

# MINERAL KING

## Sequoia National Park

Welcome to Mineral King! Nowhere else in the southern Sierra Nevada can you find the combination of alpine scenery, history, and recreational potential contained within this small mountain watershed. For over a century Mineral King has been a summer destination. First came Indians, then a century ago, silver miners, who found more beauty than bullion. And since the 1880's Mineral King has attracted mainly those who come to relax and enjoy its scenic attractions.

Because of its beauty Mineral King has been fought over by men with different aims and goals. For over 80 years it was a part of our National Forest system. Since November, 1978, Mineral King has been a part of Sequoia National Park.

The legislation that transferred Mineral King to the National Park system included provisions requiring the National Park Service to prepare and submit to the Congress a general management plan for the area. We are now in the process of preparing such a plan. Your comments are encouraged. The plan must be complete by November, 1980.

The current debate over the future of Mineral King is only the latest chapter in a long story of varying goals. During the 1870's and 1880's Mineral King was the site of a silver rush. Several mines, including the Empire, White Chief, and Lady Franklin, were discovered and partially developed. By the end of the 1880's, the mining rush had faded, largely as a result of the miners' inability to extract bullion from Mineral King's "rebellious" ores. One result of the silver rush, however, was the construction of the Mineral King road, which was completed in August, 1879.

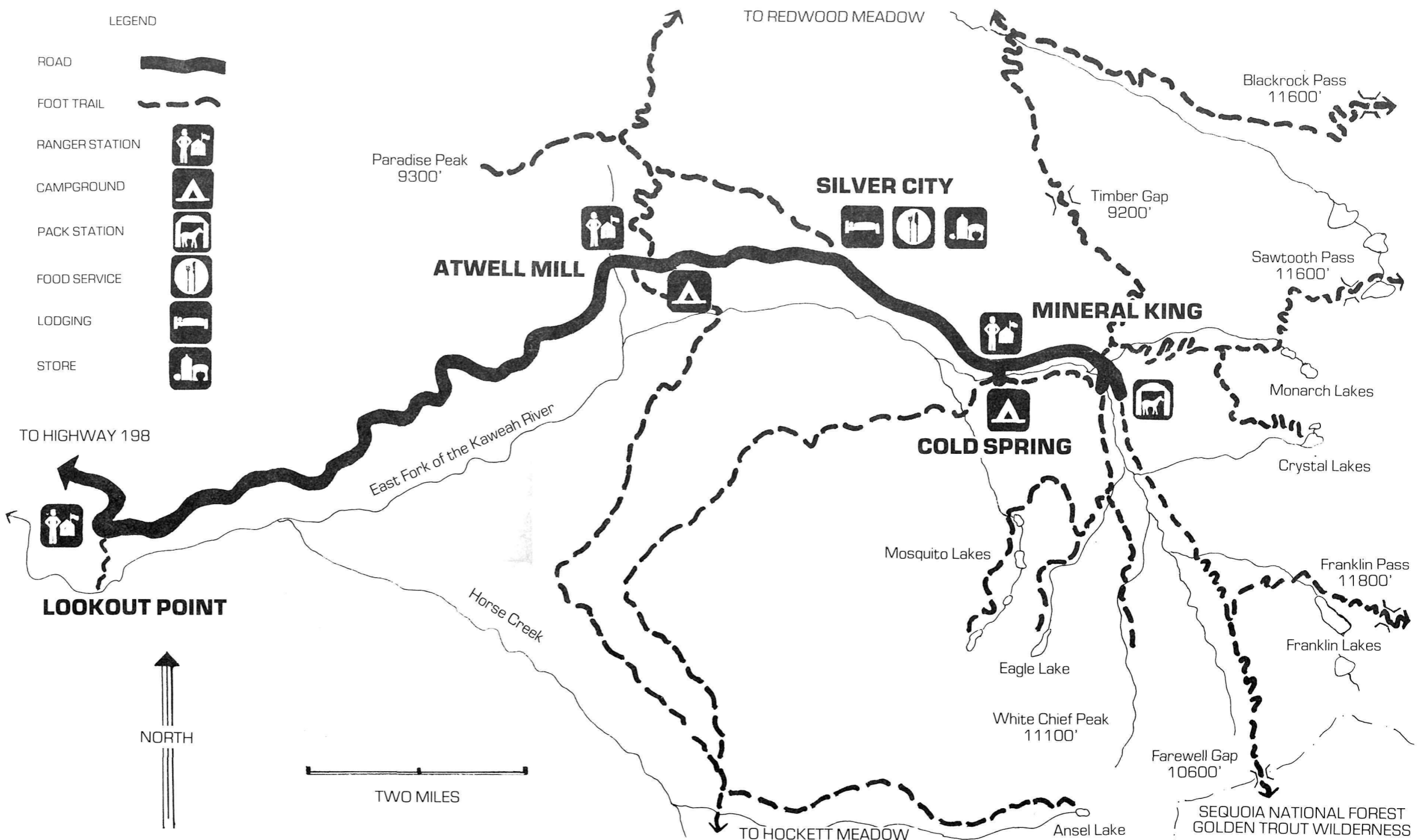
The end of the mining period in Mineral King brought the beginning of a long quiet time of summer resorting, a period that really has yet to end. Periodically, during these quiet decades, heavy winter snows and avalanches have reshaped the human facilities at Mineral King, most notably in 1906 and 1969. More than any other single factor, these recurring avalanches are responsible for the current natural and cultural configuration of Mineral King.

Mineral King's sub-alpine environment makes it almost unique among the automobile-accessible areas of the southern Sierra. In reality the 8000 feet elevation of Mineral King Valley ought to result in forest vegetation, but avalanches keep the valley open and allow sub-alpine conditions to occur. Clear slopes resulting from avalanche activity also make it possible to appreciate Mineral King's complex and fascinating geology.

So, while you are here, enjoy Mineral King to the fullest. Hike its trails. Seek out its history. Discover its hidden wildflowers and often-shy wildlife. And as you do these things, you may discover something else, a better knowledge of yourself.

### LEGEND

- ROAD 
- FOOT TRAIL 
- RANGER STATION 
- CAMPGROUND 
- PACK STATION 
- FOOD SERVICE 
- LODGING 
- STORE 



### INFORMATION

**MINERAL KING RANGER STATION:** Information, wilderness permits, books and maps, first aid. Open daily during summer season from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Telephone Mineral King No. 1.

**ATWELL MILL RANGER STATION:** **Emergency assistance only.** No regular hours or services. The Atwell Mill Ranger Station is a residence. Please respect the rights of its inhabitants.

**LOOKOUT POINT RANGER STATION:** **Emergency assistance only.** No regular hours or services. The Lookout Point Ranger Station is a residence. Please respect the rights of its inhabitants.

**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER:** For all types of assistance contact Park Dispatch (565-3341). If no answer during night-time hours, call 565-3326.

### COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

**SILVER CITY STORE and CABINS:** Market, limited gasoline service, housekeeping cabins. Telephone Silver City No. 2.

**MINERAL KING PACK STATION:** Day rides and overnight trips into the backcountry. Telephone Mineral King No. 4.

### WILDERNESS PERMITS

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight travel within backcountry areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and the Golden Trout Wilderness, Sequoia National Forest. To protect fragile backcountry resources from overuse and damage, each park trail has a maximum daily entry quota. Wilderness permits for the Mineral King area are available at the Mineral King Ranger Station.

### CAMPGROUNDS

**ATWELL MILL:** 23 sites; piped water; pit toilets; 14 day limit. Elevation 6500 feet.

**COLD SPRING:** 32 sites; piped water; pit toilets; 14 day limit.

### RULES TO REMEMBER

**PETS:** National Park Service regulations require pets to be on leash at all times while within the park. Dogs are not allowed on park trails.

**FIREARMS:** Firearms are not allowed within national parks. If you have one with you, break it down and put it away.

**FISHING:** A California State Fishing License is required within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

### ADMINISTRATION

Mineral King is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, as a part of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. A superintendent, who is in direct charge of these parks, has his office at Ash Mountain, eight miles east of Three Rivers, California.

This pamphlet was printed at no expense to the government by the Sequoia Natural History Association, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the resources of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.