1999

Early pioneers started arriving in the Snake Valley in the latter part of the 1800's. Some were teamsters passing through hauling ammunition and silver; others included Mormons following an exodus to the west, surveyors, or simply homesteaders looking to build a future for themselves. Miners were attracted by tungsten and gold deposits, but ranching would soon establish itself as the mainstay "industry" early on in the Snake Valley. One of these early pioneers, Absalom Lehman, credited for the discovery of Lehman Cave, was a miner who moved to the area hopeful of making a better living through ranching.

The Snake Range, with its creeks and high meadows, provided enough water and forage to support a few ranching operations, and allowed some ranchers to succeed in building new lives. These ranching pioneers started a legacy that would last for generations to follow.

Children took over operations from their parents. Land and public land grazing permits were passed down through families. When Great Basin National Park was created in 1986, grazing within the park boundaries was mandated to continue in perpetuity. The latest generation of three cattle ranching families, however, would soon face a change. Increasing complaints from visitors not used to sharing a national park with cattle sparked conversations between then Superintendent Al Hendricks and local ranchers. Convinced that compensation for the donation of grazing permits

might be an equitable and profitable gain to the ranchers, this group pursued discussions with Senator Harry Reid of Nevada on one of his visits to the park.

A solution did not come quickly or easily. While mandated in the original legislation, continued cattle grazing in Great Basin National Park conflicted with the National Park Service mission to preserve resources in their natural state. In December 1999, after more than seven years of dedicated efforts by the ranchers, park, and supporting partners, The Conservation Fund raised enough money from various organizations, foundations, and individuals to compensate the ranchers for donating their permits. Senator Reid sponsored an amendment to the park's legislation requiring that donated permits be retired. Only sheep grazing continues on the western slopes of the Snake Range. One local rancher described this final outcome as a win-win situation for both ranchers and the National Park Service.

Great Basin National Park will be monitoring the areas in which cattle no longer graze to understand the ensuing changes in the vegetation, wildlife, and watershed. The park will be able to step up efforts to remove nonnative plant species and reintroduce fire in the park's ecology. Visitors are also free to enjoy the park without having to share hiking trails and campgrounds with cattle.

These cattle ranchers will pursue their livelihood by grazing their livestock on other allotments nearby and on private land, retaining their heritage and way of life and conserving the open space that so many people treasure in the Great Basin.

After all, open space is the essence of the Great Basin, as is its natural beauty and its rich cultural heritage. Bristlecone pines, luscious spring-fed meadows, sagebrush, the strong pioneering spirit, and ranching – all these and more are the elements that, together, make the Great Basin so unique. Just as they tie together to become the landscape, they tie the people to the land. These ties carry strong emotions that outsiders may never fully comprehend. The families who have built their lives here have connected to the land upon which their ancestors built a legacy, and it is the source from where their heritage continues to grow.

## The Park Goes Native

Life in national parks seems to many visitors to continue just as it has for eons. In a park one sees trees, shrubs, and animals instead of utility poles, pavement, and strip malls. Yet even the ecology of places as remote as Great Basin National Park has been affected by humans. Some native animals have disappeared from the park (wolverine and beaver), or been greatly reduced in numbers (bighorn sheep, elk, Bonneville cutthroat trout). Invasive nonnative plants are displacing native plants and reducing foraging for animals. Habitats in the park have been altered by a history of fire suppression. In order to protect an unimpaired park for future and present visitors, Great Basin National Park is returning to nature.

The park must protect and foster the complete ecosystem function. It must restore the pieces of the ecosystem that should be here (native plants and animals) and remove the nonnative species that are invasive in this ecosystem. It should restore habitats to the condition they would be in if unaltered by humans. Then, ideally, the park managers would sit back and let nature take its course.

Yet that is not enough. The park has neighbors and does not exist in isolation. Habitats and ecosystems do not obey political boundaries. The park must consider effects its management may have on residences and businesses nearby (for example, controlling large-scale fires). The park also needs the cooperation of other agencies and private individuals to accomplish its goals of restoring natural conditions.



Cattle in campground, 1999 NPS Photo

Some projects that are being considered for future natural restoration in the park include: beaver reintroduction, spring rehabilitation, and thinning of the pinyon/juniper woodlands to resemble the natural fire regime. Extensive research is necessary to determine

what natural conditions should be. The park is currently involved or planning projects to augment bighorn sheep and elk populations, return the Bonneville cutthroat trout to streams in part of its former range, control invasive nonnative plants and return to the natural role of fire. Please read the following articles for detail about the background, complications, and solutions the park is using to return to nature.

# A Return to Nature

## Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep were extirpated from the Snake Range by the 1940's. Several factors are thought to have contributed to their local extinction: subsistence hunting by early pioneers and miners, competition for forage with domestic livestock, and potential disease transmission from domestic sheep for which the bighorns had no immunity.



In 1975, the Nevada Division of Wildlife began reintroducing bighorn sheep into the Snake Range. The first release was in the Mt. Moriah Wilderness, followed by two releases totaling 20 bighorns southwest of Wheeler Peak in 1979 and 1980. In 1981 and 1990, more bighorn sheep were released near Mt. Moriah for a total of 68 sheep transplanted to the Snake Range. Both the north and south herds did well at first and supported limited hunting for a short time but the populations began to decline. Today there are probably fewer than 25 individuals surviving in the park and on Mt. Moriah.

The likely reasons for the more recent declines are the loss of habitat due to increased tree cover, high predation rates from mountain lions, and continued possible disease transmission from domestic sheep. Bighorn sheep like areas on steep slopes with minimal visual obstruction; increasing tree cover is eliminating these types of areas. The increasing tree cover also allows more efficient predation of bighorn sheep by mountain lions. Domestic sheep graze within the park and contact with bighorns has been documented.

Great Basin National Park is currently undertaking an extensive Geographical Information Systems (GIS) habitat modeling project. The results of this modeling will guide management actions that would lead to the recovery of bighorn sheep, including prescribed fires to increase habitat and transplanting additional animals. You can assist in this project by reporting any sightings of bighorn sheep to a ranger or by filling out a wildlife observation form in the Visitor Center.

## Fire in the Great Basin

Look out from a windswept ridge in Great Basin National Park and you will see hundreds of square miles of apparently wild and pristine land. Woodlands of pinyon pine and juniper wrap the mountain in a wide, dark belt. The scene appears timeless. However, in the past there were discrete wooded groves separated by park-like savannas and large open areas of grass and shrubs. Now, closed-canopy stands of white fir dominate canyon bottoms and north facing slopes that in the past contained open stands of ponderosa pine, aspen and Douglas-fir. Sagebrush dominates the broad slope that skirts the mountain, where sage grasslands used to thrive.

Many historical and ecological circumstances lie behind these changes. The former patchwork of forest, woodland, savanna, and shrub grassland habitats was produced chiefly by wild fires—caused naturally and by humans—that burned large and small tracts at irregular intervals. Settlers altered this system by curbing wild fires, logging the largest pines, and introducing livestock to the landscape.

One of the missions of Great Basin National Park is to restore and preserve dynamic ecosystems. With that goal in mind, we are reevaluating old practices that disrupt natural ecological processes, such as the traditional policy of total and indiscriminate fire suppression. Great Basin National Park has several projects planned that will allow fire to once again shape the ecosystems found within the Great Basin. Prescribed fires are planned for areas in the Baker Creek, Mill Creek, and Lexington watersheds. Naturally caused wildfires will be carefully monitored and suppressed only if there is a threat to public safety or natural and cultural resources. In 1999, a lightning-caused fire burned 30 acres in the North Fork of Big Wash. In the coming years, scientists will be monitoring the effects of this and other fires in the park.

Many areas in the park contain heavy fuel loads that can not be burned without significant risks. To reduce hazard fuel and protect the park, several understory thinning projects are in progress that will reduce fuels around campgrounds and buildings. In time, this return of fire should restore park lands, habitats and ecosystems to a more historically natural condition.

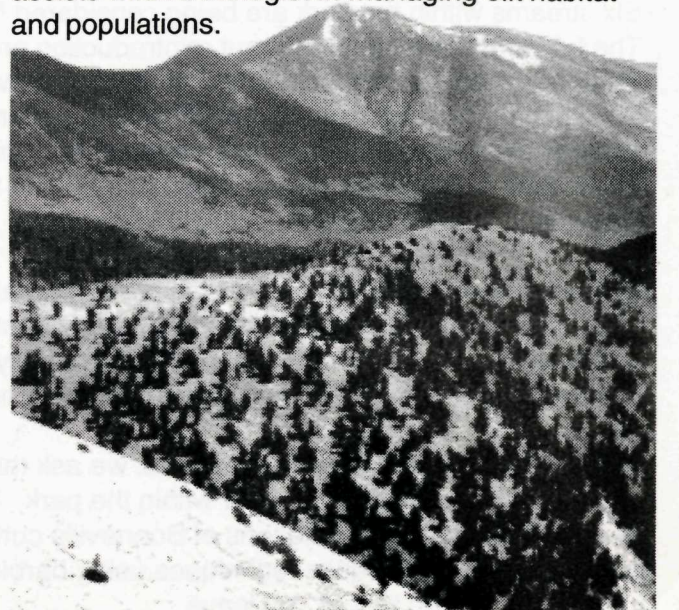


## Elk

The majestic bugle of the bull elk rings again in the Snake Range of Nevada. Great Basin National Park is a participating member of the White Pine County Elk Management Plan in cooperation with the White Pine County government, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Ely Shoshone Tribe, and local ranchers.

Elk were noted by Captain Simpson in 1859 but became extremely rare after 1900, probably due to high hunting pressure from the large numbers of miners throughout the area. In 1932, thirty elk from Yellowstone National Park were reintroduced to the Schell Creek Range 15 miles west of the park. The elk population has been slow to recover but thanks to controlled hunting, habitat improvements on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, and more recent reintroductions, there are now an estimated 2000 elk in White Pine County.

Because elk were a naturally occurring species to the South Snake Range, the park welcomes their reintroduction. Best estimates are that about 25 elk inhabit the South Snake Range year round. A potential release of about 50 elk to bolster this small resident herd may occur in 2002. Strawberry Creek is the most likely place to spot elk in the park. They are there in late spring and throughout the summer. Starting in August and through September you could hear the bull elk bugle as they defend their harems. If you see an elk anywhere in the park please fill out a wildlife observation form at the Visitor Center or report your sighting to a park ranger. This information assists wildlife biologist in managing elk habitat and populations.



## Cutthroat Trout

The Bonneville cutthroat trout is the only trout native to Great Basin National Park and East Central Nevada. The species was abundant in Lake Bonneville 16,000 to 18,000 years ago. The Snake Valley contained an arm of this lake. As the climate changed and the lake level dropped, the trout migrated into the higher mountain streams where they eventually became trapped.

Unfortunately Bonneville cutthroat trout were extirpated from most of their ancestral waters within Great Basin National Park largely as a result of two factors: stocking of nonnative fish and habitat degradation from human activities. Indiscriminate and widespread stocking of nonnative brook, brown, and rainbow trout introduced overwhelming competition for food and other resources. In addition, rainbow trout interbred with native cutthroats and reduced species purity. Tens of thousands of nonnative trout were stocked into streams of the South Snake Range before designation of Great Basin National Park.

Water diversions, mining, and domestic livestock grazing significantly altered the streams by reducing streamflows, increasing sediment, and decreasing streamside cover. In recent years, land use has changed within the park. Park streams and lakes are no longer stocked with nonnative trout, mining and cattle grazing no longer occur, and stream habitat is improving.

Great Basin National Park currently contains two small streams of Bonneville cutthroat trout. One stream on the western side of the park contains native fish that were stocked outside of their historic range around the turn of the century. A remnant population was discovered just last year on the east side of the park.

Great Basin National Park, in cooperation with Trout Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Division of Wildlife, the Ely District Bureau of Land Management, and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, is working to restore the Bonneville cutthroat trout to approximately eighteen stream miles within the South Snake Range.

Six streams within the park are being considered for reintroduction efforts. The full Bonneville cutthroat trout reintroduction program is expected to take six to ten years to complete. The first step, to survey the selected streams to document existing baseline conditions, is currently underway. The first streams slated for study and reintroduction are Strawberry Creek and the South Fork of Big Wash. Upper Snake Creek, the South Fork of Baker Creek, and Upper Lehman Creek will follow.

When the new populations have stabilized, recreational fishing for this unique species will greatly add to visitor enjoyment of the park. Bonneville cutthroat in their native waters can reach relatively large sizes in small creeks compared to brook, rainbow and brown trout.

In order to make this project a success, we ask that you please do not move any fish between bodies of water within the park. While fishing in those streams that contain populations of Bonneville cutthroat trout, please practice catch and release techniques using barbless hooks and fill out an angler survey card before you leave.



Bonneville cutthroat trout

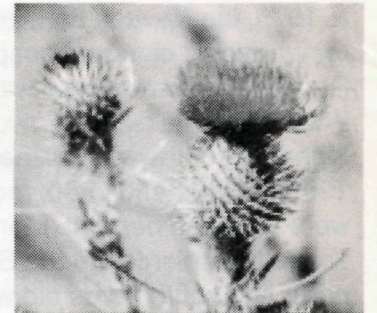
NPS Photo

## Weed Warriors

The fight against nonnative invasive plants in Great Basin National Park has begun. Not all nonnative plants are invasive. Many, like the fruit trees in the historic orchard by the visitor center, require caretaking to survive in this environment. Only a very few of all introduced plants become pests. These plants arrive in an environment that is actually *better* suited to them than the ecosystem where they evolved. They thrive because of different seasonal patterns, water patterns, or lack of competition or predation.

These plants can out compete the native plants. This can reduce biodiversity, create conditions for increased soil erosion, reduce forage and alter habitats. Spotted knapweed secretes biotoxins that inhibit the growth of other plants. Cheatgrass sprouts earlier than the native grasses. Cheatgrass also can out compete native grasses (generally better forage) for limited water.

Although there are over 25 species of nonnative plants in the park, management is targeting only a few of them for control. The effort is focusing on plants with the greatest potential impact that can be controlled feasibly, such as spotted knapweed, bull thistle and musk thistle. You may see park employees and volunteers spot treating plants, pulling flowering plants, or scientifically monitoring the effects of treatment. One problem is that some plants are continuously being reintroduced into the park.

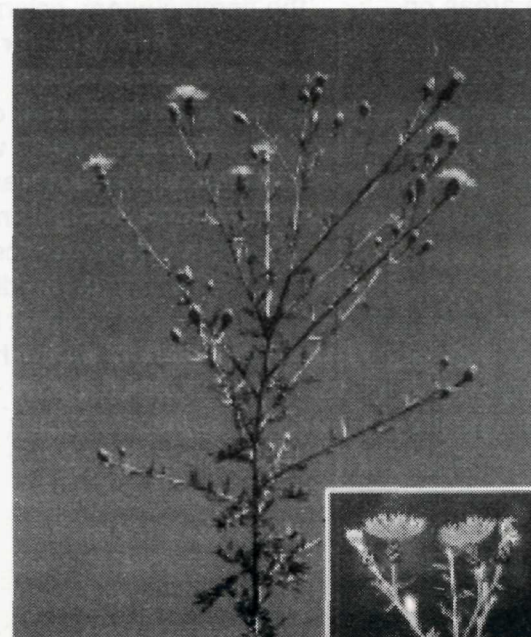


Bull thistle

NPS Photo

Plants are introduced via many routes. Some are planted in gardens or during roadside stabilization projects. Others are introduced accidentally as contaminants in seed, animal feed, or even packing material! Nonnative seeds and plant parts are often spread by being carried on the hooves or hides of animals, in the doors or undercarriages of vehicles, or on hikers' apparel.

You can help! Check the doors and undercarriage of your vehicle for plants. Scrutinize your pet's coat and your shoes, socks, and pant legs for "hitchhiking" seeds. If you find any plants or seeds, remove them and place them in a garbage can. Use weed-free hay when taking stock animals into the park. If you want to contribute more actively in the fight against nonnatives, contact rangers at the Visitor Center about volunteering for an hour or more as a Weed Warrior. Consider landscaping around your own home with native plants.



Spotted Knapweed

## Want to Help?

Great Basin is a new park that in many ways is still in its developing stages. While your fees and tax dollars provide basic support to national parks, contributions of funds, materials, labor and expertise are essential to Great Basin National Park's future. Money from the Visitor Center donation box provides a much-appreciated boost to park programs.

## Volunteers

Volunteers at Great Basin National Park in 1999 served as campground hosts, trailed cave tours, improved the safety program, gave interpretive programs, did fish and stream surveys, surveyed caves, helped install cave gates, hand-pulled nonnative plants, surveyed bat populations and observed birds. 89 people volunteered for a total of over 6,300 hours at Great Basin National Park last year.

Park volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Local residents have contributed a lot of time. School groups, clubs and service organizations do service projects. Trout Unlimited, the Student Conservation Association, the Sierra Club, and other organizations have provided assistance. Retired persons and interns often volunteer for months at a time, while many others can only contribute a few hours or days. Any help is appreciated and can make a big difference. Housing or trailer pads may be available for some volunteers.



Volunteer pulling bull thistle

NPS Photo



Volunteer and park employee shocking fish NPS Photo

## Great Basin National Park Foundation

The Great Basin National Park Foundation was organized in 1998 specifically to provide assistance to this park. Mrs. Richard H. Bryan, wife of Senator Bryan, and other Nevada leaders established the Foundation to ensure that this pristine area will be protected for future generations. The Foundation is helping the park implement some of its long-term goals, including development and preservation programs. The following are current projects being sponsored by the Foundation.

### Trails Project

The Foundation trails project will add a new trail off Baker Creek Road, passing Fremont-era pictographs. A pedestrian bridge will link this trail to the spectacular Pole Canyon. The project will also improve information and facilities at the trailheads along Snake and Baker Creeks.

### Oral History

The Foundation sponsors an oral history project. The goal is to interview people with generations of family stories from Spring and Snake Valleys to record and interpret this history to park visitors.

### New Visitor Learning Center

The new Visitor Learning Center will be constructed in the town of Baker. The building will serve as a combined visitor center, science center, and education center. It will provide the infrastructure, technical capability and atmosphere for science-based land management

and natural and cultural resource research in the Great Basin region, as well as visitor information and educational programs. Museum exhibits, laboratories, classrooms, auditorium, and research aids will be available to visitors, researchers, and students of all ages.

Great Basin National Park has begun the scoping process for this project. An Environmental Impact Statement should be available for public review by early summer in 2000. Once this is completed, the Foundation will start fund-raising in earnest. The Park and Foundation hope to have the building completed by the end of 2003.

For more information on the Foundation and how you can help, write to Chair JoAnn Kelly, c/o Superintendent, Great Basin National Park, Baker, Nevada 89311, or fill in this form and leave it at the Visitor Center front desk.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me more information about:

- The Great Basin National Park Foundation.
- Volunteering in the parks.

What type of volunteer work would you like to do?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Campground host
- \_\_\_\_\_ Interpretation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Resource Management
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor Protection
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintenance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Administration

Great Basin National Park  
Baker, NV 89311

This paper was produced by the staff at Great Basin National Park and printed with funding from the Great Basin Natural History Association.



# Great Basin Natural History Association

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\* We will be changing our name to Great Basin Association.

The Great Basin Natural History Association, a not-for-profit organization, supports the interpretive, educational, cultural and research activities of Great Basin National Park. The Association produces and sells materials of interpretive and educational value and presents specified and approved programs relating to the interpretive themes of Great Basin National Park. This is achieved through our membership revenues, donations, and bookstore sales.

The organization focuses its efforts on providing the public with quality, affordable materials that describe the uniqueness and wealth of resources this area offers to visitors. The Association provides funds for the newspaper you are reading, the Junior Ranger Program, as well as a number of informative brochures. The Great Basin NHA organizes summer seminars, guest speaker appearances and roving exhibits on various aspects of the Great Basin (see page 7). In addition, the Association provides personnel support to the Visitor Center's front desk during the summer season, and donates books to the park's library and to local schools.

Your tax-deductible donation and membership dues are greatly appreciated. With revenues generated this year, we hope to host a teacher's workshop in June 2001, and reprint the popular and affordable *Wheeler Peak Guide*. Another goal is to assist the park in developing and publishing information guides for our international visitors.

As a member of the Great Basin Natural History Association, you will be entitled to receive a 15% discount on all purchases from our bookstore, located inside the park's visitor center. Most national park bookstores operated by cooperating associations will honor your Great Basin NHA membership card for a similar discount.

Participate in our summer programs, and browse our selection of books. More than anything, we hope you will join us in celebration of this spectacular place.

I would like to support the Great Basin Natural History Association by becoming a member in the following category.

Individual \$10     Family \$15     Business \$25  
 Contributing \$50     Sustaining \$100  
 Lifetime \$250     Corporate Sponsor \$1000

Memberships are renewable one year from date of purchase.  
Outside U.S. please add \$5.00 to cover mailing costs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please present your membership card to receive a 15% discount on items purchased at the bookstore located in the Great Basin National Park Visitor Center.

I would like to receive mailings (newsletters, etc.):    Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

I would like to participate in voting for the Board of Directors: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

## Plan Ahead for Your Trip--Order by Mail

### Hiking Great Basin National Park

By Bruce Grubbs. \$9.95  
**New!** A detailed Falcon Guide for over 20 trails, including 3 in the Mount Moriah Wilderness.

### Great Basin National Park Earthwalk Press Map

\$2.95 paper  
Topographical map of entire park.

### Nevada & Utah Atlas and Gazetteer

By DeLorme. \$16.95 (each)  
Topo maps of the entire state with GPS grids.

### 7.5' Topographic Maps

U.S. Geologic Service. \$4.00  
Various maps of GBNP and Mount Moriah Wilderness vicinities. Enquire.

## How to Order

Nevada residents, please add 6.875% sales tax. GBNHA members may take a 15% discount off merchandise order. Selections are paperback unless noted. Please include payment with your order either by check or money order in U.S. funds made payable to Great Basin NHA. Master Card and Visa are accepted. Be sure to include your signature and expiration date.

### Shipping and Handling

Under \$15    \$4.00  
\$15.01 to \$30    \$5.00  
Over \$30    \$6.00  
Canadian orders add \$2.00

## Contact

Cindy Berger, Executive Director  
Great Basin Natural History Assoc.  
Great Basin National Park  
Baker, NV 89311  
(775) 234-7270 -- Telephone  
(775) 234-7269 -- Fax

### Sagebrush Country: A Wildflower Sanctuary

By Ronald Taylor. \$14.00  
A great book to help identify the common plants of the Great Basin.

### Nevada Handbook

By Deke Castleman. \$18.95  
An all-around guide to Nevada interlaced with the rich history of the region.

### Geology of the Great Basin

By Bill Fiero. \$29.95  
Armchair geologists and avid nature observers alike find this geological account of our region both informative and engaging.

### Great Basin Drama

By Darwin Lambert. \$12.95  
"An engaging story" of the creation of the park, according to a review in National Parks magazine.

### Lehman Caves

By Jeremy Schmidt. \$4.95  
This popular book features great pictures and solid information on the cultural and natural history of the cave.

### Hiking Nevada

By Bruce Grubbs. \$14.95  
Basic information on 50 hikes in the Silver State.

### Trails to Explore in Great Basin National Park

By Rose Houk. \$5.95  
This well-written book provides information needed to hike on the developed trails of the park.

### Great Basin, The Story Behind the Scenery

By Michael Nicklas. \$7.95  
Best all-around introduction to the Great Basin with color photos.



# Park Facilities

## Lehman Caves Visitor Center

The Lehman Caves Visitor Center is located at the end of the main park entrance road (Hwy 488). The visitor center and Lehman Cave are open every day of the year except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The self-guided Mountain View Nature Trail begins at the visitor center. Restrooms, drinking water, and a pay phone are also available. Adjacent to the visitor center, Lehman Caves Gift and Café is open in the summer 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Great Basin Visitor Center

The Great Basin Visitor Center, located just north of the town of Baker opened in May 2005 and provides information on the park and the Great Basin region. Exhibits funded through donations raised by the Great Basin National Park Foundation tell the geological, biological, and cultural stories of the Great Basin. Open in summer 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Accessibility

Both visitor centers are accessible. The Lehman Caves Visitor Center provides a lift between the parking lot and main level. The Great Basin National Park slide show is subtitled.

All four developed campgrounds have at least one accessible site. Each campsite has a picnic table, fire grate, and tent pad. These sites are generally located next to accessible restrooms. All sites are first-come, first-served. When campgrounds fill, these sites are made available to all campers.

Evening programs are offered during the summer at the Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds. Both are accessible and are a wonderful way to wrap up a day in Great Basin National Park.

Assisted listening devices are available for use with any ranger-led program, including cave walks and evening programs. Talk to a ranger at any visitor center about using one before the start of the program.

To access the telephone relay services, TTY users should call (800) 326-6868. The user will be connected to an interpreter and automated system. The voice number in Nevada to reach an interpreter is 1-800-326-6888.

## Picnic Areas

The park has several developed picnic areas. The first is located near the Lehman Caves Visitor Center parking lot. It has several accessible tables and fire grills. Restrooms and water are available in the summer. Upper Lehman Creek Campground has several picnicking possibilities, including an area near the host site and tables near the amphitheater that are available for groups through a special use permit (775-234-7331, ext. 213). The newest park picnic area and restroom facilities are located at the Pole Canyon trailhead.

## WNPA Bookstores

Western National Parks Association operates two bookstores in the park, one at each visitor center. Both stores offer a wide range of titles on the natural and cultural resources of the region.

## Strawberry Creek Delays and Closures

This summer, major improvements will be made to the road and campsites in Strawberry Creek. To expedite work during the short construction season and to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors, there will be delays and closures throughout the summer.

Expect construction delays and/or closures Mondays through Thursdays. Park staff will be opening and closing areas as construction progresses.

Limited primitive camping will be available Friday and Saturday nights. Strawberry Creek will be closed for camping Sunday through Thursday nights.

For the most up-to-date information, ask a ranger at a visitor center.

## Campgrounds

Great Basin National Park has four developed campgrounds with vault toilets, picnic tables, tent pads, and campfire grills. There are no hookups or leveled parking sites. Water is available in the summer at the campgrounds, or year-round at the visitor centers. Campsites are first-come, first-served. No reservations can be made. Visitors are responsible for knowing and following all campground regulations, which are posted on the campground bulletin boards. Camping fees are \$12 per night per site (\$6 with a Senior or Access Pass), with a 50% reduction when the water systems are turned off (spring and fall).

**Lower Lehman Creek Campground** is open year-round, is located along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive at an elevation of 7,300 feet and has 11 sites including 6 pull-throughs.

**Upper Lehman Creek Campground** is generally open May through October, is located along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive at an elevation of 7,752 feet and has 22 sites.

**Baker Creek Campground** is located along the Baker Creek Road at an elevation of 7,530 feet and has 34 sites, 6 of which are pull-throughs. It is generally open May through October.

**Wheeler Peak Campground** is located at the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive at an elevation of 9,886 feet and has 37 sites. It is generally open Late May/early June through September.

**Grey Cliffs Group Campground** is available (groups only) by reservation from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It has pit toilets and picnic tables but no potable water. Fees apply. Reservations required: (775) 234-7331, ext. 213.

Free primitive camping facilities are available along Strawberry and Snake Creek roads. All sites have fire grates. Snake Creek sites have picnic tables; some also have pit toilets. Group size is limited to 15 people, 6 pack animals, and 6 vehicles per site. Maximum stay is 14 days per site.

## RV Dump Station

The RV dump station, potable water, and trash receptacles are located approximately one half mile inside the park on the entrance road (Hwy 488). Summer only; \$5.00 fee applies, no discounts.

# Lehman Cave

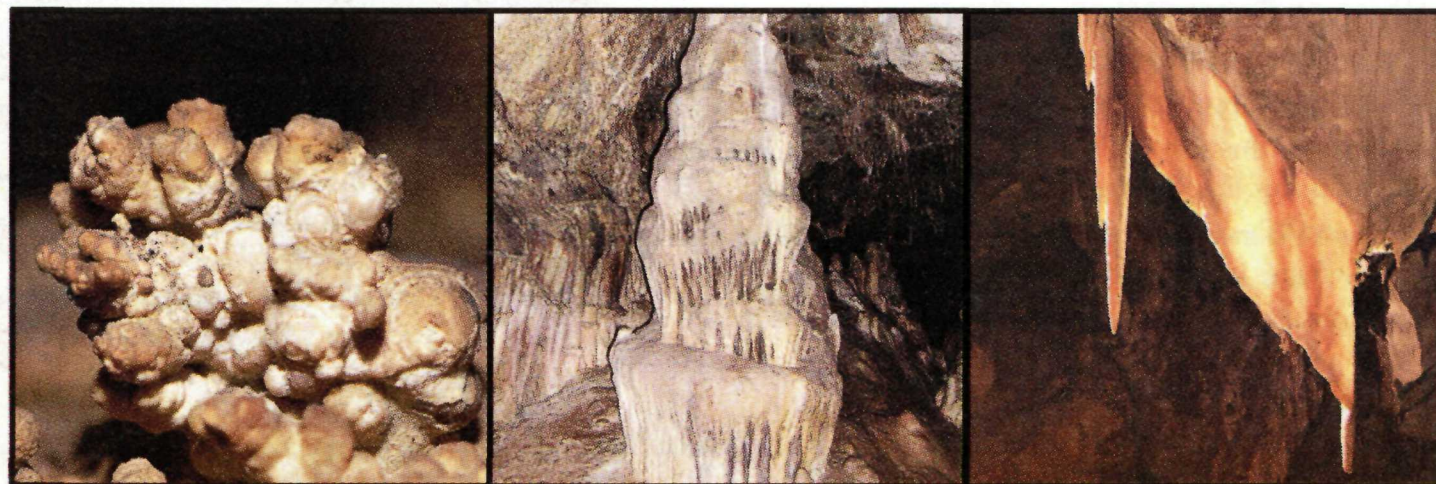
## Tour Prices

### Grand Palace Tour

Adults (16+)	\$10.00
Youth (5-15)	\$5.00
Infants/Tots (0-4)	N/A
Senior Pass	\$5.00
Access Pass	50%

### Lodge Room Tour

Adults (16+)	\$8.00
Youth (5-15)	\$4.00
Infants/Tots (0-4)	FREE
Senior Pass	\$4.00
Access Pass	50%



Cave popcorn (left), stalagmites (center) and translucent cave bacon (right) are just a few of the formations found in Lehman Cave. Explore this underground world on a guided walk with a Great Basin National Park ranger. NPS photos.

## Tour Times

### Summer Schedule

(May 28 - Sept. 6, 2010)

#### Grand Palace Tour

9:00, 11:00, 1:00 and 3:00

#### Lodge Room Tour

8:30, 10:30, 12:30, 2:30  
and 4:00

### Winter Schedule

(Sept. 7, 2010 - May 26, 2011)

#### Grand Palace Tour

9:00 and 1:00

#### Lodge Room Tour

11:00 and 3:00

All times are Pacific Time

## Tour Information

Lehman Cave can only be entered with a guided tour. All tours are guided by a park ranger who will discuss the history, biology and geology of the cave.

The **Grand Palace Tour** visits all areas of the cave that are open to the public, takes about 90 minutes, is 0.54 miles total and is open to visitors ages 5 and older.

The **Lodge Room Tour** visits several rooms in the cave, takes about 60 minutes to complete, covers 0.4 miles and is open to all visitors.

A Gothic Palace Tour is an option for visitors who are unable to negotiate the stairs and narrow passageways. Regrettably, Lehman Cave is not ADA accessible. The entrance tunnel is 250 feet long with a 5-8% grade; wheelchairs are permitted only if members of your party can control and push the chair both into and out of the cave. Speak with a ranger for details.

Limited **photography** is permitted. Please follow your ranger's guidance on when and where to take photos and be aware that flashes can impair vision and disorient other visitors.

## A Fragile Environment

The Lehman Cave ecosystem is easily affected by our presence and actions. Please help us in our effort to maintain its integrity by following these important rules:

You may bring a jacket, a hand-held camera, and a flashlight into the cave. All other items, including food, water or other beverages, purses, backpacks, camera cases, and tripods are not allowed. Touching or collecting of cave formations is strictly prohibited.

## For Your Comfort and Safety

- The elevation of the cave entrance is 6,825' (2080 m).
- There are steps and slopes along the cave tour route.
- Low ceilings may require frequent stooping.
- Trails may be slippery. Wear shoes with good traction.
- Watch your step and use handrails where provided.
- Stay with your tour and stay on the trail.
- The cave is a constant 50° F (10° C) and 90% humidity.
- A light jacket is recommended.

## Ticket Sales

Lehman Cave tours are limited to 20 people per tour and do sell out. Tickets may be purchased up to one month in advance. Tickets cannot be purchased over the phone on the day of the tour.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center or by phone at (775) 234-7331, ext. 242. All tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase. Major credit cards are accepted for phone orders. Phone orders are taken between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All advance sales are final; please plan carefully.

Advance tickets must be picked up at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center at least 15 minutes prior to tour time. Unclaimed tickets will go on sale to walk-in customers and will not be refunded. Senior and Access Passes must be presented to be eligible for a discount.

## Purchase your Annual Pass at Great Basin National Park and get one FREE cave tour ticket!

The pass covers entrance fees at all National Park Service sites and other federal recreation sites for one year. Buy your \$80 pass at Great Basin National Park and you receive one free cave tour - up to a \$10.00 value!

# Walks & Talks

## Ranger Programs

A variety of ranger-guided walks and talks may be available throughout the summer: join us to experience our remarkable resources first-hand! Evening campfire programs are offered in the summer at Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds. Programs are 45-60 minutes long and address subjects related to the Great Basin's human history, geology, plants, wildlife, and more. Fifteen-minute patio talks are presented at the visitor centers and cover a range of subjects as well. Great Basin for Kids is a wonderful option for families with young children. The program schedule changes throughout the summer, so stop by a visitor center for program times, topics and locations. Pets are not permitted at ranger programs. All outdoor programs are weather dependent.

## Self-guided Interpretive Trails

Great Basin National Park offers three self-guided interpretive trails. Experience a pinyon-juniper ecosystem along the **Mountain View Nature Trail**, located at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Walk an easy 1/4-mile and learn about the sub-alpine forest along the **Island Forest Trail**, located near Wheeler Peak Campground. Take some time to learn about the impressive survival strategies of the world's longest-living trees along the **Bristlecone Interpretive Trail**, located 1.4 miles up the bristlecone-glacier trail. See page 8 for trail information.



See trees ranging in age from just a few years to several thousand along the bristlecone interpretive trail.

## The Darkest Night Skies

Two-thirds of Americans cannot see the Milky Way from their backyards, and nearly all of us (99%) live in places with measurable light pollution. Here at Great Basin National Park, our night skies are dark — among the darkest in the country, even among other national parks. Join a ranger and amateur astronomers for a celebration of this rare and valuable resource. In this sanctuary of natural darkness you can see stars like few places on Earth! Special stargazing events are scheduled this summer for May 29 & 30, July 24 & 25, and September 4 & 5. The First Annual Astronomy Festival will be held August 6 - 8.

# Lehman Cave Restoration Continues

Work continues on the Lehman Cave Restoration Project. This project, funded through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, is restoring 4,700 square feet of cave floor in Lehman Cave to a natural condition by removing over 800 feet of trails and 1,500 feet of electrical lines from the cave. These areas of the cave were closed to public use in 1981 following safety concerns in the Talus Room section. The physical deterioration and decomposition of these abandoned features are impacting natural resources and water quality in the cave. As of April 2010, park staff and volunteers have removed approximately 450 feet of trail and 1200 feet of electrical line.

The concrete, asphalt, and sand making up the trail has been removed one 5-gallon bucket at a time and currently totals over 37 tons of debris. Work this spring and summer will be in the Sunken Gardens and West Room sections of the cave. Visitors should expect to



see and hear staff in these sections as they restore the cave to its former beauty. Staff have recently uncovered 3 new rimstone dams and pools in the Sunken Garden. These areas, once paved over, have been refilling with water during the wet season and may hold water year round.

**Have you ever  
wanted to work in  
a national park?**

**Great Basin National Park** can use your enthusiasm and expertise! Volunteers may be able to help the park in the following areas:

**Campgrounds**

**Natural & Cultural  
Resource Management**

**Interpretation  
& Education**

**The Park Library  
& Museum**

Housing may be available, depending on length and season of service.

Thank you to all the 2008 Volunteers who donated over 6,500 hours to help with campgrounds, trails, visitor services, and resource management projects!



**If you would like to help  
YOUR NATIONAL PARK  
by volunteering, call:  
(775) 234-7331, ext. 213.**

## Great Basin Artist-in-Residence

Throughout our nation's history, artists and writers have brought attention to our national heritage and have played a large part in the establishment of many national parks. Today many artists are able to visit our national park areas and become part of the many Artist in Residence programs offered by our national parks.

Great Basin National Park follows the tradition, offering the Darwin Lambert Artist/Writer-in-Residence Program. This program was created in honor of the late Darwin Lambert. As a proponent for the creation of Great Basin National Park and other parks, Lambert authored Great Basin Drama (available in park bookstores) in addition to other literary works.

This program offers visual and performing artists, composers, and writers the opportunity to live and work in Great Basin National Park. The selected resident(s) stay in a small cabin in the park for two to four weeks in the fall. No stipend is offered. Residents are required to present one public program in which they describe their work in relation to the park and its natural and cultural resources. Residents must also donate one original piece of their work to the park's permanent museum collection.

To date, Great Basin National Park has hosted photographers Trish and Deon Reynolds, stained-glass artist Kay Malouff and poet P. D. Weddington.

**For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/grba/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grba/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence.htm)**

# A Trip to Snake Creek Canyon



Head up Snake Creek Canyon to seek out autumn's colors (NPS photo) or to relax by the stream (photo by L. Belica).

A new journey lies in wait just eight miles south of the town of Baker, in Snake Creek Canyon. Located in the heart of Great Basin National Park, its endless attractions await your discovery. Just follow Hwy 487 south towards Garrison, Utah until you see the sign for Snake Creek Canyon. Turn right and let the adventure begin. The road is well maintained for the first four miles until you reach the Spring Creek Fish Rearing Station. The Nevada Division of Wildlife runs the station and welcomes visitors from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stop in, say "hi" and check out the young trout.

Continue your journey by following the road past the rearing station into the rising walls of Snake Creek Canyon. From this point forward, a high-clearance vehicle is recommended, for the road becomes semi-maintained and un-plowed in winter. At mile five, you'll enter Great Basin National Park. From here it is eight miles and 2000 ft. of elevation change until the end of the road. Enjoy, for you'll be going from Nevada's most common forest, the Pinyon/Juniper woodland, to one of its rarest, a flourishing evergreen forest of fir, spruce, and pine. With the winding nature of the road and a 25 mph speed limit, give yourself one hour to complete the roundtrip drive.

Each season adds something new to the scenery around the road. In the spring and summer, a virtual cornucopia of flowers awaits your discovery. The explosion of colors and shapes along the drive is a way for flowers to attract a pollinator. In the fall, the canyon becomes emblazed in the fiery red, yellow, and orange hues of the aspen and cottonwood trees, making the trip a memory not soon forgotten. Winter starts in November with the slow accumulation of snow. By

mid-December, one can cross-country ski or snowshoe up the road and experience the stark silence and clear beauty of the frozen winter world.

For people who have the time and ability, the end of the road can mark the next step in your journey. If you have a more restful spirit, the journey continues at the large campsite at the end of the road. Located under aspens in a grass covered meadow, and enhanced by the symphony of nearby Snake Creek, it beckons for a good nap, a nice read, photography, and wildlife and bird watching. For people who seek parts unknown, the journey continues with several paths that lead to distant places seldom traveled. One of them starts near the campsite at the end of the road, the Johnson Lake Trail. The trail is 3.6 miles long (one-way) with 2450 of elevation gain. Just traveling the first mile will leave you with your mouth open in wonder. Grass covered meadows, ancient boulders the size of houses, and some of the mightiest aspens you'll ever see create amazing and unexpected scenery. If you decide to continue up the trail, you'll pass through the Johnson Lake Historic Mining District and end at beautiful, subalpine, Johnson Lake.

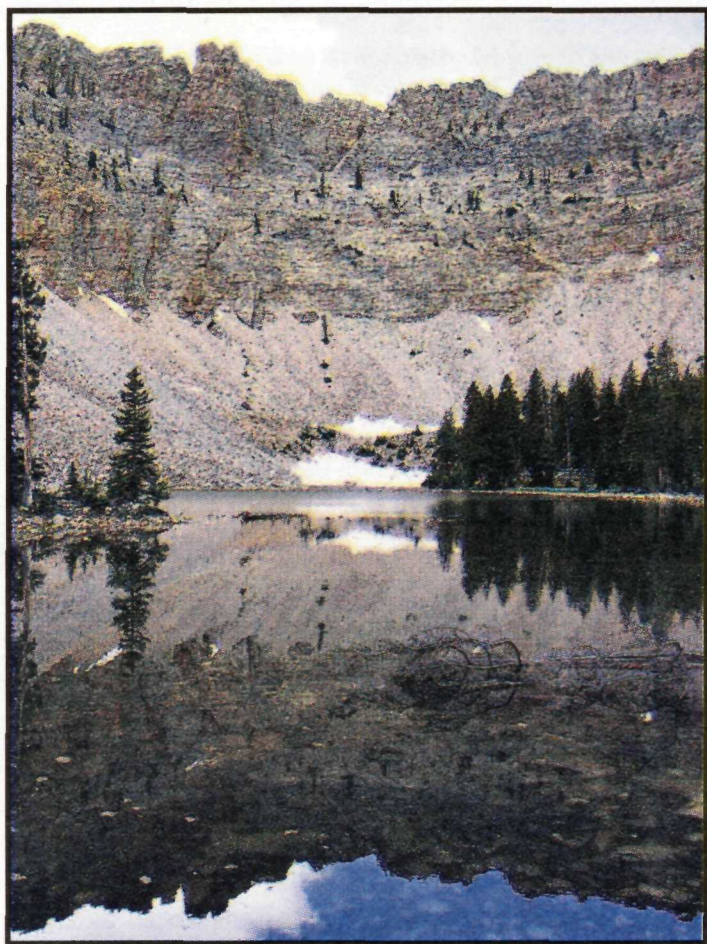
Your journey will only end when you want it to, for the amount of things to do is endless in Snake Creek Canyon. When it does finally reach completion, don't forget about this remarkable, and little known, place and make plans to return. However, if a joyful experience is to be repeated, then we all must remember to tread lightly, to take only pictures and leave only footprints. It's amazing what a new journey, even in a familiar place, can reveal. "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks" (John Muir).

# Grab Your Pole!

Tucked away in the mountainous and forested terrain of Great Basin National Park are beautiful streams and alpine lakes that are bordered by wildflowers in the summer, autumn colors in the fall, and are home to several types of trout year-round. During your visit consider taking time to explore one of the park's streams and fish for a campfire meal or hike up through the forests to an alpine lake to fish till your heart's content while enjoying the scenery and peacefulness of this unique national park.

A variety of trout fishing is available with five types of trout found here; rainbow, brown, brook, and Bonneville and Lahontan cutthroat trout. Rainbow and brown trout dominate Lehman Creek around the lower and upper campgrounds and a trail between them follows the stream making a stroll with fishing poles an easy late-afternoon activity. Baker Creek has mostly brown and brook trout although rainbows and even a few Bonneville cutthroats can be found in some sections, and anglers are rarely disappointed with their catch rates—even in the campgrounds.

Although the Lahontan cutthroat trout is the most widely distributed and well known native trout of Nevada, the native trout here in Great Basin National Park is the Bonneville cutthroat trout. The valley east



Baker Lake is the one alpine lake in the park with fish and has brook and Lahontan cutthroat trout, it's a long hike, but a rewarding destination. Photo by C. Wonderly.



To see one of the beautiful — and still relatively rare — Bonneville cutthroat trout, head to upper Snake Creek.

of Great Basin National Park, Snake Valley, was once a part of ancient Lake Bonneville (that many thousands of years ago extended across much of Utah and into parts of southern Idaho and western Wyoming) where Bonneville cutthroat trout originated. Today, the eastern slopes of the Park and the mountain ranges to the north are the far western edge of the Bonneville cutthroat trout's native range. Known as the "West Desert" Bonneville cutthroat trout, they differ genetically from other populations of Bonneville cutthroat trout found elsewhere and represent thousands of years of adaptation to the conditions of this area.

Decades ago, Bonneville cutthroat trout were thought to have been eliminated from much of their historic range (including the area within and around the Park), from a combination of historic land, water, and fisheries management practices. In 1999, park biologists found an unexpected population of pure Bonneville cutthroat trout in a small park stream. In collaboration with state and federal agencies and support from angling groups, Great Basin National Park has been working to restore Bonneville cutthroat trout and other native non-game fishes to select streams over the past ten years. Because rainbow trout hybridize with Bonneville cutthroat trout and brown and brook trout can out-compete them for food and habitat, the park's restoration projects are restricted to a few select streams in which the native aquatic community that historically occurred (including Bonneville cutthroats and other native fishes such as mottled sculpin, speckled dace, and redbreast shiner). Here the Bonneville can thrive without the threats posed by the non-native trout. Strawberry Creek and the upper section of Snake Creek are managed as Bonneville cutthroat fisheries.

If you have the time during your visit, enjoy exploring Great Basin National Park and its streams and lakes before resuming your journey through the desert. And if you do go fishing, remember to pick up a Nevada fishing license (available in Baker).

## PHOTO CONTEST

Enter your favorite photos of your visits to America's Federal recreation lands by entering the 2010 Share the Experience Photo Contest\* for a chance to have your photo grace the front of the 2012 Federal Recreation Lands Pass. From June 1st to December 31st, you can submit up to three photos for the chance to earn national recognition for your picture. Great prizes include: Olympus digital cameras, trips to a Federal recreation area, Federal Recreation Lands Passes and more! For another chance to win, at the end of the photo submission period, the public will be invited to vote for their favorite photo. Each time you vote, you will be entered to win an Olympus camera! Enter by visiting [www.sharetheexperience.org](http://www.sharetheexperience.org), or pick up a brochure and entry form while visiting a Federal recreation land this year. You could have the next winning photo to adorn the Federal Recreation Lands Pass!

*\*The Share the Experience Photo Contest is sponsored by Olympus Imaging America Inc. and the National Park Foundation in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.*

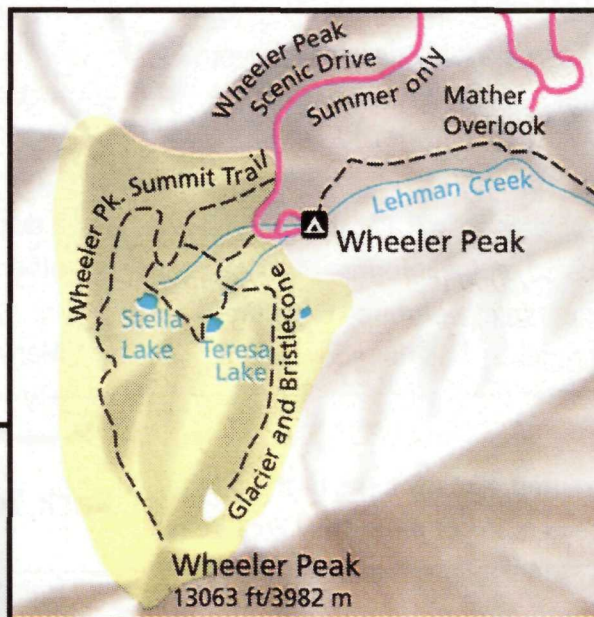
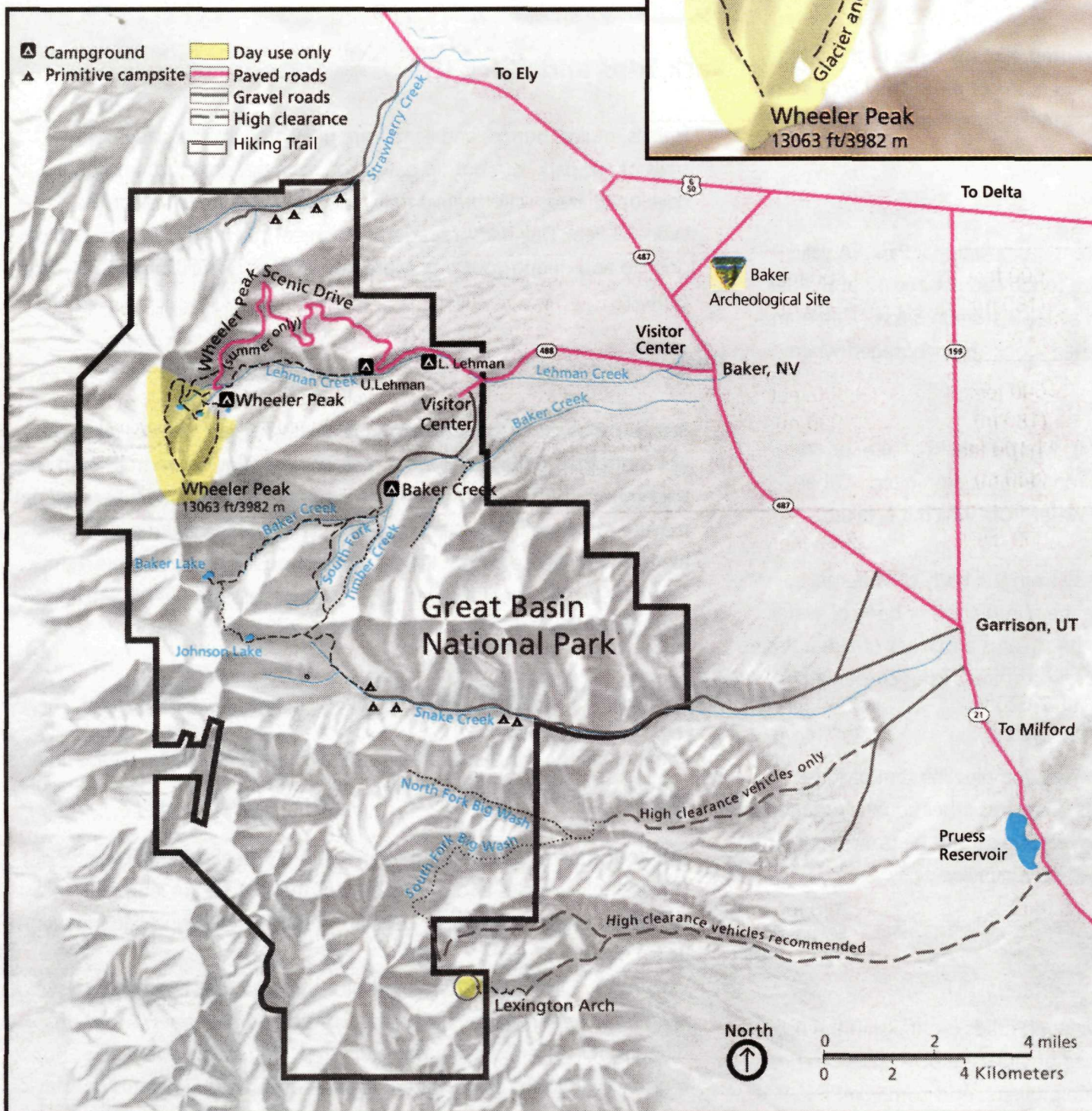
# Hiking Information

	Round-trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
<b>Mountain View Nature Trail</b>	0.3 miles (0.4 km)	80 feet (25 m)	6,825 feet (2,080 m)	This is a leisurely walk in the pinyon-juniper forest. The trail guide (available for loan at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center) describes the geology and ecology of the area. The trail starts at the Rhodes Cabin next to the visitor center.
<b>Lehman Creek Trail</b>	6.8 miles (11 km)	2,050 feet (620 m)	7,750 feet (2,360 m)	This trail can be accessed from trailheads in both the Wheeler Peak and Upper Lehman Creek Campgrounds. It passes through diverse habitats, paralleling a creek for parts of the trail. <i>Flagged for winter use.</i>
<b>Osceola Ditch Trail</b>	9.6 miles (16.0 km)	445 feet (drop) (136 m)	8,565 feet (2,635 m)	Begin at the signed pullout on the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Walk downslope through ponderosa pine, white fir and Douglas fir trees to the remnants of an 18 mile long channel built by gold miners in the 1880's. The trail follows the old ditch towards Strawberry Creek.
<b>Wheeler Peak Trail</b>	8.2 miles (13 km)	2,900 feet (890 m)	10,160 feet (3,100 m)	This hike should be started very early in the day because of the risk of afternoon thunderstorms. Along most of the route, the trail follows the ridge up to the Wheeler Peak summit. It is easiest to begin the hike from the Summit Trailhead parking area. Day use only.
<b>Alpine Lakes Loop Trail</b>	2.7 miles (4.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	The trail passes two beautiful alpine lakes, Stella and Teresa Lakes. There are good views of Wheeler Peak. Begin at the Bristlecone Trail parking area, near the Wheeler Peak Campground. Day use only.
<b>Bristlecone Trail</b>	2.8 miles (4.6 km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	Interpretive signs in the bristlecone pine grove explain the lives and significance of these ancient trees. The Glacier Trail continues beyond the bristlecone pine grove to the only glacier in Nevada, nestled beneath Wheeler Peak. Day use only.
<b>Glacier and Bristlecone Trail</b>	4.6 miles (7.4 km)	1,100 feet (340 m)		
<b>Pole Canyon Trail</b>	4 miles (6.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	7,000 feet (2,150 m)	This hike starts east of the Grey Cliffs Campground area and crosses a small bridge. Once a road, this primitive trail passes through different forest communities, along the creekbed, and into several small meadows. If you are looking for a longer, more strenuous hike, ask a ranger how to connect to the Timber Creek Trail.
<b>Baker Lake Trail</b>	12.0 miles (19.4 km)	2,620 feet (800 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	The trail begins at the end of the Baker Creek Road. It offers nice views of the surrounding peaks and ends at Baker Lake, an alpine lake with beautiful cliffs behind it. Just over a mile up the trail is the cut-off for the loop trail. Pass through ponderosa pines and a beautiful meadow, then return via the South Fork Baker Creek Trail.
<b>Baker Creek Loop</b>	3.1 miles (5 km)	870 feet (270 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	
<b>South Fork Baker Creek/ Johnson Lake</b>	11.2 miles (18.2 km)	2,740 feet (840 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	This trail also begins from the Baker Creek Road and follows the South Fork of Baker Creek. It then joins with the Johnson Lake Trail, passing historic Johnson Lake Mine structures just before reaching the lake.
<b>Johnson Lake Trail (from Snake Creek)</b>	7.4 miles (11.8 km)	2,420 feet (740m)	8,320 feet (2,540 m)	<b>Warning: Do not enter any mine structures: STAY OUT, STAY ALIVE!</b> Johnson Lake can also be reached by starting at the end of Snake Creek Road. This shorter, steeper route offers nice views of the Snake Creek drainage before reaching the historic Johnson Mill and Johnson Lake.
<b>Baker Lake/ Johnson Lake Loop</b>	13.1 miles (21.1 km)	3,290 feet (1,010 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	The Baker Lake and Johnson Lake Trails can be combined into a loop hike. This makes a good overnight trip. The connecting section is a steep route over the ridge between Baker and Johnson Lakes. The ridge top offers spectacular views in all directions. <i>Caution: this trail is very steep and prone to avalanches in winter. Route finding can be difficult.</i>
<b>Lexington Arch Trail</b>	3.4 miles (5.5 km)	820 feet (250 m)	7,440 feet (2,270 m)	This trail leads to a six-story limestone arch. The trail has steep sections. The trailhead is outside of the park, about 25 miles (48 km) south of Baker. The road is unpaved. Check at a park visitor center for road conditions. Dogs on leash are permitted. Day use only.

# Park Map

## Finding Your Way

The maps shown here are meant as orientation maps and should not be used in place of trail maps. If you are planning on hiking, especially in the more remote areas, please purchase a topographic map at a park visitor center. Many trails in the park are primitive, making route finding difficult. It is a good idea to carry a compass and have basic orienteering skills before heading into the backcountry. The bookstores sell 7.5 minute topographic maps and trail maps, as well as books detailing the trails and routes in Great Basin National Park.



## Park Road Access

**Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive** is paved, but steep and winding. Vehicles and trailers over 24 feet in length are not permitted beyond Upper Lehman Creek Campground. The scenic drive is open three miles to Upper Lehman Campground year-round. The upper nine miles of the road are generally open June through October, weather dependent.

**Please drive slowly: speeding is the most common cause of accidents on these roads!**

Travel distances from Baker: Ely: 63 miles west; Delta: 100 miles east; Milford: 85 miles south-east.

**Baker Creek Road** is a graded gravel road and is generally open May through November, weather dependent.

**Remote Park Roads** (Strawberry, Snake, Lexington) are open year-round, but can be muddy or snowy in the winter and spring. High clearance vehicles are recommended for these rough, dirt roads.

## Recreation Hazards

**Altitude Sickness** is a condition brought on by high elevations often in conjunction with strenuous activity. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, nausea, incoherent speech, and headache. The cure is to descend immediately. Altitude sickness can be life threatening. To avoid altitude sickness, ascend slowly, eat lightly and frequently, and drink plenty of water.

**Hypothermia** is a serious condition in which a person's body temperature is lowered. It can occur at temperatures well above freezing. Avoid hypothermia by wearing appropriate, layered clothing. Do not wear cotton clothing as it is very cold when wet. Carry extra clothes, drink plenty of fluids, eat high energy foods, and stay dry. Signs of hypothermia include slurred speech and uncontrollable shivering. If someone shows signs of hypothermia, warm the individual slowly, replace wet clothes with dry ones and give the person warm liquids without caffeine.

**Drinking Water** is essential; it is easy to become dehydrated when hiking in the dry desert air. Carry plenty of water and drink it! All surface water should be chemically treated, boiled, or passed through a filter capable of eliminating harmful microbes and parasites such as giardia.

**Abandoned Mines** are common in the park and the surrounding region. They can be extremely dangerous. Shafts and tunnels are unstable; do not enter them. Great Basin National Park is currently working to make abandoned mine lands safer.

**Driving** conditions in the park can be hazardous. Please obey the posted speed limits. Use lower gears on long downhill sections to prevent overheated brakes. Use of seat belts is required in both Nevada and the park. Please stop only at pullouts. Watch for wildlife and pedestrians. Congestion in the visitor center parking areas can lead to accidents. Please use caution.

**Cell Phones** do not usually work in the park. Do not rely on them!

# Planning for a Safe and Enjoyable Visit

## Camping

Front country camping is permitted in any available developed campsite. There are four developed campgrounds in Great Basin National Park. See page 3 for details.

As a courtesy to your fellow campers, please follow all campground regulations. These regulations are posted on the information kiosk near the self-service fee stations as well as in the campground brochure. You can also contact a ranger or campground host for additional information.

Backcountry camping is free and permitted in many areas of the park. Please go to one of the park visitor centers to get recent trail condition reports and to acquire a backcountry camping informational brochure.

## Fishing

Fishing is a very popular activity in Great Basin National Park. A valid Nevada state fishing license is required for any angler age 12 and older. Nevada state fishing licenses are sold at T&Ds store in Baker. Catch-and-release and use of barbless or de-barbed hooks is encouraged when fishing for Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Within the park, the use of fish as bait, whether dead or alive or any parts thereof except for preserved salmon eggs is prohibited. Other aquatic bait may be used only in the water from which it is taken.

It is unlawful to transport live fish away from the body of water in which they were caught or to release them into another body of water. Introducing other aquatic species to the streams and lakes of Great Basin National Park severely impacts Bonneville cutthroat trout conservation efforts and is strictly prohibited by law.

Please note that there is a three mile irrigation pipeline that divides Snake Creek into two separate bodies. Fish and other aquatic organisms from the section of stream below the pipeline cannot be transferred to any portion of the stream located above the pipeline.

## Mountain Biking

Bicycle riding is allowed only on developed roads (no trails) in the park. The primitive roads within the park and on adjacent BLM lands offer challenges for all skill levels of mountain bikers, and some can be connected into loops. For more information on possible rides, check with a ranger at a visitor center. Please wear a helmet!

## Natural and Cultural Resources

All park resources, both natural and cultural, are protected and therefore may not be damaged, disturbed, defaced, or removed from the park.

These resources include, but are not limited to, animal bones or antlers, live animals, rocks, fossils, standing trees both living and dead, any bristlecone pine wood whether standing or on the ground, arrowheads, rock art and any other historic objects.

For the enjoyment and safety of all visitors, please observe wildlife from a distance. For the health of the animals, please do not feed, touch, or otherwise disturb them from their natural state.

Many of these resources are fragile and irreplaceable, promptly report any violations to park staff.

## Pack Trips and Stock Use

Horses, mules, burros, and llamas are permitted on the backcountry trails of the park, but not on paved roads, in developed campgrounds, developed areas, interpretive trails, the Lexington Arch Trail or the Wheeler Peak Day Use Area. Certified weed-free hay is required two days prior to and during your trip. More information is available at the visitor centers.

## Pets

Pets are allowed in the campgrounds, but they must be on a leash of not more than 6 feet at all times. Pets are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry of the park, except for the Lexington Arch trail. Leashed pets may be exercised in the campgrounds, in front of the visitor centers, and along roads. Please do not leave pets unattended except in your vehicle. These restrictions are intended to prevent harassment of wildlife and to provide for a better experience for other park visitors.

## Vehicles and Traffic Safety

For your safety and the safety of other visitors and wildlife, please abide by posted speed limits signs and traffic control devices.

Due to the steep and winding nature of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, single vehicles and trailers greater than 24 feet in length are not permitted beyond the Upper Lehman Creek Campground parking area.

Only ATVs / OHVs that are properly licensed and registered ("street-legal") are permitted on park roads. Unlicensed all-terrain (ATV) / off-highway (OHV) vehicles are not permitted. Currently, Nevada does not register ATVs/OHVs to be "street-legal" but some other states do. Driving off designated roadways is strictly prohibited.

Please report violations to park Law Enforcement Rangers.

Please DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE and avoid driving while fatigued. Be aware that animals congregate near roadways in and around the park, especially in the early morning, at dusk and at night.



# Great Activities for Kids and Families

## Alpine Lakes Loop

The trail passes two beautiful alpine lakes, Stella and Teresa Lakes. There are good views of Wheeler Peak. Begin at the Bristlecone Trail parking area, near the Wheeler Peak Campground. Day use only.

## Campfire Programs

Campfire programs are offered in the summer at Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds, weather permitting. Program topics are related to the Great Basin's cultural and natural resources and programs last 45 - 60 minutes. Check at a visitor center or on campground bulletin boards for the weekly schedule. Please come prepared with warm clothing and a lantern or flashlight.

## Family Adventure Packs

The Adventure Packs Program is an opportunity for families to discover, learn about and document local resources while they explore Great Basin National Park. Each "themed" pack is equipped with a field journal and a large variety of educational tools for young explorers. Three different packs are available for check-out from park visitor centers: *Nature Discovery*, *Tracking*, and *Night Exploration*.



Teresa Lake, along the Alpine Lakes Loop, is a great spot to take a break, though it's a tad chilly for swimming!

## Junior Rangers

The Junior Ranger program is a great way for our young visitors to learn about the park. After completing several activities in the book, attending a ranger program, and doing a service activity like picking up trash at your campsite, participants receive a certificate and a junior ranger badge.

## Lehman Cave Tours

An amazing playground for your child's imagination! The Lodge Room Tour (60 minutes) is recommended for families with young children (details page 4).

# New Firearms Regulations Take Effect

On February 22, 2010, a new federal law came into effect allowing individuals to possess firearms in national parks so long as it is done in accordance with the state and local regulations in which the park unit is located. While visiting Great Basin National Park those wishing to be in possession of firearms must abide by the laws of the State of Nevada.

As of the date of this publication Nevada law does not restrict those in legal possession of a firearm from "open" carry. Nevada law allows for the concealed carrying of firearms so long as the individual has a valid concealed carry weapon (CCW) permit from the state of Nevada or one of the following states: Alaska, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, or West Virginia. Please note: Nevada does NOT recognize CCW permits issued by the state of Utah.

Federal law prohibits the possession of firearms in designated federal facilities. This includes visitor centers, park offices, maintenance buildings, and in Lehman Caves.

## The following firearms restrictions are in effect:

*It is still unlawful to use, point, or brandish a firearm in a national park.*

*Hunting in Great Basin National Park is prohibited.*

*Possession and use of other types of weapons is still prohibited. These include (but are not limited to) compressed gas or spring powered pistols or rifles, bow and arrows, crossbows, blowguns, spearguns, hand thrown spears, sling shots, paintball guns, irritant gas devices, explosive devices, or any other type of weapon designed to discharge missiles or projectiles.*

It is the responsibility of the individual to understand and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local firearms laws before entering the park. Additional information may be found at [www.nps.gov/grba](http://www.nps.gov/grba) or through the Nevada Department of Public Safety website <http://dps.nv.gov/>.

## Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace refers to a method of outdoor recreation which minimizes the impact on the land and wildlife. These techniques also leave the area more enjoyable for the next hiker. More information can be found at [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org).

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

Plan ahead for your safety and enjoyment and to protect the landscape in order to have a safe, enjoyable vacation with minimal impact to the land. Always carry a map, compass, food, water, rain protection, sunscreen, sunglasses, and warm clothing when hiking.

### Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces

When trail hiking, stick to the trail. Do not widen it or cut switchbacks. When hiking cross-country, pick your route to avoid impacting fragile areas, like alpine or wetland vegetation.

### Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack out everything you brought in with you, including cigarette butts and food scraps. Bury human waste in a hole 4-8 inches deep. Pick a site at least 200 feet (60 m) from water, campsites, and trails. Do not leave toilet paper on the ground; pack it out with you.

### Leave What You Find

Leave the areas you have used (such as campsites) looking natural. Park regulations prohibit collection of anything, including flowers, rocks, or historical and archeological artifacts. Ask a ranger about exceptions such as pinyon pine nuts and berries.

### Minimize Campfire Impacts

Build small fires in preexisting fire rings or use a camp stove. The park only permits the use of dead and down wood for fires. Bristlecone pine wood may not be burned. Fires are not permitted above 10,000 feet elevation (3,060 m).

### Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Never feed animals, and keep your food properly stored. Control pets at all times.

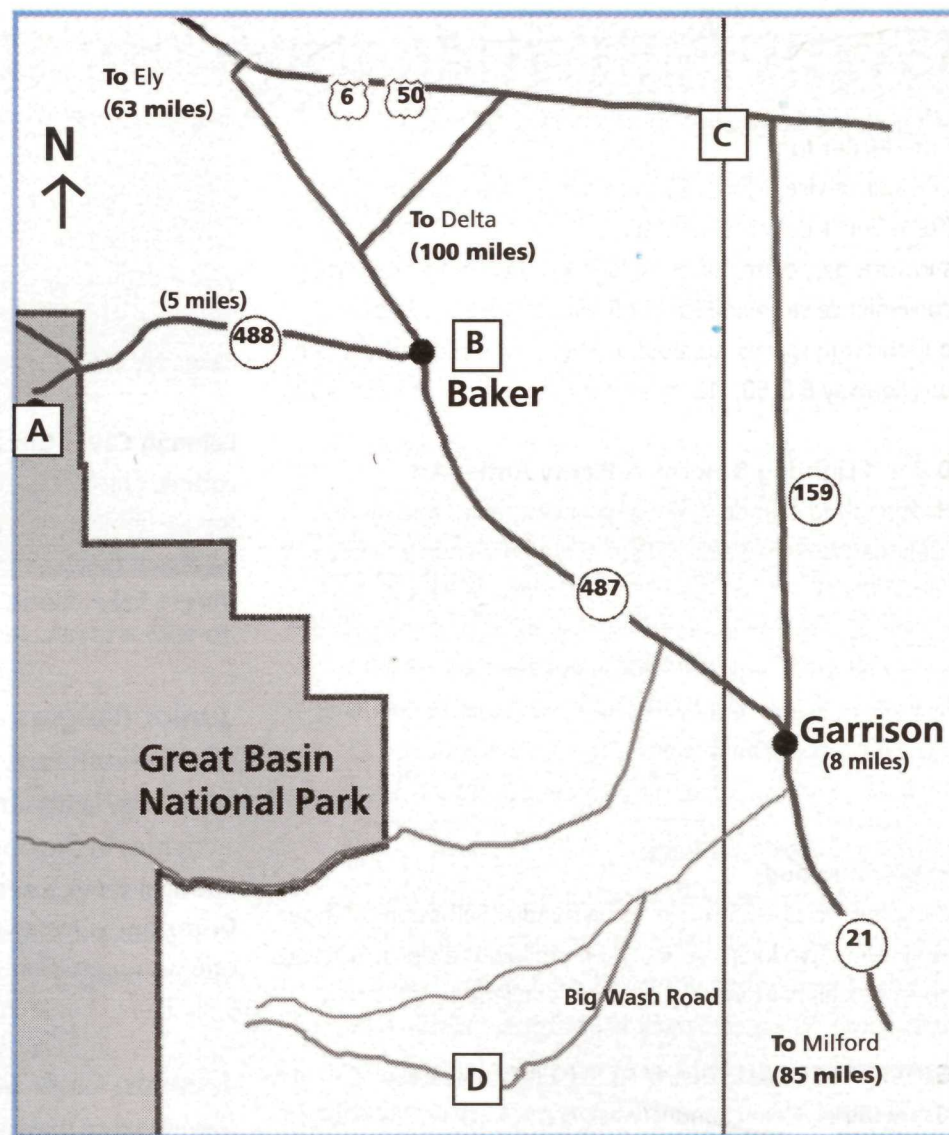
### Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Be courteous, yield to other users on the trail, take breaks and camp away from others, and let nature's sounds prevail.

# Area Services

- Convenience Store
- Fuel
- Gift shop
- Laundry facilities
- Lodging
- Public showers
- Restaurant
- RV facilities

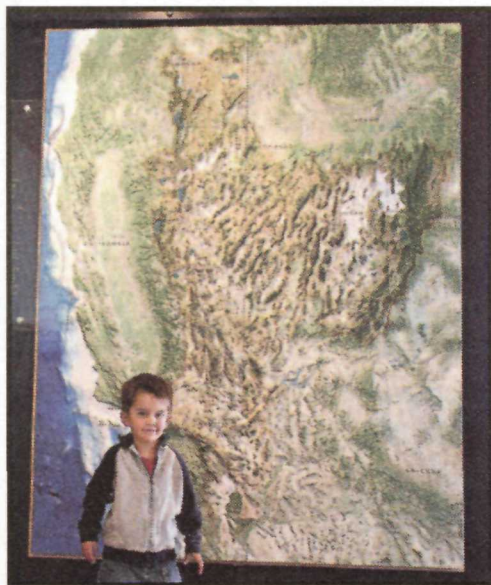
- A** **Lehman Caves Visitor Center & WNPA Bookstore**  
(775) 234-7331 x212  
**Lehman Caves Gift and Café**  
(775) 234-7221
- B** **Great Basin Visitor Center & WNPA Bookstore**  
(775) 234-7331 x260  
**Baker Ranch Service Station**   
**Ferg's Firewood**  
**Getaway Cabin**   
(775) 234-7272  
**Happy Burro Trad'n Post**   
(775) 234-7115  
**Silver Jack Inn & Art Gallery**   
**Lectrolux Cafe, Bar & Deli**  
(775) 234-7323  
**T&D's Store, Restaurant & Lounge**   
(775) 234-7264  
**Whispering Elms Campground**   
(775) 234-9900
- C** **Border Inn (open 24 Hours)**   
(775) 234-7300 year-round
- D** **Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch**   
(775) 234-7172 year-round



Mileages listed are from Baker.

To learn more about local services, visit [www.greatbasinpark.com](http://www.greatbasinpark.com).

## Great Basin National Park Foundation



Exhibits at the Great Basin Visitor Center were made possible by the Foundation.

To date, the Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and has been able to support the Park in several projects, including increasing access to park trails, recording and transcribing oral histories, and exhibits for the Great Basin Visitor Center in Baker, Nevada. The Foundation's support, both financial and otherwise, makes them an invaluable park partner. For more information, find them on the web at [www.greatbasinfoundation.org](http://www.greatbasinfoundation.org).

The Great Basin National Park Foundation was established and incorporated in 1998 under the laws of the State of Nevada to raise funds to assist Great Basin National Park and the National Park Service to achieve the park's mission. Bonnie Bryan, wife of Senator Richard H. Bryan, of Nevada, served as the Founding Chairperson. The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization.

## Western National Parks Association

Established in 1938, WNPA operates bookstores at sixty-five National Park Service sites throughout the western United States, with a mission of promoting the preservation of the national park system and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation, and research. WNPA has contributed more than \$40 million to the National Park Service, generated through store sales and member support. WNPA supports parks by producing more than a half million free interpretive items every year.

Currently, the association has more than 200 publications in print, and many new products are introduced every year, such as the new book on Great Basin National Park published in 2007. A catalog of these WNPA publications and hundreds of additional educational products, on a variety of subjects such as national parks, archeology, American Indians, biology, geology, history, cooking, and children's interests is available in the Great Basin National Park visitor center bookstores. You can find those titles not immediately available in the bookstores at our online store at [wnpa.org](http://wnpa.org).

WNPA supports Great Basin National Park in many ways, such as funding supplies, the park's Junior Ranger program, and the printing of this newspaper.

# Snake Valley Businesses

## **The Border Inn**

24-hour service. Motel (25 rooms with Direct TV), restaurant (full menu + daily specials), bar, slots, pool table, video games, showers, gas, diesel, phones, laundry, and souvenirs. Also convenience store and ice. 22 RV spots—full hookups and pull-through spaces. Located on the Utah-Nevada state line on Highway 6 & 50. 13 miles from the park. (775) 234-7300.

## **D Bar X Lighting & Horns-A-Plenty Antler Art**

Hand-crafted chandeliers, wall sconces, tables and more using natural renewable antlers, wooden wagon wheels, and old-fashioned oil lanterns. Thousands of happy customers worldwide since 1993. UL-Approved. All products guaranteed. The workshop, located 17 miles from Baker, is open by appointment. Complete catalog with more than 200 items available on-line at [www.Horns-A-Plenty.com](http://www.Horns-A-Plenty.com). Call for an appointment or a free color catalog. (800) 467-6599.

## **Ferg's Firewood**

Campfire wood—\$5.00 per large bundle. Self-serve, 24-hour availability. Two locations in Baker—follow the signs. Proceeds go to a local, hard-working student's college fund.

## **GAS-TOILETS-LAUNDROMAT-SHOWERS at Baker Sinclair.**

Gas & Diesel, Coin Laundry (wash & dry) in downtown Baker, public restrooms, and showers (\$3). (775) 234-7323.

## **The Getaway Cabin**

Tired of motels? How about privacy in a clean, comfortable cabin located in the town of Baker. Room for the whole family. Satellite TV, wireless internet available, fully equipped kitchen, towels and linens provided, fenced yard with picnic area and barbecue. Small pets OK. (775) 234-7272.

## **Happy Burro Trad'n Post**

Located in downtown Baker. We are open daily in summer, 8-6pm, or just knock on the door of our RV. Featuring fresh dried fruits, nuts & jerky. A good selection of sodas & power drinks. American Indian and Southwest jewelry & other crafts; knives featuring Booker, Swiss Army, and others; Black Hills Gold and silver jewelry (including Harley Davidson); t-shirts; and colorful rocks, crystals, and geodes. For our customers, come in & enjoy FREE WIRELESS INTERNET, a cup of coffee or a glass of cold water. We validate Highway 50 "The Loneliest Road" PASSPORT. Bring in this ad for a 20% discount on purchases of \$10.00 or more. (775) 234-7115.

## **Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch**

Bed and Breakfast in luxury lodge, or camping in teepees or cabins. Full meal packages available by reservation only. Pheasant hunting packages. Campsites, hot showers, recreation area, children's playground, heated pool, trout

fishing, hiking, farm animals. Relaxing environment by running water. Great for retreats or reunions. 14 miles from Baker, in the mountains at the eastern edge of the park, with private access to Big Wash Trail. Open year-round. Reservations required. Hidden Canyon Ranch, P.O. Box 180, Baker, NV 89311. [www.hcr-nv.com](http://www.hcr-nv.com) (775) 234-7172.

## **Lehman Caves Gift and Café**

Located adjacent to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Famous for our homemade ice cream sandwiches, we also serve breakfast, lunch, snacks, hand dipped ice cream cones, malts, shakes, frozen treats, and home-baked desserts. The gift shop has Great Basin and Lehman Caves souvenirs, apparel, cards, mugs, books, plush animals, toys and games, pottery, wood and metal arts, jewelry, local and Great Basin crafts, camping and travel items, and bagged ice. Open April through October. (775) 234-7221.

## **Silver Jack Inn & Lectrolux Restaurant-Deli-Bakery-**

**Groceries-Espresso-Book Store-Gallery-Cozy Inn rooms,** café with patio & private garden dining. Restaurant open daily 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (9:30 p.m. Fri-Sat). Full bar—espresso, liquor, 36 microbrews and 25 wines. Also sports equipment rentals (mtn. bikes, snow shoes, X-C skis). Art & Antiques Gallery on site (ceramic, furniture, photography, painting, sculpture, crafts). Guided hikes. Homemade desserts and assorted goodies. Free primitive camping when campers patronize restaurant and/or grocery store. (775) 234-7323. [www.silverjackinn.com](http://www.silverjackinn.com)

## **T&D's Country Store, Restaurant, and Lounge**

In business for over 20 years. Store open 7 days/week, carries large supply of groceries, beer, wine, liquor & soda, ice, fishing tackle, camping supplies, and NV fishing/hunting licenses. Restaurant serves lunch & dinner 7 days/week. Chef "T" has 35+ years of culinary experience. Well known for our pizza, but have a large variety of delicious Italian, Mexican, American and Vegetarian dishes at affordable prices. Dine in bright, cheery sunroom or on relaxing, outdoor covered patio. Full-service bar—Chef "T" can mix up some incredible gourmet cocktails! Entertainment includes pool table, dart board, and surround-sound system. Open year-round (reduced hours in winter). Located in downtown Baker. (775) 234-7264.

## **Whispering Elms Motel, Campground & RV Park**

5 miles from Great Basin National Park, located in beautiful Baker, NV. Offering 25 full-service RV sites, 6 clean motel rooms, bar, large grassy areas for tents, many shade trees, coin laundromat, and clean showers. Bar open daily. Open Spring-Summer-Fall. (775) 234-9900.

## Regional Directory

### Chambers of Commerce

#### **White Pine County, NV**

(775) 289-8877

#### **Delta, UT**

(435) 864-4316

#### **Beaver County, UT**

(435) 438-5438

### Recreation Information

#### **Humboldt-Toiyabe Nat'l Forest**

(775) 289-3031

#### **Ely District BLM**

(775) 289-1800

#### **Fillmore District BLM**

(435) 743-3100

#### **Bryce Canyon National Park**

(435) 834-5322

#### **Cathedral Gorge State Park**

(775) 728-4460

#### **Cedar Breaks NM**

(435) 586-9451

#### **Death Valley National Park**

(760) 786-2331

#### **Fremont Indian State Park**

(435) 527-4631

#### **Lake Mead NRA**

(702) 293-8990

#### **Timpanogos Cave NM**

(801) 756-5238

#### **Ward Charcoal Ovens & Cave Lake State Parks**

(775) 728-4460

#### **Zion National Park**

(435) 772-3256

### Road Conditions

#### **Nevada DOT**

(877) NVROADS (687-6237)

#### **Utah DOT (Winter Only)**

(866) 511-UTAH (8824)

#### **California DOT**

(800) 427-7623

*Great Basin National Park does not endorse the enterprises listed here, but we do wish to thank them for their generous support in producing this publication as a visitor service.*

# People in the Great Basin



Fremont trapezoidal figures can be seen at Pictograph Cave. NPS photo.

Incredible views and nature abound within Great Basin National Park; and a glimpse into the past may be hidden around every corner. Whether the clue is of a historic cabin or a prehistoric stone tool, it offers a hint of the perseverance it took to live in these sometimes harsh climates. It is important to remember the feelings that you experience while exploring the park. Leaving the artifacts and buildings, which include: prehistoric artifacts, rock art, historic trash, historic buildings, etc., as you found them will allow others to experience the same feelings of joy and awe.

Over 13,000 years ago hunters with small family groups came to the mountains and valleys of the Great Basin. They camped along the shorelines of prehistoric lakes, gathering plants and animals for food and making tools and homes. For over 10,000 years people explored new areas as environments and resources changed. Around 1,500 years ago groups, such as the Fremont, began settling in valleys where they grew and cultivated corn and other plants. They gathered wild plants, fish, small and large game, berries, and pine nuts in the mountains. Later groups such as the Shoshone, Goshute, and Paiute followed game and gathered wild plants in season. These earliest native explorers carved and painted images on stone along creeks and ridges to mark special places and give recognition for what nature provided.

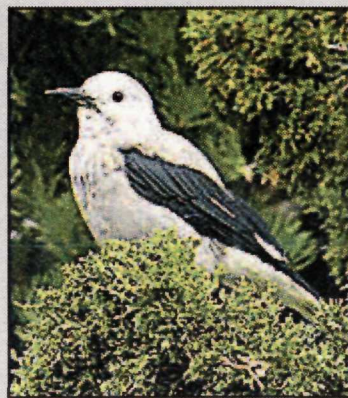
In the mid 1800's newcomers, explorers and settlers began 'taming' the Great Basin. Springs and streams were diverted into ditches, flumes, and/or pipes to ranches, farms, and mines. Forest resources were used for building on neighboring ranches and communities. Mineral resources pulled prospectors to the high peaks leaving evidence of their exploration in cabins, adits, and even trash piles. Lush vegetation was used for the grazing of sheep and cattle. Aspen carvings along trails note their passing camps. The use of these natural resources altered streams, vegetation, and wildlife habitat rapidly. Many of these alterations can be seen within the park, some examples: Osceola Ditch and the 100 year old Lehman Orchard.

Whether you are exploring the backcountry or picnicking along Lehman Creek you are surrounded by the human story of Great Basin National Park. One arrow point or broken bottle can be the key to understanding another chapter of our history. With the thrill of discovery also comes the

## Nature's Harvester

When hiking the trails in Great Basin National Park, keep your ears and eyes open for a curious bird that flits around from tree top to tree top. This bird, the Clark's nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*), with its grey body and black and white wings is a intriguing sight as it flies and frequents the pine forests in the park. In the Great Basin, they are commonly found in the limber, bristlecone, and pinyon pine groves in high elevations in the park looking for pine seeds. These crafty birds have very sharp, long beaks that allow them to collect many pine nuts from the cones. They often will stuff hundreds of seeds in a small pouch under their tongue as they take them to caches where they will save them for the winters to come. Each bird can store up to 30,000 seeds in a few weeks!

Not only are these birds depending on pine trees for food, but the trees are depending on the bird as well. Seeds that are left untouched in the caches under ground may become seedlings. One of the primary ways these types of pine tree's seeds are dispersed is by the Clark's nutcracker technique of caching seeds. This is a great example of how interrelated life can be in Great Basin National Park.



If you're interested in seeing a Clark's nutcracker, keep your eyes open on the high elevation trails especially in the summer months. The Alpine Lakes Loop and the Bristlecone trails are both excellent areas to spot this energetic bird. Listen for loud screeching calls and black and white wings fluttering about in the pine forests of Great Basin National Park.

responsibility to protect these important artifacts and buildings for future generations. Enjoy, but do not destroy, damage, or move these clues to our past. Archeologists use these artifacts and buildings to learn more about the past. Remember that all artifacts and historic buildings are protected by law. Collecting or damaging them is prohibited on public land and in the National Parks. These laws are in place to help all of us protect what is ours, the land and the stories it can tell if we only look around the corner.



All historic objects—whether pottery fragments, log cabins or rusted cans—are clues to the past. Please leave them where you find them! NPS photo.

# Bighorn Sheep



Photo by D. Hanks.

Nevada currently has the largest bighorn population in the lower 48 states.

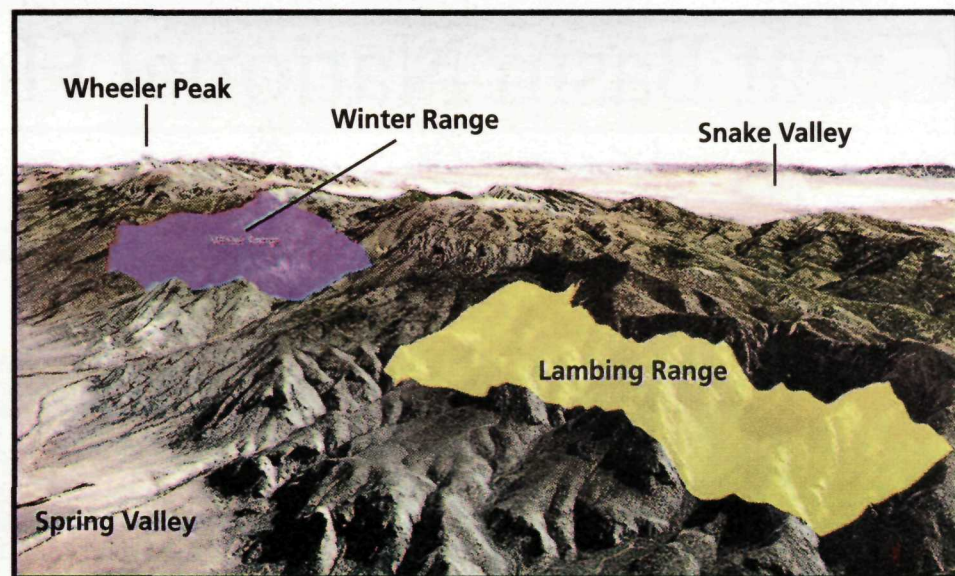
Bighorn sheep were once the most numerous big game animal in the Great Basin. They were described more frequently by early explorers than mule deer and elk, and were an important food source for Native Americans, who captured the images of bighorns on rock art throughout the region. In spite of such historical abundance, bighorn sheep declined precipitously and were extirpated from the Snake Range by 1940, primarily due to overhunting, habitat degradation, and potential disease transmission from domestic livestock.

The mission of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is “To protect, preserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for their aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States”. Under this mission, NDOW has aggressively pursued a program of trapping and transplanting bighorn sheep across the state. This program has restored three subspecies of mountain sheep into their historic range. Thanks largely to these efforts; Nevada currently has the largest bighorn sheep population in the lower 48 states.

Nevertheless, restoration efforts in the South Snake Range, which includes Great Basin National Park, have been only marginally successful. In 1979 and 1980 a total of twenty bighorns from Colorado were released into the South Snake range, west of Wheeler Peak. While this population has persisted, it has not substantially increased and is currently estimated at 20-25 individuals.

Reestablishment of a viable bighorn population in the South Snake Range is also an important goal for Great Basin National Park, whose mission is “to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people a representative segment of the Great Basin of the Western United States possessing outstanding resources”. Bighorn sheep require large areas of expansive open habitat and are an umbrella species, whose presence indicates healthy ecosystems and ecosystem processes. For the Great Basin, which is defined biologically by the boundaries of sagebrush, viable bighorn populations also indicate healthy sagebrush ecosystems.

Great Basin National Park and the Nevada Department of Wildlife have formed a partnership with a goal of reestablishing a viable bighorn sheep population on the South Snake Range. Four ewes and two rams have been captured, tested for disease and overall health, and outfitted



GPS collars help researchers to locate sheep and identify their seasonal ranges.

with satellite linked GPS collars. Initial findings suggest that while winter habitat is limited, ewes are utilizing recently burned areas as overwintering and lambing habitat. Consistent with most bighorn populations, ewes are apparently lambing in extremely steep, rugged areas. Disease and nutrient level testing show that the sheep are generally healthy.

Following this initial study, a larger restoration project is planned. The primary objective is to augment the South Snake Range bighorn herd with additional bighorn from Nevada. When considering augmentation, an important concern is disease transmission between bighorn and domestic sheep. Currently, several bighorn sheep herds in the western U.S. are undergoing pneumonia epidemics, with losses being reported from Nevada, Washington, Utah, Wyoming and Montana. While the exact mechanism of this epidemic is unclear, it is likely related to stressful environmental conditions which predispose bighorns to pneumonia, coupled with potential transmission of pathogens from domestic sheep. Domestic sheep grazing in Great Basin National Park ended in 2008. However cooperation with local grazing operators will be vital to a successful augmentation.

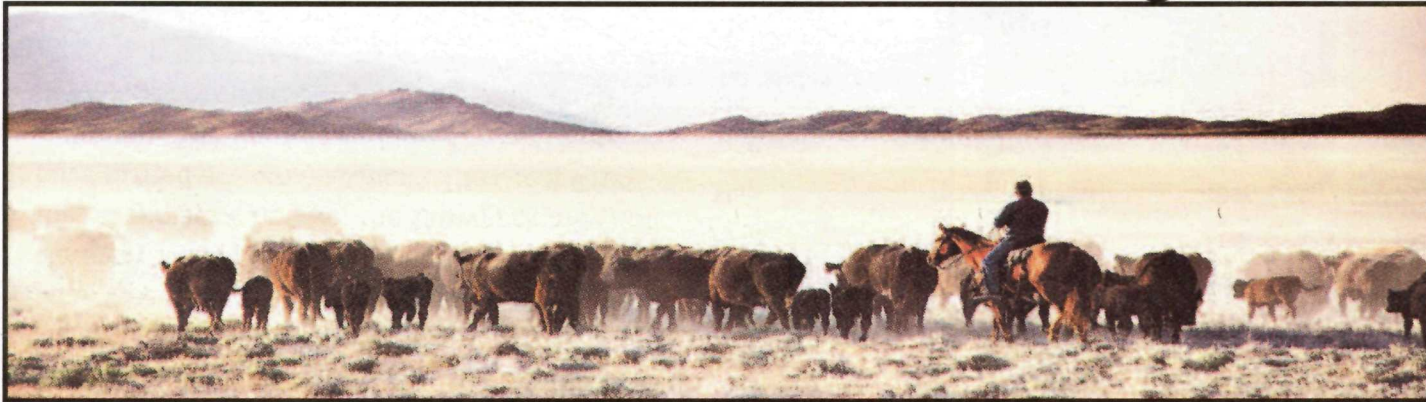
Additional questions about bighorn sheep in the South Snake Range that are currently being addressed include: habitat utilization, survival, recruitment, fecundity, age class structure, sex ratios, and metapopulation dynamics between the North and South Snake Range herds. The potential for bighorn augmentation in the South Snake Range is high. Several recent high elevation fires have expanded bighorn habitat and bighorn are extensively utilizing these areas. The bighorn sheep population was once estimated at 10-15 individuals but is currently at 20 – 25, suggesting that habitat conditions have improved.

The ultimate goal of this restoration effort is a viable bighorn sheep to the South Snake Range and Great Basin National park. A viable bighorn population will provide viewing opportunities for park visitors, reestablish metapopulation processes between the North and South Snake Ranges, and allow limited, controlled harvest on public lands outside GRBA.

Bighorn sheep are an iconic species and an important part of the ecosystems and cultural heritage of the Great Basin. The successful restoration of bighorn herds to the Snake Range will serve as a testament to the science based wildlife and land management practices of NDOW and the public land management agencies in eastern Nevada.



# Great Basin National Heritage Area



Cattle grazing has a long history in the Great Basin and is still common today. Photo by B. Roberts

In 1998, citizens of Millard County, Utah; White Pine County, Nevada; the Duckwater Shoshone Reservation; and the Ely Shoshone Reservation came together to form the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership (GBHAP). This non-profit organization works to preserve, interpret and promote the heritage of the region, an area with stories of national significance. The GBHAP believes that their efforts will provide educational opportunities and sustainable economic vitality for the region. The Great Basin National Heritage Area was formally designated by Congress in 2006.

The National Heritage Areas program provides resources for the preservation of local heritage. Although this is a federal program, designation as a National Heritage Area does not compromise local interests or control; rather it gives local communities a national designation that helps them obtain funding and other resources to preserve their heritage.

As the local cooperating partner for the Great Basin National Heritage Area, the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is in the process of preparing a management

plan for the next 10 to 15 years. One of the goals of Great Basin National Park is to interpret the resources of both the park and the entire Great Basin region. The Great Basin National Heritage Area Partnership is developing stories of the Great Basin that illuminate not only local history but our nation's history as well.

The Partnership has recently updated its web site: [www.greatbasinheritage.org](http://www.greatbasinheritage.org). Please visit the site to learn about more features and history of the Great Basin National Heritage Area.

Points of interest in the Heritage Area are many. Standouts include two National Historic Landmarks: the Nevada Northern Railway in Ely, Nevada and the Topaz World War II Japanese Internment Camp near Delta, Utah, and, of course, Great Basin National Park. Further information and brochures are available at the GBNHP office in Baker at the Old Ranger Station, the park's visitor centers, and local businesses. The GBHAP phone number is (775) 234-7171.

## Full Moons



Full moon rising. Photo by D. Geary

**Budding Moon**  
May 27, 2010

**Strawberry Moon**  
June 26, 2010

**Blood Moon**  
July 26, 2010

**Moon of the Green Corn**  
August 24, 2010

**Harvest Moon**  
September 23, 2010

**Hunter's Moon**  
October 23, 2010

**Beaver Moon**  
November 21, 2010

**Cold Moon**  
December 21, 2010

**Wolf Moon**  
January 19, 2011

**Snow Moon**  
February 18, 2011

**Maple Sugar Moon**  
March 19, 2011

**Planter's Moon**  
April 18, 2011

## Climate

There is almost an 8,000 foot (2,400 m) difference in elevation between Wheeler Peak and the valley floor. Weather conditions in the park vary with elevation. In late spring and early summer, days in the valley may be hot, yet the snowpack may not have melted at high elevations. The Great Basin is a desert, with low relative humidity and sharp drops in temperature at night. In the summer, fierce afternoon thunderstorms are common. Weather conditions are highly variable. Please come prepared for all types of weather. It can snow any time of the year at high elevations.

Data from Lehman Caves Visitor Center, 6,800 feet.

Month	Average Max.	Average Min.
January	41°F (5°C)	18°F (-8°C)
February	44°F (7°C)	21°F (-6°C)
March	48°F (9°C)	24°F (-4°C)
April	56°F (13°C)	31°F (-1°C)
May	66°F (19°C)	40°F (4°C)
June	76°F (24°C)	48°F (9°C)
July	86°F (30°C)	57°F (14°C)
August	83°F (28°C)	56°F (13°C)
September	75°F (24°C)	47°F (8°C)
October	62°F (17°C)	37°F (3°C)
November	49°F (9°C)	26°F (-3°C)
December	42°F (6°C)	20°F (-7°C)