



The Post

2009-2010

Welcome to Devils Postpile and the Reds Meadow Valley

Welcome to Reds Meadow Valley and Devils Postpile in the spectacular Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River Valley. Beauty abounds in the forms of unusually rich and diverse flora and fauna, traditional recreational opportunities and a fascinating cultural history.

Researchers, writers, visitors, and staff have learned much about the valley's geologic and ecologic resources and its historic sites. This 50,000 acre valley is a crossroads of ecological and cultural diversity.

The trail from Mammoth crossed the lowest pass in the Eastern Sierra and traversed one of the shortest trans-Sierra Routes climbing over Granite Staircase to Fresno Flats (now Oakhurst). Native Americans, explorers, hunters, shearers, miners, and the US Cavalry used this route and left evidence of their passing.

In this valley, many Eastern, Western,

and Southern Sierra species of plants and animals converge along the river corridor and in the many wetlands.

The value of the natural and recreational resources was recognized in 1890 with its inclusion in the initial boundaries of Yosemite National Park.

In 1905 the Devils Postpile formation, Rainbow Falls, and the entire valley including the Minarets were removed from Yosemite's boundaries due to pressure from mining interests. The area became part of the Sierra Forest Reserve, managed by the newly organized U.S. Forest Service.

Soon after, the Forest Service received an application for a permit to build a dam on the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River at the site of Devils Postpile. The intent was to blast the formation of the Postpile to create a rock fill dam that could be used to support local mining operations.

Walter Huber, district engineer for the Forest Service, regarded the proposal

as "wanton destruction of scenery" and enlisted the support of District Forester F.E. Olmsted and University of California Professor Joseph N. LeConte to evaluate the situation with the hope of denying the permit and protecting the area.

Their efforts, along with the support of the Sierra Club, resulted in President Taft signing the enabling legislation for the Devils Postpile National Monument on July 6, 1911. The monument was ultimately transferred to the national park system in 1933.

Since then, the US Forest Service and National Park Service have worked together in this remarkable valley to care for the land and provide quality visitor experiences. Both agencies have shared nearly a century of history and, together, we are preparing a Centennial Celebration of the creation of Devils Postpile National Monument in 2011.

Our hope is to discover many fascinating historical photos and stories to be

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displayed as an exhibit in the valley or in Mammoth. If you have any photos or stories you would like to share, please feel free to contribute these for possible inclusion in this exhibit.

Devils Postpile is also embarking on its first ever general management plan, in cooperation with the Inyo National Forest. Public involvement is encouraged. We are reaching out to our visitors, public, and communities to invite comments and suggestions. The goal is for a draft vision for the future to be published for the Centennial Celebration.

While you are here, please appreciate the valley's legacy of protection and be safe while enjoying your public lands.

Jim Upchurch,
Inyo National Forest Supervisor

Deanna Dulen,
Devils Postpile Superintendent



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The Future of Devils Postpile

Last summer, Devils Postpile National Monument embarked on a new journey in park management: the development of a general management plan (GMP). The monument will work closely with the Inyo National Forest to develop a shared vision for the monument and Reds Meadow Valley.

What is a GMP?

In short, it is a blueprint for managing the monument. A general management plan provides the framework for managing many aspects of the monument including natural and cultural resources and the experiences of visitors like you for the next 15-20 years. It provides managers with guidance on issues ranging from visitor services to preservation of natural and cultural resources.

Why do we need a GMP?

Devils Postpile has never had a GMP. While each manager has acted to protect the monument's special resources, there has never been a GMP to guide

their decisions.

With pressing issues such as climate change, health of the San Joaquin River, and visitor experience in the monument, a guiding document is necessary to direct decisions. The GMP involves partnerships between agency staff and the visiting public.

What does the GMP mean for you?

Visitors and people from all over the country can contribute their thoughts and ideas to the process. There will be opportunities for your voice to be heard on the monument's website and at public meetings. The deadline for public comment is September 22nd.

Devils Postpile National Monument was created for the benefit of all people. Monument staff need your help to shape the future of Devils Postpile and determine how it will be managed for the next 20 years. For information, visit www.parkplanning.nps.gov/depo.

Information and Services

EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, dial 911. Cell phone coverage is limited. Pay phones are located at Devils Postpile, Reds Meadow and Pumice Flat campgrounds.

VISITOR CENTERS

Devils Postpile

The Devils Postpile Ranger Station is open from mid-June through mid-October. Hours of operation are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Maps, backcountry permits, and other information is available. There is also a bookstore and interpretive exhibits.

Inyo National Forest

The Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center serves the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Inyo National Forest, and the National Park Service. Hours of operation are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. year-round. Visitors can obtain maps, backcountry permits, area information, and browse a bookstore and gift shop.

ENTRANCE FEES/PASSES

Visitors on the road to the Reds Meadow Valley and Devils Postpile National Monument must use the shuttle bus system (with some exceptions). A transportation fee is charged. Federal Lands Recreation Passes do not apply. The fee is \$7 per person for adults and \$4 per person for children under 12. Children under 3 are free. For visitors wishing to acquire a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, a Senior Pass, or Access Pass, they are available at the Mammoth Welcome Center.

CAMPING

Devils Postpile

Devils Postpile has a 21 site first-come, first-served campground for tents and RVs up to 32 feet in length. Sites are \$14 per night or \$7/night for Senior or Access Pass holders.

Inyo National Forest

There are seven Forest Service campgrounds in Reds Meadow Valley. Five campgrounds are first-come, first-served and are \$20/night. There are two group campgrounds which are available by reservation; rates range from \$66/night to \$143/night. Agnew Campground has three equestrian campsites that are \$22/night and are also by reservation only.

CLOSING DATES

All campgrounds in the Red's Meadow Valley close on or before October 15, depending on the weather. There is no overnight parking in the valley after October 15. Please call for exact dates.

SHOWERS

There are public, hot-spring-fed showers available at the Reds Meadow Campground. The showers are open from mid-June through mid-October.

FOOD SERVICES

Food service is available at the Red's Meadow Resort. A store and a restaurant are open during peak season. Basic camping supplies and groceries are also available.

PETS

Devils Postpile

Pets are allowed on trails and in the campground at Devils Postpile National Monument and must be on a leash at all times. Pick up after your pet. Do not leave pets unattended in the monument or in vehicles if it is above 68 degrees farenheight outside.

Inyo National Forest

Pets are allowed on all trails and in campgrounds within the Inyo National Forest. Pets must be under control at all times and leashed in campgrounds.

FISHING

Fishing is permitted in most lakes in the valley and in the San Joaquin River. A fishing license is required for adults ages 16 and older and must be displayed at all times. Special regulations apply for the Ansel Adams Wilderness and can be found in the California Department of Fish and Game's Freshwater Sport Fishing Book available online or where fishing licenses are sold.

HUNTING

Devils Postpile

Hunting is prohibited within the boundaries of the monument.

Inyo National Forest

Hunting is permitted in designated areas within the Inyo National Forest with a valid license. Contact the California Department of Fish and game at (760) 872-1171 for more information. Regulation booklets are available at USFS visitor centers.

On the Cover: Fall colors reflected in Sotcher Lake. Photo: David Scott/NPS

Ranger-led Activities

How was the Postpile formed? What is a Wilderness area? Will I be eaten by a bear? Visitors to the monument and the national forest bring with them many questions. Ranger led programs are a great way to have those questions answered.

Programs are offered at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and at Devils Postpile National Monument throughout the summer season. Beginning in mid-June, Rangers will lead daily walks to Devils Postpile at 11:00 a.m.

Other programs will be offered including talks about local wildlife, hiking and backpacking, and evening campfire programs.

Programs are also available for fall visitors including hikes to Devils Postpile and ranger talks.

For more information or for a schedule of program times and locations, please check at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center or the Devils Postpile Ranger Station.



Photo: NPS

Hikes to Devils Postpile begin at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station every day at 11:00 a.m.

Reds Meadow Shuttle Bus

The Need for a Shuttle System

Devils Postpile and Inyo National Forest Service staff work together to provide a memorable experience that transcends administrative boundaries.

Whether coming to hike to Rainbow Falls, inspect the columnar jointing of the Postpile, or fish in Sotcher Lake, the Reds Meadow Valley is a special place. One reason the Valley is a special place is because of the 30 year-old mandatory shuttle system, one of the oldest and most successful shuttle systems in the country.

The shuttle has allowed the valley to recover from intense use throughout 1970's. It has protected the area from additional degradation resulting 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.

Passes and Logistics

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 13 to September 9). 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 cartop boats (kayaks, canoes, or float tubes).
- Are staying overnight at Reds Meadow Resort or in a developed campground
- Are administrative vehicles

Visitors who meet one of the above exceptions still must pay the transportation 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.

A New Partnership

This is the first year that Inyo National Forest and Devils Postpile National Monument have partnered with Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) to operate the mandatory shuttle.

One immediate benefit from this partnership is that visitors to Reds Meadow Valley and Devils Postpile National Monument can now board a few buses in the morning in Mammoth Lakes at The Village, instead of having to drive up to the Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge Gondola building. Most buses will continue to board only at the Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge Gondola building.

Schedule

Buses run every 20-60 minutes from 7:30 am until 7:00 pm. The last bus of the day will leave the Gondola building at 7:00 p.m., Devils Postpile at 7:45 p.m., arriving back at the Gondola

Buildings at 8:30 pm. Please plan your trip to coincide with the bus schedule. For the most up-to-date shuttle schedule, visit the Devils Postpile web site (www.nps.gov/depo), Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, or any of the Inyo National Forest Visitor Centers.

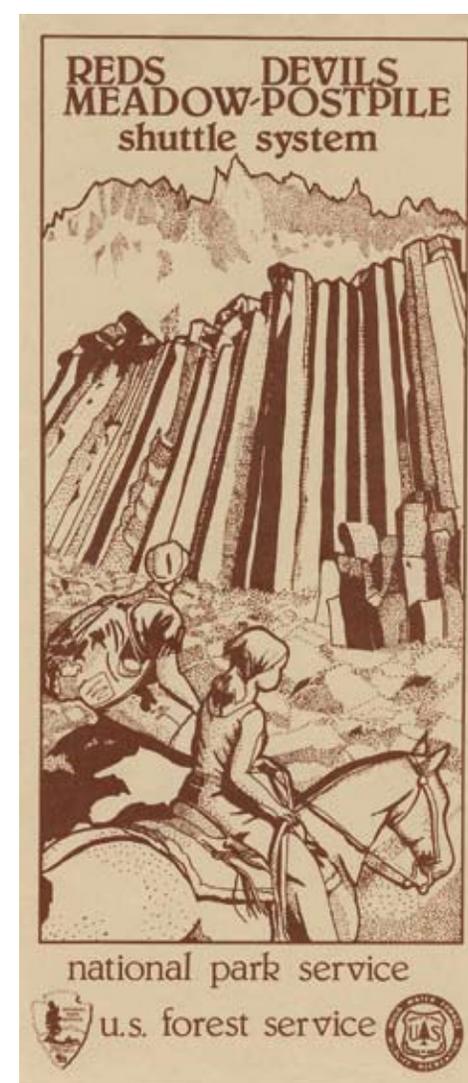
Well behaved dogs on leashes and wearing muzzles are allowed on buses at the discretion of the driver.

Fees: Your input is needed!

In order to provide improved recreation opportunities in Reds Meadow Valley, the Inyo National Forest is considering a change to visitor fees at Reds Meadow Valley in 2010 (the shuttle bus will remain mandatory for most visitors).

The Forest Services welcomes your input and feedback about this potential change; however, the specifics of the proposal were not available at the time this publication.

Information about the change and how to comment will be available from staff at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, the Minaret Vista Station, Devils Postpile National Monument Ranger Station, and the Inyo National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/>. We look forward to hearing from you!



The Reds Meadow-Devils Postpile Shuttle has been in operation for over 30 years. Although the brochures have been updated, the service and experience remains the same.

Transportation Fees and Passes

PASSES	COST
Day Pass	\$7 per adult, \$4 per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free.
Campers Resort Guests Wilderness Hikers	\$7 per adult, \$4 per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free. One time fee for the duration of stay in the valley, based on permit or reservation.
3 Day Pass	\$14 per adult, \$8 per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free.
Season Pass	\$35 per adult, \$20 per child (aged 3-15), children 2 and under are free.
Vehicle Pass	\$20 maximum charge per exception vehicle if staying overnight..

Hiking

Hiking in the Eastern Sierra leads to many types of adventures. Everything from meandering wildflower walks to steep scrambles up glacially scoured peaks await. Below are some of the more popular hikes in the Reds Meadow Valley and at Devils Postpile.



Garnet Lake at sunrise.
Photo:David Scott/NPS

Permits

Wilderness permits are required for overnight travel into the Ansel Adams Wilderness year round. Reservations may be made up to six months in advance for trips during the quota season which is May 1 through November 1. A reservation fee of \$5.00 is charged. No fee is charged for walk-in permits.

Permits are available at the Mammoth Welcome Center and at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station, however Devils Postpile Ranger Station can only issue permits for trip originating in the Reds Meadow Valley.

For through hikes starting in Sequoia/Kings Canyon or Yosemite National Parks, permits must be acquired through those parks and will be valid for the duration of your trip. You do not need multiple permits for a continuous trip. For trips originating in Sequoia/Kings Canyon call (559) 565-3766. For trips originating in Yosemite call (209) 372-0740. For more permit information, call (760) 924-5500 or visit the Inyo National Forest Web site.

Be Prepared

Weather in the mountains changes in an instant. Extreme temperatures, violent storms, and unexpected changes are not uncommon. Dress in layers and bring plenty of water on any hike. Do not drink water directly from streams or lakes without filtering or boiling it before consumption.

Sensitive areas

Cross country travel is permitted in some areas, but please observe posted signs. Sub-alpine meadows like the ones found in the Reds Meadow Valley and areas of alpine tundra are sensitive and may take many years to recover from “social” or unofficial trails. If traveling off-trail, travel on durable surfaces.

Backcountry Fires

Fires are allowed in some backcountry areas. It is your responsibility to know where fires are and are not allowed. Keep in mind that this information may change during severe fire seasons. Check at the Mammoth Welcome Center or Devils Postpile Ranger Station for the most current information.

Hiking Trails

(Blue numbers correspond to shuttle stops on Devils Postpile park map)

Trail	Shuttle Stop	One Way (mi / km)	Description
Lake Ediza Agnew Meadows	1	6mi / 9.7km	Moderate/Strenuous Follow switchbacks through an open hillside to spectacular views of the High Sierra.
Shadow Lake Agnew Meadows	1	3mi / 4.8km	Moderate Rolling trail takes hikers through open meadows and loddgepole forests to the shores of Shadow Lake. Great mountain views at the lake.
Wildflower Trail Agnew Meadows	1	2mi / 3.2km	Easy Self guided wildflower walk. Late June to the middle of July tend to be the best times for wildflowers, but bring bug spray.
Devils Postpile Devils Postpile	6	0.4mi / 0.6km	Easy Wide, level trail through shaded lodgepole forest. Moderate, steep hike to the top of the Postpile.
Minaret Falls Devils Postpile	6	1.5mi / 2.3km	Easy Rolling trail through the forest travels by natural springs and seeps. Best in early summer.
Rainbow Falls Devils Postpile	6	2.5mi / 4km	Moderate Rolling terrain through forest and open burn area from the 1992 Rainbow Fire. Great views in open area. Bring plenty of water.
Minaret Lake Devils Postpile	6	8mi / 12.9km	Strenuous This can be done as a long day hike or overnight trip. 2700 foot elevation gain brings hikers to an emerald lake at the base of the Minarets.
Sotcher Lake Nature Trail Sotcher Lake	7	2mi / 3.2km	Easy/Moderate Self guided nature trail loops around Sotcher Lake. Hikers pass springs, waterfalls and seeps along the way.
Rainbow Falls Rainbow Falls	9	1.3mi / 1.2km	Moderate Slightly shorter than the trail to the falls from Devils Postpile, the terrain is similar. Bring plenty of water on this hike.

Making the Most of Your Visit

If you have two to three hours...

Ride the shuttle from the Adventure Center to the Devils Postpile Ranger Station (shuttle stop 6) and either hike to Devils Postpile or join a ranger-led hike to the main feature of the monument, an easy half mile walk. If you have extra time, climb the steep, but short (0.25 mile) and rewarding trail to the top of the Postpile for a spectacular view of the entire valley. Once on top, you will find evidence of past glacial events in the form of striations or grooves and glacial polish.



Photo: NPS

Glacial striations at the top of the postpile.

If you have three to four hours...

Start at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station. Hike to Rainbow Falls along the San Joaquin River before heading into the open vistas left by the Rainbow Fire in 1992. Because this section the hike can be hot, bring plenty of water. You can hike from the 101 foot Rainbow Falls out to the Rainbow Falls Trailhead (shuttle stop 9) or to the Reds Meadow Trailhead (shuttle stop 10) or head back the way you came, and pick up the shuttle during peak season. The distance is about 3.5 miles to stops 9/10.



Photo: NPS

Rainbow Falls in June.

If you have a full day...

Start at the Agnew Meadows Trailhead (shuttle stop 4) and hike up to Shadow Lake. This moderate 6 mile round trip trail takes you through open meadows, past cascading waterfalls to the subalpine lake. Beautiful views of the peaks of the High Sierra await dedicated hikers. Bring plenty of water and dress for rapidly changing weather on this hike. Early season hikers, be aware, alpine and subalpine lakes may be frozen and trails may be snowy until July. Check with a ranger for more information.



Photo: Jon C. Regelbrugge

Shadow Lake.

If you have multiple days...

Opportunities for multiday trips abound in the valley. Popular trips to alpine lakes include Thousand Island, Garnet, and Fern Lakes (2-3 days). Yosemite or Kings Canyon National Parks can be reached via the John Muir or Pacific Crest Trails in 3-4 days. These are just a few of the many adventures that await hikers able to spend a few days in the backcountry. They represent some of the most iconic and magnificent scenery in the Eastern Sierra.



Photo: David Scott

Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite is just a short 34 mile hike away!

Be Bear Aware

Black Bears are frequently seen in the Reds Meadow Valley and in Devils Postpile. Seeing one in the wild is an amazing and inspiring experience. In order to keep these magnificent animals wild follow these tips to keep you safe from bears and bears safe from you.

Food Storage

- A fed bear is a dead bear. Bears allowed to access human food become conditioned and reliant on humans. These bears often become aggressive.
- Bear boxes are located at every campground in the valley for proper food storage. Please do not leave food unattended in your vehicle over night. Use the bear boxes.
- Backpackers should use bear resistant canisters. They are available for rent at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station.

Hiking and Camping Safety

- Keep a clean and organized camp. Keep all food within reach in case a bear should wander through camp.
- When hiking through areas of dense vegetation or loud water, make noise so you do not startle a bear.
- If you see a bear, keep your distance. Never run from a bear or climb a tree. Black bears are very fast and are excellent tree climbers. Back away slowly from the animal and wait for it to leave the area.
- Remember, we are visitors to their homes. Respect all wild animals.



Photo: NPS

Where there is a black bear cub, there is usually a black bear mom. Give all bears in the Valley plenty of space. If you encounter one, back away slowly and wait for the bear to leave the area.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

Americans generate about 251 million tons of garbage each year. Although some amount of waste is inevitable, the National Park Service and the National Forest Service would like to encourage all visitors to recycle what they can. We can all make a difference.

Recycling receptacles can be found at these locations:

- Devils Postpile Campground
- Forest Service Campgrounds
- Devils Postpile Ranger Station
- At the Postpile
- Starkweather Lake Parking
- Sotcher Lake Parking
- Agnew Meadows Trailhead
- Rainbow Falls Trailhead

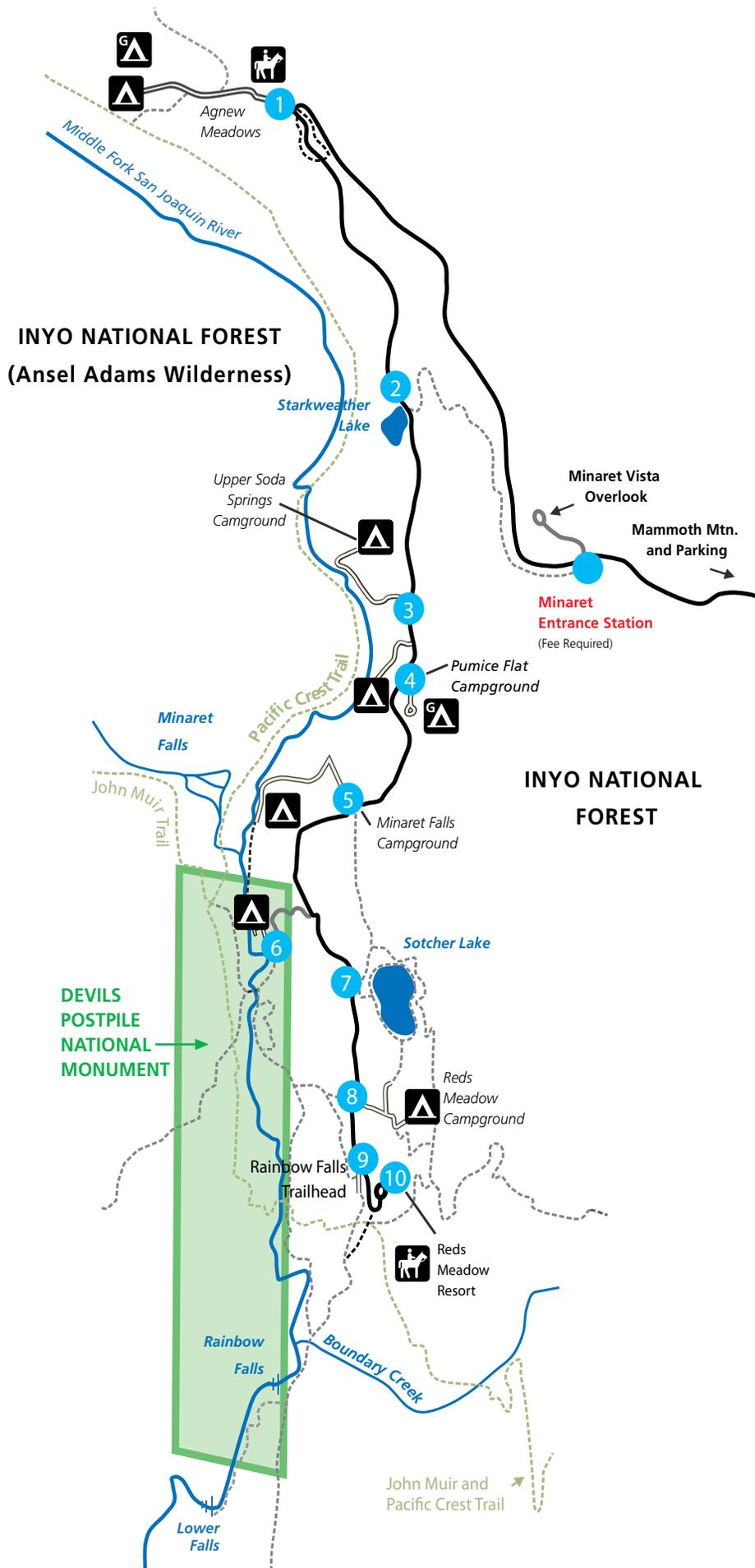
The following items can be recycled:

- All numbered plastics
- All colored and clear glass*
- Aluminum cans

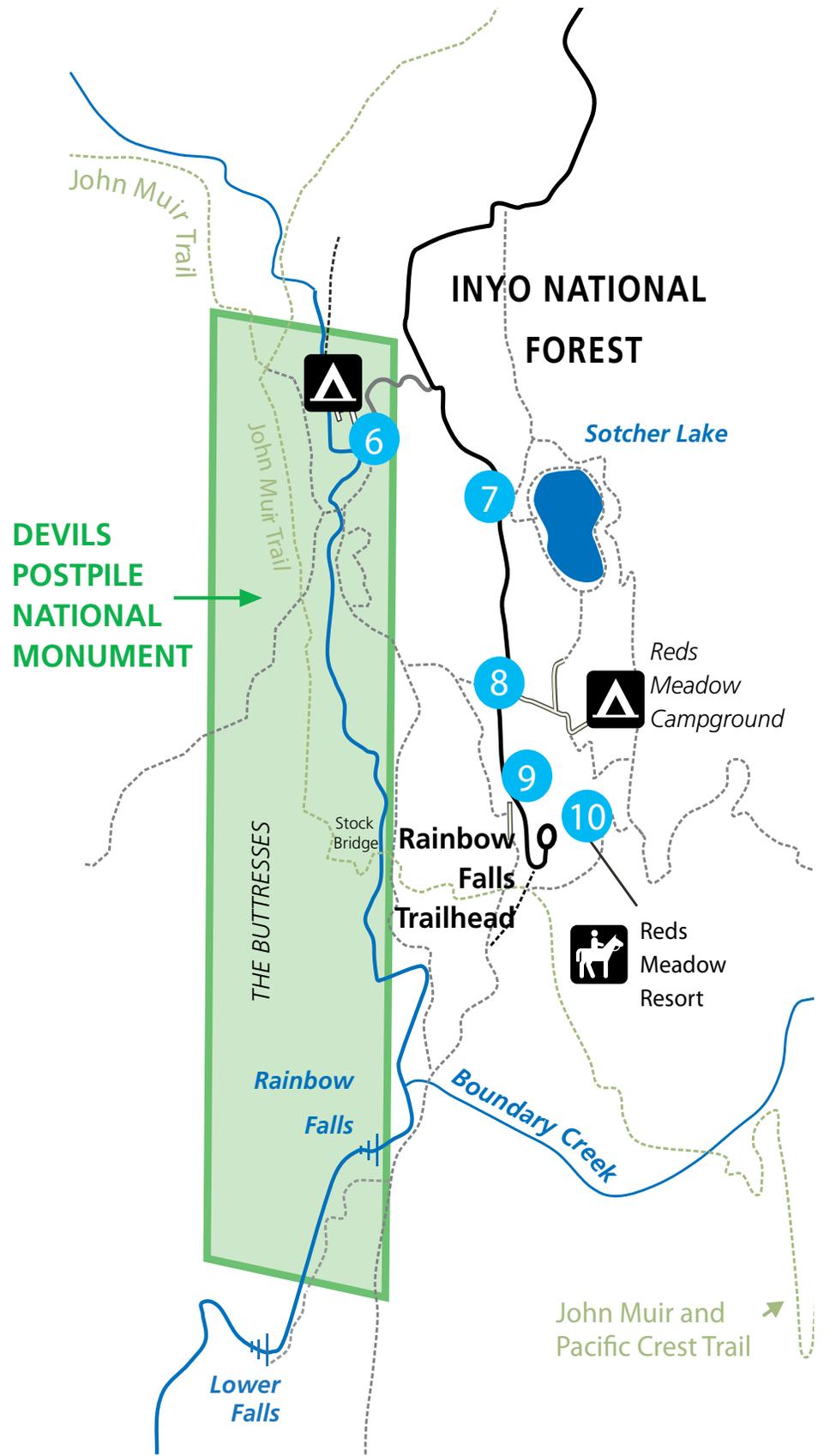
*Only at Devils Postpile Ranger Station and Campground.



Area Maps

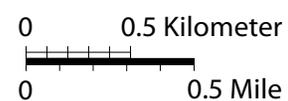
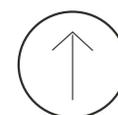


Reds Meadow Valley map



Detailed view of Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls area

North



- Bus Route
- Bus Stop
- == Gravel Roads
- Other Trails
- John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails
- ▲ Campground
- ▲ Group Camp
- 🐎 Pack Station

Songbird Monitoring Continues in the Valley

In 2002, Devils Postpile National Monument began a partnership with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) to monitor migratory birds within the monument. There are two separate projects occurring in the Reds Meadow Valley - a bird banding project that will occur in the fall and a point count project that will occur in the summer.

“With some migratory bird populations known to be in decline, the monitoring will help us understand what species are here and how we can manage for their protection. It also provides a great opportunity for visitors and local students to see scientific research first hand,” said Devils Postpile National Monument superintendent Deanna Dulen.

The monitoring and banding projects will continue the work done in years past and will provide the monument with valuable information to help it manage bird habitat in the future.

The summer study will use point counts at different stations to determine the abundance and diversity of breeding birds along the San Joaquin River corridor and in other sensitive riparian areas in the valley such as along Reds Creek to Sotcher Meadows.

The point counts will also look to identify any species of concern in the valley, monitor land birds, and contribute data to national long term monitoring programs, as well as to California Partners in Flight bird conservation efforts in riparian, Sierra Nevada, and coniferous forest habitats.

In the fall, Devils Postpile National Monument staff will provide programs for local school groups and the public related to the bird banding project.

The project provides learning experience for school children where they will experience scientific research happening first hand.



Photo: NPS

A researcher from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and park staff collect a bird from one of the nets used to temporarily capture them for banding.

Over all, this project will provide valuable scientific data related to bird species in the valley, contribute data to other studies, and provide an excellent

experiential learning opportunities to park visitors and students from the local community.

Be a Junior Ranger!

Want to learn more about Devils Postpile National Monument? The Devils Postpile Junior Ranger Program is a great way to do it. Fun activities for all ages are included in the booklets, which are available free of charge at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station.

Many parks and monuments have Junior Ranger programs. They offer kids a chance to learn about the area on their level.

Even if you're not in a park, there are still ways to participate in the Junior Ranger program. One opportunity is through the WebRangers program, which gives kids a chance to learn about national parks from their home computer.

For more information on these programs visit www.nps.gov/webrangers, www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.htm, or contact your local park.



Photo: NPS

A Park Ranger helps a junior ranger earn her badge at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station.

Public Lands Benefit from SCA Programs



An SCA intern explains hexagons at the top of Devils Postpile.

Environmental Education, Trail Crew, Bear Management, Wilderness Protection - these are just some of the jobs performed by interns from the Student Conservation Association (SCA). SCA is a non-profit organization that pairs hard working volunteers with agencies that need their skills.

This summer, Devils Postpile National Monument and the Inyo National Forest (NF) are involved in many projects that would not be possible without these hard working interns.

At Devils Postpile, SCA interns will be patrolling trails and campgrounds, assisting visitors and presenting ranger-led programs.

The monument is also hosting two interns from Japan as part of an international SCA program. These interns will learn about America's National Parks first hand and will assist visitors at the monument. A public safety intern will be working on a project addressing visitor safety. A Junior Ranger Ambassador intern will be developing a new Junior Ranger book.

In the Inyo NF, interns are involved in a wide range of projects. They will be working to reduce human conflicts with bears, monitoring the use of backcountry campsites in the Wilderness, providing information and educational programs at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, and conducting backcountry trail patrols.

The Inyo NF is also using high school intern crews from SCA to make trail improvements on some of the heavier used trails.

The national monument and forest combined are benefitting from the help of 85 volunteer interns in 2009 to accomplish everything from educational outreach to resource management.

Many of these interns go onto paid positions with a public lands agency, but others will take the skills learned in the field and apply them to other aspects of their careers. To learn more about the SCA, visit www.thesca.org.

A Volcanic Landscape

The Reds Meadow Valley is a treasure chest of volcanic rocks. At higher elevations near the Minarets you will find old, metamorphosed volcanic rocks that have changed greatly over time as the mountains rose.

In and around Devils Postpile National Monument you will find rocks from younger flows and eruptions such as pumice, rhyolite, basalts, and andesites that have changed little since they cooled into rock from lava.

To visit all of the different flows in the valley, carefully follow the trails marked in red. Use the map on the right to identify rocks as you hike through the monument.

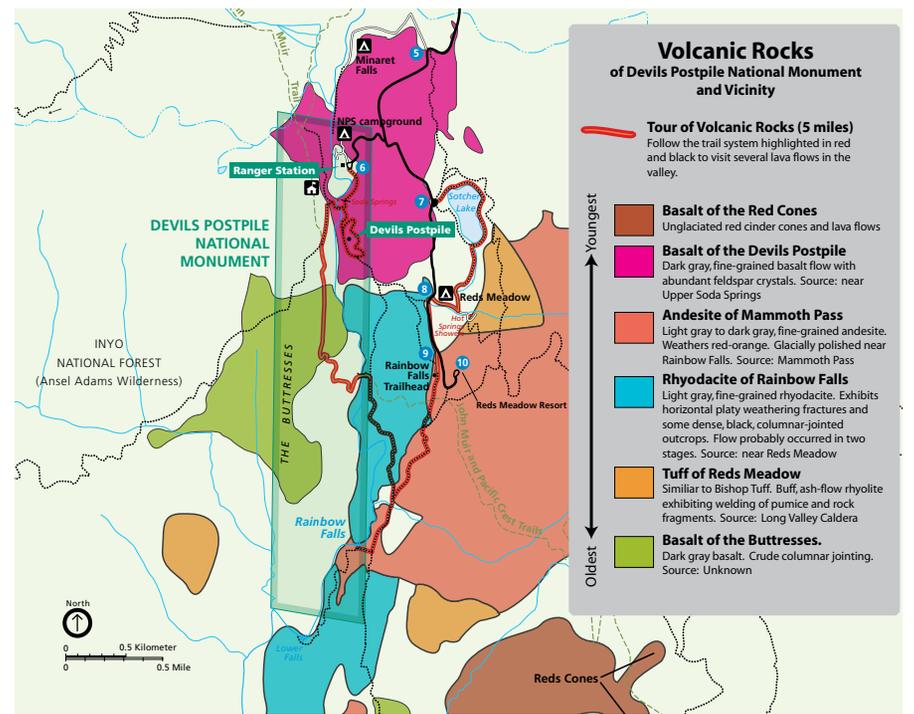
What you need:

- at least 3 hours
- at least 1 liter of water
- a map

What to expect:

- Moderate terrain with short, steep sections
- Sun and shade.
- Scenery enjoyed by few visitors

You will find scenery enjoyed by relatively few visitors. And, if you have time and energy, hike the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail to the Red Cones for unparalleled views of the valley and a visit to the only intact, unglaciated volcanic cones in the valley.



Enjoy a Safe Visit

Dehydration

The main cause of medical emergencies in the valley is dehydration. Hiking to Rainbow falls and other destinations can be hot, dry, and dusty. Bring plenty of drinking water for everyone in your hiking party. Drinking directly from rivers is not recommended without filtration.



Photo: Maureen Finnerty

Hikers filter water at a mountain stream.

Swift Water

The San Joaquin River runs cold and fast in June and July. Swimming during periods of high water is dangerous. Floating the river within Devils Postpile National Monument is not permitted. Because currents below Rainbow Falls are hazardous, swimming below the falls is not recommended.

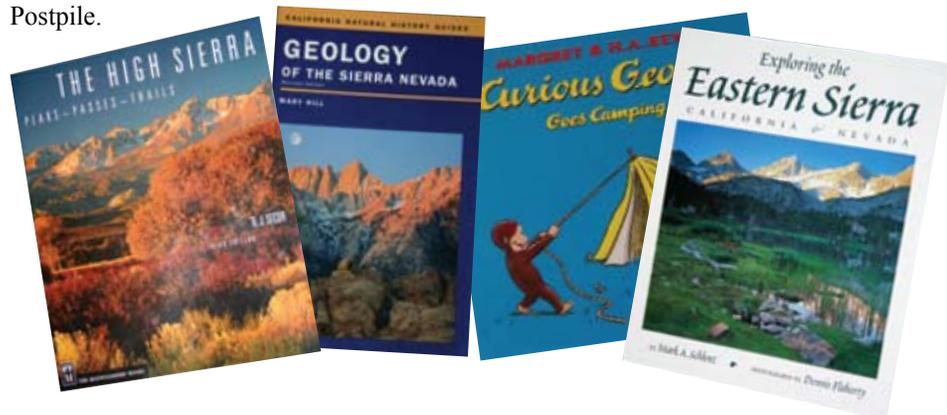


Photo: NPS

Rainbow Falls raging with spring run-off.

Sequoia Natural History Association

The Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) is a non-profit organization that provides vital services to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Devils Postpile National Monument, which are not otherwise available through federal funding. SNHA provides a wide range of books and educational materials in their bookstore at Devils Postpile.



8 Devils Postpile and Reds Meadow Guide

Aquatic Hitchhikers

The lakes, streams, and rivers in the Reds Meadow Valley provide clear, clean water for wildlife and recreation. Outstanding trout fishing can be found everywhere in the valley.

To protect our lakes and streams, anglers, boaters, and other water users should be aware of invasive aquatic species that have the potential to severely damage the trout fishery and the overall quality of the lakes and streams throughout the Sierra.

There are numerous types of invasive aquatic species, or aquatic hitchhikers, as they are often called. In the Eastern Sierra, there have been documented cases of the New Zealand Mud Snail in the Owens River and drainages. Other areas in California have documented invasive algae and the Zebra Mussel.

It is common for these species to spread quickly by hitching rides on waders, boats, and float tubes. To protect aquatic resources, wash equipment thoroughly after using it. It is recommended that all equipment is either frozen for at least 6 hours or washed in water over 113 degrees Fahrenheit.

For more information, visit the California Department of Fish and Game's invasive species web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/plan or for information in your area, visit www.protectyourwaters.com.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) is a non-profit organization which works in cooperation with the Inyo National Forest to promote and enhance the visitors' understanding and enjoyment of the natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources of the National Forests. Proceeds from bookstores at each of our locations and your donations support interpretive programs, printed materials and visitor center displays.

