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## Inyo National Forest Facts

Extending 165 miles along the California/Nevada border between Los Angeles and Reno, the Inyo National Forest, established May 25, 1907, includes 1,900,543 acres of pristine lakes, fragile meadows, winding streams, rugged Sierra Nevada peaks and arid Great Basin mountains. Elevations range from 3,900 to 14,497 feet, providing diverse habitats that support vegetation patterns ranging from semiarid deserts to high alpine fell-fields.

There are many specially-classified areas within the Inyo National Forest, including the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, seven Natural Research Areas, three wild and scenic rivers and the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. There are nine congressionally-designated wilderness areas: the Hoover, Ansel Adams, John Muir, Golden Trout, Inyo Mountains, Boundary Peak, South Sierra,

White Mountain and Owens River Headwaters wildernesses. Devils Postpile National Monument, administered by the National Park Service, is also located within the Inyo National Forest in the Reds Meadow area west of Mammoth Lakes. In addition, the Inyo is home to the tallest peak in the lower 48 states, Mt. Whitney (14,497 feet) and is adjacent to the lowest point in North America at Badwater in Death Valley National Park (282 feet below sea level).

### Summer

The Inyo National Forest provides a variety of year around recreational opportunities for more than four million visitors each year. Camping and fishing attract thousands of visitors during the summer months. Beginner to expert anglers can try their luck fishing at more than 400 lakes and 1,100 miles of streams that provide habitat for golden, brook, brown and rainbow trout.

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area becomes a summer mecca for mountain bike enthusiasts as they ride the challenging Kamikaze Trail from the top of the 11,053-foot high Mammoth Mountain or one of the many other trails that transect the front country of the forest.

Thirty-six trailheads provide access to over 1,200 miles of trail in the 1.2 million acres of wilderness backcountry for hikers seeking to escape into primitive and pristine areas. There are 32 interpretive sites of historical or natural history interest. One hundred and seven campgrounds and picnic areas provide more than 2,200 family campsites, 78 group campsites and 30 picnic sites. Many resort facilities and pack stations operate under special use permits from the Forest to serve additional visitor needs. Off-highway connoisseurs can enjoy over 2,200 miles of motorized routes.

### Winter

The fun doesn't stop when winter arrives. Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain ski areas provide a total of 34 lifts, two aerial gondolas and many miles of groomed trails for beginner to expert skiers and snowboarders.

Cross country ski areas offer over 40 kilometers of groomed ski trails and skating tracks. Try the ungroomed blue diamond trails to really get away from it all.

For snowmobilers, the Forest Service maintains 100 miles of groomed trails leading to thousands of acres of un-groomed snowmobile play areas.

***“Inyo” is a Paiute Indian word meaning “Dwelling Place of the Great Spirit.”***

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Mammoth Lakes Basin  
© LAURA PATTERSON

One of the exciting things about visiting your National Forests is the opportunity to view wildlife on a different and sometimes personal level. These animals are not in the zoo behind bars, so there are a few simple things that you need to remember to keep yourself, your property and the animals safe while you enjoy watching these critters in their natural habitat. The key thing to remember is that all animals in the wild are just that – WILD. Though some animals may appear friendly and tame, all wildlife can be unpredictable and even the cutest little squirrel can bite you. Some animals may carry disease such as the plague, rabies, or lyme disease. NEVER feed animals! It's not good for them and can put you in harm's way.

## Black Bears

Of all the forest animals you are likely to see while camping, the black bear is probably the most exciting. Black bears can be brown, blonde, cinnamon or black. Bears are omnivores (they eat everything), but their diet is 80 to 90 percent vegetation. Bears consider odorous products to be food (like toothpaste and sunscreen), and they can recognize food and food containers by sight and smell. Bears will usually visit the trash dumpsters to forage for food, but they will visit your campsite if you don't take the precaution of stor-



Black bear  
© iSTOCK

ing your food properly. If you are more than an arm's length away from your food, store it in bear proof canisters. (See list on page 5.) Bear proof food lockers in campgrounds are normally 48 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 38 inches high (24 cubic feet) – large enough to store coolers.

In many areas, storing food in cars is illegal, and this method should only be used as a last resort in areas that it is allowed. The preferred method of storing food is to use the food lockers provided in campgrounds and at trailheads, or to plan so that no food is left in your car.

Bears won't usually bother you while you are eating or cooking, but always clean up your camp of food and trash promptly after meals. Tents are not smell-proof or bear-proof, therefore you shouldn't store food or anything with a fragrance inside them.

Feeding bears, while potentially hazardous to people, is also detrimental to bears. Our food may not provide them with enough of the right nutrients to sustain them through winter. In their search for food, bears can become aggressive towards people. Eventually, the "problem" bear may have to be destroyed.

### Keeping wildlife wild.

Is it the bear that's the problem or the people that have been feeding it? Fortunately, there are solutions. The Inyo National Forest has retrofitted trash dumpsters to make them bear-resistant, and all campgrounds now have bear-resistant dumpsters. Bear proof food storage lockers have been installed in most campgrounds. Where lockers are not available, proper food storage by campers is critical. The Inyo National Forest has adopted regulations similar to the National Park Service's regulations, and

campers can be cited if they fail to store their food properly. It may take a long time, but the goal is to "teach" bears that humans are not an opportunity for a free and easy lunch, and that they should stick with the natural forage of berries, roots and plants.

## Coyotes

Coyotes are often seen roaming the streets and parking lots in the Eastern Sierra – mostly at night. Don't let "Fluffy" or "Spot" take a walk alone – always keep pets on a leash. These evening prowlers won't usually bother you if you don't bother them.



Mountain lion  
© iSTOCK

## Mountain Lions

Mountain lions, or cougars, roam throughout the Sierra Nevada mountain range. They are a shy and secretive animal and your chances of encountering a mountain lion are small. It is wise to be prepared – in California there have been instances of cougars attacking humans. Humans can be either the predator or the prey of cougars. Keep these tips in mind:

### **DON'T RUN!**

These animals tend to chase things that run because they associate running with prey.

### **Don't crouch down.**

Try to appear as large as possible. Act aggressive, wave your hands, shout, and throw sticks or stones at it.

### **Hold your ground –**

or move away slowly while facing the lion.

### **If attacked – fight back!**

### **Protect children.**









If small children are with you, pick them up.

### **Report sightings.**

Report any mountain lion sightings or encounters in detail to a ranger station or visitor center as soon as possible.

## WILDLIFE VIEWING TIPS

Not all wildlife in the forest is as thrilling to see as bears, cougars and coyotes. There are lots of deer, squirrels and birds to watch and enjoy. The following tips will help you get to know nature from a new perspective:

-  Bring along binoculars and cameras with zoom lenses so you can get close to wildlife without disturbing them.
-  Take along a good field guide so you can identify unfamiliar wildlife.
-  At sunrise and sunset check the edges of habitats for the best views of wildlife.
-  Avoid disturbing nests and wildlife with their young to encourage their return in the future.
-  Enjoy the quiet. Tread softly to avoid scaring off wildlife.
-  Observe wildlife behaving naturally. Feeding food to wild animals can harm them and endanger you.
-  Try a new perspective – bring a magnifying glass for a macro-view of micro-insects.
-  Try your hand at tracking, or look for other signs of wildlife – like fur rubbed against a tree trunk or where beavers have been busy.

# Wildflowers



**Spotted mountain bells**

© KATHLEEN NELSON

**W**hat's really great about wildflower viewing on the Inyo National Forest, besides the beautiful blooms, remarkable diversity, and relatively untouched wildflower-dotted landscapes? It's the fact that no matter what time of the spring or summer season you visit, there will always be something to see. Flowers begin to bloom at the lower elevations and southern part of the Forest as early as April, and continue on all the way into August, when flowers are still lingering in the high mountain meadows. One merely has to find the elevations that are ripe at the time, and nature will deliver the show.

Due in part to the range of elevations found on the Inyo National Forest, there is a wide variety of habitats to explore:

desert scrub, sagebrush scrub, pinyon woodlands, forests of Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, or fir trees, high elevation woodlands with whitebark pine, limber pine, or bristlecone pine, alpine vegetation dominated by low growing cushion plants, and varied types of riparian habitats, such as meadows, cottonwood forests, and stands of willows or the copper colored water birch. Each of these habitats supports a unique collection of wildflowers. Some wildflower species may occur in a number of habitats, while others may be more choosy, found only in a few locations where the conditions are just right.

So, pick up a copy of one or more of the helpful local field guides, slow down to a walking – or crawling! – pace, and see what you can find!



**Wavy-leaved paintbrush**

© KATHLEEN NELSON



**Lewis' monkey flower**

© KATHLEEN NELSON



**Snowplant**

© KATHLEEN NELSON



**Mojave prickly pear**

© KATHLEEN NELSON

# Wilderness

One of our most precious resources is wilderness. Wilderness is defined as an area that has been set aside by Congress and is protected from development so that it will always remain in its natural state. It is a place where "...in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." (1964 Wilderness Act). More than a geographic designation, it is also a philosophical concept that speaks to our adventurous spirit. John Muir acknowledges this when he wrote, "Thou sands of tired, nerve-shaken, overcivilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life." Little did he know at the time he wrote this that wilderness travel would grow to what it is today. Millions of people visit the wilderness annually across the nation.

We are fortunate on the Inyo National Forest to have several wilderness areas: the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Hoover, Golden Trout, Inyo Mountains, Boundary Peak, South Sierra, White Mountains and Owens River Headwaters wildernesses. When we visit these areas, we see and experience the land much the same way that explorers and pioneers did before us.

## Wilderness Permits

Wilderness Permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into the Ansel Adams, Golden Trout, John Muir and Hoover Wildernesses. Visitors that are day hiking and will enter the Mount Whitney Zone are required to have a Day Use Permit.

### Quotas

The Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses have an entry quota that limits the number of people allowed to enter the wilderness

## WILDERNESS CONTACTS

Wilderness information and reservation service is available 7 days a week from May 15 to October 15 and Monday – Friday the remainder of the year, Open from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Wilderness Information	760-873-2485
Wilderness Reservations	760-873-2483
Wilderness Permits Fax	760-873-2484

Additional information is available at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo)

each day. In the Golden Trout and Hoover Wildernesses there are quota and non quota trails. Quotas apply from May 1 to November 1 for the John Muir, Ansel Adams and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses. Quotas apply for Golden Trout Wilderness, Cottonwood Pass trail from the last Friday in June through September 15. Some trails have specific commercial quotas. If you are using the services of a commercial outfitter/guide for any activity including backpacking, mountain climbing and horse packing, the commercial operator must reserve quota space for you. During the time of year that quotas do not apply, wilderness permits can be self-issued at Visitor Center locations.

### Reservations

Permits that are limited by quota can be reserved to ensure that space will be available. Up to 60% of the quota space can be reserved starting six months before the trip entry date, and the remainder is saved for walk-in permits, with the exception of Mt. Whitney. There is a fee of \$5 per person to make a reservation. Mt. Whitney reservation fees are \$15 per person. It is due at the time the reservation is booked and is not refundable. Reservation requests are accepted, online, at [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov), including Mt. Whitney Lottery.

### Walk-in Permits

You must be in person at one of the Inyo National Forest permit issuing locations to request a free walk-in permit. Walk-in permits

are available starting at 11 A.M. on the day before your trip entry date. Any reserved permits that are not claimed by the confirmation deadline are forfeited, and made available for walk-in permits.

### Mt. Whitney Reservations

Trips going to Mt. Whitney have specific quotas. The reservation process depends on the quota type. For day use by any route and overnight/multi-night trips that begin on the Mt. Whitney trail, all (100%) of the space can be reserved. Space is not saved for walk-in permits. In order to be fair to the many visitors requesting Mt. Whitney reservations, a random drawing of applications is used to determine the order that reservation applications are processed. In December or January, call the Wilderness Reservation Office or check online for the latest lottery information and the current lottery application form. In February, lottery applications are accepted.

Processing of applications on hand will begin on March 15 and usually takes until the end of March. Lottery results are mailed in early April and then any remaining spaces will be released for reservations at the end of March. Reservations can be made until two days before the trip if space is available. There is no reservation waiting list.

### Mt. Whitney Walk-in Permits

One day before the trip at 11 A.M., any remaining space from canceled reservations is free to visitors present at the Eastern Sierra Inter-Agency Visitor Center. There are no phone arrangements for walk-in permits. At 2 P.M. on the day before the trip, all unconfirmed Day Use Reservations are forfeited and made available to visitors. At 11 A.M. on the morning of the trip, all unconfirmed overnight reservations are forfeited and made available to visitors as walk-in permits.



Shadow Lake  
© LAURA PATTERSON

# Wilderness Leave No Trace Travel Tips

Help ensure that future generations may also experience a pristine wilderness by using the “Minimum Impact—Leave No Trace” techniques. The following backcountry travel tips are based on principles developed by the national “Leave No Trace” program. For more details contact LNT at 1-800-332-4100 or visit their website at [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)

## Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you’ll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups. Split larger parties into groups of 4-6. Maximum group size allowed on the Inyo National Forest is 15.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass and do not use marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.
- Treat stream and lake water before drinking. Bring water to a rolling boil or filter it to remove harmful organisms.

## Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

### In popular areas:

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

### In pristine areas:

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

## Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter left by others.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, all campsites, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

## Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture or dig trenches.

## Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking, and use a lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

## Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

## Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature’s sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

## PROPER WILDERNESS FOOD STORAGE

- The use of bear-resistant food canisters is **mandatory** in most Sierra Nevada wilderness areas from May 25 to October 31.
- The counterbalance method of food storage is not recommended – it is only a delay tactic. Bear-resistant canister use is the best method available for protection of your food.
- You can be cited for improperly stored food.
- Bear-resistant canisters can be purchased or rented at the following locations:

### **Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center**

760-647-3044 US 395 in Lee Vining

### **Mammoth Lakes California Welcome Center**

760-924-5500 2510 Hwy 203, Mammoth Lakes

### **Kittredge Sports**

760-934-7566 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes

### **Rick’s Sport Center**

760-934-3416 Main Street in Mammoth Lakes

### **Wilson’s Eastside Sports**

760-873-7520 224 N. Main Street in Bishop

### **White Mountain Ranger Station**

760-873-2500 798 N. Main Street in Bishop

### **Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center**

760-876-6222 at junction of US 395 & SR 136

### **Whitney Portal Store**

Located next to the Mt. Whitney trailhead

*This list does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture of any product or service.*

## TOP 10 HIKING ESSENTIALS



Delays or changes in weather can cause emergencies. Even on short day hikes, each person should take, and know how to use, these items:

**Navigation** Topographic map and compass

**Food** Extra food and water—boiling water kills giardia; treatment pills may not

**Clothing** Extra clothing—including rain gear, wool socks, sweater, gloves and hat

**Light** Flashlight with spare bulb and batteries

**Fire** Waterproof matches and fire starter such as a candle

**Sun Protection** Sunglasses and sunscreen

**First Aid** First aid kit including any special medications you might need

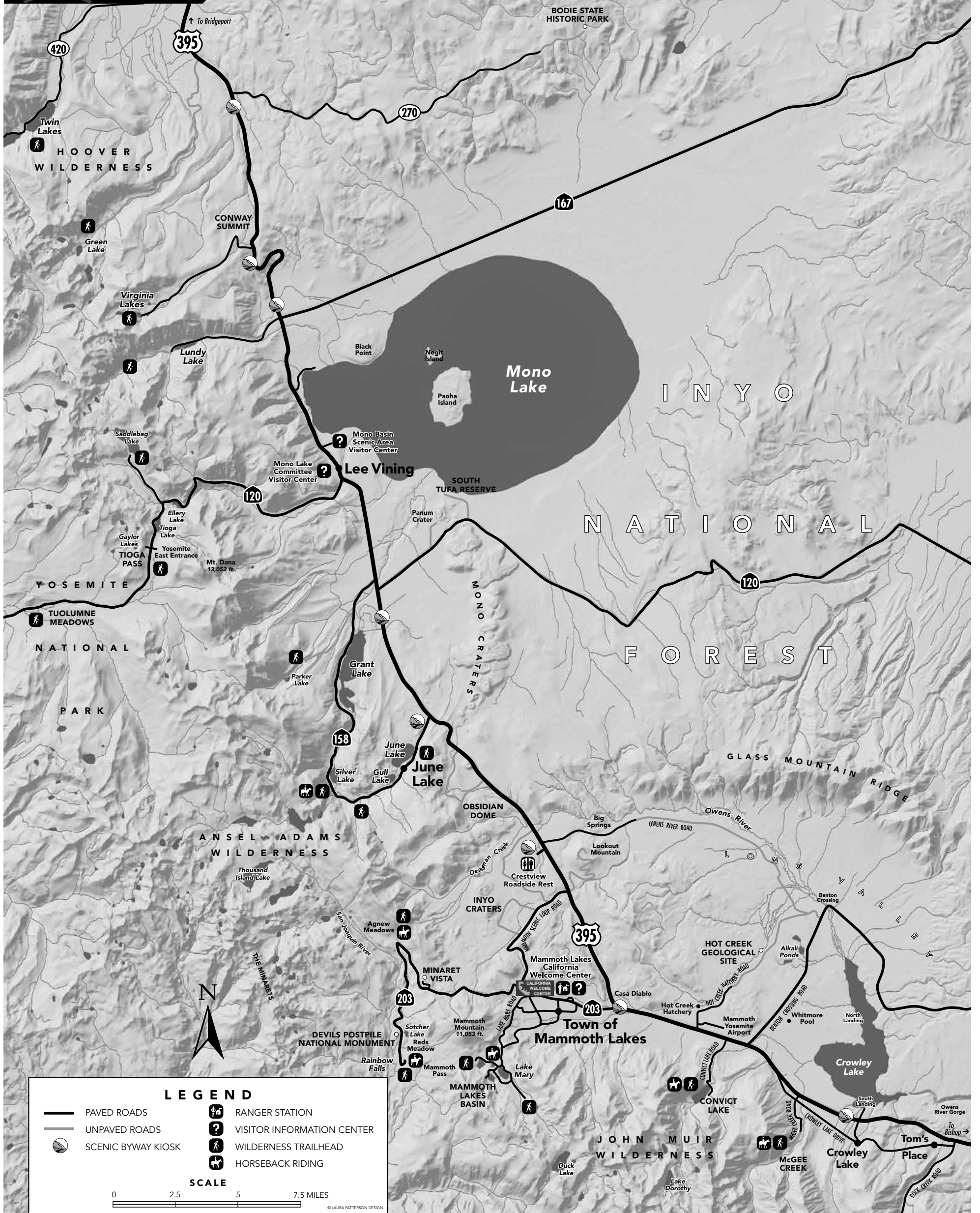
**Knife** A folding pocket knife

**Signal** Audible/visual: whistle and metal mirror

**Emergency Shelter** Plastic tube shelter or waterproof bivouac sack

# Inyo National Forest Regional Map

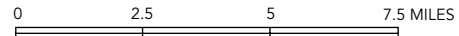
## NORTH



### LEGEND

- PAVED ROADS
- UNPAVED ROADS
- SCENIC BYWAY KIOSK
- RANGER STATION
- VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER
- WILDERNESS TRAILHEAD
- HORSEBACK RIDING

### SCALE



© LAURA PATTERSON DESIGN

# Mono Lake



Mono Lake tufa towers  
© iSTOCK

The northern part of Inyo National Forest is dominated by the Mono Basin and Mono Lake, located near the town of Lee Vining. Mono Lake is a majestic body of water covering 60 square miles; 13 miles east-west by 8 miles north-south. It is an ancient lake, over 700,000 years old—one of the oldest lakes in North America.

Mono Lake is two-and-a-half times as salty as seawater. You would think that nothing could live in such an inhospitable environment, but the water is teeming with life—brine shrimp and alkali fly larvae! This attracts millions of birds as they pass through on their migratory flights. But it's not just wildlife that makes Mono Lake so unique... tufa (pronounced too-fa) towers have formed in the lake, making the landscape truly fascinating. To protect the outstanding geologic, ecologic and scenic resources of Mono Basin, it was designated as a National Forest Scenic Area by Congress in 1984.

## PROTECT



### Help Protect the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area

Please follow these rules to protect these unique and fragile resources:

1. Do not climb on, move, or remove tufa formations.
2. Do not collect any rocks, minerals, or vegetation within the Scenic Area.
3. If boating, do not approach congregations of birds. Stay at least 200 yards from any osprey nest, occupied or not.  
Do not approach within one mile of the islands or islets between April 1 and August 1.
4. Camp only in open areas. Camping along the lake in "recessional lands" is only allowed in designated areas and requires a permit.

## Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area

On September 28, 1984, the United States Congress passed legislation that designated Mono Lake and surrounding lands as the nation's first "National Forest Scenic Area." The legislation has enabled the US Forest Service to manage the landscape to preserve the unique geologic, scenic, and cultural resources of the area. Water diversions by the City of Los Angeles once threatened the survival of Mono Lake and attention was drawn to the possible disappearance of this national treasure.

Grass roots advocacy efforts

prompted protective actions and the creation of the National Forest Scenic Area set forth expectations of a compromise that would ensure Mono Lake's protection. Balance between the City's need for water and the Lake's survival was reached in 1994, when the California Water Board mandated that the Lake level be returned to an elevation of 6392 feet, twenty feet higher than the historic low of 6372 feet.

Today, the Lake stands about 10 feet shy of the mandated lake level due to droughts experienced over the last ten years, but the ecology of the Lake and Basin is recovering

through active restoration efforts and renewed fresh water inputs.

The Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, built in May 1992, is a "must see," offering exhibits, movies, interpretive programs, hiking trails and a bookstore.

Located just north of Lee Vining on a bluff overlooking Mono Lake, the Visitor Center is open daily from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. during summer, and 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Thursday-Monday in the fall and spring. The Visitor Center is closed December through March.

Call 760-647-3044 for additional information.

# Lee Vining and Tioga Pass

## HIKING TRAILS

## Places to Go and Sightings to See

### Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center

Learn about the Mono Basin geology, ecology and cultural history through exhibits and films found at the Mono Basin Visitor Center, located ¼ mile north of Lee Vining, just east of US 395. Knowledgeable rangers and staff can assist visitors in planning their outings and finding accommodations or camping locations.

Maps, guidebooks, and educational products can be obtained at the visitor center bookstore. Yosemite passes and information are also available. Interpretive programs and activities are offered during the summer season – inquire at the Visitor Center for detailed information.

### Panum Crater

The youngest mountain range in North America, the Mono Craters, can be experienced by visiting

Panum Crater. From US 395, turn east on Hwy 120 and drive three miles. Turn north on a short gravel road to the crater. This “rhyolite plug” volcano erupted only 650 years ago and presents visitors with amazing displays of obsidian rock formations, as well as beautiful panoramic views of Mono Lake. COLLECTING OBSIDIAN OR ROCKS IS PROHIBITED.

### South Tufa

Access the waters of Mono Lake and walk among towering tufa towers at “South Tufa,” just five miles east of Hwy 395 on Hwy 120 East. A self-guided nature trail is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Free ranger-led tours occur daily May – October, with three tours daily during the busier months. South Tufa is a federal fee area, so be sure to purchase a National Pass or pay the \$3.00/person fee at the site (cash only). (ADA accessible)

### Mono Mills

The ghost town of Bodie sits just north of the Mono Basin and was once supported by the logging and mill efforts that took place at the Mono Mills historic site. Located approximately six miles to the east of South Tufa, an interpretive kiosk will help visitors learn about the tremendous efforts that took place to cut, mill, and haul wood to Bodie via a narrow gauge railroad that once traveled along the east shore of Mono Lake. Information about the Jeffrey pine forest, a recent fire, and the Paiute Indian cultural practices is also shared at this location. (ADA accessible)

### Tioga Pass

Driving up Hwy 120 West towards Yosemite National Park, visitors will travel over a breathtaking historic route known as Tioga Pass. Mountain lakes, lush meadows, and snow covered peaks provide

### Nunatak Nature Trail

.46 mile / Easy  
(ADA accessible)

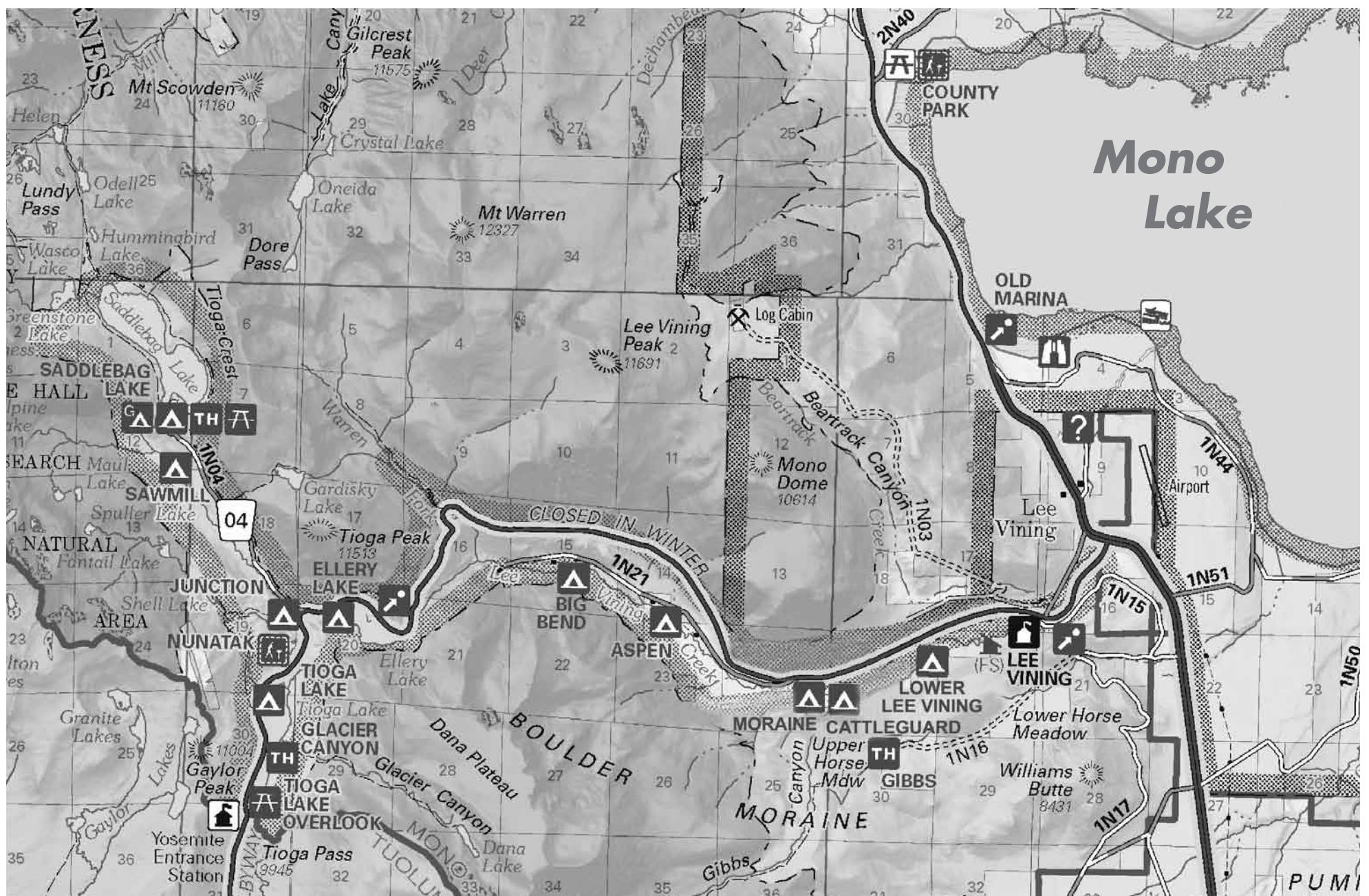
One mile east of the Yosemite entrance station – offers visitors an interpretive tour of the glacial history of the area.

### Bennettville Trail

1.4 miles one-way / Easy

Beginning at Junction Campground by the road to Saddlebag Lake, this easy trail leads to an historic cabin – a remnant of a silver mining operation that drove pioneers to construct the old Tioga road.

an unforgettable alpine greeting. Other attractions in the Tioga area can include a detour to the Saddlebag Lake area, where fishing boats, snacks, and refreshments can be found at the Saddlebag Lake Resort. The Tioga Pass Resort offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as overnight accommodations.





# June Lake Loop

If you are an angler or simply love beautiful alpine scenery, you can't miss the June Lake Loop. Hwy 158 gives access to a chain of gorgeous lakes nestled in a steep horseshoe-shaped canyon.

Campgrounds, hiking trails, beaches, stores, and restaurants abound. Horseback riding and a pack station is located near Silver Lake. Boat rentals are available at the Grant Lake, Gull Lake, Silver Lake, and June Lake marinas. And if you feel like being pampered, there's even a world-class spa.

## What to See in the June Lake Area

### Obsidian Dome

The dome is a hill of solid volcanic glass. Take Glass Flow Road (west) off US 395, eleven miles north of Mammoth Lakes. COLLECTING OBSIDIAN OR ROCKS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.



Horsetail Falls along June Lake Loop

© LAURA PATTERSON

### Lookout Mountain

A steep, narrow dirt road leads to this panoramic viewpoint. Six miles north of Mammoth Lakes along US 395, turn right on Lookout Mountain Road (across from Scenic Loop Road). See map on page 11.

### Inyo Craters

A ¼ mile hike leads to two volcanic explosion pits which contain small lakes. Picnic tables available. Take the Scenic Loop Road from Mammoth Lakes and look for the sign on the right side of the road. Turn left. See map on page 11.

## HIKING TRAILS

### Parker Lake

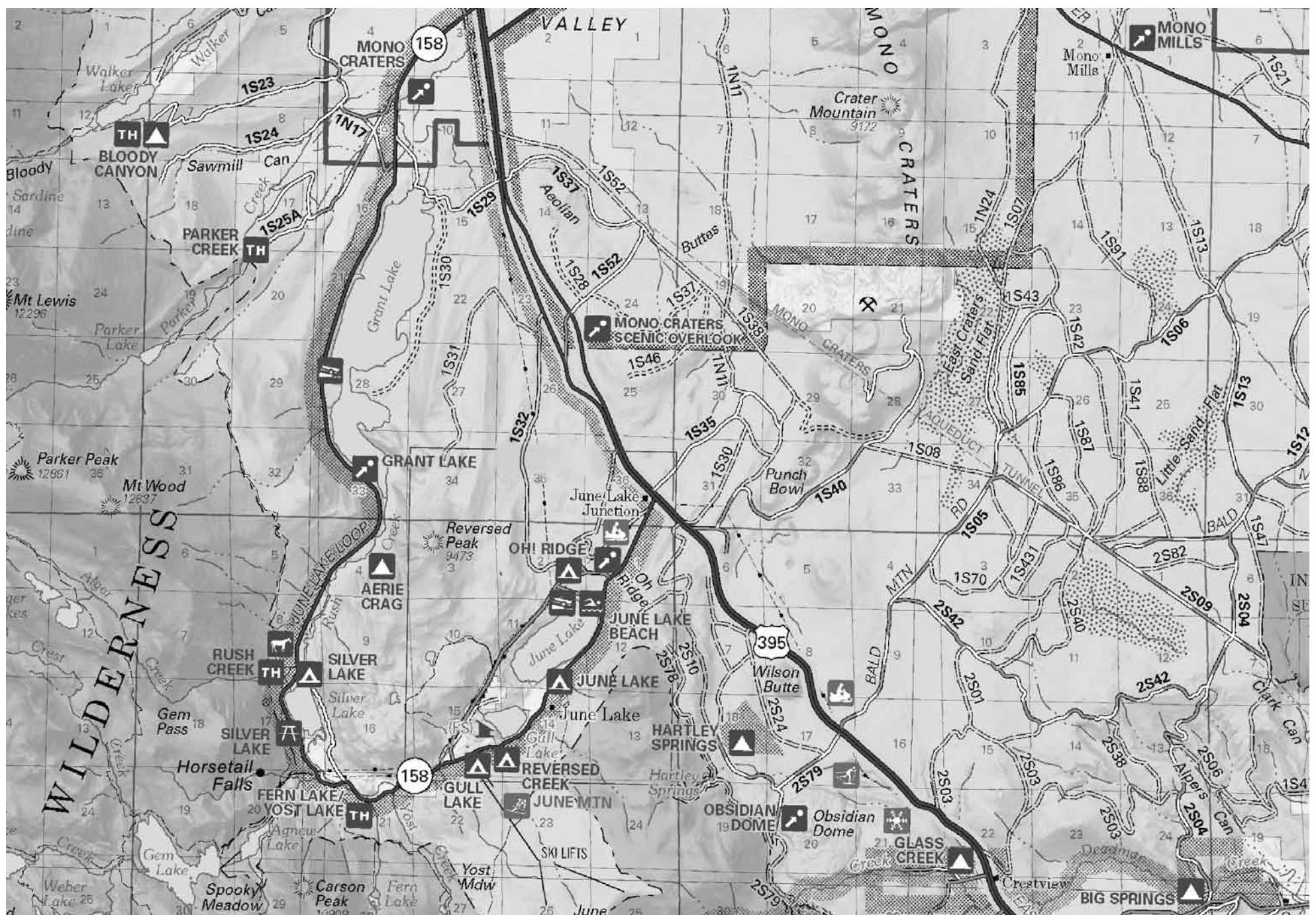
2 miles one-way / Easy

A nice, easy hike to a pleasant lake set in a lodge-pole pine forest. Fantastic views towards the Sierra Crest, along with a diversity of trees, mark this Great Basin-to-alpine trail. 580 feet elevation gain, watch for turnoff near Grant Lake.

### Rush Creek

5 miles one-way / Moderate

Beginning at Silver Lake (on June Lake Loop), this path takes hikers to Agnew and Gem Lakes in the Ansel Adams Wilderness, climbing past colorful juniper trees, a dramatic waterfall (stream crossing required), and an historic cable railway. An 1800-foot elevation gain makes this hike a bit more strenuous.



# Mammoth Lakes

**W**hile visiting the Mammoth Lakes area, you won't want to miss seeing these fascinating sights. Beautiful alpine scenery, geologic wonders, historic sites and exciting adventures await you.

Many archaeological and historic sites exist throughout the Inyo National Forest and on adjacent federal and state lands. These sites are special places that contain irreplaceable information of our past and are protected by law. **Please take only photographs, leave only footprints, and report vandalism.**

## Mammoth Lakes Area Sightseeing

### **Mammoth City Historic Site**

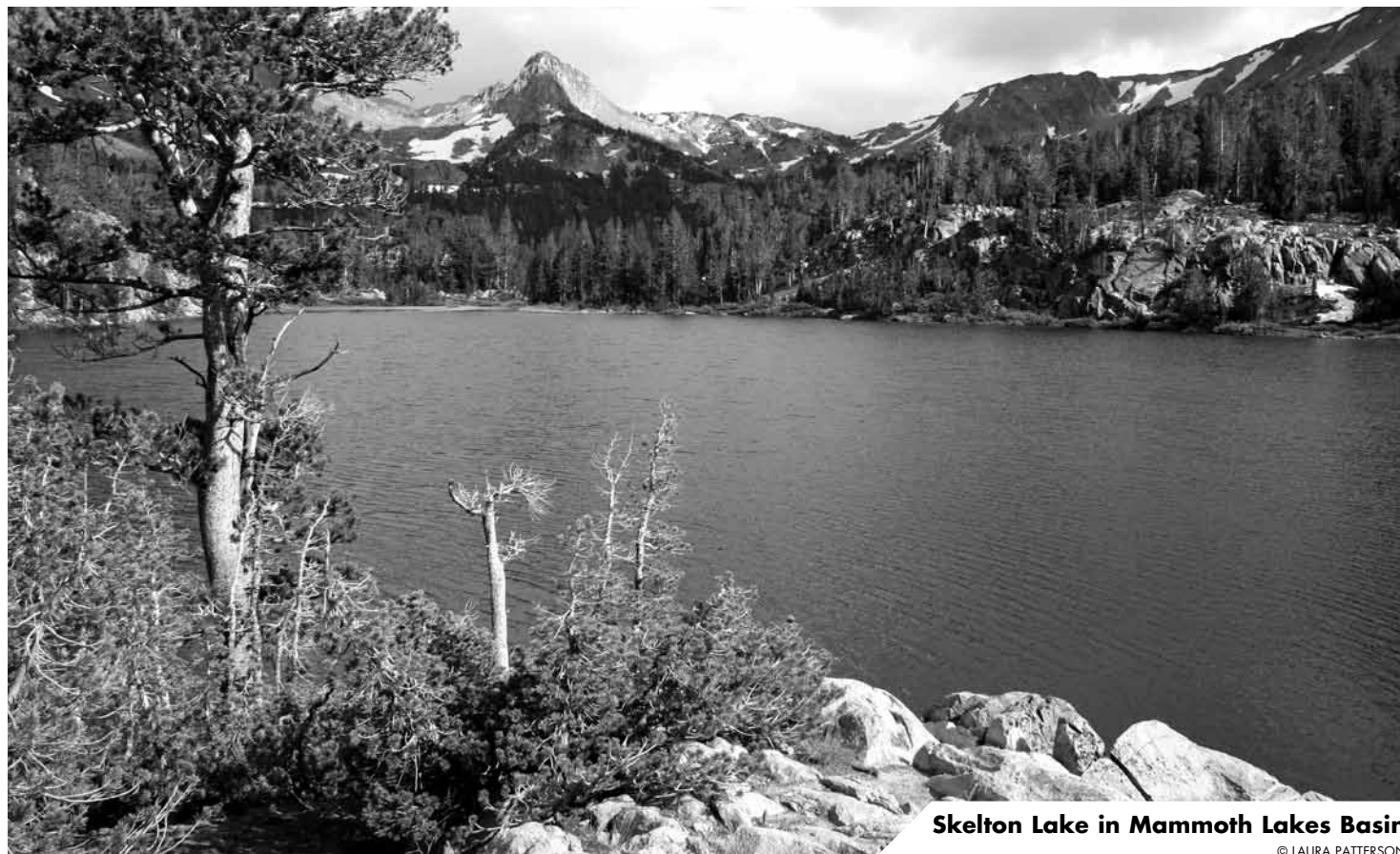
Explore the site of Mammoth City, where 1,500 miners, merchants, and townspeople lived over 100 years ago. Follow Old Mammoth Road past the residential section, about one mile from Snowcreek Golf Course.

### **Mammoth Consolidated Mine**

A self-guided interpretive trail explores the remains of a 1920s gold mining camp. The trailhead is located at the top of Coldwater Campground at Lake Mary.

### **Mammoth Lakes Basin**

Twin Lakes, and Lakes Mary, George, Mamie and Horseshoe are located along Lake Mary Road. These lake beds were scooped out of solid rock by glaciers and are popular for fishing, boating and photography. Picnic areas and campgrounds are available at several locations.



**Skelton Lake in Mammoth Lakes Basin**  
© LAURA PATTERSON

### **Mammoth Museum**

See Mammoth Lakes as it was over 70 years ago, before paved roads and electricity. A self guided tour leads the visitor through several eras of Mammoth history.

The museum is housed in the original log cabin built by Emmett Hayden, map maker of the Eastern Sierra. This was one of the first recreation residences in the Mammoth Ranger Station Tract under special use permit from the Forest Service.

Enjoy a picnic by the aspen trees or come to one of the Western dance and barbecues held in the summer months. For more information call 760-934-6918.

Located on Sherwin Creek Road along Mammoth Creek and next to Sierra Meadows Ranch, the cabin sits in a lovely park-like setting. Hike and picnic on the grounds. Donations accepted.

### **Mill City Flywheel**

A short walk leads to this remnant of Mammoth's mining days – a 14-ton flywheel which powered a stamp mill that crushed ore. The trailhead is located on Old Mammoth Road about a mile past Snowcreek Golf Course and past the residential section, opposite the Townsend gravesite.

### **Panorama Dome**

A walk through the forest leads to an open hilltop with a great view of the town and the Lakes Basin. It is often windy on the top, so bring warm clothes. Look for wildflowers in midsummer. Located off Lake Mary Road between the road to Twin Lakes campground and Twin Lakes Art Gallery cabin. Be sure to park out of the way of traffic.

### **Twin Falls Overlook**

Water drops 300' over a shelf of volcanic rock into Twin Lakes. Park near Lake Mamie, off Lake Mary Road. Picnic tables and restrooms are available.

## **Along Minaret Road**

### **Earthquake Fault**

A short walking trail surrounds this natural phenomenon. Majestic red fir and Jeffrey pine trees make this a nice spot for a picnic. Restrooms available. For more information see page 14.

### **Mammoth Mountain**

This dormant volcanic peak is the site of a popular downhill ski area in winter and mountain bike park in summer. Gondola rides to Mammoth Mountain's 11,053-foot summit provide a spectacular panoramic view. Explore the Top of the Sierra Interpretive Center and learn about Mammoth's geology, volcanic history, weather patterns, and cultural heritage.

### **Minaret Vista**

Impressive views of the Ritter Range to the west and the Inyo-White Range to the east. Restrooms and picnic area available.

## **Sightseeing Along US 395**

### **Convict Lake**

A popular camping and fishing area. Take a two-mile hike around the lake for views of the lake against the dramatic backdrop of Mt. Morrison. Ten miles south of Mammoth Lakes - two miles off US 395.

### **Hot Creek Geological Site**

Hot springs flow into a cold mountain stream with beautiful blue steaming pools. Open for viewing from sunrise to sunset. Swimming is prohibited due to geyser hazards, mud pots and changing steam vents. Located 3.5 miles off US 395 on Airport/Hatchery Road, eight miles south of Mammoth.



**Mammoth Museum / Hayden Cabin**  
© MAMMOTH LAKES TOURISM



## Barrett Lake and T.J. Lake

0.25 mile / Easy / 0.5 miles one-way / Easy

The trailhead is to the left of the parking lot at Lake George. Wildflowers can be found in the meadow area at the upper end of T.J. Lake during a short growing season. There is a connecting trail to Emerald Lake and Sky Meadows at Barrett Lake.

## Crystal Lake and Mammoth Crest

1.75 miles / Easy / 3 miles one-way / Moderate

The trailhead is immediately to the right of the parking lot entrance at Lake George. The trail climbs above Lake George, offering dramatic views. About one mile along is the trail to Mammoth Crest, where a steady uphill climb brings you to the Crest and expansive views of the Minarets, Mammoth Mountain and the Mammoth Lakes Basin. Stay on the main trail to reach Crystal Lake, just beneath Crystal Crag.

## Duck Lake

4.1 miles one-way / Moderate

The Duck Pass trailhead is located at the end of the road above Coldwater Campground. Duck Lake has an intense deep-blue color, and is reached by going over the steep switchbacks of Duck Pass. Along the way are Arrowhead Lake (1.25 miles), Skelton Lake (1.8 miles), and Barney Lake (2.5 miles).

## Emerald Lake and Sky Meadows

1 mile one-way / Easy / 2 miles one-way / Easy

This beautiful hike starts on the right side of the parking lot above Coldwater Campground. Wildflowers border the creek all the way to Emerald Lake and Sky Meadows, where you'll reach the base of spectacular Blue Crag.

## Mammoth Pass Trail to McLeod Lake

0.6 miles one-way / Easy

A great little hike that takes you to colorful McLeod Lake, this trail begins at the "Mammoth Pass" sign at Horseshoe Lake. After one-half mile, the trail forks; the left fork takes you to McLeod Lake, while the right fork continues 3.5 miles to Reds Meadow. Ride the shuttle back out of the Valley to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for \$7.00.

## Mammoth Rock Trail

2.5 miles one-way / Easy

Follow Old Mammoth Road past all the residential areas. The trailhead will be on your left as you go up the steep part of the road, tucked off to the side of a hairpin turn. Park your car along Old Mammoth Road 100 feet below the trailhead (please park out of the way of traffic). The trail passes under Mammoth Rock, a massive monolith of limestone and marble. The other end of the trail is on Sherwin Creek Road, just past Sierra Meadows Ranch.

## Panorama Dome

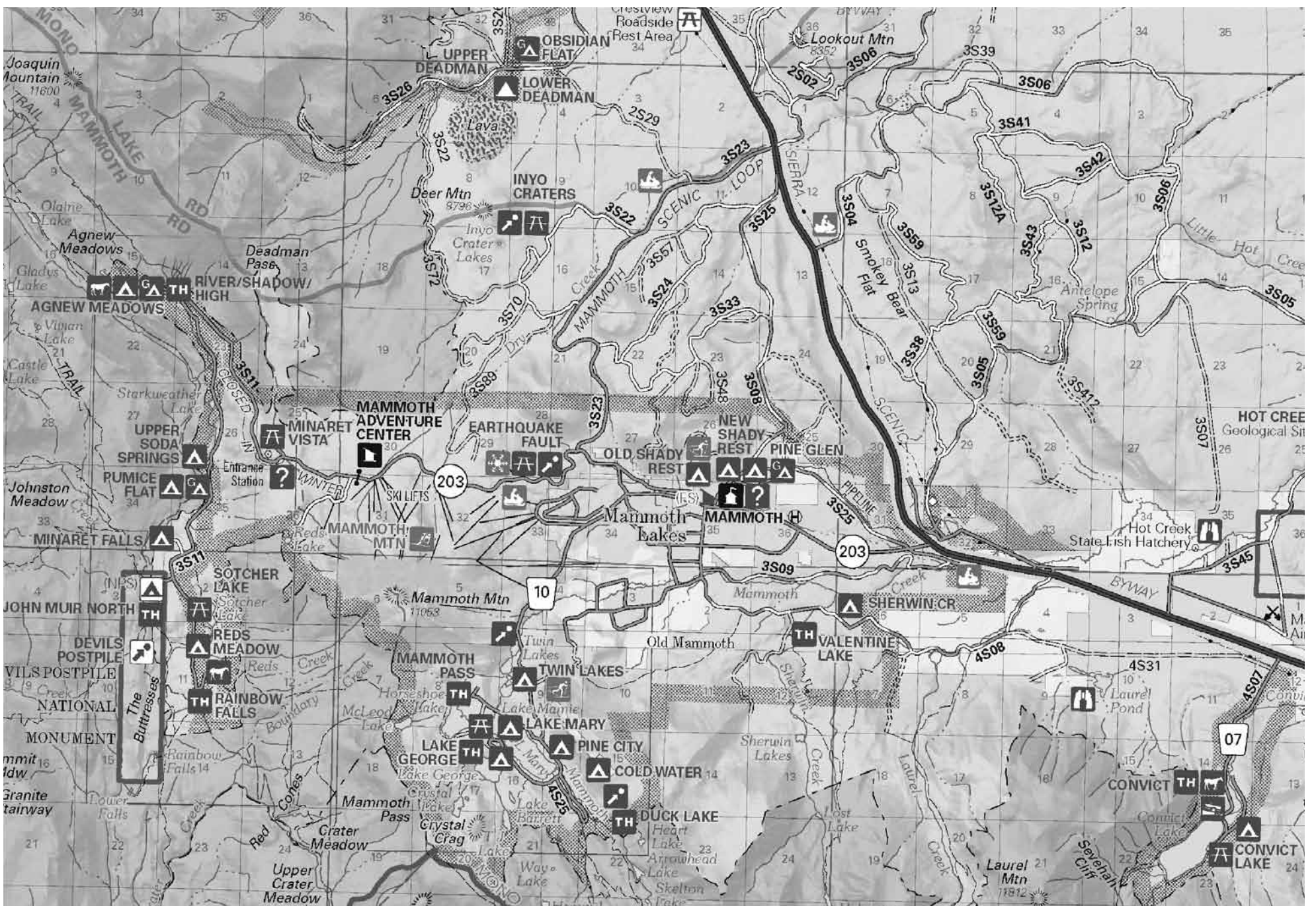
0.5 mile one-way / Easy

Leading through the trees, this trail reaches the top of a plateau, offering a beautiful view of the town, the Long Valley Caldera, Crowley Lake and the Mammoth Lakes Basin. The trailhead is just past the turnoff to Twin Lakes on Lake Mary Road. Please park out of the way of traffic.

## Sherwin Lakes and Valentine Lake

2.5 miles / Easy / 5 miles one-way / Moderate

The trailhead turnoff is on Sherwin Creek road – watch for a sign on the north side. This 2.5 mile hike up a moderately steep path takes you to Sherwin Lakes. Valentine Lake is 2.5 miles further.



# Reds Meadow and Devils Postpile

The Reds Meadow Valley is truly a special place. Home to Devils Postpile National Monument, Rainbow Falls, and great hiking, camping and fishing, visitors have been coming back to the area for generations.

## Mandatory Shuttle Bus

One reason the Valley has remained a special place is because of the 32-year old mandatory shuttle system, one of the oldest and most successful shuttle systems in the country.

The use of the shuttle has allowed the Valley to recover from the intense use it received in the 1970s and it has protected the area from additional degradation that would result from the high numbers of visitors and limited parking. In addition, the steep and narrow access road into the Valley would become a major traffic safety hazard during peak times of visitation without the shuttle.

To support the shuttle, all visitors accessing the recreational opportunities in the Reds Meadow Valley are charged a transportation fee when the shuttle is in operation June 25 to September 7 (2011). The shuttle is mandatory for all visitors, unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- Have a handicapped parking placard
- Arrive in vehicles transporting livestock or boats
- Staying overnight at Reds Meadow Resort or a developed campground
- Administrative vehicles

Visitors who meet one of these exceptions must pay a standard amenity fee. Whether riding the shuttle or driving into the Valley in an exception vehicle, everyone enjoys a more pristine and safer experience as a result of the shuttle operation.

Shuttle passes are available at the Shuttle Bus Terminal at Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge Gondola building and at all other Mammoth Mountain ticket booths. Visitors not required to ride the bus can purchase their passes at Minaret Vista Station.

2009 was the first year of a new partnership with Eastern Sierra



Transit Authority (ESTA). As a result of this partnership, visitors to Reds Meadow have the opportunity to board a shuttle in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. There are a few buses every morning that start their route at The Village in Mammoth Lakes, and continue to the Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge Gondola building, where all other buses begin their routes. The mandatory shuttle bus runs every 20-45 minutes, depending on the time of day. The last bus of the day will leave the Gondola building at

7 P.M., Devils Postpile at 7:45 P.M., and Agnew Meadows at 8 P.M., arriving back at the Gondola Building at 8:30 P.M. Please plan your trip to coincide with the shuttle bus schedule. For the most up-to-date shuttle schedule, visit the Inyo NF website or one of our Visitor Centers.

Visitors with wilderness permits are required to take the shuttle, which are equipped with storage areas to accommodate packs.

Dogs on leashes and wearing muzzles are allowed on buses.

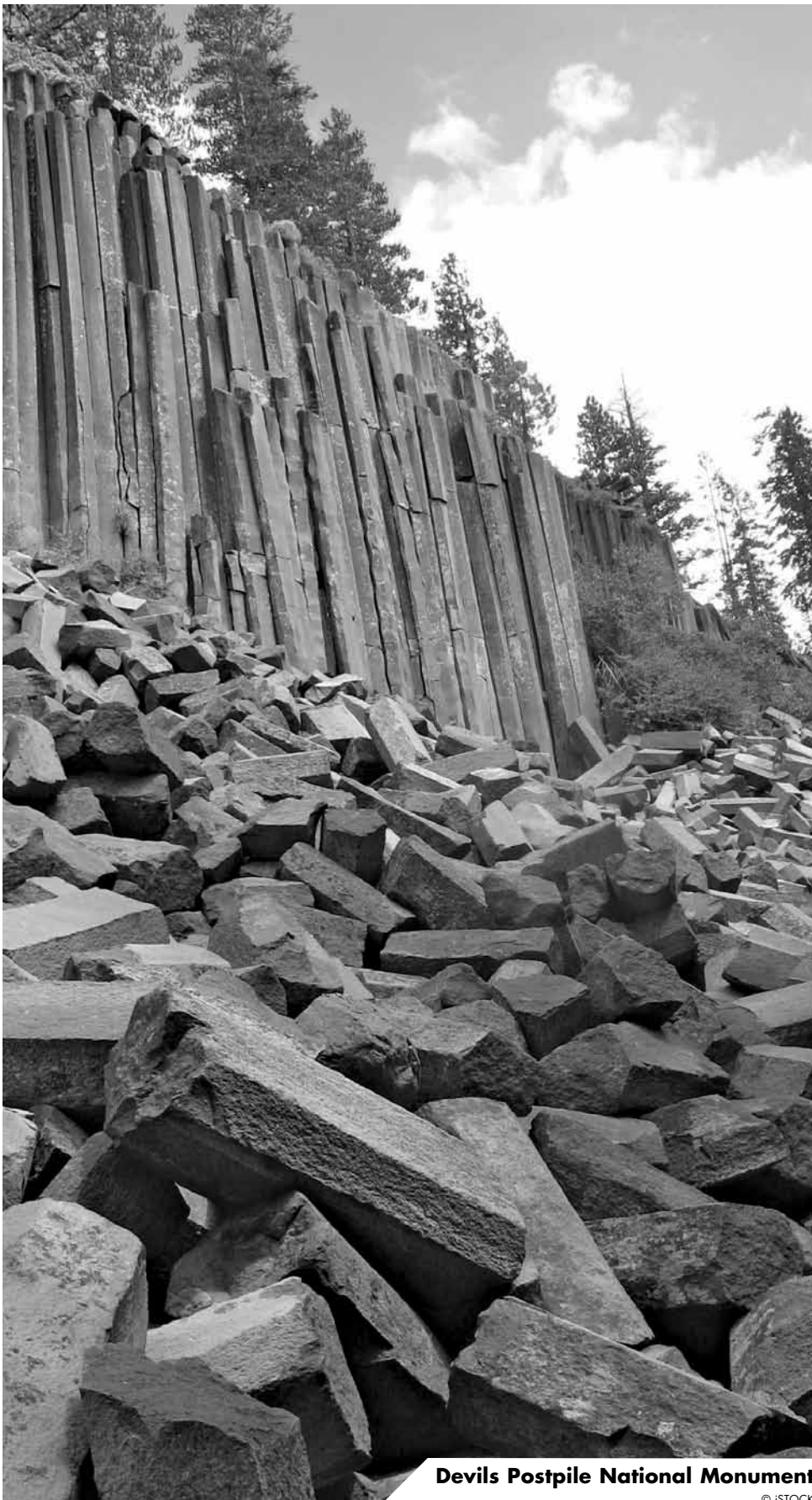
## Please note:

Vehicles parked in the valley are sometimes damaged by bears. It is advisable to leave private vehicles in the Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge parking lot whenever possible. Large food storage lockers are available at some campgrounds in the valley, and additional portable food storage containers are available for rent at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center (first come, first served – not reservable).

## MANDATORY SHUTTLE BUS FEES

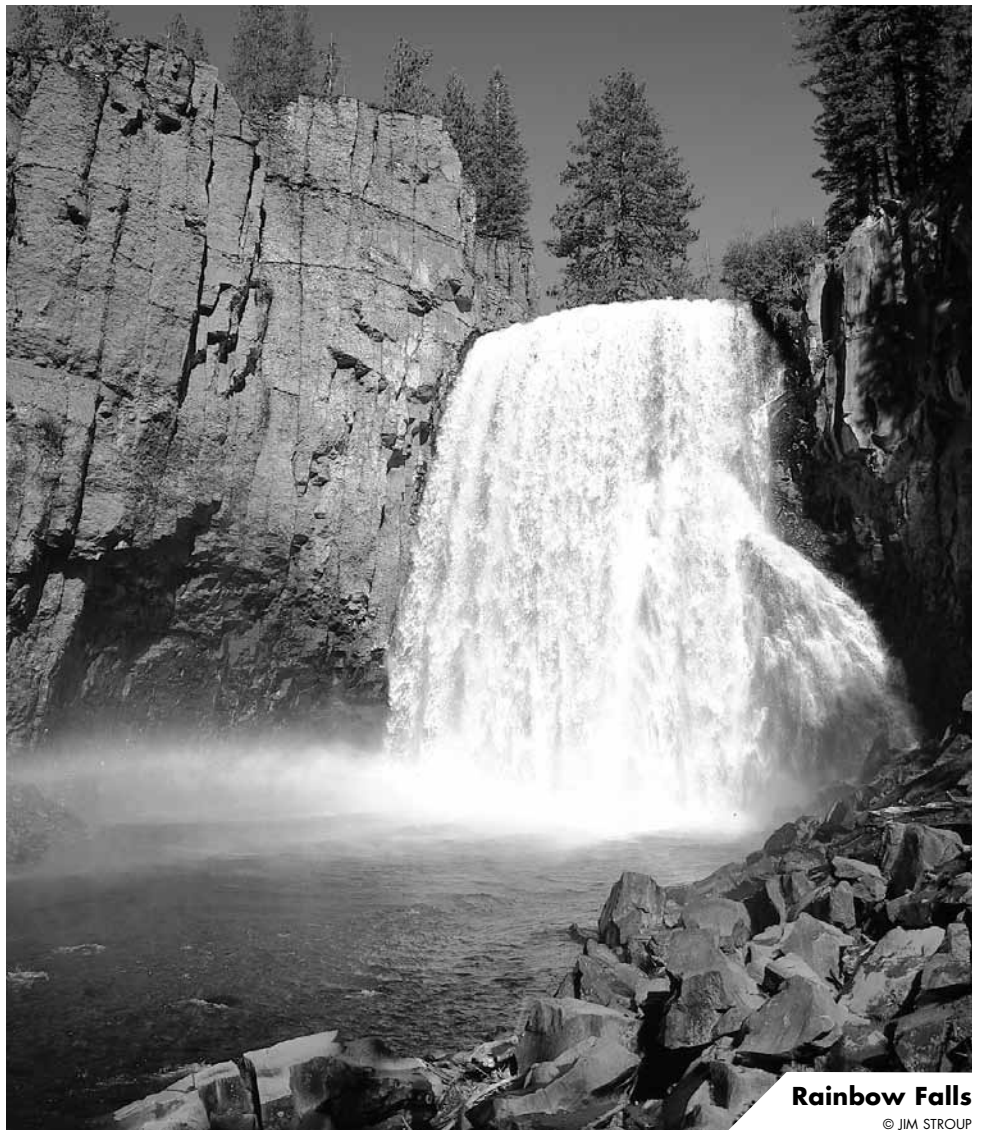


PASSES	COST
<b>Day Pass</b>	<b>\$7</b> per adult, <b>\$4</b> per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free
<b>Wilderness Hikers</b>	<b>\$7</b> per adult, <b>\$4</b> per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free. This one-time fee is good for the duration of stay in the Valley, based on permit or reservation.
<b>3-Day Pass</b>	<b>\$14</b> per adult, <b>\$8</b> per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free
<b>Season Pass</b>	<b>\$35</b> per adult, <b>\$20</b> per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free
<b>Exception Vehicles, Campers and Resort Guests</b>	<b>\$10</b> per vehicle, Interagency Passes accepted



**Devils Postpile National Monument**

© iSTOCK



**Rainbow Falls**

© JIM STROUP



**Sotcher Lake**

© JIMMY KELLETT

## HIKING TRAILS



### Devils Postpile National Monument

A short hike leads to this unique geologic feature, formed by an eruption of basalt lava. The lava cooled uniformly, leaving surface cracks and resulting in vertical columns.

The National Park Service provides interpretive tours, restrooms, a ranger station, picnic area and a campground. Trailheads give access to the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wilderness areas, including Fish Creek and the San Joaquin River. See mandatory shuttle information on page 12.

### Rainbow Falls

*1.25 miles one-way, with a 300' descent / Easy*

The San Joaquin River plunges 101' over a lava ledge into a deep gorge. The rainbow colors in the mist are best seen at midday. See mandatory shuttle information on page 12.

### Sotcher Lake

*Enjoy a 1.25 mile self-guided trail around Sotcher Lake. See mandatory shuttle information on page 12.*

# GEOLOGY OF THE EASTERN SIERRA

One doesn't have to look far or hard to see evidence of "recent" volcanic action or glaciations in the Eastern Sierra. The geologic story is long and complex, and grows with each earthquake we experience. As we study ongoing events, we hope to learn more about the past, and what the future may bring.

Scientists believe a shallow sea once covered most of this area. Sediment, eroded from land to the east, was deposited on the sea floor. Over a period of several hundred million years the sediment accumulated and turned to rock as the land was folded and tilted, sometimes rising above the sea, sometimes sinking below. Sandstone, mudstone and limestone were the early building blocks of the Sierra Nevada.

## Plate Tectonics

Much of the granite core of the Sierra Nevada was possibly formed when magma intruded into the layers of folded sedimentary rock, cooled and hardened. The magma formed when a slab of the earth's crust melted as it was forced down into the hot upper mantle. This

is part of the process we now call plate tectonics. Magma is lighter than the surrounding hot, but mostly solid rock, and "floats" back toward the surface. As magma intruded into the overlying sedimentary rocks, its heating caused them to change - a process called metamorphosis. The resulting metamorphic rocks were similar to the original sedimentary rock but contained new minerals and were harder and denser. Erosion has since removed much of the metamorphic rock cover.

## Glaciers

Snow and ice covered half of the continent during the Ice Age. Glaciers formed in the canyons and, as they advanced and retreated, the canyons were deepened and carved into U-shapes. The glaciers left arch-shaped piles of till, called lateral moraines, where they extended beyond the mouths of the canyons. The most easily accessed moraines to visit are located at Convict Creek, McGee Creek near Crowley Lake and Bloody Canyon south of Lee Vining. Glaciers still survive in the Sierra Nevada. Palisade Glacier,

in the John Muir Wilderness west of Big Pine, is the southernmost glacier in the U.S.

## Long Valley Caldera

During a gigantic eruption about 760,000 years ago, an area bordered by what is now Mammoth Mountain, the Glass Mountains and Crowley Lake (approximately 12 miles wide by 18 miles long), collapsed to form the Long Valley Caldera. The eruption produced the Bishop Tuff, a pinkish-red rock that can be seen along US 395 on the Sherwin Grade. Three hundred and fifty square miles were buried beneath 500 feet of Bishop Tuff. Ash from the eruption has been found as far east as Nebraska. Later, other volcanoes erupted along the rim of this gigantic Caldera, one of which was Mammoth Mountain, which grew on the rim of the Caldera over 50,000 years ago.

Volcanic eruptions have continued within the Caldera and north along the Inyo-Mono volcanic chain. Eruptions at Obsidian Dome, South Deadman Dome and Panum Crater all occurred as recently as 500 to 800 years ago.

The bottom of Mono Lake was pushed up above the lake surface by an injection of magma to form Paoha (the white) Island approximately 300 years ago.

## Earthquake Fault

A more appropriate name for this nearly straight fracture would be "Earthquake Fissure." Because the rocks on both sides have not moved much vertically or laterally relative to one another, it is not really a "fault." The fissure is up to 10 feet wide and 60 feet deep. Earthquake Fault cuts through volcanic rock, part of a glassy rhyolite lava flow from Mammoth Mountain, and formed by tectonic stresses in the earth's crust. The fault lines up with the Inyo-Mono Craters and is believed to be part of the east-west stretching that is gradually widening the entire Basin and Range region.

The age of the fissure is unknown, but some of the trees growing in the fissure are 150 years old, indicating that the crack is at least that old. The sides are jagged, un-eroded, and lack pumice fill, suggesting it is still very young in geologic time. The fissure runs north and south, and lines up with the dike that fed the Inyo Domes. Someday the magma might rise to the surface, but it is also possible that the fissure could just slowly fill up with debris. These are the unknowns of geology, and what makes studying this area so exciting.

A short walking trail surrounds this natural phenomenon. Majestic red fir and Jeffrey pine trees make this a nice spot for a picnic. Restrooms are available.

## Devils Postpile

A short hike (see page 13 for description) leads to this unique geologic feature, formed by an eruption of basalt lava. The lava cooled uniformly, leaving surface cracks and resulting in impressive vertical columns.

The National Park Service provides interpretive tours, restrooms, a ranger station, picnic area and a campground. Trailheads provide access to the Ansel Adams and John Muir wilderness areas, including Fish Creek and the San Joaquin River.

This geologic wonder is located in the Reds Meadow Valley and



Devils Postpile National Monument

© JOHN MASSENGILL



**Hot Creek Geological Site**

© LAURA PATTERSON

must be accessed by a mandatory shuttle bus. See page 12 for shuttle information.

## Hot Creek Geological Site

Hot Creek is a place to marvel at geology in action. Imagine standing inside an ancient volcano! What remains of the ancient Long Valley Caldera blast is a region of fascinating geologic wonders: hot springs, fumaroles and craters. Explore the ever-changing wonders of the earth at Hot Creek.

Boiling water bubbling up from the creek bed, fumaroles and periodic geyser eruptions at Hot Creek attest to the chamber of hot magma which lies about three miles below the surface of the earth in this area.

The steam you see along the Hot Creek drainage is created when water percolates deep into the ground and enters a complex underground plumbing system. The water is heated and pressurized before it rises to the earth's surface. It is believed this journey takes around 1,000 years.

Earthquakes can cause sudden geyser eruptions and overnight appearances of new hot springs at Hot Creek. Water temperatures can change rapidly, so **entering the water is prohibited.**

## CO<sub>2</sub> Gas Emissions Kill Trees

U.S. Geological Survey scientists detected naturally occurring Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) gas in the vicinity of Horseshoe Lake and other areas on Mammoth

Mountain in 1994. Since then, they have been monitoring the gas, measuring the concentration and rate of gas discharge from the ground. The higher than normal concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> are responsible for killing approximately 120 acres of trees next to Horseshoe Lake and elsewhere on Mammoth Mountain.

Scientists believe that the CO<sub>2</sub> is being released from a gas reservoir that has existed for a long period of time deep under Mammoth Mountain. It is believed that earthquake and magmatic activity beneath the area in 1989 opened channels for the gas to reach the surface.

CO<sub>2</sub> is heavier than air and can collect at high concentrations in depressions and enclosures, posing a potential danger to people, especially small children and pets.

In summer months, the Forest Service recommends that the public avoid spending time sitting, picnicking, sunbathing, walking pets or allowing small children in the tree kill area and on the northwest shoreline of Horseshoe Lake. Walking and biking through the area should not pose any significant risk for adults. In winter months, the Forest Service recommends staying out of the tree-kill area altogether, as high levels of CO<sub>2</sub> build up within the thick snow pack.

Symptoms of CO<sub>2</sub> poisoning are similar to high-altitude sickness and include dizziness, shortness of breath, rapid pulse and potentially rapid unconsciousness and death.

## When Can We Expect the Next Eruption?

Are earthquakes indicating that it will be soon? We do experience periods of geologic unrest in the form of earthquakes. Sometimes they occur in swarms where hundreds of earthquakes occur in a short period of time, but usually average 1 to 4 small quakes per day. Sometimes these quakes are caused by magma moving beneath the surface and other times they are caused by the forces of plate tectonics and stress that builds up and then releases along fault lines. Geologists closely monitor this area and take into account the location, wave amplitude, intensity and depth of the earthquakes. There are approximately 85 instruments used to monitor geologic changes in the Mammoth Lakes area. Using satellite technology

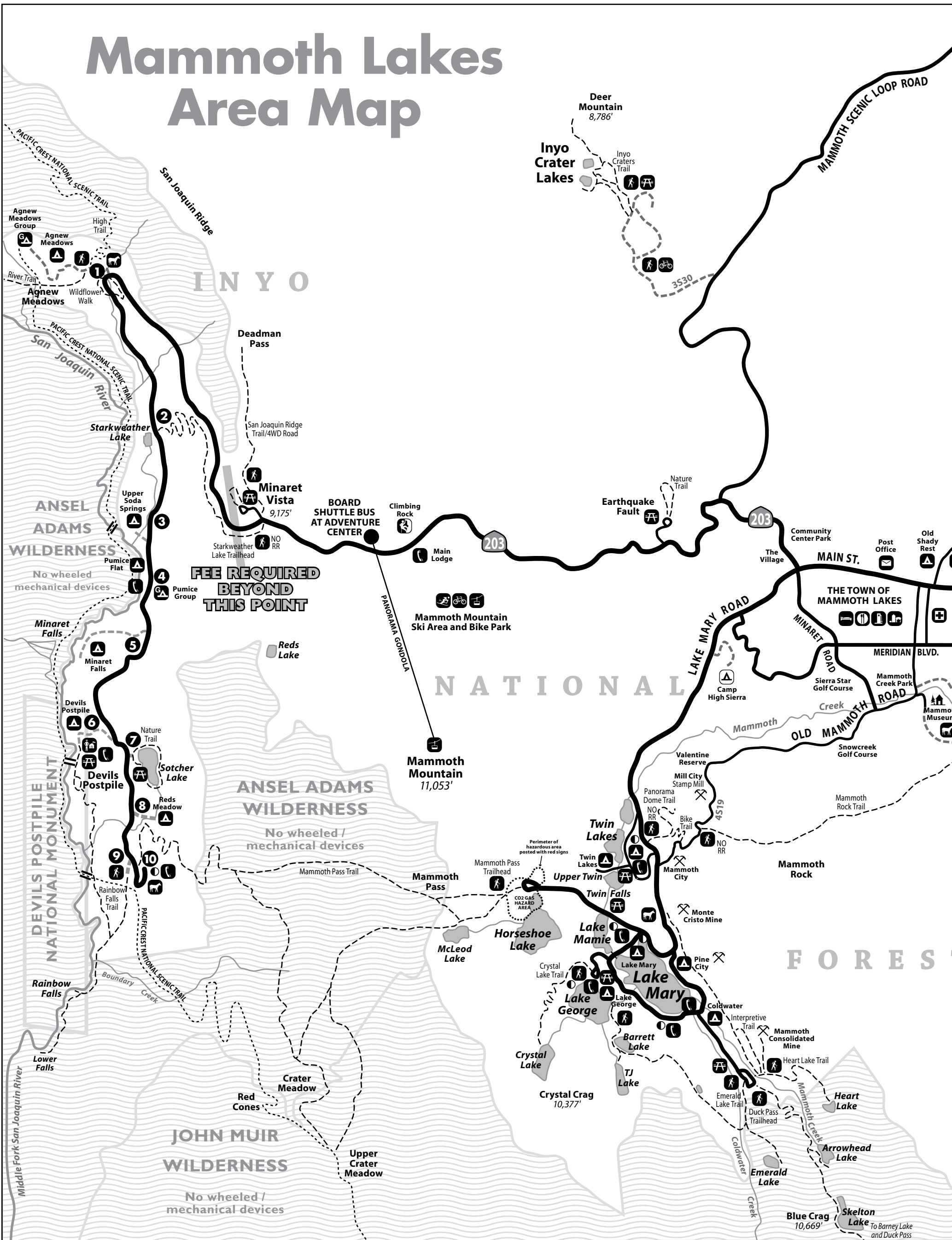
and lasers, ground temperature changes and land deformation changes are measured. With the information gathered in the field combined with the knowledge learned from other volcanic eruptions, geologists have been able to predict if a volcanic eruption is likely within a given period of time. A protocol has been established that would allow ample time for safe evacuation of local communities. As for a new volcano erupting in our lifetime in this area, it is unlikely, but not entirely impossible. The geologic time-line perspective is much slower than man's perspective. It is reassuring to know that if anything does happen, we should have plenty of warning. In the meantime, it is exciting to observe the geology of the Eastern Sierra and appreciate the unique landscape it has created.



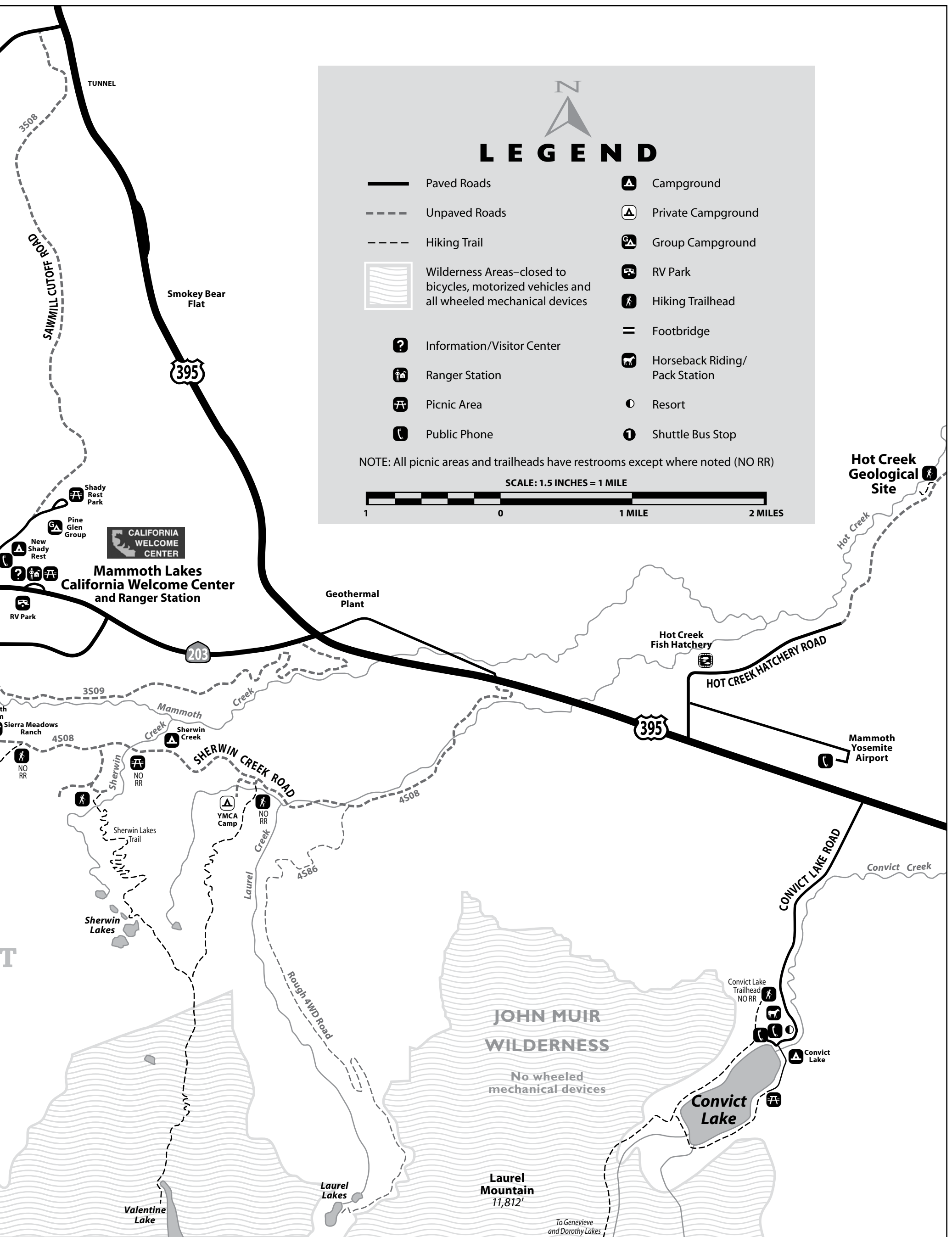
**Dead trees at Horseshoe Lake**

© LAURA PATTERSON

# Mammoth Lakes Area Map





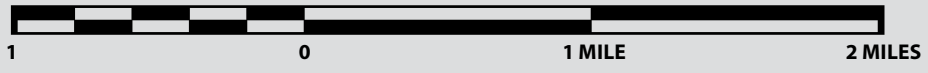


# LEGEND

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

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

SCALE: 1.5 INCHES = 1 MILE



# Rock Creek

Rock Creek is famous for glacially-carved Little Lakes Valley, where more than 50 lakes are linked by hiking trails surrounded by 13,000-foot peaks. The trailhead at the end of the road is the highest in the Sierra, at 10,300 ft. elevation.

Summer activities include hiking, fishing, boating, horseback riding and camping. Don't miss the fall season when quaking aspen turn brilliant colors.

## HIKING TRAILS

### Chickenfoot Lake

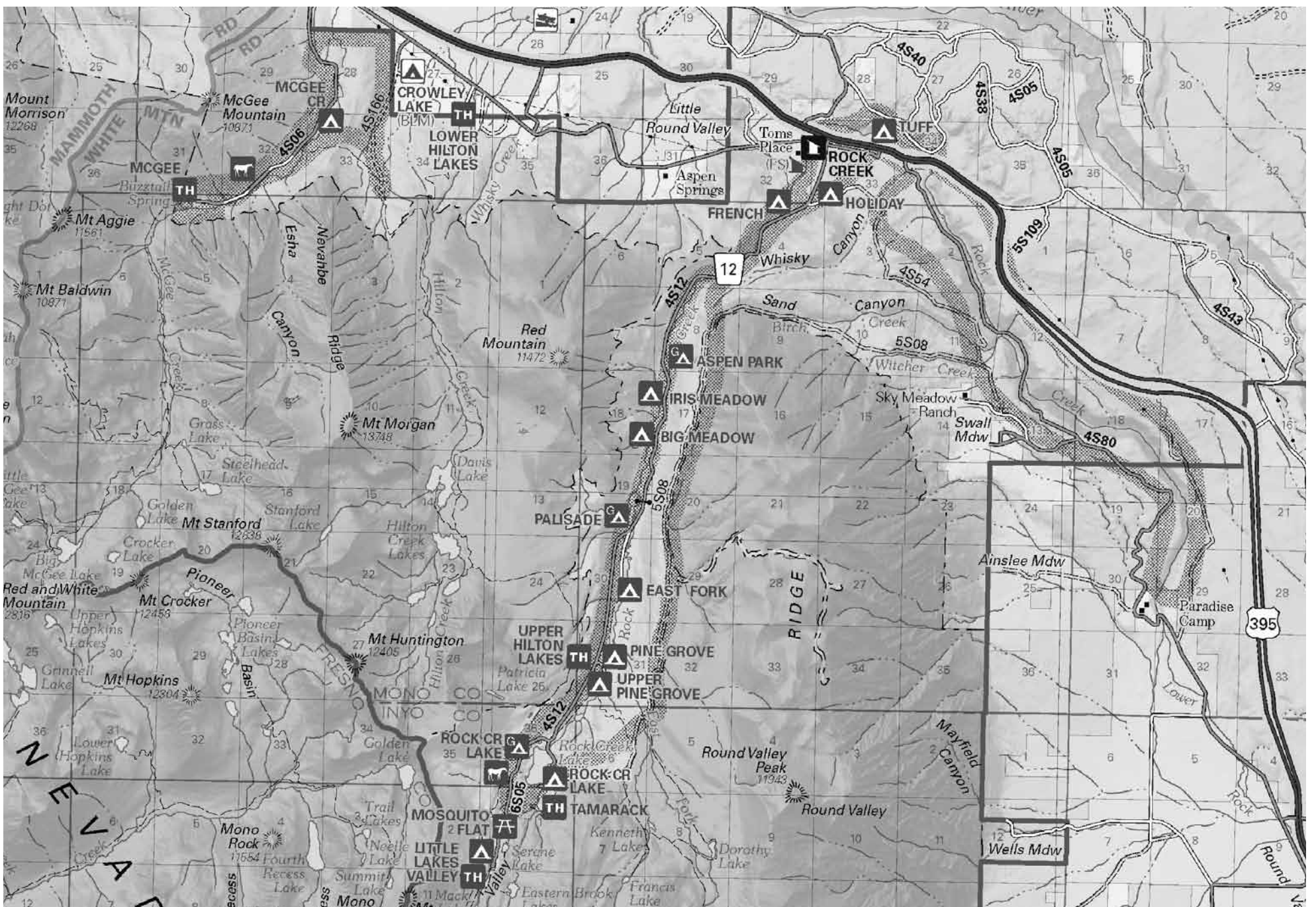
2.9 miles one-way / Easy

This is an easy, beautiful hike with lots of lakes – and wildflowers during summer. From Tom's Place along US 395, head west on Rock Creek Road 10 miles to Mosquito Flat Trailhead. The trail begins at the far end of the parking lot.



Little Lakes Valley

© LAURA PATTERSON



# Bishop Area

**B**ishop is well known by vacationers as a place to stock up on information and supplies for fishing and camping getaways, rock climbs, ski weekends, bike rides and field trips. Named for rancher Samuel Bishop, the town dates back to the 1860s, when the Owens Valley was being settled by cattlemen and miners. The biggest event of the year is Mule Days, which takes place at the Tri County Fairgrounds in Bishop on Memorial Day Weekend.

## Bishop Creek Canyon

Three main drainages of Bishop Creek – the North, Middle and South forks – combine to create a wide-ranging complex of streams and canyons that together comprise Bishop Creek Canyon.

Located up Hwy. 168, which begins as West Line Street in downtown Bishop. The climb of over 5,000 feet is gradual over the 18-mile drive into the mountains.



Lake Sabrina  
© SUE WEIS

## Laws Railroad Museum

The legacy of the last narrow-gauge railroad west of the Rockies is preserved at this site, with the original 1883 Laws Depot, turntable, Agents' house, locomotive, string of cars and railroad memorabilia. Tour the train and 28 build-

ings of the historical village, including a blacksmith shop, general store, medical building, Native American exhibits, mining and much more.

Located 4.5 miles north of Bishop on US 6, turn right on Silver Canyon Road.

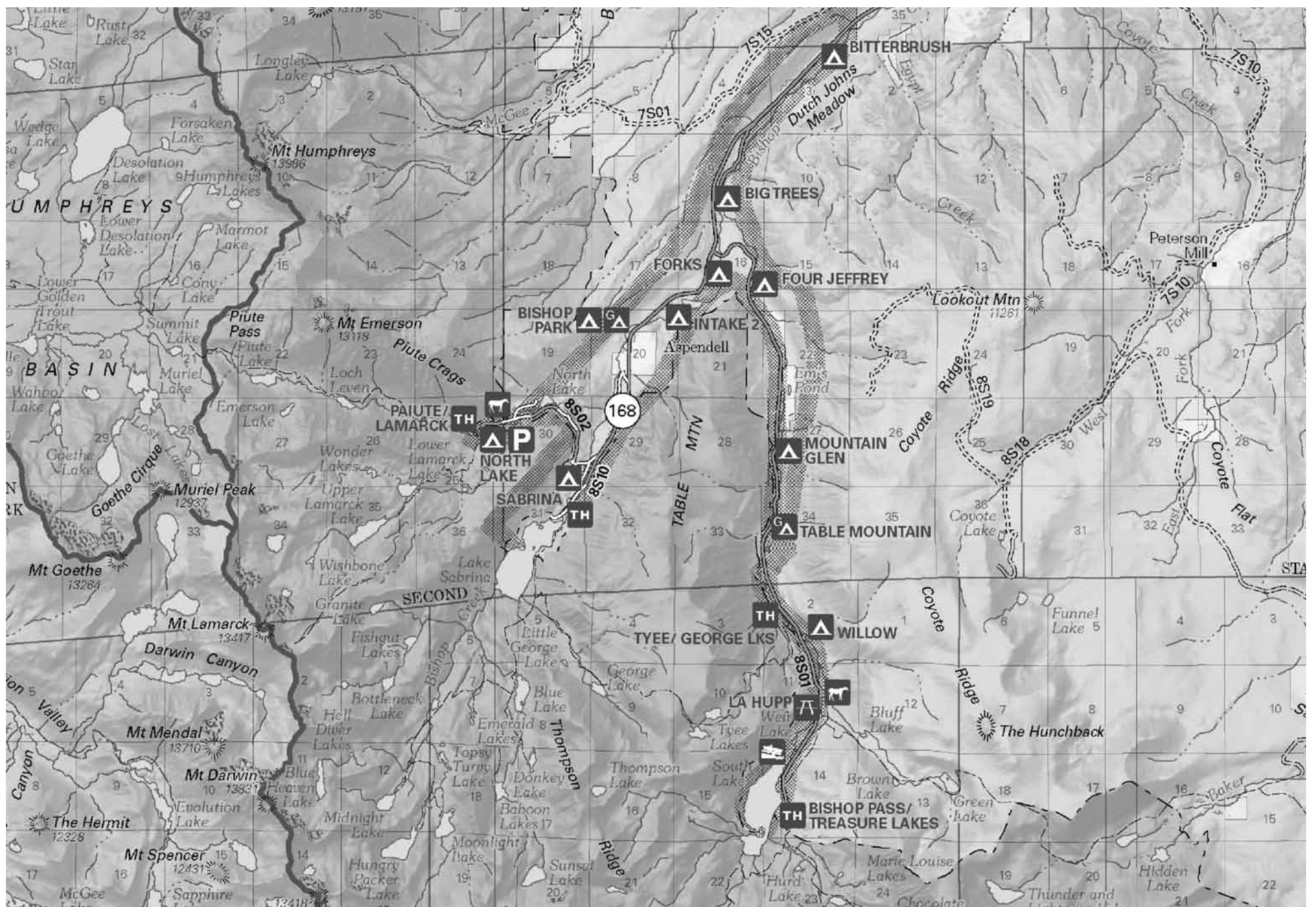
## HIKING TRAILS

### Long Lake/Bishop Lake

2.3 miles one-way / Easy  
4.5 miles one-way / Strenuous  
Outstanding views and scenery await you on this hike. For a longer, strenuous hike, continue to Spearhead Lake, Saddle-rock Lake at 4 miles or Bishop Lake, 4.5 miles one-way. From Bishop, take Hwy 168 west and drive 15.1 miles, then turn left to South Lake. Continue 7.2 miles to reach the trailhead for Bishop Pass.

### Treasure Lakes

3 miles one-way / Moderate  
Travel the Bishop Pass/Long Lake Trail (see directions above) until the trail forks. Go to the right. Continue down the trail to find more "treasures" – your reward is finding a lake at the end of the forested trail.



# Big Pine Creek

**B**ig Pine Creek offers a real treat for the more experienced hiker. Hike past numerous lakes and enjoy views of Palisade Glacier, the largest glacier in the Sierra and the southernmost active glacier in North America. Middle Palisade Glacier can be spotted from the parking area near Glacier Lodge. The glacier can be reached by a strenuous nine-mile hike from the road end in Big Pine Canyon. Palisade Crest, rising above 14,000 feet, contains some of the finest and most challenging alpine climbing in California.



**Palisade Glacier**  
© ERIN LUTRIK

## HIKING TRAILS

### North Fork Trail – Black Lake

5.5 miles one-way / Strenuous

The trail zigzags through a slope of sagebrush, manzanita and Jeffrey pine before it reaches Second Falls, then follows the creek to its headwaters. While walking through a forest of lodgepole pine, hikers will pass a cabin built by movie actor Lon Chaney. At a junction in the trail, you can head northwest to Black Lake, where splendid views of the Palisade Glacier and Crest can be seen.

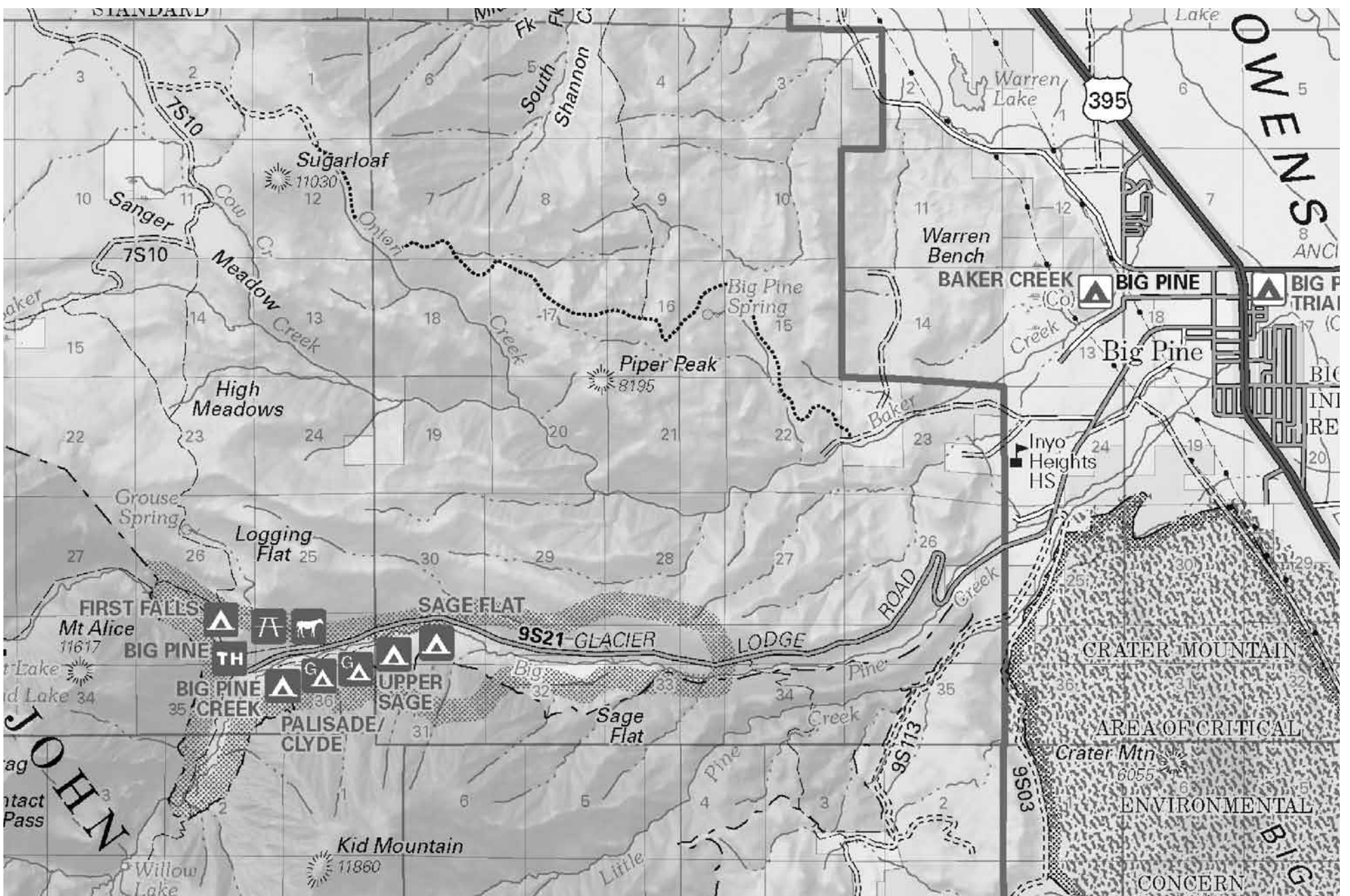
### North Fork Trail – First, Second and Third Lakes

First Lake 4.5 miles one-way / Moderate

Second Lake 4.8 miles one-way / Moderate

Third Lake 5.5 miles one-way / Strenuous

The main trail takes you past First, Second and Third Lakes. Third Lake is fed directly by Palisade Glacier; its milky turquoise color is from the glacial powder carried from the melting ice. The imposing dark mountain above Third Lake is Temple Crag.



# White Mountains Area



**Bristlecone pine**  
© LELAND J. PRATER / COURTESY U.S. FOREST SERVICE

To the east of the Owens Valley stand the Inyo and White mountain ranges. The White Mountains are a typical Great Basin range characterized by a great rock mass of uninterrupted material that has been thrust upward to over 14,000 feet. White Mountain Peak is the third-highest peak in California at 14,246 feet, shorter than Mount Whitney by a mere 251 feet.

This range differs greatly from the Sierra range both in structure and in climate. The climate of the White Mountains is arid desert and is seemingly an unlikely place to find the oldest living trees, the Bristlecone Pines.

The Bristlecones have survived for more than 40 centuries, exceeding the oldest giant sequoia by 1,500 years. Their great age has attracted world wide interest. Tree ring chronologies, dating back to 6700 B.C., are used in a variety of research programs, including the

## HIKING TRAILS

### Discover Trail

1 mile loop / Easy

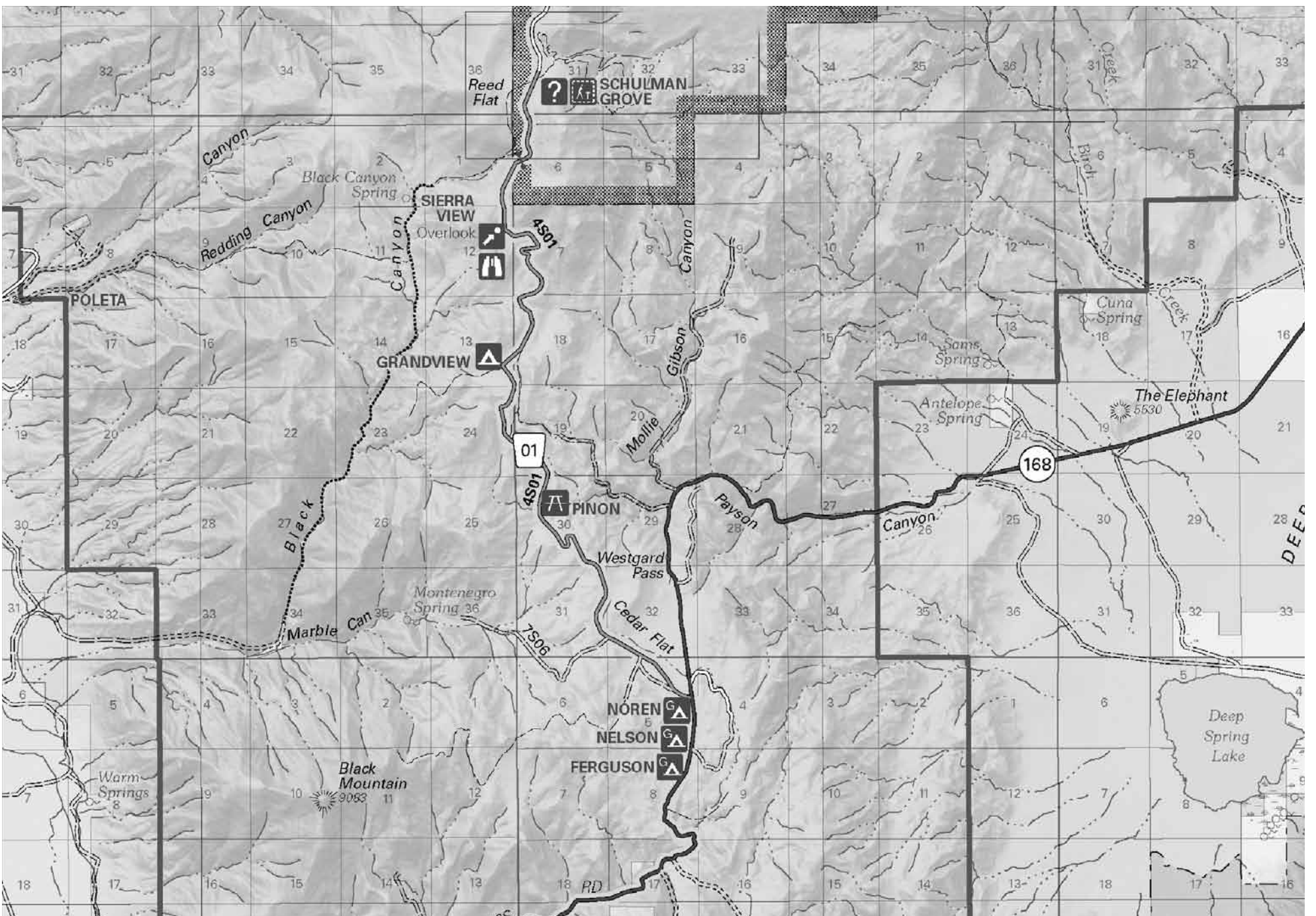
This is a great hike for beginners and anyone not wanting to do the longer Methuselah Trail. Hike amongst trees that, besides their scientific value, are beautiful, with their twisted and gnarled trunks which have withstood the test of time.

### Methuselah Trail

4.50 mile loop / Moderate

Get an up-close look at the "ancients." This 4.5-mile hike is a magical trek through a land of ancient trees and high desert mountain environments.

reconstruction of climatic history, measurement of past isotope concentrations in the atmosphere, and calibration of the radio-carbon time scale.



# Independence

**C**amp Independence was established and named by Lt. Colonel George Spafford Evans, of the Second Cavalry, on Independence Day, July 4, 1862.

## **Eastern California Museum**

The Eastern California Museum, in Independence, features exhibits that reflect the diverse natural and cultural heritage of Inyo County and the Owens Valley. Included on the museum grounds are remnants of an abandoned landscape – a collection of historic agricultural and mining implements used by early Inyo County residents, and equipment used during construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Located on the west side of town, turn on Onion Valley Road (at the only flashing traffic light in “downtown” Independence). The museum is open daily from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.



**Lupines at Division Creek**  
© SUE WEIS

## **Mt. Whitney Historic Fish Hatchery**

The shady grounds and main pond are an excellent place for picnicking, relaxing and fish viewing. Public restrooms are available. Volunteers staff a gift shop and offer tours inside the hatchery. The hatchery building, completed in 1916, is a beautiful and unique

structure with hand-laid stone walls and hand-hewn timbers. Open 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Thursday through Monday in the summer, and Friday through Sunday in the winter. The hatchery is located west of US 395 on the Fish Hatchery Road, just two miles north of Independence.

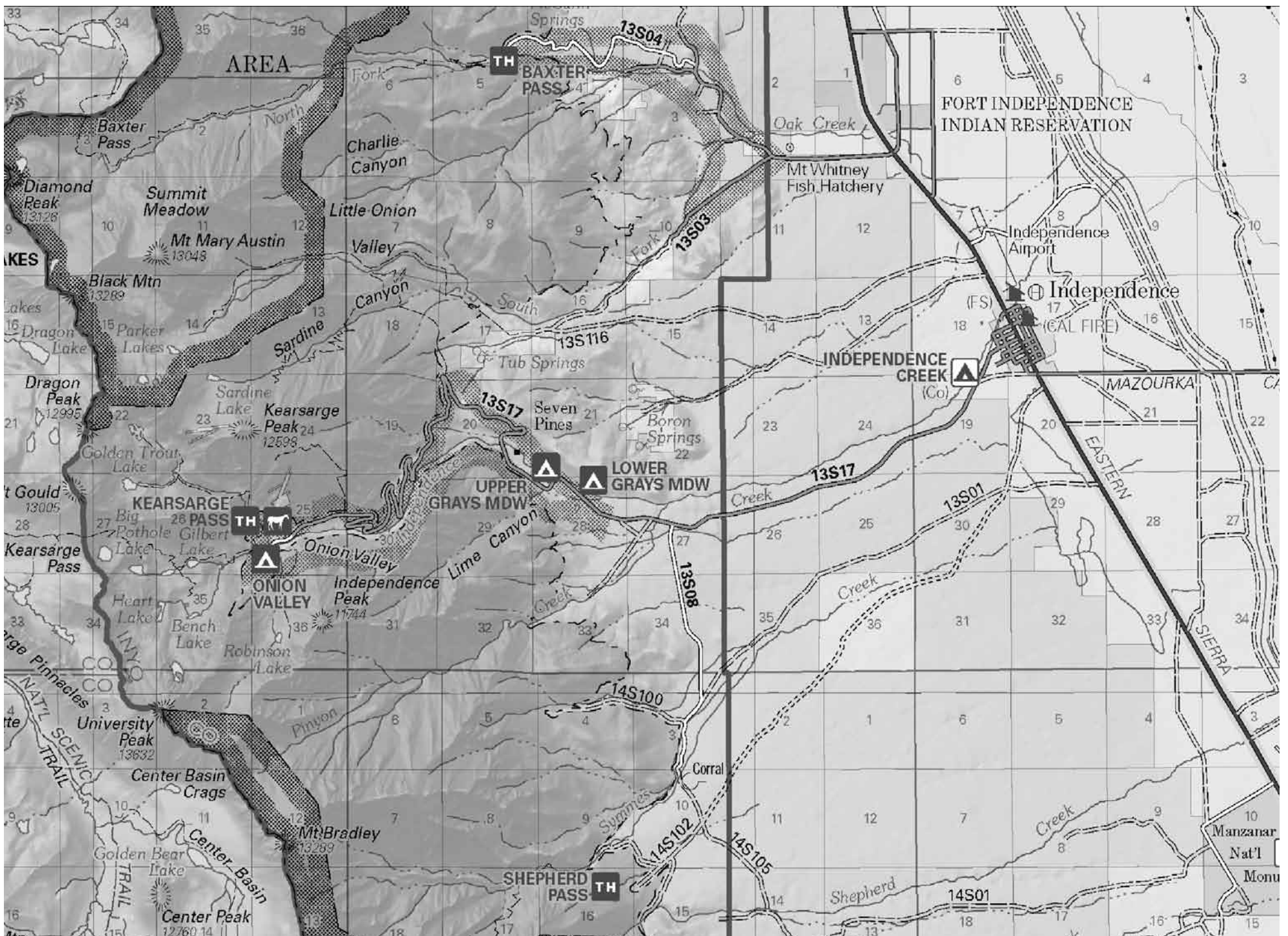
## **HIKING TRAILS**

### **Kearsarge Pass Trail to Gilbert Lake**

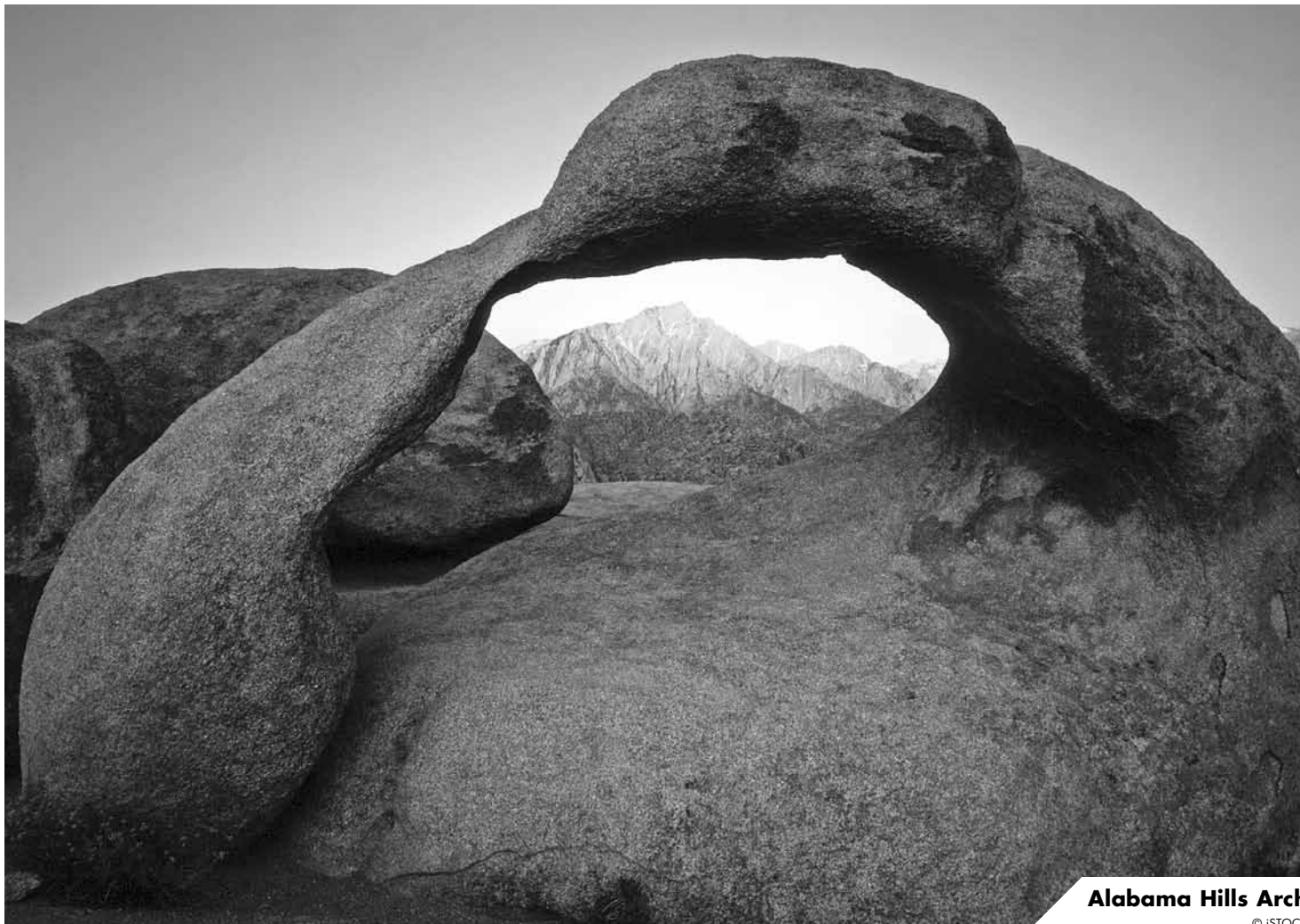
*Approx. 2 miles one-way / Moderate*

Begin at Onion Valley Trail-head. Follow the trail from the parking lot and head west, continuing on the trail as it turns sharply to the right. From here, the trail begins a series of switchbacks to Little Pothole Lake – look for Golden Trout sunning themselves at the shallow water’s edge. Continue up to Gilbert Lake; once you encounter the amazing boulder field, you’re almost there.

Extend your hike to Flower Lake or even up Kearsarge Pass (2.5 miles past Flower Lake) to take in the breathtaking views of Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park.



# Lone Pine / Mt. Whitney



Alabama Hills Arch  
© iSTOCK

The 14,497-foot summit of Mt. Whitney is the highest point in the contiguous United States. For an unobstructed view of the peak, drive a few miles west on Whitney Portal Road through the Alabama Hills.

The first settlers to Lone Pine in the early 1860s gave Lone Pine its name because of a single, large pine tree at the confluence of Lone Pine and Tuttle Creeks. (The tree blew down during a storm in 1876.)

On March 16, 1872 at 2:30 A.M. Lone Pine experienced a violent earthquake, similar in magnitude to the “Big One” in San Francisco in 1906. The shaking literally leveled the town – of the 80 buildings, built of mud and adobe, only 20 structures were left standing.

Twenty-six people lost their lives during the earthquake. A mass grave, located just north of Lone Pine, commemorates the site.

## **Manzanar National Historic Site**

Located 7 miles north of Lone Pine on US 395, Manzanar was the first of 10 relocation camps in the country, confining Japanese-Americans during World War II. The historic high school auditorium now serves as the site’s interpretive center, featuring extensive exhibits and audio-visual programs. You can also tour the grounds and see many of the foundations and remnants of the elaborate gardens. Open 9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. daily April through October, 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. November through March.

## **Beverly and Jim Rogers Museum of Lone Pine Film History**

Lights! Camera! Action! Lone Pine and the Alabama Hills have been a favorite location for Hollywood’s movies since the 1920s. Visit the Museum of Lone Pine Film History, with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. A special orientation film is available on request at the museum with classic Lone Pine movies playing on Thursday and Friday evenings at 7 P.M. or on Saturday at 4 P.M. The museum opens daily at 10 A.M.; closing at 6 P.M. Monday

through Wednesday, at 7 P.M. Thursday through Saturday and at 4 P.M. on Sunday. The museum is located on US 395 at the south end of Lone Pine.

## **Alabama Hills**

Welcome to the Alabama Hills Special Recreation Area, managed by the Bishop BLM. The amazing scenery – oddly rounded rocks backed by the jagged high peaks of the Sierra – creates a wonderful setting both for recreation and the film industry. The hills are made of granite and weathering has created the unusual shapes, arches, and canyons particular to the area. Hike, run, motor tour, horseback ride, or bike any route not signed as closed, try rock climbing on one of the 200 sport routes, or explore some of the movie locations (pick up the Movie Road Self-Guided Tour at the Museum of Film History). Fishing in the creeks that meander through the Alabama Hills begins the first Saturday in March and goes through November 15.

## **Owens River and Owens Dry Lake**

Owens Lake was formed from glacial melt during the last ice age. As a Great Basin Lake, it has had no outlet to the sea for almost 4,000 years. The lake was fed by



Manzanar National Historic Site  
© iSTOCK

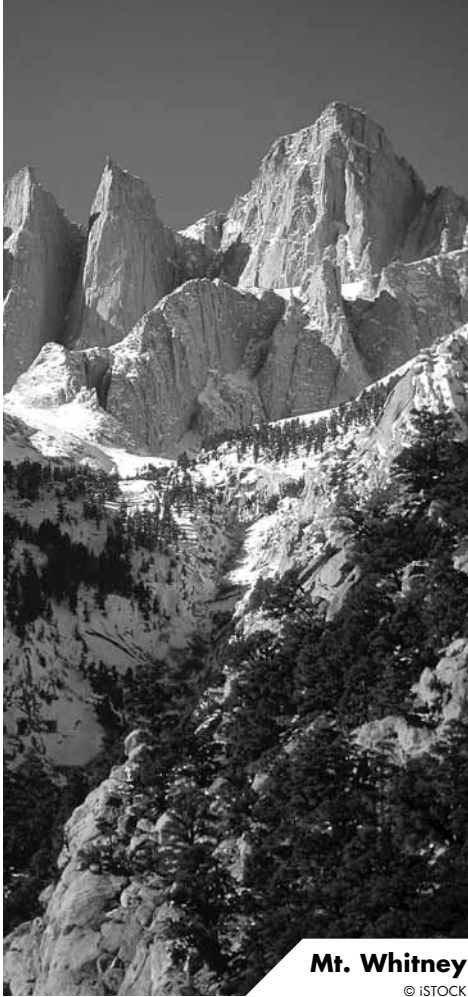
the freshwater Owens River, but without an outlet, the fresh waters became saline in character.

During the early mining days of the 1870s, the shallow lake was used to transport bullion and supplies for the mines at Cerro Gordo aboard two steamships, the “Bessie Brady” and the “Mollie Stevens.”

Today, the Owens River and Owens Lake have had water restored, thanks to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s efforts to bring back the river’s natural ecology and mitigate the dust from the dry lake bed. You can kayak and fish along the meandering 62 “river miles” portion of the lower Owens River.

# Lone Pine / Mt. Whitney

## HIKING TRAILS



Mt. Whitney

© iStock

### Alabama Hills Arch Trail

*¼ mile one-way / Easy*

This geologic wonder is within easy distance of its Movie Road starting point. Park in the dirt lot just after Movie Road forks (go to the right). Follow the stone-lined trail through the fragile desert vegetation and peculiar rock formations typical to the Alabama Hills. Capture the dramatic vista of Mt. Whitney through both the arch and your camera lens. Movie Flat Road is located 3 miles west of Lone Pine on the Whitney Portal Road (turn at the only traffic light in "downtown" Lone Pine from US 395).

### Whitney Portal National Recreation Trail

*4 miles one-way / Easy*

The trail begins at the west end of Lone Pine Campground and takes you to Whitney Portal. The lower portion is open, high desert (and can be hot in summer) while the upper portion offers the cooling shade of the canyon, Lone Pine Creek, and the scent of large Jeffrey pines. Enjoy spectacular views of Mt. Whitney, Alabama Hills, Owens Valley, and the Inyo Mountains along the trail. Lone Pine Campground is located 6 miles west of Lone Pine on the Whitney Portal Road.

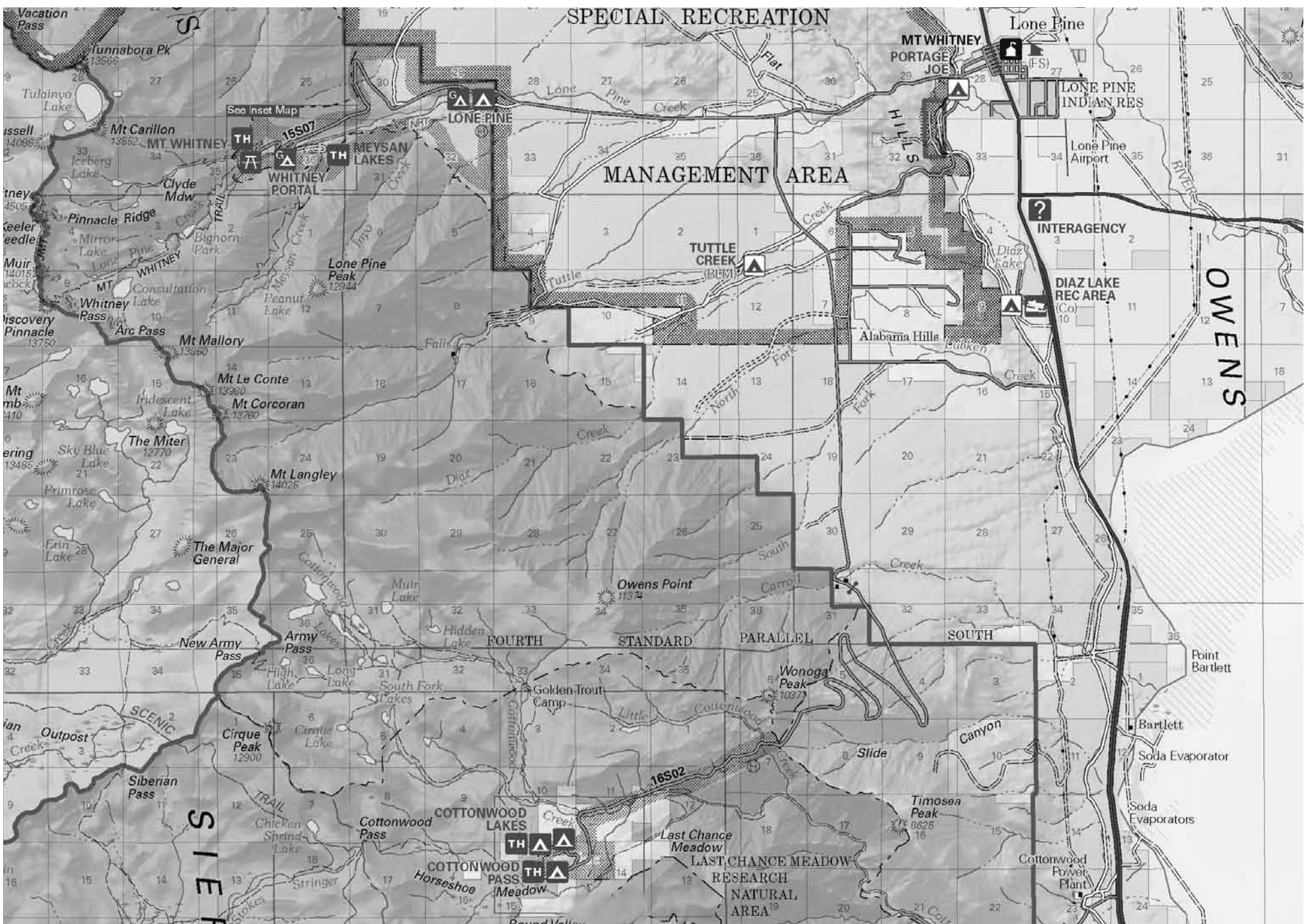
### Meysan Lakes Trail

*5 miles one-way / Strenuous*

The steep trail leads to a beautiful alpine lakes basin, and also provides access to the climbing routes on Lone Pine Peak, Mt. Mallory, and Candlelight Peak.

Beginning at Whitney Portal Family Campground, follow the signs for Meysan Lakes trail as you make your way through the recreation residences to the trailhead. Expect a strenuous, but all-to-yourself day hike in the shadow of the more popular Mt. Whitney.

The Whitney Portal Family Campground is located 12 miles west of Lone Pine on the Whitney Portal Road (turn at the only traffic light in "downtown" Lone Pine from US 395).







© PHOTOS.COM

## Fishing

You'll find great trout fishing in our many lakes, rivers and streams, stocked by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and world famous trophy-size Alpers rainbow trout.

### Fishing Season

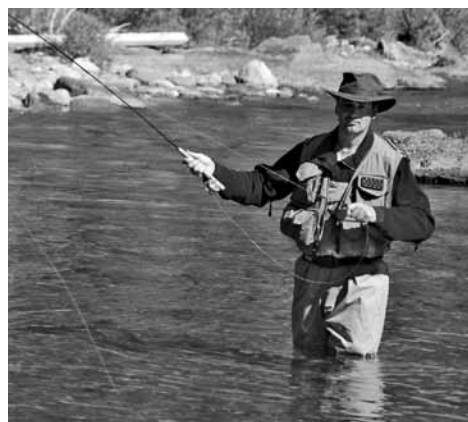
Mono County fishing season starts the last Saturday in April and ends on November 15th of every year, however, several catch-and-release fisheries are open year-round (see below).

### Catch-and-Release Fisheries

The catch-and-release fisheries of the Upper Owens River above the Benton Bridge to Big Springs, the East Walker River below Bridgeport Reservoir, and Hot Creek, remain open year-round. These fisheries are ZERO limits, NO BAIT of any kind, BARBLESS hooks only. The Lower Owens River outside of Bishop remains open year-round.

### Fishing License Requirements

Anglers 16 years of age and older must have a fishing license. You can purchase an annual, one-day or two-day fishing license (valid for two consecutive calendar days). Information concerning license requirements and fees may be obtained from the Department of Fish and Game by calling 760-934-2664. Fishing licenses may be purchased at sporting goods stores throughout Inyo and Mono counties.



© ISTOCK

## Pack Trips

Pack trips on horseback are available into the wilderness for day or overnight trips throughout the Inyo National Forest.

### Agnew Meadows Pack Train

P.O. Box 395  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
760-934-2345  
800-292-7758

### Bishop Pack Outfitters

247 Cataract Road  
Bishop, CA 93514  
760-873-4785  
www.bishoppackoutfitters.com

### Cottonwood Pack Station

910 Gibson Ranch Road  
Independence, CA 93526  
760-878-2015

### Frontier Pack Train

P.O. Box 656  
June Lake, CA 93529  
760-873-7971 Winter  
760-648-7701 Summer  
1-888-437-MULE

### Glacier Pack Train

P.O. Box 321  
Big Pine, CA 93513  
760-938-2538

### Mammoth Lakes Pack Outfit

P.O. Box 61  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
888-475-8747  
www.mammothpack.com

### McGee Creek Pack Station

HCR 79, Box 162  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
760-878-2207 Winter  
760-935-4324 Summer  
www.mcgeecreekpackstation.com

### Rock Creek Pack Station/ Mt. Whitney Pack Trains

Craig London  
P.O. Box 248, Bishop, CA 93515  
760-873-8331 Winter  
760-935-4493 Summer  
www.rockcreekpackstation.com

### Pine Creek Pack Station

P.O. Box 968  
Bishop, CA 93515  
760-387-2797  
800-962-0775  
www.pinecreekpackstation.com

### Rainbow Pack Outfitters

P.O. Box 1791  
Bishop, CA 93515  
760-873-8877  
www.rainbowpackoutfit.com

### Red's Meadow Pack Train

P.O. Box 395  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
760-934-2345  
800-292-7758

### Sequoia Kings Pack Train

P.O. Box 209  
Independence, CA 93526  
800-962-0775  
760-387-2627 Winter  
www.sequoiakingspacktrain.com



© ISTOCK

## 2011 SPORT FISHING LICENSE RATES

<b>Annual</b> Resident sport fishing license . . . . .	\$43.46
<b>One-day</b> Resident/Non-Resident sport fishing license . . . . .	\$14.04
<b>Two-day</b> Resident/Non-Resident sport fishing license . . . . .	\$21.86
<b>Ten-day</b> Non-Resident sport fishing license . . . . .	\$43.46
<b>Annual</b> Non-Resident sport fishing license . . . . .	\$116.90

# USFS CAMPGROUNDS



CAMPGROUND NAME    SITES    COMMENTS    OPEN    WATER    TOILETS    FEE \$    MAX STAY    ELEVATION

## LEE VINING / JUNE LAKE AREA MONO LAKE RANGER DISTRICT 760-647-3044

### LEE VINING AREA

Aspen	56		5/14 - 10/31	yes	vault	18.00	14 days	7,500 ft.
Big Bend	17	A	as weather permits	yes	vault	19.00	14 days	7,800 ft.
Cattleguard (overflow)	16		as weather permits	none	chemical	15.00	14 days	7,300 ft.
Ellery Lake	21	A	as weather permits	yes	vault	19.00	14 days	9,500 ft.
Junction	13		as weather permits	none	vault	14.00	14 days	9,600 ft.
Lower Lee Vining	50		4/29 - 11/13	none	vault	15.00	14 days	7,300 ft.
Moraine (overflow)	20		as needed	none	chemical	15.00	14 days	7,300 ft.
Saddlebag Lake (small trailers, RVs)	20	A	as weather permits	yes	vault	19.00	14 days	10,000 ft.
Sawmill (walk-in)	12		as weather permits	none	vault	14.00	14 days	9,800 ft.
Tioga Lake (small trailers, RVs)	13	A	as weather permits	yes	vault	19.00	14 days	9,700 ft.
Trailhead (group at Saddlebag Lake)	1	R	as weather permits	yes	vault	60.00+	14 days	10,000 ft.

### JUNE LAKE AREA

Aerie Crag (RVs only/overflow)	10		as needed	none	flush	11.00	3 days	7,200 ft.
Big Springs	26		as weather permits	none	pit	none	21 days	7,300 ft.
Bloody Canyon Trailhead	4		as weather permits	none	none	none	14 days	8,400 ft.
Glass Creek	50		as weather permits	none	vault	none	21-42 days	7,600 ft.
Gull Lake	11		4/29 - 10/31	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,600 ft.
Hartley Springs	20		as weather permits	none	pit	none	14 days	8,400 ft.
June Lake	28	R	4/29 - 10/31	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,600 ft.
Oh! Ridge	144	R/DS	4/29 - 10/31	pipied	flush	23.00	14 days	7,600 ft.
Reversed Creek	17		5/14 - 10/31	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,600 ft.
Silver Lake	63	R	4/29 - 11/13	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,200 ft.

## MAMMOTH LAKES AREA MAMMOTH RANGER DISTRICT 760-924-5500

### ALONG US 395

Deadman	30		as weather permits	none	vault	none	14 days	7,800 ft.
Obsidian Flat (group)	1	R	as weather permits	none	vault	20.00	14 days	7,800 ft.

### REDS MEADOW AREA

Agnew Meadows	17	A	6/25 - 10/2	pipied	vault	20.00	14 days	8,400 ft.
Agnew Meadows (group)	4	R	6/25 - 9/11	pipied	vault	33.00-66.00	14 days	8,400 ft.
Agnew Meadows (horse)	3		6/25 - 10/2	pipied	vault	22.00	14 days	8,400 ft.
Minaret Falls	27	A	6/25 - 10/2	pipied	vault	20.00	14 days	7,600 ft.
Pumice Flat	17		6/25 - 9/11	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,700 ft.
Pumice Flat (group)	4	R	6/25 - 9/11	pipied	flush	66.00-143.00	14 days	7,700 ft.
Reds Meadow	52		6/25 - 10/15	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,600 ft.
Upper Soda Springs	28	A	6/25 - 9/11	pipied	vault	20.00	14 days	7,700 ft.

### MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN

Coldwater	77	R	6/24 - 10/2	pipied	flush	21.00	14 days	8,900 ft.
Lake George	16		6/24 - 9/11	pipied	flush	21.00	7 days	9,000 ft.
Lake Mary	48		6/24 - 9/11	pipied	flush	21.00	14 days	8,900 ft.
Pine City	10		6/24 - 9/11	pipied	flush	21.00	14 days	8,900 ft.
Twin Lakes	92	R	6/17 - 10/31	pipied	flush	21.00	7 days	8,700 ft.

### MAMMOTH VILLAGE AREA

New Shady Rest	92	DS / R	5/7 - 11/13	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,800 ft.
Old Shady Rest	46	R	5/27 - 9/11	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,800 ft.
Pine Glen (group)	7	R	5/27 - 10/2	pipied	flush	55.00-70.00	14 days	7,800 ft.
Pine Glen (overflow)	10		as needed	pipied	flush	20.00	14 days	7,800 ft.
Sherwin Creek	85	R	5/7 - 9/11	pipied	flush	20.00	21 days	7,600 ft.

### CONVICT LAKE

Convict Lake	85	R / DS / A	4/29 - 10/31	pipied	flush	20.00	7 days	7,600 ft.
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## CAMPFIRE WOOD

The following suggested guidelines are in effect:

1. One-quarter cord or less may be collected on National Forest land for use campgrounds. Fuel wood may be collected by hand only. Unused wood cannot be removed from the forest.
2. Wood must be dead and down.
3. Chainsaw use in campgrounds is not permitted.
4. Firewood is available from most camp hosts for \$6.00



**YOUR CAMPFIRE...  
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**

**DROWN IT**

**STIR IT**

**FEEL IT**

PLEASE USE ONLY WATER!  
DO NOT USE DIRT TO EXTINGUISH  
FIRES WITHIN THE CAMPFIRE RINGS!

**DATES:** All dates are projected and subject to change due to weather conditions.

**FEES:** Please check fee information in the campgrounds as they are subject to change or seasonal variations.

**CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS:**  
1-877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

**COMMENT KEY:**  
R = Some sites reservable  
A = Accessible  
DS = Dump Station

# USFS CAMPGROUNDS



CAMPGROUND NAME	SITES	COMMENTS	OPEN	WATER	TOILETS	FEE \$	MAX STAY	ELEVATION
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## CROWLEY LAKE AREA WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT 760-873-2500

### McGEE CREEK

McGee Creek	28	R/A	4/29 - 10/24	pip	vault	20.00	14 days	7,600 ft.
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### ROCK CREEK

Aspen (group)	1	R	5/13 - 9/18	pip	flush	65.00		8,100 ft.
Big Meadow	11		5/13 - 9/18	pip	flush	20.00	7 days	8,600 ft.
East Fork	133	R	5/20 - 9/26	pip	flush	20.00	14 days	9,000 ft.
French Camp	86	R/DS	4/29 - 10/31	pip	flush	20.00	21 days	7,500 ft.
Holiday (overflow)	35		as needed	pip	vault	20.00	14 days	7,500 ft.
Iris Meadow	14		5/13 - 9/18	pip	flush	20.00	7 days	8,300 ft.
Mosquito Flat Trailhead (walk-in)	10		6/17 - 10/31	none	none	none	1 day	10,100 ft.
Palisade (overflow or group)	5	R	5/20 - 9/18	pip	flush	20.00-100.00	7 days	8,600 ft.
Pine Grove	11		5/20 - 9/26	pip	vault	20.00	7 days	9,300 ft.
Rock Creek Lake	28		5/20 - 9/26	pip	flush	20.00	7 days	9,600 ft.
Rock Creek Lake (group)	1	R	5/20 - 10/31	pip	flush	65.00		9,700 ft.
Tuff	34	R	4/29 - 10/31	pip	vault	20.00	21 days	7,000 ft.
Upper Pine Grove	8	A	5/20 - 9/26	pip	vault	20.00	7 days	9,400 ft.

## BISHOP AREA WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT 760-873-2500

### BISHOP CREEK

Big Trees	16		5/13 - 9/18	pip	flush	21.00	7 days	7,500 ft.
Bishop Park	21		4/29 - 10/31	pip	flush	21.00	7 days	7,800 ft.
Bishop Park (group)	1	R	5/20 - 9/18	pip	flush	65.00		7,500 ft.
Bitterbrush	30		all year	pip	vault	21.00	14 days	7,350 ft.
Forks	21		4/29 - 10/31	pip	flush	21.00	7 days	7,800 ft.
Four Jeffrey	106	DS/R/A	as needed	pip	flush	21.00	14 days	8,100 ft.
Intake 2 (upper)	8		5/13 - 9/18	pip	flush	21.00	7 days	8,200 ft.
Intake 2 (walk-in)	5		6/17 - 10/31	pip	flush	21.00	7 days	8,200 ft.
Mountain Glen	5		5/20 - 9/18	none	vault	20.00	7 days	8,200 ft.
North Lake (no trailers or RVs)	11		6/3 - 9/11	pip	vault	21.00	7 days	9,500 ft.
Sabrina	18		5/20 - 9/26	pip	vault	21.00	7 days	9,000 ft.
Table Mountain (group)	1	R	5/20 - 9/18	none	vault	65.00		8,500 ft.
Willow	7		6/3 - 9/11	none	vault	20.00	7 days	9,000 ft.

## BIG PINE AREA WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT 760-873-2500

### BIG PINE CREEK

Big Pine Creek	30	R	5/6 - 10/31	pip	vault	20.00	14 days	7,700 ft.
Clyde Glacier (group)	1	R	5/20 - 9/18	pip	vault	65.00		7,600 ft.
First Falls (walk-in)	5		4/29 - 10/16	none	vault	none	14 days	8,300 ft.
Palisade Glacier (group)	1	R	5/20 - 9/18	pip	vault	65.00		7,600 ft.
Sage Flat	28	A	4/29 - 10/31	pip	vault	20.00	14 days	7,400 ft.
Upper Sage Flat	21	R	4/29 - 10/16	pip	vault	20.00	14 days	7,600 ft.

## WHITE MOUNTAINS AREA WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT 760-873-2500

### WHITE MOUNTAINS / BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST AREA

Ferguson (group)	1			none	vault			7,200 ft.
Grandview	26		4/1 - 10/31	none	vault	donation	14 days	8,560 ft.
Nelson (group)	1		5/1 - 10/17	none	vault			7,200 ft.
Noren (group)	1		5/20 - 9/19	none	vault			7,200 ft.

## PRIMITIVE CAMPING

### Primitive / Dispersed Camping on the Inyo National Forest

All National Forest lands are open to camping unless otherwise posted. Check with a Visitor Center for a map that shows what areas are closed to camping.

The advantages to this type of camping are many – peace, solitude, and adventure.

#### There are a few rules to follow:

1. You will need to have a California fire permit for all fires including stoves and charcoal grills (free at a Visitor Center).
2. If you already have a fire permit, check with local authorities for current fire restrictions.
3. Follow *Leave No Trace* techniques listed on page 23.
4. 28-day stay limit on any district.



## PETS & CAMPING

Pets are welcome in the campgrounds but must be kept leashed and under control at all times.

Pets are not allowed at June Lake Beach.

**DATES:** All dates are projected and subject to change due to weather conditions.

**FEES:** Please check fee information in the campgrounds as they are subject to change or seasonal variations.

**CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS:** 1-877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

#### COMMENT KEY:

R = Some sites reservable  
A = Accessible  
DS = Dump Station

# USFS CAMPGROUNDS



CAMPGROUND NAME	SITES	COMMENTS	OPEN	WATER	TOILETS	FEE \$	MAX STAY	ELEVATION
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## LONE PINE AREA MT. WHITNEY RANGER DISTRICT 760-876-6200

### INDEPENDENCE CREEK

Lower Grays Meadow	52	R	4/29 - 10/31	pipd	vault	16.00	14 days	6,000 ft.
Onion Valley	29	R	5/27 - 9/26	pipd	vault	16.00	14 days	9,200 ft.
Upper Grays Meadow	35	R	4/29 - 10/31	pipd	vault	16.00	14 days	6,200 ft.

### LONE PINE CREEK

Lone Pine	43	R	4/29 - 10/31	pipd	vault	17.00	14 days	6,000 ft.
Lone Pine (group)	1	R	4/29 - 10/31	pipd	vault	60.00	14 days	6,000 ft.
Whitney Portal	43	R/A	5/20 - 10/24	pipd	vault	19.00	7 days	8,000 ft.
Whitney Portal (group)	3	R	5/20 - 10/24	pipd	vault	60.00	7 days	8,100 ft.
Whitney Trailhead (walk-in)	10		5/20 - 10/24	pipd	vault	10.00	1 day	8,300 ft.

### HORSESHOE MEADOW

Cottonwood Pass Backpacker (walk-in)	18		5/27 - 10/11	pipd	vault	6.00	1 day	10,000 ft.
Cottonwood Lakes Backpacker (walk-in)	12		5-27 - 10/11	pipd	vault	6.00	1 day	10,000 ft.
Horseshoe Meadow Equestrian (staging)	10		5/27 - 10/11	pipd	vault	12.00	1 day	10,000 ft.

**DATES:** All dates are projected and subject to change due to weather conditions.

**FEES:** Please check fee information in the campgrounds as they are subject to change or seasonal variations.

**CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS:** 1-877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

#### COMMENT KEY:

R = Some sites reservable

A = Accessible

DS = Dump Station

# OTHER CAMPGROUNDS



CAMPGROUND NAME	SITES	OPEN	WATER	TOILETS	FEE \$	MAX STAY	ELEVATION
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### MONO LAKE AREA

Lee Vining Canyon (Mono County)	182		4/29 - 10/31	none	8.00	no limit	7,500 ft.
Lundy Canyon (Mono County)	60		4/29 - 10/31	none	8.00	no limit	7,600 ft.

### CROWLEY LAKE and MAMMOTH LAKES AREA

Crowley Lake (BLM)	47		4/30 - 11/01	none	vault	5.00*	14 days	6,800 ft.
Devils Postpile (National Park Service)	21		7/1 - 10/1	pipd		16.00	14 days	7,500 ft.

### BISHOP AREA

Baker Creek (Inyo County)	70		all year	yes		10.00	15 days	3,900 ft.
Horton Creek (BLM)	53		5/23 - 11/01	none	vault	5.00	14 days	5,000 ft.
Pleasant Valley (Inyo County)	200		all year	yes	vault	10.00	14 days	4,100 ft.
Pleasant Valley Pit - Winter (BLM)	60		11/01 - 5/01	none	porta	5.00	60 days	4,400 ft.
Taboose Creek (Inyo County)	55		all year	yes		10.00	15 days	3,900 ft.
Tinnemaha Creek (Inyo County)	55		all year	yes		10.00	15 days	3,900 ft.

### LONE PINE and INDEPENDENCE AREA

Diaz Lake (Inyo County)	200		all year	pipd		25.00	15 days	3,700 ft.
Goodale Creek (BLM)	62		4/14 - 11/1	none	vault	5.00*	14 days	5,120 ft.
Independence Creek (Inyo County)	25		all year	pipd	vault	10.00	15 days	3,800 ft.
Portagee Joe (Inyo County)	15		all year	pipd	vault	10.00	15 days	3,700 ft.
Tuttle Creek (BLM)	85		all year	none	vault	5.00	15 days	5,100 ft.

The information provided above on Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service and County campgrounds is for information purposes only. The Inyo National Forest and the Town of Mammoth Lakes are not responsible for changes in dates or prices. Please contact the campgrounds directly for the most current information. \*Long-Term Visitor Area permits (LTVAs) are available for \$300.00 for one summer season and are good at all BLM campgrounds except Horton Creek.

**INYO COUNTY:** 760-878-0272 **MONO COUNTY:** 760-932-5248 **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:** 760-934-2289

## BEARS

Bears will usually visit the trash dumpsters to forage for food, but they will visit your campsite if you don't take the precaution of storing your food properly. If you are more than an arm's length away from your food, store it in bear proof canisters. Bear proof food lockers in campgrounds are normally 48 inches wide, 29 inches deep and 38 inches high (24 cubic feet) – large enough to store coolers.

In many areas, storing food in cars is illegal, and this method should only be used as a last resort in areas that it is allowed. The preferred method of storing food is to use the food lockers provided in campgrounds and at trailheads, or to plan so that no food is left behind in your car.

Bears won't usually bother you while you are eating or cooking, but always clean up your camp of food and trash promptly after meals. Tents are not smell-proof or bear-proof, therefore you shouldn't store food or anything with a fragrance inside them.

Feeding bears, while potentially hazardous to people, is also detrimental to bears. Our food may not provide them with enough of the right calories to sustain them through winter. In their search for food, bears can become aggressive towards people. Eventually, the "problem" bear may have to be destroyed.

**A fed bear is a dead bear.** Is it the bear that's the problem or the people that have been feeding it? Fortunately, there are solutions. The Inyo National Forest has retro-fitted trash dumpsters to make them bear-resistant, and all campgrounds now have bear-resistant dumpsters. Bear proof food storage lockers have been installed in most campgrounds. Where lockers are not available, proper food storage by campers is critical. The Inyo National Forest has adopted regulations similar to the National Park Service's regulations, and campers can be cited if they fail to store their food properly. It may take a long time, but the goal is to "teach" bears that humans are not an opportunity for a free and easy lunch, and that they should stick with the natural forage of berries, roots and plants.

# PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS / RV

CAMPGROUND NAME	SITES	HOOKUPS	OPEN	FEE \$	ELEVATION
<b>LEE VINING AREA</b>					
<b>Mono Vista RV Park</b> 760-647-6401 • US 395 at 1st Street, Lee Vining	65	yes	4/1 - 11/1	19.00 - 33.00	6,700 ft.
<b>JUNE LAKE AREA</b>					
<b>Golden Pine RV Park</b> (no tent sites) 760-648-7473 • 98 Gull Lake Road, June Lake	25	yes	4/26 - 11/1	24.00	7,600 ft.
<b>Grant Lake RV Park</b> 760-648-7964 • June Lake Loop at Grant Lake		yes no electricity	Summer only	20.00	7,600 ft.
<b>June Lake RV Park</b> (no tent sites) 760-648-7967 • 155 S. Crawford Avenue, June Lake	22	yes	4/25 - 11/1	31.25	7,600 ft.
<b>Pine Cliff RV Park</b> 760-648-7558 • Pine Cliff Road, June Lake		yes	4/25 - 11/1	11.00 - 20.00	7,600 ft.
<b>Silver Lake Resort</b> 760-648-7525 • Hwy 158, June Lake Loop, June Lake	80	yes	4/20 - 10/15	33.00	7,200 ft.
<b>MAMMOTH LAKES AREA</b>					
<b>Camp High Sierra</b> 760-934-2368 • Entrance off Lake Mary Road in Mammoth Lakes	50		Summer only	35.00 - 75.00	8,400 ft.
<b>Brown's Owens River</b> 760-920-0975 • Owens River Road off US 395 near Crowley Lake	90	no	April-September	20.00	7,000 ft.
<b>Mammoth Mountain RV Park</b> 760-934-3822 • 2667 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes	182	yes	all year	42.00 - 52.00	7,800 ft.
<b>BISHOP AREA</b>					
<b>Brown's Millpond</b> 760-873-5342 • US 395 north of Bishop	70	yes	3/1 - 10/31	20.00 - 25.00 (4 persons)	4,500 ft.
<b>Brown's Town</b> 760-873-8522 • US 395 at Schober Lane, Bishop	150	yes	3/1 - 11/30	20.00 - 27.00 (2 persons)	4,100 ft.
<b>Highlands RV Park</b> (no tent sites) 760-873-7616 • US 395 at Matlick, Bishop	103	yes	all year	40.00	4,100 ft.
<b>J Diamond Mobile Ranch</b> 760-872-7341 • 771 N. Main Street, Bishop	21 6 tent sites	yes	all year	25.00-35.00 tents 10.00	4,100 ft.
<b>Keogh Hot Springs (Brown's)</b> 760-872-4370 • US 395 at Keogh Hot Springs Road, south of Bishop	15	yes	all year	20.00 - 25.00 (4 persons)	4,100 ft.
<b>BIG PINE AREA</b>					
<b>Glacier View (Brown's)</b> 760-872-6911	40	yes	all year	12.00 - 17.00	3,900 ft.
<b>LONE PINE</b>					
<b>Boulder Creek RV Resort</b> 760-876-4243 • 2550 US 395, Lone Pine	82	yes	all year	33.00	4,000 ft.
<b>Sierra View RV Park</b> 760-876-5313 • 532 N. Main Street, Lone Pine	12	yes	all year	31.00 - 35.00	3,700 ft.

The information provided above on private campgrounds and RV parks is for information purposes only. The Inyo National Forest is not responsible for changes in dates or prices. Please contact the campgrounds directly for the most current information.

## HIGH-ALTITUDE TIPS

The center of Mammoth Lakes is approximately 7,800 feet above sea level, and the elevation at the base of Mammoth Mountain near Main Lodge is 9,000 feet. Those that venture to the top of Mammoth Mountain will sit atop an 11,053-foot high dormant volcano.

What should you do?

- Eat lightly and drink plenty of liquids.
- Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages for the first 24 hours of your stay.
- Keep warm – layer clothing – and always take a jacket with you.
- Avoid sunburn by using sunscreen.
- To prevent eye damage, wear sunglasses or goggles with adequate UV protection.
- Headache, insomnia and/or fatigue may be signs of a mild form of altitude sickness. You should decrease activity, and visit the local clinic or hospital if symptoms persist.

## PASSES

### INTERAGENCY PASSES



#### Annual Pass

\$80 annually

- Available at most BLM, FWS, NPS, Reclamation and USFS recreation fee areas.
- Covers access to and use of: BLM, FWS, NPS, Reclamation, and USFS sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.



#### Senior Pass

\$10 lifetime pass

- Obtain in person at staffed BLM, FWS, NPS, Reclamation and USFS recreation fee areas.
- Provide proof of age (must be 62) and residency.
- Covers same access as Annual Pass, but also covers 50% discount for some expanded amenity fees such as camping at USFS campgrounds.

#### Access Pass

Free - with proof of permanent disability

- Obtain in person at staffed BLM, FWS, NPS, Reclamation and USFS recreation fee areas.
- Provide proof of permanent disability and residency.
- Covers same access as Annual Pass, but also covers 50% discount for some expanded amenity fees such as camping at USFS campgrounds.



# RV DUMP STATIONS

LOCATION	APPROX. OPEN DATES	DUMP FEE / COMMENTS
<b>BRIDGEPORT</b>		
<b>Mono Village at Twin Lakes</b> 760-932-7071	April-October	\$10.00
<b>Texaco Mo-Mart</b>	April-October	\$10.00
<b>LEE VINING</b>		
<b>Lakeview Trailer Court</b> 760-648-7964	April-October	\$3.00
<b>Mono Vista Trailer Park</b> 760-647-6401	April-October	\$8.00
<b>JUNE LAKE</b>		
<b>Fern Creek Lodge/Store</b> 760-648-7741	April-October	Free
<b>June Lake Junction</b> 760-648-7509	April-October	\$10.00
<b>Oh! Ridge Campground</b>	April-October	\$7.00
<b>MAMMOTH LAKES</b>		
<b>Community Water District</b> 760-934-2596	Year-round	Free
<b>Mammoth Mountain RV Park</b> 760-934-3822	Year-round	\$6.00 Water \$5.00
<b>New Shady Rest FS Campground</b>	April-October	\$7.00 Free to Shady Rest campers
<b>CONVICT LAKE</b>		
<b>Convict Lake Campground</b>	April-October	Free
<b>ROCK CREEK</b>		
<b>French Camp FS Campground</b>	April-October	\$7.00
<b>BISHOP</b>		
<b>Four Jeffrey FS Campground</b>	April-October	\$7.00
<b>Highlands Trailer Park</b> 760-873-7616	Year-round	\$5.00
<b>Shell Station/Car Wash</b> 760-873-8283	Year-round	\$12.00
<b>INDEPENDENCE</b>		
<b>Division Creek Rest Stop</b>	Year-round	Free
<b>LONE PINE</b>		
<b>Boulder Creek RV Park</b> 760-876-4243	Year-round	\$10.00
<b>COSO JUNCTION</b>		
<b>Coso Junction Rest Stop (Caltrans)</b>	Year-round	Free
<b>DEATH VALLEY</b>		
<b>Death Valley National Park</b> 760-786-2331	Year-round	\$20.00 Park entrance fee
<b>Furnace Creek Campground</b>	Year-round	Free with Park entrance fee
<b>Mesquite Springs Campground</b>	Year-round	Free with Park entrance fee
<b>Stovepipe Wells Campground</b>	October-April	Free with Park entrance fee
<b>Sunset Springs Campground</b>	October-April	Free with Park entrance fee
<b>Texas Springs Campground</b>	October-April	Free with Park entrance fee

# SHOWERS FOR CAMPERS

## YEAR-ROUND

### BISHOP AREA

**Keough Hot Springs** 760-872-4670  
\$3.00 per person / 7 minutes

**Washtub** 236 N. Warren 760-873-6627  
\$5.00 per person

### BIG PINE

**Hi-Country Market & Hardware** 760-938-2068  
\$3.50 per person / 10 minutes / Towels 50¢

### INDEPENDENCE

**Chevron Gas Station & Valley Market** 760-878-2618  
\$5.00 per person

**Fort Independence Campground** 760-878-2385  
Pay \$3.00 at Travel Plaza Gas Station

### LONE PINE

**Boulder Creek RV Resort** 760-876-4243  
\$5.00 per person

**Mt. Whitney Hostel** 760-876-0030  
\$5.00 per person with soap and towel / 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.

### MAMMOTH LAKES AREA

**Mammoth Mountain RV Park** 760-934-3822  
Hwy. 203 / Main St. across from Mammoth Lakes California Welcome Center  
Open year-round 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. daily  
\$6.00 per person / Towel and soap not included

## SUMMER ONLY

### BISHOP AREA

**Bishop Creek Lodge** 760-873-4484  
\$5.00 per person / 10 minutes

**Parchers Resort** 760-873-4177  
\$6.00 per person / 10 minutes

### ROCK CREEK AREA

**Rock Creek Lake Resort** 760-935-4311  
\$2.00 per person / 5 minutes / \$1.00 each additional 2.5 minutes

**Rock Creek Lodge** 760-935-4170  
\$5.00 per person / Towel and soap not included

### MAMMOTH LAKES AREA

**Camp High Sierra** 760-934-2368 213-485-4853  
Entrance across from Bridges Condos on Lake Mary Road • 9 A.M. - 9 P.M. daily  
\$3.00 per person / Towel and soap not included / Free to registered campers  
Sign-in at the lodge / Wheelchair access.

**Convict Lake Resort** 760-934-3800  
Convict Lake Store, at Convict Lake  
6 A.M. - 9 P.M. weekdays • 6 A.M. - 10 P.M. weekends  
\$2.00 token for a two-minute shower / Purchase tokens at the store / Towel and soap not included / Towel rental \$2.00.

**Lake Mary Marina** 760-934-5353  
Lake Mary Loop in Mammoth Lakes Basin • 7 A.M. - 7 P.M. Monday-Saturday  
\$4.00 per person / Towel and soap not included

**Mammoth Mountain Inn** 760-934-2581 • Open 24 hours daily in summer  
Minaret Road across from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Main Lodge  
\$6.00 per person / Includes towel, shampoo / Coin-op laundromat

**Reds Meadow Campground** 760-924-5500 • Open 24 hours daily  
A natural hot spring bath house in Reds Meadow Campground.  
No charge, donations welcome at donation box by showers.

**Twin Lakes Store** 760-934-7295  
Twin Lakes in Mammoth Lakes Basin • 7 A.M. - 6 P.M. daily  
\$4.00 per person / Towel and soap not included / Towel rental \$1.00

**Whitmore Pool** 760-935-4222  
Benton Crossing Road off of US 395 • 1-4 P.M. weekdays • 1-5 P.M. weekends  
Non-resident \$3.00 per person / Soap dispenser available / Towel rental \$1.00  
Call first, in case facility is closed for swim meet or private function.

*Prices, hours and availability are subject to change without notice.*

# Tread Lightly!



**T**he Forest has many unpaved roads of varied terrain that provide miles of fun for the mountain bike or off-highway vehicle rider. Pick up the brochure which shows designated routes and follow the few simple rules listed here, and remember to... TREAD LIGHTLY!



## Tips for Mountain Biking and OHV Touring

### Stay on Open Forest Roads

- Closed roads will be posted. Not all bicycle trails are open to OHV use.
- Comply with signs and barriers, and leave gates as you found them.
- Wilderness areas are off-limits to all bicycles and motorized vehicles.

### Protect the Environment

- Minimize erosion by staying on trails and not cutting switchbacks.
- Meadows, lake shores, stream banks and vegetation are easily damaged. Avoid wet, muddy areas as they are more susceptible to erosion.
- Do not drive on snow-covered roads!
- Teach new riders trail etiquette.
- Don't litter! Pack out more than your share. Lead by example.

### Ride Safely, Stay in Control

- You share the forest with other users. Be considerate of hikers and equestrians. Horses can be unpredictable, so yield to them.
- Wear your helmet and protective gear!

### Plan Your Trip

- Take the 10 essentials (listed on page 5).
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather.
- Don't ride alone, be sure to tell someone where you plan to ride and then stick to your plans.
- Don't take unnecessary chances – help for emergencies may be miles away.

### OHV Regulations

- Off-Highway Vehicles must have a California Green or Red Sticker or be registered with the Dept. of Motor Vehicles and have a USFS-approved spark arrester.
- If OHVs are operated in campgrounds, they must be "street legal" and obey the posted speed limits.
- Out-of-state OHV operators must carry their out-of-state identification and don't need a California Green Sticker.
- If your state doesn't require registration, you must purchase a non-resident sticker.

Further information is available at all Ranger Stations and Visitor Centers.



**tread lightly!**<sup>®</sup>

LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION

## Target Shooting

### Mammoth Lakes

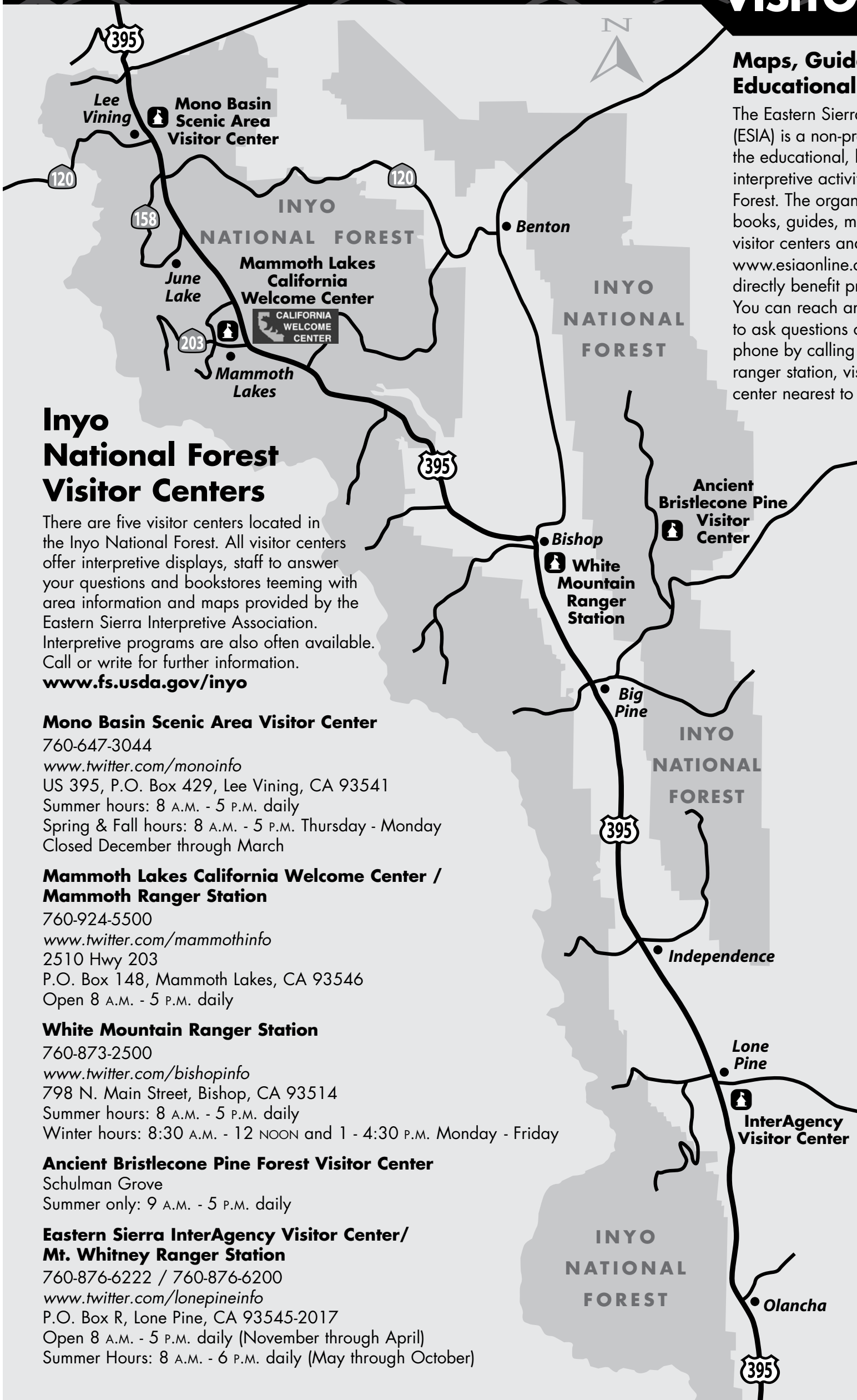
Use any dispersed area east of US 395 for shooting with the exception of the area in and around the geothermal plant. A popular area for shooting is located east of Mammoth Lakes on the Antelope Springs Road. Go east on Hwy 203 and continue under the US 395 overpass. Turn left onto Antelope Springs Road (first left after the northbound ramp). Drive approximately one mile and then continue an additional ½ mile on a dirt road. The shooting area is located on the right.

### Lone Pine

Shooting is discouraged in the Alabama Hills, particularly along Movie Road. Instead, head east to the foothills of the Inyo Mountains and find myriad spots where you can practice. Off Hwy 136 out of Lone Pine, turn left on the Dolomite Loop Road and continue until the turnoff for the old Owenyo Road. Here, to the east of the road, you'll find plenty of great spots to get in some target practice, particularly around the "Haystack."

DO NOT LEAVE SHELLS, BROKEN GLASS OR TARGETS BEHIND.

# Inyo National Forest VISITOR CENTERS



## Inyo National Forest Visitor Centers

There are five visitor centers located in the Inyo National Forest. All visitor centers offer interpretive displays, staff to answer your questions and bookstores teeming with area information and maps provided by the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association. Interpretive programs are also often available. Call or write for further information.  
[www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo)

### Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center

760-647-3044  
[www.twitter.com/monoinfo](http://www.twitter.com/monoinfo)  
US 395, P.O. Box 429, Lee Vining, CA 93541  
Summer hours: 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. daily  
Spring & Fall hours: 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. Thursday - Monday  
Closed December through March

### Mammoth Lakes California Welcome Center / Mammoth Ranger Station

760-924-5500  
[www.twitter.com/mammothinfo](http://www.twitter.com/mammothinfo)  
2510 Hwy 203  
P.O. Box 148, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
Open 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. daily

### White Mountain Ranger Station

760-873-2500  
[www.twitter.com/bishopinfo](http://www.twitter.com/bishopinfo)  
798 N. Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514  
Summer hours: 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. daily  
Winter hours: 8:30 A.M. - 12 NOON and 1 - 4:30 P.M. Monday - Friday

### Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Visitor Center

Schulman Grove  
Summer only: 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. daily

### Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center / Mt. Whitney Ranger Station

760-876-6222 / 760-876-6200  
[www.twitter.com/lonepineinfo](http://www.twitter.com/lonepineinfo)  
P.O. Box R, Lone Pine, CA 93545-2017  
Open 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. daily (November through April)  
Summer Hours: 8 A.M. - 6 P.M. daily (May through October)

## Maps, Guides, Books and Educational Products

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) is a non-profit organization that promotes the educational, historical, scientific, and interpretive activities of the Inyo National Forest. The organization also sells interpretive books, guides, maps, and visitor materials at visitor centers and on their website, at [www.esiaonline.com](http://www.esiaonline.com). Proceeds from sales directly benefit projects in the Eastern Sierra. You can reach any one of the ESIA bookstores to ask questions or order products over the phone by calling the Inyo National Forest ranger station, visitor center, or welcome center nearest to your point of interest.



This publication has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association, a nonprofit organization.

Your donations to ESIA will help in continuing to provide publications and programs throughout the Eastern Sierra.