

The Bristlecone

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The official newspaper of Great Basin National Park
Summer 2014 - Spring 2015

What's Inside

Superintendent's Welcome	2	Park Regulations.	10
Contact Information	2	Kids and Families	11
Artist-in-Residence	2	Weather & Climate.	11
Campgrounds & Facilities	3	Snow Survey & Climate Change.	12
Lehman Caves	4	Snake Valley Services.	13
Ranger Talks.	5	White Nose Syndrome.	14
Night Skies	6	Great Basin National Park Foundation.	14
Discover the Past.	7	Night Life at Great Basin National Park.	15
Hiking Trails.	8	Western National Parks Association.	15
Park Map.	9	Great Basin National Heritage Area.	16



Great Basin National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Superintendent

Steven Mietz

Park Headquarters

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Lehman Caves Ticket Sales

(775) 234-7517

Mailing Address

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Baker, NV 89311

Web Site

www.nps.gov/grba

Email

grba_interpretation@nps.gov

Cell phone reception is limited in the park and surrounding areas. Pay phones are located outside both visitor centers.

Welcome to Great Basin National Park!

No matter how short or how long your stay, there are many treasures awaiting your discovery. Great Basin National Park offers you the opportunity to discover ancient landscapes and history, experience the quiet majesty of the mountains and the basins, enjoy the abundance of stars in the night skies, tour a magical limestone cavern and wander through ancient bristlecone pine forests. Take the time to discover the secrets and experience the solitude of the park.

The Great Basin is a spectacular example of America's vastness and spirit. Great Basin National Park preserves a small representative piece of this region where you can experience the fascinating resources of this vast area at a leisurely pace free from the distractions of the modern world. The park provides an abundance of natural features and history for all to enjoy. From the depths of Lehman Caves to the 13,063 foot height of Wheeler Peak, from the natural landscape that includes 5,000 year old bristlecone pines, streams, lakes, and majestic mountain ranges to the abundant wildlife including pronghorn, badgers, elk, coyotes, and eagles, Great Basin National Park is awaiting your discovery.

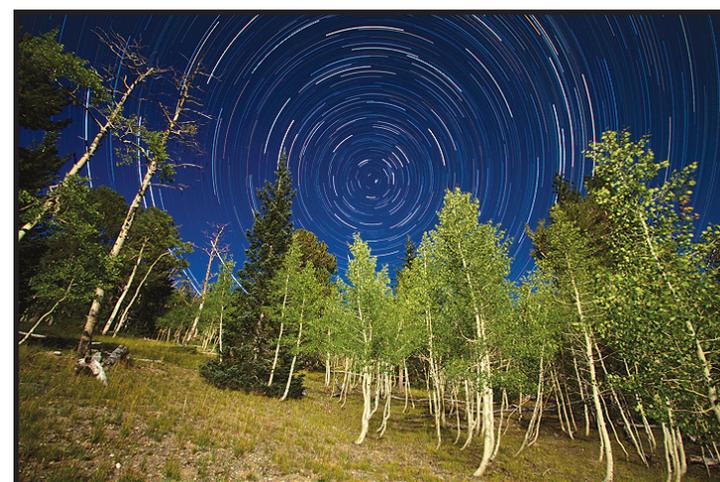
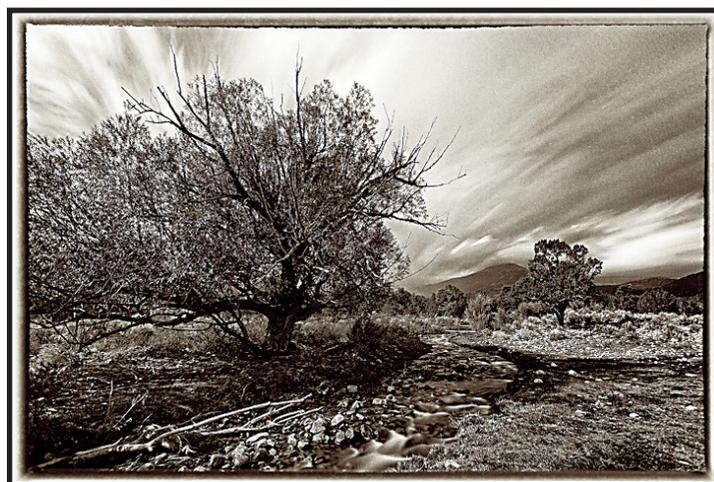
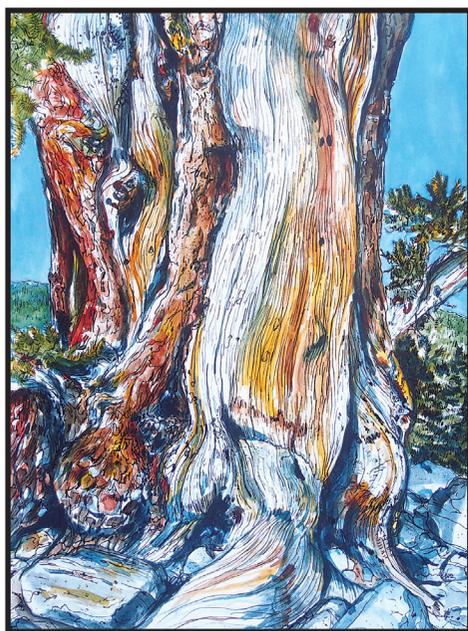
Your national parks preserve the best America has to offer. They serve as shining examples to the world of America's foresight and generosity to protect our shared natural and historical heritage for present and future generations to enjoy responsibly. In an increasingly complex and hurried world, your national parks, and Great Basin in particular, provide undemanding space and time to explore the natural world on its terms and at its pace. In the process you may discover something about yourself.

Camping, hiking, birding, photography, wildlife observation, exploring – the list of ways to enjoy Great Basin National Park is unlimited. The park has been described as “in the middle of nowhere” and “not an easy place to get to.” After some time here, I hope you will agree with me that “the middle of nowhere” is a wonderful place to be.

Steven Mietz

Superintendent
Great Basin National Park

The Darwin Lambert Artist-in-Residence Program



Throughout our nation's history, artists and writers have brought attention to our natural and cultural heritage, directing public awareness towards places that, through their help, would later be established as national parks and protected areas. Today artists are able to visit our national parks through the many Artist-in-Residence programs throughout the country and carry on this invaluable tradition.

In honor of Darwin Lambert, a major advocate for the creation of Great Basin National Park and author of *Great Basin Drama*, Great Basin National Park offers the Darwin Lambert Artist/Writer-in-Residence Program to one (or more) artists per year.

The Darwin Lambert Artist-in-Residence Program offers visual and performing artists, composers, and writers the opportunity to live and work within Great Basin National Park. The selected resident(s) stay in park housing or park campgrounds for two to four weeks, usually in the months of September and October. 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 to the park's permanent museum collection.

Left to Right: painting by 2012 Artist-in-Resident Kristin Gjerdsset; photograph by 2012 Resident Ken Koenig; photograph by 2012 Resident Lisa Rose. To learn more about Great Basin's Artist-in-Residence program, please visit our website: www.nps.gov/grba/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence.htm

Park Facilities

Hours of operation change throughout the year. Please call (775) 234-7331 or visit our website (www.nps.gov/grba) for the most current information.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

The Lehman Caves Visitor Center, located at the end of the main park entrance road (Hwy 488), is the starting point for all cave tours (*pick up your reserved tickets here as well*). The facility includes exhibits, short videos, the park film and a Western National Parks Association bookstore. 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 is Lehman Caves Gift and Café (details page 13).

Great Basin Visitor Center

The Great Basin Visitor Center, located in the town of Baker, provides information on the park and the Great Basin region. Exhibits and videos funded through donations raised by The Great Basin National Park Foundation tell the geological, biological, and cultural stories of the Great Basin. Western National Parks Association operates a bookstore here and the park film plays here as well. Restrooms, drinking water, and a pay phone are also available. A short trail (bicycles and pets on leashes permitted!) leads from the visitor center to Baker.

Accessibility

Visitor centers are wheelchair accessible. All audio-visual programs are subtitled; the park film can also be played with audio description (for sight-impaired) upon request. All developed campgrounds have at least one accessible site with a picnic table, fire grate, and tent pad. These sites are generally located next to restrooms. All sites are first-come, first-served. When campgrounds fill, these sites are made available to all campers.

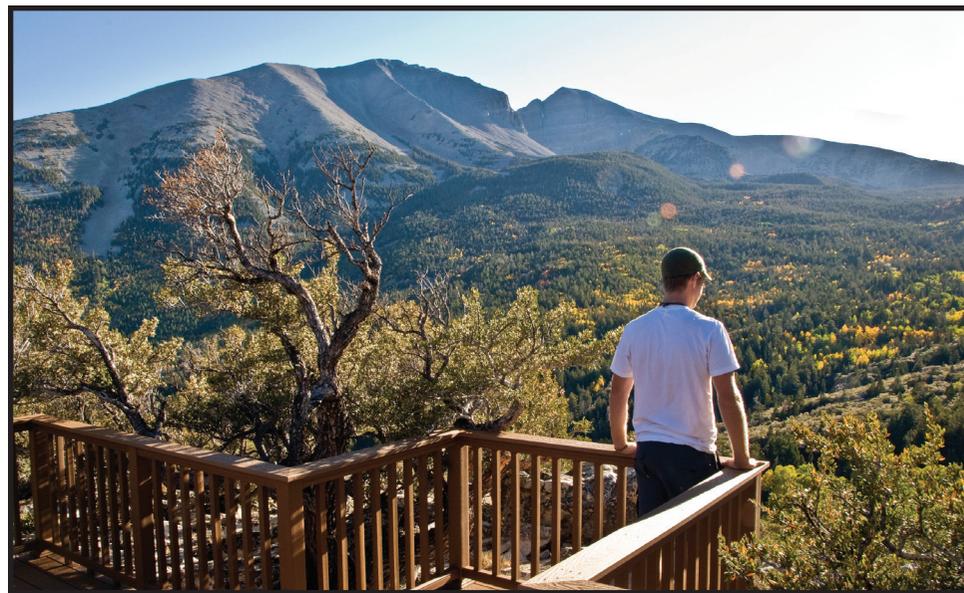
Assisted listening devices are available for use with any ranger-led program, including cave walks and evening programs. Talk to a ranger at a visitor center about using one before the start of the program. To access the telephone relay services, TTY users should call (800) 326-6868. The user will be connected to an interpreter and automated system. The voice number in Nevada to reach an interpreter is (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) 234-7511. Picnic and restroom facilities are also located at the Pole Canyon trailhead and at Mather Overlook.

RV Dump Station

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



Observation decks at Mather Overlook and Wheeler Peak Overlook allow visitors to enjoy Great Basin National Park's spectacular views. Photo by B. Roberts

Campgrounds

Great Basin National Park has five 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 (Fall-Winter-Spring).

Lower Lehman Creek Campground is open year-round and is located along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive at an elevation of 7,300 feet.

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

Baker Creek Campground is generally open May through October and is located along the Baker Creek Road at an elevation of 7,530 feet.

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

Grey Cliffs Campground includes 11 individual sites (first-come, first-served; \$6/night) and 5 group sites (reservations required: (775) 234-7511; \$25/night). Please pay close attention to signage (individual versus group sites). Grey Cliffs has picnic tables, fire grates, and vault toilets but no water.

Free Primitive Camping is available along Strawberry Creek Road and Snake Creek Road. All primitive sites have picnic tables, fire grates, and centralized vault toilets. For both areas there is no water.

During construction season this summer pay attention to current conditions and follow directions of crews on roads and in campgrounds. Delays may be expected. Call Visitor Centers for more up to date information.

Visiting Lehman Caves

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 Caves. Explore this underground world on a guided walk with a Great Basin National Park ranger. NPS photos.

Tour Information

Lehman Caves 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. **To minimize the spread of White-Nose Syndrome, a screening process is now in effect: see page 5.**

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

The **Lodge Room Tour** visits several rooms in the cave, takes approximately 60 minutes, is 0.4 miles long, 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. 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 Caves ecosystem is easily affected by our presence and actions. 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. Thank you for helping us protect the cave!

Ticket Sales

Lehman Caves tours are limited to 20 people per tour and do sell out. Tickets may be purchased up to one month in advance in person at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center or by phone at (775) 234-7517. Same day tickets may only be purchased in person (not by phone).

All tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase. Major credit and debit 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 Passes and Access Passes provide a discount *for the card holder only*. Senior and Access Passes must be presented to be eligible for a discount.

Tour Schedule

Summer

May 23 - September 1, 2014

Grand Palace Tour

9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

Lodge Room Tour

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

Fall & Spring

September - October 2014

March - May 2015

Grand Palace Tour

9:00 and 1:00

Lodge Room Tour

11:00 and 3:00

Winter

November 2014 - February 2015

The schedule for cave tours is yet to be determined. Please visit our website (www.nps.gov/grba) or call (775) 234-7331 for the most up-to-date information.

All times are Pacific Time

For Your Comfort and Safety

- The elevation of the cave entrance is 6,825' (2080 m).
- There are 76 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.

Ranger Talks

Great Basin National Park is more than just Lehman Caves! A variety of ranger talks are offered throughout the summer. Join us to experience our remarkable resources first-hand. **Our program schedule changes from week to week, 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.

Campfire Programs

These 45-60 minute programs are offered in the summer at Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds. Program topics vary widely but are always about the Great Basin: human history, geology, plants, wildlife, and more. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

Patio Talks

These brief talks are presented at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center and cover a range of subjects. The park's **Solar Scope** is often set up on the patio as well, allowing visitors the opportunity to safely view the sun.

Great Basin for Kids

These 30-minute activities are a great way for children to interact with a ranger and learn about the park. Programs take place at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center on summer days; times and topics are posted at park visitor centers.

Picnic in the Pines

Great Basin National Park is home to some of the oldest trees on earth—Great Basin bristlecone pines—which can live up to 5,000 years. To learn more about these trees, join a park ranger at noon on summer days at the Bristlecone Pine Grove.



Sculpted by wind and ice, bristlecone pines are some of nature's most unique and beautiful creations. Photo by C. Wonderly.

Self-guided Interpretive Trails

Great Basin National Park offers three self-guided interpretive trails. Walk through a pinyon-juniper ecosystem along the easy ¼ mile Mountain View Nature Trail, located at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center at 6,800 feet. Experience the sub-alpine forest first-hand along the ¼ mile accessible Island Forest Trail, located near Wheeler Peak Campground at 10,000 feet. 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 details.

Lepidoptera BioBlitz July 13-15, 2014

Would you like to learn more about butterflies and moths? Join us to help inventory the Lepidoptera in Great Basin National Park for our 6th Annual BioBlitz. A BioBlitz is a short-term event to discover what species live in a designated area. We welcome participants of all abilities: last year we had volunteers from 3 to 80 years old! We need volunteers to go in the backcountry and others to look near roads and campgrounds. The park will provide training and gear. The most important thing needed is the desire to find out what's out there. Dr. Paul Opler, Evi Buckner-Opler, park staff, and the Nevada State Entomologist will oversee the BioBlitz.



To learn more, please ask a park ranger or visit our website.

White-Nose Syndrome, Bats, and You

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a fungal disease that has killed between 5.7 and 6.7 million bats in the U.S. and Canada. WNS is named for the white fungus that grows around infected bat's faces. It was first documented in 2006 in upstate New York and has since spread as far west as Missouri. WNS causes bats to exhibit abnormal behavior during winter months such as flying during the day and clustering near entrances. In some hibernacula (caves or mines where bats spend the winter) 90 to 100 percent of the bats have died. This epidemic is one of the greatest wildlife disasters in our nation's history. Bats make up over 20% of the mammal species on Earth and save the U.S. agricultural industry over three billion dollars a year in pest-control services.

Great Basin National Park is deeply concerned about the bat populations within and around the park and has developed a WNS Response Plan. As part of this plan, **all visitors to Lehman Caves are now screened through a simple**

question and answer process. Items that have been worn or carried into another cave or underground mine must be laundered or disinfected before entering the cave. As this process can take some time, visitors are encouraged to show up early or **only wear and bring items that have not been in other caves or underground mines.**

As new information about WNS comes to light, Great Basin National Park will be implementing new decontamination and monitoring procedures. Please work with us to protect our bats and their habitat.

You can find out more on the park website www.nps.gov/grba, the U.S. Geologic Service National Wildlife Health Center website www.nwhc.usgs.gov or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org

Great Basin Night Skies: Half the Park is After Dark!

FULL MOONS

May 14, 2014
Flower Moon

June 13, 2014
Strawberry Moon

July 12, 2014
Thunder Moon

August 10, 2014
Sturgeon Moon

September 8, 2014
Harvest Moon



Full moon rising over Snake Valley.
Photo by K. Carroll.

October 8, 2014
Hunter's Moon
Total Lunar Eclipse

November 6, 2014
Beaver Moon

December 6, 2014
Cold Moon

January 5, 2015
Wolf Moon

February 3, 2015
Snow Moon

March 5, 2015
Maple Sugar Moon

April 4, 2015
Planter's Moon
Total Lunar Eclipse



On a clear, moonless night in Great Basin National Park, thousands of stars, five of our solar system's eight planets, star clusters, meteors, man-made satellites, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way can be seen with the naked eye. Photo by Wally Pacholka.

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 national parks! Join Great Basin's Dark Rangers for a celebration of this rare and valuable resource. Programs begin with a ranger talk at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center and are followed by ranger-led telescope viewing.

Weekly Astronomy Programs

Join Great Basin's Dark Rangers every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday night (Memorial Day to Labor Day) for astronomy programs. Explore our beautiful night sky with night sky themed talks and park provided telescopes. Programs start at dusk (check at a visitor center for exact times) at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Programs are also scheduled every Saturday night April-May and Sept.-Oct.

Holiday and Special Astronomy Events

Memorial Day Weekend - May 24 & 25, 2014
Labor Day Weekend - August 30 & 31, 2014
Great Basin Astronomy Festival - Sept. 18-20, 2014

Star Train with the Nevada Northern Railway

May 23 & Sept. 5, 2014
Great Basin National Park and the Nevada Northern Railway (NNRW) in Ely, NV are once again excited to offer the NNRW's Star Train. Riders will begin their journey from the train station in Ely, NV and ride the historic train route. While onboard, Great Basin's Dark Rangers will provide explanation on astronomical subjects, including trivia and prize giveaways, all culminating with a stop out of town. Here passengers will disembark the train and gaze through the park's high-powered telescopes. Tickets can be purchased online at www.nnrw.com or at the NNRW station.

Great Basin Astronomy Festival

The fifth annual Great Basin National Park Astronomy Festival will take place Thursday, September 18 through Saturday, September 20, 2014. Join park rangers to experience out of this world family fun and excitement, and learn about day and nighttime astronomy. There will be many telescopes of different makes, shapes, and sizes for you and your family to look at the sun, stars, planets and other deep sky objects. Activities start at noon each day and continue until about 11p.m. each night. Check at a park visitor center or the park's website for the detailed schedule of events.

Full Moon Hikes

Join one of Great Basin's Dark Rangers for a nocturnal adventure. These popular guided hikes start shortly after sunset and traverse Great Basin National Park under a moonlit sky.

Full moon hikes are scheduled for June 12, July 12, August 10, and September 8, 2014. A limit of 40 people are permitted on these popular guided hikes and they are first come, first served (no reservations). Free tickets are available the day of the hike at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Although we keep the location of the full moon hike secret until you pick up your tickets, expect an easy to moderate two-mile hike above 10,000 feet. Rules are strictly enforced. Call for details.

Meteor Viewing Party

Join Great Basin Dark Rangers on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 after the regularly scheduled Astronomy Program to view the Perseid Meteor Shower. Bring a chair or blanket and wear warm clothes.

Come earlier in the day to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center to check out the presentation "Cosmic Collisions," showing at 4:00p.m.

Discovering the Past at the Johnson Lake Mine



Archeologist recording artifacts at the Johnson Lake Mine.
Photo by D. Rhode.

the residential features and artifacts found at the site. The residential features included log cabin structures and several tent platforms. It was determined that two of the log cabin structures, near the lake, were built sometime between 1910 and 1915. The other two log cabins near the lake were most likely constructed sometime between 1916 and 1920. There are two other log cabins located within the mine site; these are located further down the main Johnson Lake trail. These are the mill and the stable. Historic records indicate that the mill was constructed in the spring of 1918 and it is likely that the stable was built around the same time. This construction period is corroborated by the archeological record. Artifacts found in the vicinity of these structures were the key to determining the periods of construction.

Archeologists use the historic and archeological record to determine the function and time periods of historic archeological sites. When there is a very small amount of historic information available, such as at the Johnson Lake Mine, the archeological record becomes the primary way to interpret a site. However, both are crucial to understanding historic archeological sites. Therefore, it is important to leave historic and archeological sites as you find them.

The Johnson Lake Mine is located along the Johnson Lake trail in Snake Creek Canyon. When visiting the mine please use caution exploring the site. To keep yourself and your friends and family safe it is important to remember the following rules: 1) Do not enter buildings, 2) Stay on designated trails, 3) Avoid mining features such as adits (entrances) or shafts (the ground around these areas is unstable), 4) When in doubt STAY OUT and STAY ALIVE!

Be safe and respect the past by leaving buildings and artifacts as you found them. They are important clues that help archeologists learn about the past. Always follow the Leave No Trace policy: Leave Only Footprints and Take Only Pictures. During 2014 you may see archeologists and historic preservation specialists working in the area. Be sure to say hello, they'll be happy to answer your questions and share what they have learned.



Archeologist recording Cookhouse at the Johnson Lake Mine.
Photo by K. Jageman.

The history of the Johnson Lake Mine has long remained a mystery to Great Basin National Park staff. That is beginning to change as the park Cultural Resource Management staff continues to delve deeper into the mine's past, through archival and archeological research. Archival research included searching mining records, newspaper articles, journal articles, and letters. Archeological research included surveying the mine site and recording all features and artifacts located in the area. Features recorded at the mine included log cabins, tent platforms, an aerial tramway cable, mining claims, prospects, and mine entrances. Artifacts include tin cans, glass, ceramics, shoe leather, and mining machinery. These features and artifacts were critical in helping park archeologists learn about the daily lives of the mine's inhabitants.

Archival research at the mine revealed that the mine was occupied from 1908 – 1950, with some periods of inactivity. The mine began as a silver, lead, and gold mine. It was run by Alfred "Timberline" Johnson, Thomas Dearden, Sr. (until his death in 1911), and Joseph H. Dearden. There is some evidence to suggest that Joseph Dearden's wife Margaret also participated in the mining venture. In 1915 Johnson and Dearden discovered tungsten at the mine; this would become the primary mineral extracted from the site. Tungsten is a hard metal that can withstand temperatures as high as 6,170° F (3,410° C). It has been used to make many things over the last 100 years. These include light bulb filaments for incandescent light bulbs, armor piercing rounds, tank armor, and in the tool and die industry to speed up the manufacturing capabilities of factories.

The discovery of tungsten in 1915 by Johnson and Dearden was fortuitous due to the rise in the value of tungsten in 1916. This was caused by an increased demand during WWI, which lasted through the early 1920s. Sometime between 1935 and 1940 an avalanche destroyed many of the mine's features, including the main entrance for the mine. Johnson and Dearden continued to mine at the site although it was never as profitable as it was during the earlier tungsten boom.

Archeological research at the mine supplemented the historic record. This research indicated that there were approximately 18 individuals living and working at the mine during its most productive period between 1916 and 1932. This was determined from studying

Wanted Citizen Scientists

Abilities desired:
Noticing your surroundings.
Photography skills helpful.



Photo by D. Hunter.

Great Basin National Park began a new biodiversity program last year in partnership with the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL). We've created a Great Basin Community on EOL that has several collections of insects, mammals and plants, showing what can be found in the park. By joining the Great Basin Community, you can let us know what you saw on your visit or can ask questions about the wildlife you see in the collections. You can also upload your photos of organisms to the EOL Flickr group and they will be posted on the Great Basin EOL page. Your contributions will help contribute to the biodiversity knowledge of the park before, during, and after the annual BioBlitz, while also helping to build EOL. Stay tuned for more ways to participate, such as the mobile application being developed by EOL and iNaturalist. To sign up, go to www.eol.org/communities/112.

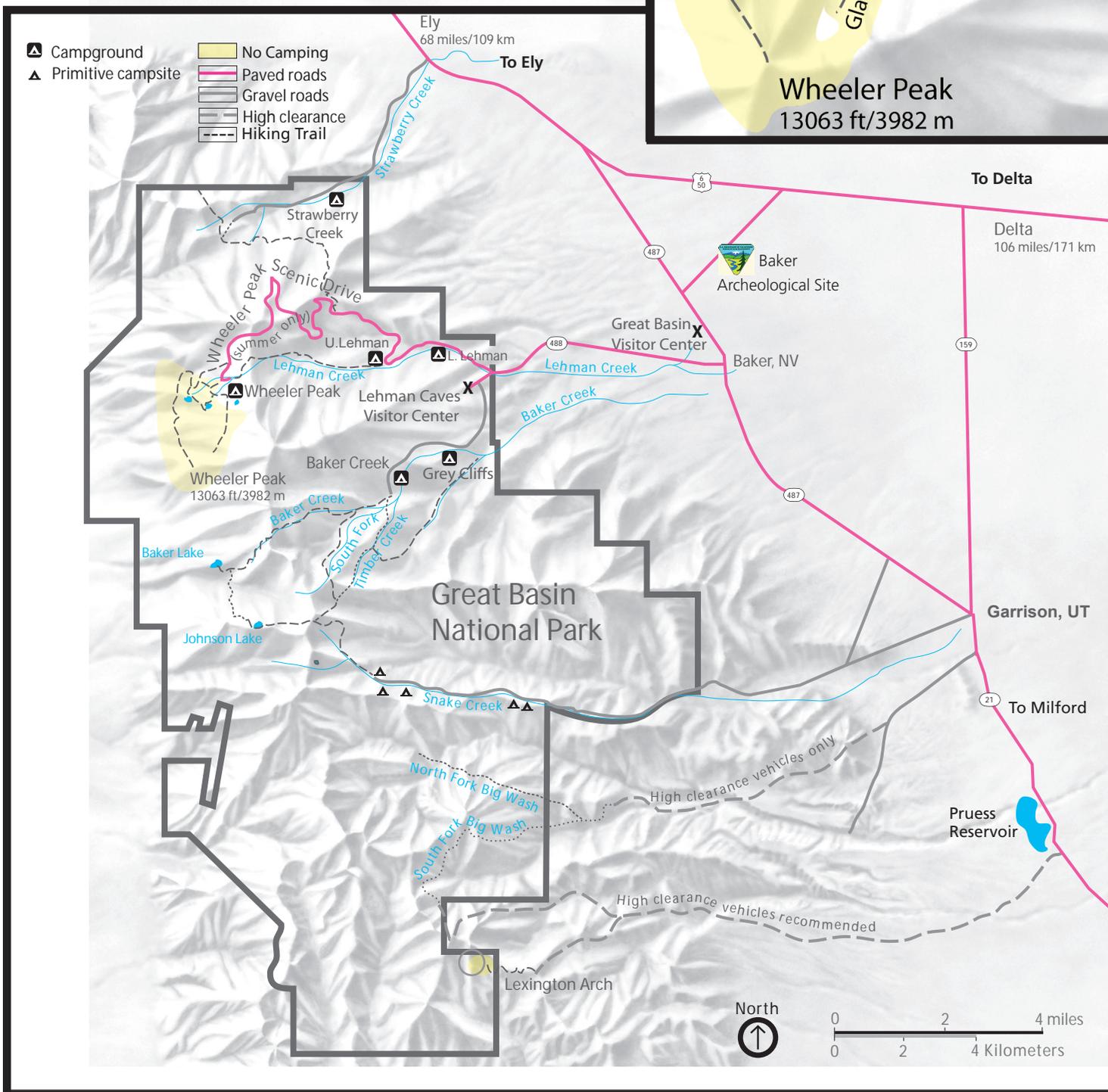
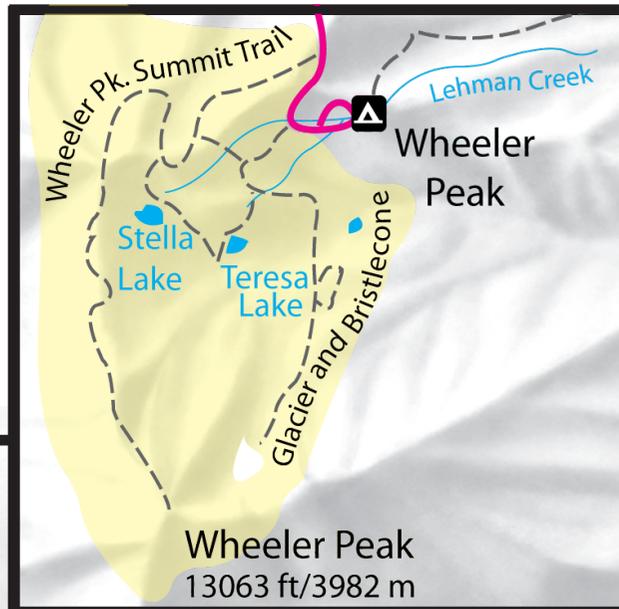
Hiking Information

	Round-trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
Mountain View Nature Trail	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.
Lehman Creek Trail	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.
Osceola Ditch Trail	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 ditch towards Strawberry Creek.
Wheeler Peak Trail	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.
Alpine Lakes Loop Trail	2.7 miles (4.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	The trail passes two beautiful sub-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.
Bristlecone Trail	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. The Glacier Trail continues beyond the bristlecone pine grove to a rock glacier, nestled beneath Wheeler Peak. Day use only.
Glacier and Bristlecone Trail	4.6 miles (7.4 km)	1,100 feet (340 m)		
Pole Canyon Trail	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 trail passes through different forest communities, along the creekbed, and into several small meadows. If you are looking for a longer, more strenuous hike, continue on the Timber Creek Trail.
Baker Lake Trail	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.
Baker Creek Loop	3.1 miles (5 km)	870 feet (270 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	
South Fork Baker Creek/ Johnson Lake	11.2 miles (18.2 km)	2,740 feet (840 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	This trail 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.
Johnson Lake Trail (from Snake Creek)	7.4 miles (11.8 km)	2,420 feet (740m)	8,320 feet (2,540 m)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Warning: Do not enter any mine structures: STAY OUT, STAY ALIVE!</div> 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. Please preserve the past by leaving historic objects and buildings undisturbed!
Baker Lake/ Johnson Lake Loop	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>
Lexington Arch Trail	3.4 miles (5.5 km)	820 feet (250 m)	7,440 feet (2,270 m)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 2px;"> Due to the fire that occurred within the Lexington drainage last summer, the BLM and NPS have established temporary road and trail closures for visitor safety and resource concerns. After safety considerations are met, and road and trail maintenance occur, the roads and trails will be reopened. Please ask at visitor centers for the most recent information. </div>

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.



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 obey posted speed limits: speeding is the most common cause of accidents on these roads!

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 always 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. See page 3 for details. As a courtesy to your fellow campers, please follow all campground regulations. These regulations are posted in each campground on the information kiosk near the self-service fee stations. 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. Voluntary backcountry registration is encouraged; registration forms are available at both visitor centers.



Before heading into the Great Basin backcountry, please fill out a voluntary backcountry registration form at either visitor center. Backcountry travelers are responsible for understanding and following all backcountry regulations, such as no fires above 10,000 feet and no collection of bristlecone wood.

Firearms

It is unlawful to use, point, or brandish a firearm in a national park. Hunting is strictly prohibited. Possession of firearms within the park is permitted in accordance with Nevada regulations. Firearms are not permitted in federal buildings. Ask a park ranger for details on the law and a list of state permits recognized in Nevada.

Fishing

A valid Nevada fishing license is required for anglers age 12 and older and can be obtained online at www.ndowlicensing.com. 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. A three mile irrigation pipeline 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 in the park only on roads open to motor vehicles (no trails). 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. Many of these resources are fragile and irreplaceable; promptly report any violations to park staff.

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.

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 “No Camping” Area (see map page 9). 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 6 feet or shorter at all times. Pets are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry of the park, except for the Lexington Arch trail and the trail between Baker and the Great Basin Visitor Center. Leashed pets may be exercised in the campgrounds, in front of the visitor centers, and along roads. Please do not leave pets unattended. 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 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 all-terrain (ATV) / off-highway (OHV) vehicles that are properly licensed and registered are permitted on park roads. Unlicensed vehicles are not permitted. Driving off designated roadways is strictly prohibited.

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.

Contact a ranger or stop by a visitor center for additional information. Regulations specific to Great Basin National Park are published in the Superintendent's Compendium, available on the park's website: www.nps.gov/grba/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm.

Great Activities for Kids and Families

The 2.7-mile **Alpine Lakes Loop** passes Stella and Teresa Lakes, beautiful lakes with good views of Wheeler Peak. Begin at the Bristlecone Trail parking area, near the Wheeler Peak Campground.

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. Please come prepared with warm clothing and a lantern or flashlight.

Family Adventure Packs provide 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. Two different packs are available for check-out from park visitor centers: *Nature Discovery* and *Night Exploration*.

Great Basin for Kids activities are a wonderful way for families to get their children involved while they wait to enter the cave or just after they've finished their tour. Meet at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center for this 30 minute activity.

Becoming a **Junior Ranger** is a highlight for many children! 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. Pick up your activity book at either visitor center.



A great way for children to interact with a park ranger is to participate in **Great Basin for Kids**: daily in the summer at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Photo by D. Hunter.

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

Astronomy Programs are fun for the whole family. Bring a blanket or chair and wear warm clothes (details page 6).

Program schedules change throughout the summer. Check our website or stop by a visitor center to find out what is happening during your visit.

Weather & 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.

Realtime weather conditions and forecasts for several areas of the park are available at: www.nps.gov/grba/planyourvisit/weather.htm. Weather forecasts are also available at park visitor centers.

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)

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

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 2013 Volunteers who donated over 7,500 hours to help with campgrounds, trails, visitor services, and resource management projects!

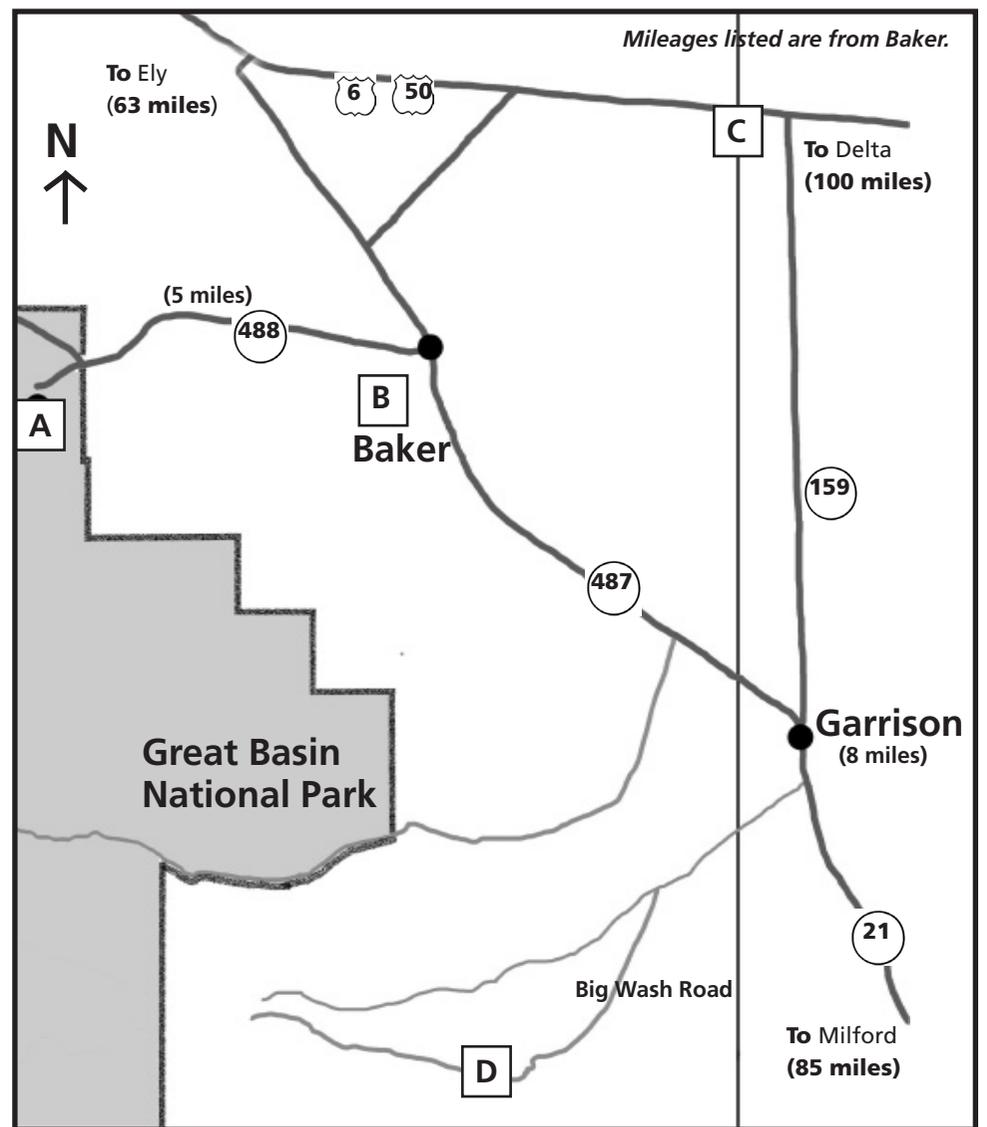


If you would like to help YOUR NATIONAL PARK by volunteering, call: (775) 234-7511.

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
- Lehman Caves Gift and Café**  
(775) 234-7221
- B** **Great Basin Visitor Center & WNPA Bookstore**
(775) 234-7331
- Baker Sinclair Gas Station**    
- Ferg's Firewood**
- Rock Sage Room** 
(775) 234-7127
- Getaway Cabin** 
(775) 234-7272
- 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
- D** **Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch** 
(775) 234-7172



Snow Survey and Climate Change



Native Bonneville cutthroat trout might be impacted by climate change. NPS photo.

Is climate change causing more or less precipitation to fall at Great Basin National Park? Fortunately the park has two long-term data sets to help address that question: precipitation data collected near Lehman Cave and snow surveys in the Baker Creek drainage. Staff at Lehman Caves National Monument began collecting daily temperature and precipitation data in the fall of 1937, and the park staff still continues to do so. The overall trend in precipitation for the entire period of record is a very slight increase.

Snow surveys in the Baker Creek watershed began in 1942 and have continued annually through the present. To measure the snow, a team of observers take measurements using a tube and a scale. The snow depth is determined when the tube is pushed into the snow to the ground. When the tube is removed the core of snow is weighed using a scale that reads directly in inches of snow water equivalent (SWE).

The snow survey results show that all three sites have a decreasing trend in SWE for the last 73 years. Of note is that the years with the largest annual

precipitation do not necessarily correlate with the years of the largest snowpacks as measured in the snow surveys.

How can the overall annual precipitation be increasing while the snow surveys show decreases in the amount of snow? One possible explanation is that a greater proportion of precipitation is falling as rain than as snow in recent years. This trend has been documented in nearby areas.

Mountain snow melts slowly, releasing water down the slopes over several months. With less snow, water moves down the mountains faster, creating an earlier melt-off. The ramifications for an earlier melt-off are many. Streamflow will peak earlier in the spring. Native Bonneville cutthroat trout time their spawning to increasing water temperatures, increasing day length and receding flows from spring runoff. Earlier runoff may impact Bonneville Cutthroat reproduction but the effect is unknown at this time.

Climate change is likely to bring many more changes to the Great Basin area, including warmer temperatures, more variable weather, increase in wildland fire frequency, more beetle infestations, and a shift upslope for some species to maintain optimum temperature requirements. Some plant and wildlife species are not able to adapt to the rapid changes in temperature and precipitation we are seeing now. Invasive species are expected to increase to fill in the ecological space that could result from the disappearance or reduction of native species.

What can you do? We can all help our planet by walking, biking, taking public transportation and carpooling more. Using less energy means that the native Great Basin plants and animals may be better able to survive.

Snake Valley Businesses

The Border Inn

24-hour, year-round service. Motel (25 rooms w/ Direct TV), free WI-FI, restaurant (full menu + daily specials), bar, slots, pool table, video games, showers, gas, diesel, phones, laundry, ATM, propane bottles, souvenirs and DVDs. Convenience store and ice. 22 RV spots: full hookups, pull-through spaces and dump station. Computer available to print boarding passes, fishing licenses, etc. Located on the Utah-Nevada state line on Highway 6 & 50. 13 miles from the park. **(775) 234-7300 & 234-7312.**

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 online at www.Horns-A-Plenty.com. Call for an appointment or a free color catalog. **(800) 467-6599.**

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 Mid-April through Mid-October. cafegifts@outlook.com. **(775) 234-7221.**

The Getaway Cabin

Tired of motels? How about privacy in a clean, comfortable cabin located in the town of Baker? Satellite TV, wireless internet, fully equipped kitchen, towels and linens provided, fenced yard with picnic area and barbecue. Civilized pets OK. Two day minimum. **(775) 234-7272.**

Hidden Canyon Bed & Breakfast

Bed and Breakfast in luxury in our Lodge or new Roseberry building. Balcony-view (Lodge) and courtyard view (Roseberry) rooms, private bath, king or 2 queen beds, luxury bedding, small fridge, hearty continental breakfast included. Dinners available by reservation only. Enjoy a relaxing environment by running water, fly fishing (bring your own equipment), wonderful hiking, bird watching. It's the perfect place for a private getaway, group retreat or design-your-own fitness vacation. 14 miles from Baker, in the mountains at the eastern edge of the park with private access to Big Wash Trail. Reservations required. rcrouch7172@gmail.com, www.greatbasinpark.com, Hidden Canyon, P. O. Box 180, Baker, NV 89311 **(775) 234-7172.**

Baker Sinclair.

Showers (\$2/person), gas & diesel, coin laundry, public toilets. **(775) 234-7323.**

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.

Rock Sage Room

Enjoy a private room in a natural setting while you visit the mountains and west deserts. View the Snake Range and night skies. Located 5 miles from Great Basin National Park. Queen bed, small fridge and microwave with linens provided. Reservations required with two day minimum. www.rocksageroom.com. **(775) 234-7127.**

Silver Jack Inn & Lectrolux Restaurant/Deli/Bakery/Groceries/Book Store/Gallery-Movie House

10 rooms with patio, free WI-FI for customers, garden dining, breakfast & dinner every day, lunches to go. Full bar: beer, wine and spirits. Groceries include meats, dairy and produce. Movie rentals, sports equipment rentals (bikes, snow shoes, XC skis). Art/Antiques Gallery on site, home made goodies, smoothies, shakes, floats, hand-dipped ice cream. Best wine list in rural America! Free primitive camping when campers patronize restaurant and/or grocery store. Also Tourist Bulletin Board and Lost & Found. Leave notices-we provide forms, lost items-we'll ship. April-October. **(775) 234-7323.**

T & D's Grocery Store, Restaurant, and Lounge

In business since 1989. Store open 7 days/week, carries supply of groceries (meats, produce, dairy, canned goods), beer, wine, liquor, soda, ice, ice cream bars, fishing tackle, and camping supplies. 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. Open year round (reduced hours in winter). Located in downtown Baker. **(775) 234-7264.**

Whispering Elms Motel, Campground & RV Park

Located under shady trees on the north end of Baker. Offering full service pull-through RV sites, 6 clean, non-smoking motel rooms (satellite TV, microwave, fridge, coffee), a large grassy area for tent camping, free WiFi, fire pits, coin laundry, showers, and a bar that boasts the best view of the mountains. Join locals and other travelers for a drink, a game of pool, darts, shuffleboard, horseshoes, and a conversation about the area and elsewhere. Monthly rentals available. Bar opens 4pm daily, 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) 786-3200

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) 289-1693

Zion National Park

(435) 772-3256

Road Conditions

Nevada DOT

(877) NVROADS (687-6237)

Utah DOT

(866) 511-UTAH (8824)

California DOT

(800) 427-7623

While Great Basin National Park does not endorse the enterprises listed here, we do appreciate their generous support in producing this publication.

Are You Spreading White-Nose Syndrome?

If a ranger asks you “When was the last time you visited a cave?” before you go on a tour of Lehman Caves, it may seem like an odd question, but it’s actually quite important. It’s a question designed to make you think about where your clothes and shoes have been; a question sparked by millions of dead bats in the Eastern to Midwestern US and Canada, and a question which, when carefully considered, could save the lives of millions more.

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a bat-killing fungus, so named because it looks like powdered sugar around the muzzle and ears of wintering bats. Since the emergence of this plague in 2006, WNS has decimated bat colonies across a wide swath of the Eastern to Midwestern US and Canada, reducing some populations by over 90%. Some individual colonies have perished entirely. WNS crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Europe, possibly hitching a ride on the clothes and shoes of tourists. While European bats seem to have developed an evolutionary resistance to the fungus, North American species have no such advantage. It kills indirectly, interrupting winter hibernation and forcing bats to burn excess calories at a time of year when there is no way to replace them. Eventually, they starve to death.

Bats are an important part of nearly every eco-system on earth. Found in all regions except the harshest polar climates, bats make up about 20% of the world’s mammal population. Fruit eating bats spread seeds and are largely responsible for reforestation of burned areas. Nectar eating bats pollinate many plants, including banana trees. Cave roosting bats are considered a keystone species because they provide guano that is the building block of the cave food chain. Bats also save the US agricultural industry over three billion dollars a year in pest control services.

What biologists are witnessing in the spread of WNS is a wildlife tragedy of terrifying proportions. The part you can play in stemming the tide is easy. Heed posted cave closures. If you have any doubt of whether your



U.S. Geological Survey/photo by A. Hicks.

clothes may be contaminated, change or launder them before entering Lehman Caves or any other caves. If you have worn your shoes in any cave, underground mine, or suspected bat sanctuary, please switch footwear before the tour or allow our staff to disinfect your shoes. Other items to consider disinfecting include cameras, headlamps, and flashlights. If this means you need to show up 20 minutes early, please take the time. Right now bats need our help.

As new information about WNS comes to light, Great Basin National Park will be implementing new decontamination and monitoring procedures. Please work with us to protect our bats and their habitat.

You can find out more on the park website www.nps.gov/grba, the U.S. Geologic Service National Wildlife Health Center website www.nwhc.usgs.gov or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org.

The Great Basin National Park Foundation



With the support of the Great Basin National Park Foundation, the Great Basin Astronomy Program provides high powered telescopes for visitor use. Photo by S. Moore.

The Great Basin National Park Foundation was incorporated in 1998 to raise funds and assist Great Basin National Park in achieving its mission. Bonnie Bryan (wife of Senator Richard H. Bryan, of Nevada) served as the Founding Chairperson. The Foundation’s Board of Directors draws from a wide range of individuals willing to give of their time, funds and talents in order to offer the park access to opportunities that would otherwise be outside our reach. The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization.

The Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and supported the park in numerous projects including exhibits at the Great Basin Visitor Center, recording local oral histories, and improving park trails. Most recently, the Foundation has supported the park’s Night Sky program with donations of three 11-inch Celestron telescopes and other essential program supplies. The Foundation also supports the park’s annual Bioblitz--a short-term identification event of species by experts and volunteers--and even funded the printing of this newspaper. The Foundation’s support, both financial and otherwise, makes it an invaluable park partner. To learn more about current projects and opportunities to donate, visit the Foundation on the web at www.greatbasinfoundation.org.

Night Life at Great Basin National Park

To some, this title might raise images of happy hour and live entertainment at a nearby establishment. But this is the Great Basin, and you would probably have to travel the wide empty spaces for that experience. It's a different night life experience that awaits you right here, one that you may more clearly remember and cherish. As one of our taglines reads, "Half the park is after dark!"

When the visitor centers close, visitors usually quickly disappear. But the Mountain View Nature Trail is still here, and a twilight walk on it can be peaceful and rewarding. Watch long shadows creep across the Snake Valley, and the House Range beyond turn shades of rose and golden. If you don't mind *quietly* hanging out for a while at the natural entrance of Lehman Cave, you will likely witness an occasional Townsend's Big-eared bat emerge from the depths and speed off into the darkness. Deer mice usually dart to and from the rock crevices nearby.

If you're adequately prepared for changing temperatures and weather, try a sunset hike to the bristlecone grove, along the Alpine Lakes Loop, or the Pole Canyon trail. Herds of deer emerge almost imperceptibly into the meadows nearby. The deep low triple hoots of Great Horned Owls resonate from distant trees in the gathering darkness. The twisted frames of the ancient trees stand sharp and gaunt as their color fades. Ripples on the lakes dance from silver to leaden as the evening progresses. Do you want an escort for one of these experiences? Check out our scheduled summer full-moon hikes.

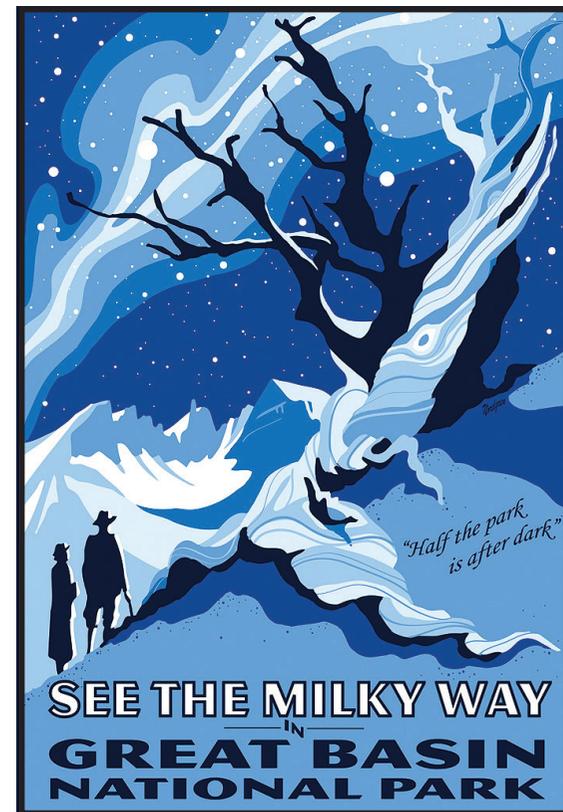
Even in your campsite, you can enjoy the night wonders. Begin by turning off your lantern and stereo. A short stroll away from your neighbors on the road or nearby trail will help awaken your senses to the bubbling music of Lehman or Baker Creek, the rattle of aspen leaves, the chirping of crickets, and maybe the fleeting shadowy movement of an unrecognized animal.

As your eyes adjust, the panoply of stars begin to dominate your view. For many, this is an experience they have not had lately. For some, it is their very first.

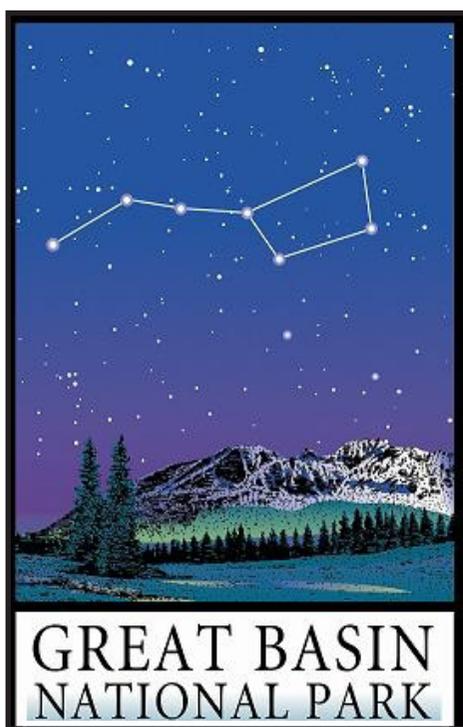
The night sky is one of Great Basin National Park's growing attractions. Placed in one of the few remaining dark sky regions in the United States, this is one of the last sanctuaries where we can see a night sky as it looked thousands of years ago. Great Basin is now ranked in the top ten National Parks for dark skies.

When the skies are clear with no moon the bright stars dazzle and are joined by faint companions not seen from home. On a summer night, you might gaze at an eerie steamy cloud rising from the south horizon. That's the center of the Milky Way! Interested in more? Come to one of our scheduled Astronomy Programs scheduled throughout the spring, summer, and fall (See page 6 for details).

Don't just take our word for it. Check out the local night life for yourself. You might discover something we don't know about, and we'd love to hear from you.



Poster by Tyler Nordgren



WNPA has bookstores in both park visitor centers and sells a wide selection of books, posters and other items.

Western National Parks Association

Established in 1938, Western National Parks Association operates bookstores at sixty-six National Park Service sites throughout the western United States. WNPA's mission is to promote 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.

The association has more than 200 publications in print, including *Great Basin National Park*, which was published in 2007. A catalog of WNPA publications and other educational products on subjects from Archeology to Zoology is available in the Great

Basin National Park visitor center bookstores. WNPA members receive a 15% discount on all bookstore items; the annual membership fee is \$45.00. Ask at a visitor center for details.

Western National Parks Association operates two bookstores in Great Basin National Park, one at each visitor center. Both stores offer a wide range of titles on the natural and cultural resources of the region, hiking maps, logo items, and a variety of items revealing the Great Basin. You can also visit our online store at www.wnpa.org.





The Great Basin National Heritage Area

Great Basin National Park lies within a national heritage area. Like national parks, national heritage areas are designated by Congress; they are different from national parks in that heritage areas generally own no property and utilize public-private partnerships to preserve, promote, and interpret heritage resources. There are nearly 50 national heritage areas in the United States.

The Great Basin National Heritage Area was designated in 2006 for its significant natural and cultural resources and its classic western landscape: long natural vistas, isolated high desert valleys, mountain ranges, ranches, mines, historic railroads, archeological sites and tribal communities. The Great Basin National Heritage Area is a geographical region that encompasses White Pine County, Nevada; Millard County, Utah; and nearby tribal lands.

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership (GBHAP) is the coordinating entity for the heritage area, and our mission is to promote preservation, education, and enjoyment of the region's unique heritage. The Partnership has been able to grant funds for projects throughout the heritage area, many of which have created or expanded unique visitor experiences. We encourage you to take an extra day or two to explore the heritage area! Following is just a sampling of opportunities for visitors in the Great Basin National Heritage Area:

Cove Fort, Utah: Go back in time to the days when travel was by horseback and covered wagon and discover what a traveler could have expected. (435) 438-5547, HSCoveFort@ldschurch.org.

Fillmore, Utah: Visit the Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum to explore Utah's early history in its oldest government building. The Old

Capitol Arts & Living History Festival is held here every September the weekend after Labor Day, www.oldcapitolartsandlivinghistoryfestival.org.

Delta, Utah: The Great Basin Museum displays objects ranging from trilobites to Fremont Indian artifacts, www.greatbasinmuseum.com. The Topaz Museum (opening in late 2014) tells the story of the Topaz WW II Japanese Internment Camp, www.topazmuseum.org.

Gandy, Utah: Crystal Ball Cave is known for its spectacular "crystal" cave formations. Call Gerald Bates to arrange a tour: (435) 693-3145. Pair your cave tour with a dip in the nearby Gandy Warm Springs (80 degrees).

Ely, Nevada: The Nevada Northern Railway is a "living museum" and national historic landmark that operates historic trains. Theme rides range from Astronomy to the kid-friendly Polar Express, www.nnry.com. The Ely Renaissance Village is a collection of railroad-era houses depicting life in Ely in the early 1900s, while the Ely Art Bank displays and sells the work of local artists in a newly renovated historic bank building, www.elyrenaissance.com.

McGill, Nevada: The McGill Drugstore is a large time capsule with products still on the shelves that date back to the 1950s and where you can take a seat at a working soda fountain bar (built in 1930). The drugstore is open by appointment: call (775) 235-7082, mcgilldrugstoremuseum.org.

Visitors to Great Basin National Park are encouraged to explore the cultural and natural features of the surrounding region and learn about its heritage. Learn more at greatbasinheritage.org.

Straddling the Utah-Nevada border, the Great Basin National Heritage Area is rich in natural and cultural resources. Photos by D. Gooch.

