



# The Post

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## 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.

A well-used trail from Mammoth Lakes crossed the lowest pass in the Eastern Sierra and traversed one of the shortest trans-Sierra Routes, climbing over the Granite Staircase to Fresno Flats (now Oakhurst). Native Americans, explorers, hunters, sheepherders, 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 celebration of the Devils Postpile National Monument Centennial in 2011.

Devils Postpile is also in the process of developing its first 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.

For information about the centennial celebration or the General Management Plan, visit the Devils Postpile Ranger Station or [www.nps.gov/depo](http://www.nps.gov/depo).

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





**National Park Service**  
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**Mammoth Ranger District**  
**Inyo National Forest**

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# Planning for the Future

In 2009 Devils Postpile National Monument began developing a general management plan (GMP). The monument and the Inyo National Forest are developing a shared vision for the monument and the surrounding valley.

## What is a GMP?

In short, it is a blueprint for managing the monument. A GMP provides the framework for managing many aspects of the monument including natural and cultural resources and the experiences of visitors for the next 15-20 years.

## Where are we in the process?

Last summer, the public was asked to share their ideas through comment cards and public meetings. People commented on the trails, the experience and many other factors that affect the management of the monument.

## What did people have to say?

Many visitors appreciate the remoteness and rustic character of the monument, access to wilderness experiences, and trails, among other values.

Partnership, especially with the Inyo National Forest, emerged as an important theme. A range of opinions was heard concerning transportation and recreational issues.

## What is the next step?

The monument is reviewing comments and will use them to inform the development of management alternatives.

The monument is planning to release the draft alternatives in 2011. Once those alternatives are released, the public will be asked for their input and opinions again. Monument visitors and the public will be able to provide

comments on the alternatives and help shape the future of the monument.

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



Photo: NPS  
**Park and Forest Service staff engage the public during the comment period last fall.**

# 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 daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from mid-June through mid-October. 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 year-round. Hours of operation are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Visitors can obtain maps, backcountry permits, area information, and browse a bookstore and gift shop.

## ENTRANCE FEES/PASSES

Visitors using the road to access 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 are not valid. The fee is \$7 per person for adults and \$4 per person for children under 12. Children under 3 are free.

## 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/night or \$7/night for Senior or Access Interagency 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. Two group campgrounds are available by reservation and are from \$66/night to \$143/night. Agnew Campground has three equestrian campsites that are \$22/night and are also by reservation only.

## Campground Closing Dates

All campgrounds in the Reds Meadow Valley close on or before October 15, depending on the weather. Please call for exact dates. There is no overnight parking in the valley after October 14.

## 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 Reds Meadow Resort. A store and a restaurant are open from mid-June through September. 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. Please pick up after your pet.

### Inyo National Forest

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

## FISHING

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 AND FIREARMS

### 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 the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.

## New Firearms Regulations

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess firearms in Devils Postpile National Monument.

It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering the monument.

Federal law prohibits firearms in all federal facilities including the Devils Postpile Ranger Station, unless specifically authorized (18 USC 930(a)).

**On the Cover:** Clouds gather over Devils Postpile. Photo: 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 and to learn more.

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 and hikes.

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, visit 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.

## Park the Car and Ride the Bus!

### The Need for a Shuttle System

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, partly due to the 31-year-old 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 that occurred throughout the 1970's. It has protected the area from degradation from high visitation and limited parking.

Whether riding the shuttle or driving into the Valley in an exception vehicle, everyone enjoys a safer experience as a result of the shuttle operation.

### Shuttle Bus Fees and Passes

At the time of printing, all visitors accessing the Reds Meadow Valley are charged a fee during bus operation (June 12 to September 8). The bus is mandatory for all visitors, unless they meet one of the following exceptions:

- Visitors displaying a Disabled Persons Parking Placard or Plate
- Visitors with an inflated float tube or non motorized vessel for use on valley lakes
- Visitors staying in a designated campground in the valley (backpackers must use the shuttle)
- Visitors towing livestock trailers
- Overnight guests of the Reds Meadow Resort

Visitors who meet the exceptions must still pay the fee.

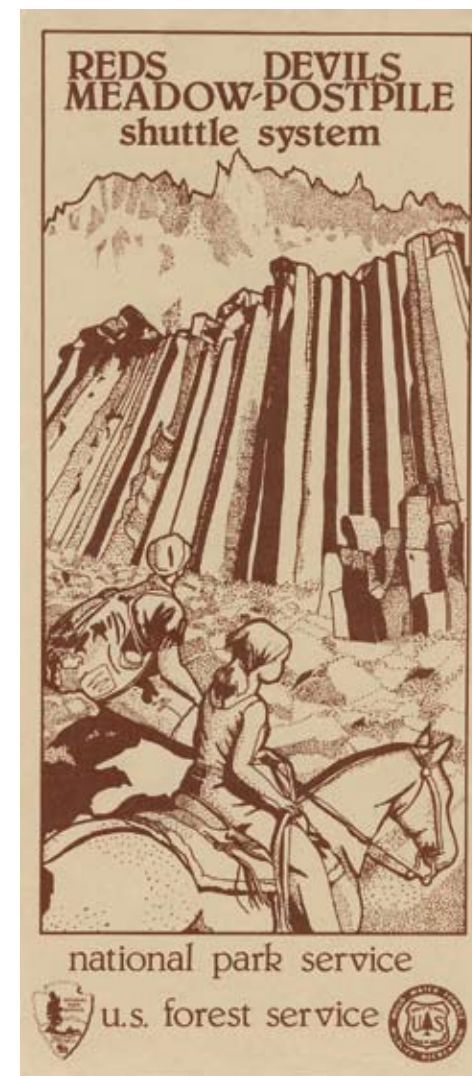
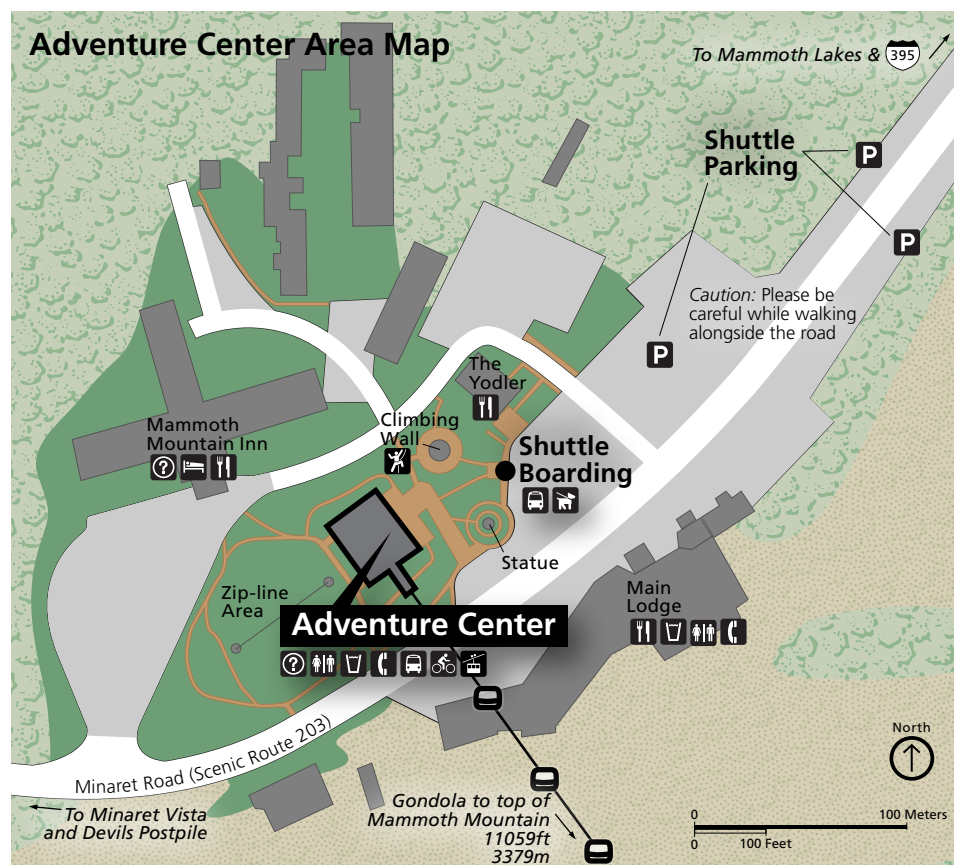
Passes are available at the Mammoth Mountain Adventure Center and all Mammoth Mountain ticket booths. Visitors not required to ride the bus can purchase passes at the Minaret Vista Station. Interagency passes are not accepted at this time. Senior and Access passes may be used for campground discounts. Leashed and muzzled dogs are welcome on buses.

### Possible Fee Change

The National Forest Service and the National Park Service are looking into a fee change in 2010. Public comment was solicited in 2009 and a decision is pending. More information will be available at the Devils Postpile ranger station, at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and on Forest and Park Service websites.

### Schedule

Buses run every 20-60 minutes from 7:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The last bus of the day will leave the Adventure Center at 7:00 p.m. and Devils Postpile at 7:45 p.m. Please plan your trip accordingly. For the most up-to-date shuttle schedule, visit the Devils Postpile website, the Inyo National Forest website, or at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.



The Reds Meadow-Devils Postpile Shuttle has been in operation for 31 years. Although much has changed over that time, 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/hikers Resort Guests	\$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.

\*Fees are subject to change during the 2010 season. Contact (760) 934-2289 or (760) 924-5500 for more information.





Lake Ediza  
Photo: David Scott



Shooting Star  
Photo: Maureen Finnerty



Sotcher Lake  
Photo: Maureen Finnerty

# Hiking

Hiking in the Sierra leads to many types of adventures. Everything from meandering wildflower walks to steep scrambles up glacially scoured peaks awaits.

## 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 Lakes Welcome Center and at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station; however, the Devils Postpile Ranger Station can only issue permits for trips originating in the Reds Meadow Valley. For trips originating in the Inyo National Forest, call (760) 873-2483 or visit the Inyo National Forest website.

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 or Kings Canyon, please call (559) 565-3766. For trips originating in Yosemite call (209) 372-0740.

## 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 most 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 such as rock or snow.

## 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. Visit the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center or Devils Postpile Ranger Station for the most current information.

## Food Storage

Approved bear canisters are required in all backcountry sites.

## Hiking Trails

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

Destination Trailhead	Shuttle Stop	One Way (mi / km)	Description
Lake Ediza Agnew Meadows	1	6mi / 9.7km	<b>Moderate/Strenuous</b> Follow switchbacks through an open hillside to spectacular views of the Sierra.
Shadow Lake Agnew Meadows	1	3mi / 4.8km	<b>Moderate</b> Rolling trail takes hikers through open meadows and lodgepole forests to the shores of Shadow Lake. Great mountain views at the lake.
Wildflower Trail Agnew Meadows	1	2mi / 3.2km	<b>Easy</b> Self guided wildflower walk. Late June to the middle of July tend to be the best times for the flowers, but bring bug spray.
Devils Postpile Devils Postpile	6	0.4mi / 0.6km	<b>Easy</b> 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	<b>Easy</b> Rolling trail through the forest travels by natural springs to the falls. Best in early summer.
Rainbow Falls Devils Postpile	6	2.5mi / 4km	<b>Moderate</b> Rolling terrain through forest and open burn area from the 1992 Rainbow Fire. Great views in open area. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen.
Minaret Lake Devils Postpile	6	8mi / 12.9km	<b>Strenuous</b> 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	<b>Easy/Moderate</b> Self guided nature trail loops around Sotcher Lake. Hikers pass springs and waterfalls along the way.
Rainbow Falls Rainbow Falls	9	1.3mi / 1.2km	<b>Moderate</b> 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 Time

## 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 the 101-foot Rainbow Falls via the San Joaquin River and the open vistas left by the Rainbow Fire in 1992. Bring plenty of water. You can hike from Rainbow Falls to the Rainbow Falls Trailhead (shuttle stop 9) or to the Reds Meadow Trailhead (shuttle stop 10) and pick up the shuttle during peak season. The distance is about 3.5 miles to stops 9/10. If the bus is not running, hike back to the monument for a 5-mile round trip hike.



Photo: NPS

Rainbow Falls in June.

## If you have a full day...

Start at the Agnew Meadows Trailhead (shuttle stop 1) and hike up to Shadow Lake. Beautiful views of the high peaks of the Sierra await dedicated hikers. This moderate 6-mile round trip trail takes you through open meadows, past cascading waterfalls to the subalpine lake. Bring plenty of water and dress for rapidly changing weather. 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 multi-day 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 Sierra Nevada.



Photo: David Scott

Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite is just a 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 the 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 in every campsite in the valley for proper food storage. Please do not leave food unattended in your vehicle over night. Use the bear boxes.
- Backpackers must 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 to let the bear know you are in the area.
- 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.

## Do Your Part: 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.

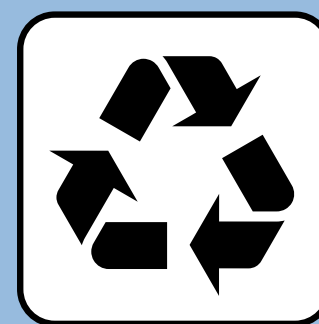
### Recycling receptacles can be found at these locations:

- Devils Postpile Campground
- Forest Service Campgrounds
- Devils Postpile Ranger Station
- The Devils Postpile formation
- 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 Map

Note: The trip into the Reds Meadow Valley and to Devils Postpile takes visitors 1,500 feet downhill from the Minaret Vista.

## Where can I...

Hike the high Sierra?  
Agnew Meadows Trailhead.



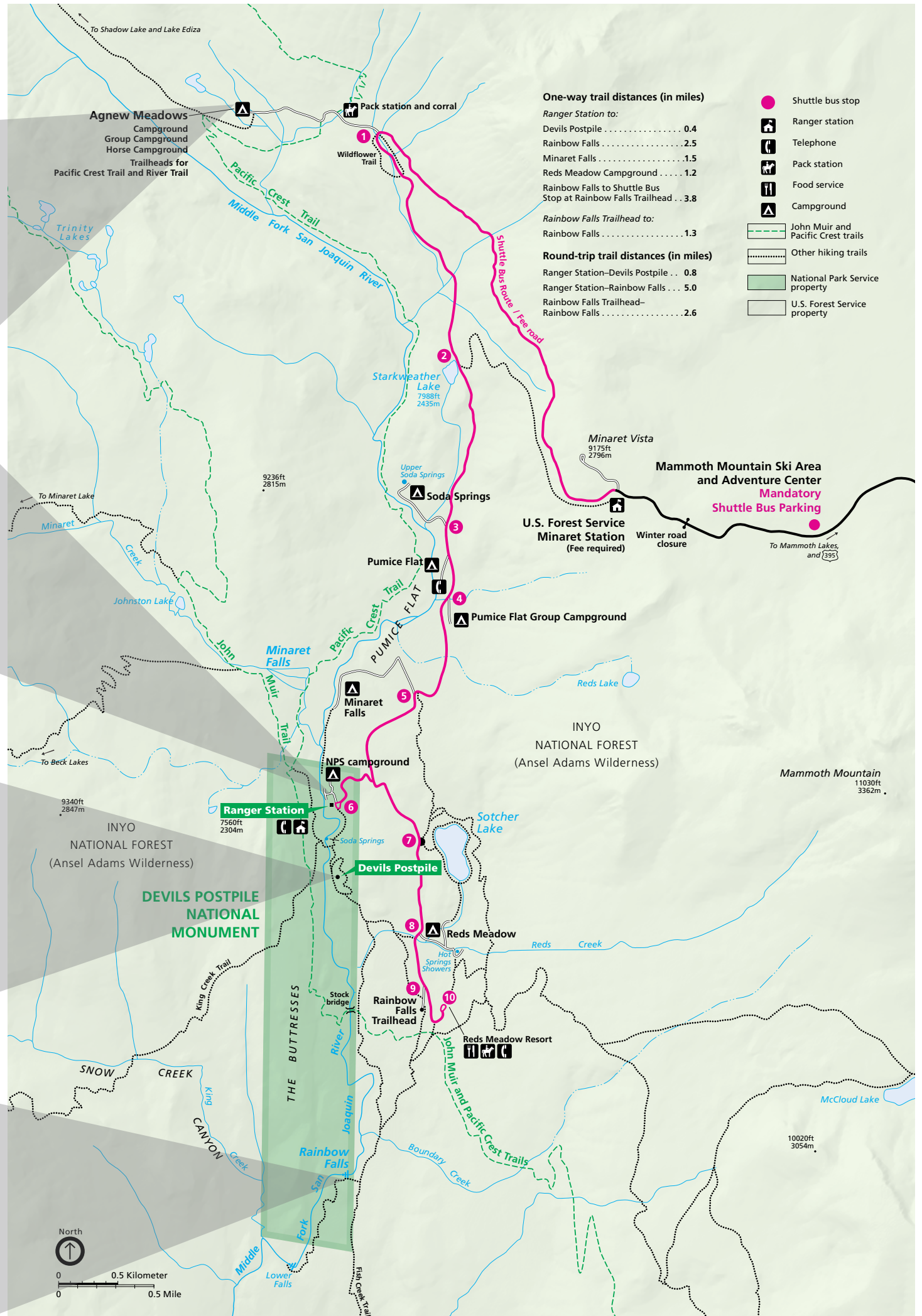
Attend a ranger program?  
Devils Postpile Ranger Station



See stunning geologic features?  
Devils Postpile Trail.



Find a rainbow on a sunny day?  
Rainbow Falls





# Making a Difference in the Face of Climate Change

In the Sierra Nevada, many of the natural resources that visitors enjoy exist in part because of climatic influences. The granite domes, exposed columns of the Postpile, and the San Joaquin river valley were shaped by some of the most intense climatic events in the history of the planet—the ice ages.

Today, managers and scientists in the throughout the National Park Service and Forest Service face another change in the climate. Levels of greenhouse gases are on the rise and have been linked to warming global temperatures and rising sea levels.

Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service calls climate change “. . .our newest, greatest challenge to maintaining America’s natural and cultural heritage unimpaired for future generations.”

The National Park Service and National Forest service recognize the role that humans play in climate change.

In 2009, the National Forest Service developed the Forest Service Global Change Strategy. This plan deals with adaptation and mitigation strategies and creates a framework for planning and research for the next decade.

The National Park Service has developed the Climate Friendly Parks Program. There are currently 14 parks that have completed all of the requirements to become an official Climate Friendly Park and many more, including Devils Postpile, that are well on their way.

The monument has committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 2016 through a variety of techniques.

Projects include using Energy Star® equipment, reducing waste and excess travel, and encouraging environmentally friendly purchasing.

Another component of both of these plans involves you, the visitor. There are many ways that you can help .

The easiest thing to do may be to ride the shuttle bus. In 2009, visitors who rode the shuttle bus saved 437,799 miles of vehicle emissions! For the average American, close to 50% of his or her carbon footprint is related to driving or flying, so reducing vehicle miles travelled makes a huge difference.

Riding the bus isn’t the only way to help. Recycling containers are located throughout the valley. Recycling conserves the resources needed to make plastic, glass, and metal from scratch.

On your visit, think about what you can do to go green. Beyond your visit, take those practices home. National Parks and Forests are not islands. What happens in cities and towns affects the air, water, and climate in all of our national treasures. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks](http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks) or [www.fs.fed.us/climatechange](http://www.fs.fed.us/climatechange).



## What is a carbon footprint?

The term carbon footprint is becoming more commonplace each year.

A person’s carbon footprint is the quantity of carbon dioxide and other global-warming gases produced by driving, heating and cooling our homes, and other energy uses. Using less energy yields a smaller carbon footprint.

The Do Your Part! program allows visitors like you to track your carbon footprint. For more information, visit <http://www.doyourpartparks.org>.

## Be a Junior Ranger!

Want to learn more about Devils Postpile or the U.S. Forest Service? The Devils Postpile Junior Ranger and the National Junior Forest Ranger Programs are great ways to do it.

Activities for all ages are included in the booklets, available free of charge at the Devils Postpile Ranger Station or at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.

To become a Junior Ranger online, visit [www.nps.gov/webrangers](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers)



Photo: NPS  
Researchers monitor water levels in the San Joaquin River in Devils Postpile National Monument. Consequences of climate change are smaller snowpacks and reduced spring runoff.

## Public Lands Benefit from Youth Programs



Photo: NPS  
CCC crews work with National Park Service staff to improve trails in Devils Postpile.

Environmental education, trail crew, wilderness protection— these are just some of the jobs performed by youth from the Student Conservation Association (SCA), the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and the California Conservation Corps (CCC).

SCA is a non-profit organization that places interns into positions with public land agencies that encourage stewardship and develop career skills.

The YCC has provided crews for the National Park Service since 1970. The YCC creates lasting life and work experiences for young men and women.

The CCC was created in 1976 and is modeled after the 1930’s Civilian

Conservation Corps. They are a cost-effective youth work force that has improved most of the monument’s trails.

The CCC will continue to do so in 2010 with trail projects to make accessing the Devils Postpile formation and Rainbow Falls more enjoyable.

At Devils Postpile, SCA interns will patrol trails and campgrounds, assist visitors, present ranger-led programs, and work on climate related projects.

A YCC crew will clear trails, rehabilitate the monument campgrounds and visitor use areas; all critical early-season jobs that mitigate damage from winter snow loads and the spring melt.

In the Inyo National Forest, SCA interns will work to monitor wilderness campsites, conduct backcountry trail patrols, and provide information and educational programs at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center. YCC crews will also be doing a variety of projects for the national forest.

Without these hard-working groups, many of the projects in both locations would not be possible.

For more information, visit [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org), [www.ccc.ca.gov](http://www.ccc.ca.gov), or [www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/joinycc.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/joinycc.htm), or contact the monument or national forest.



# 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 Sierra Nevada 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 from lava into rock.

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

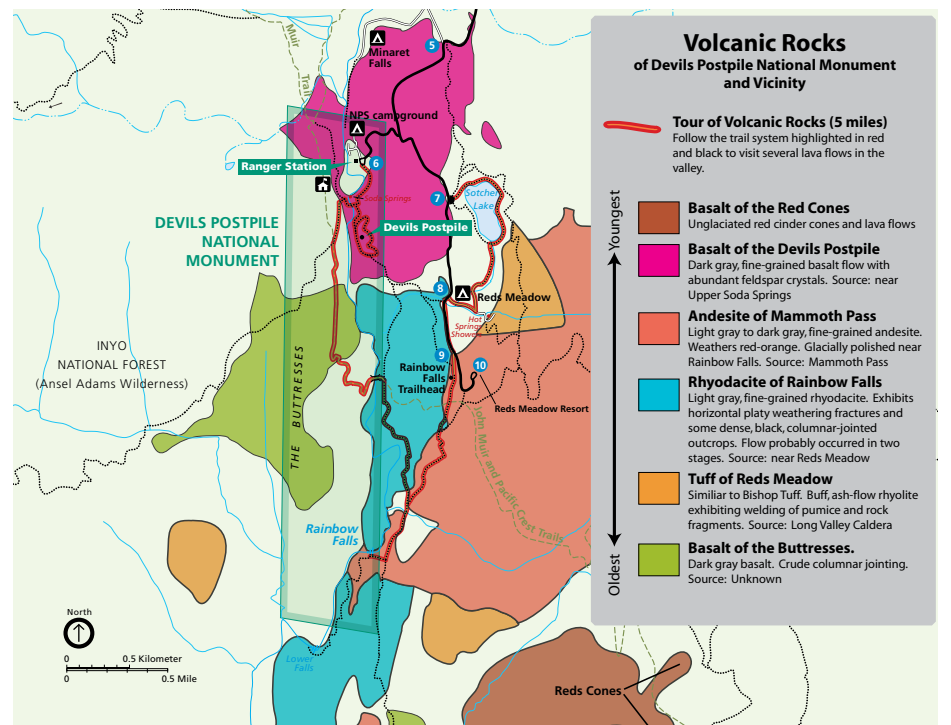
What you need:

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

What to expect:

- Moderate terrain with short, steep sections
- Sun and shade
- Amazing scenery

You will find scenery enjoyed by relatively few visitors. If you have the time and energy, hike South 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 filtering or boiling the water first.



Hikers filtering water at a mountain lake. Photo: NPS

### 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.



Minaret Falls during spring runoff. Photo: NPS

## 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.

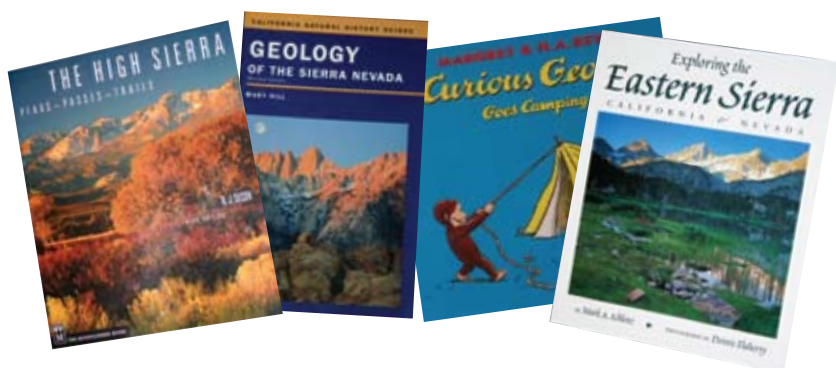
It is common for these species to spread quickly by hitching rides on waders, boats, and float tubes. To protect aquatic resources, wash equipment thoroughly after using it. It is recommended that all equipment is either frozen for at least 6 hours or washed in water over 113°F.

For more information, visit the California Department of Fish and Game's invasive species website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/plan](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/plan) or for information in your area, visit [www.protectyourwaters.com](http://www.protectyourwaters.com).



## Sequoia Natural History Association

The Sequoia Natural History Association is a non-profit organization that provides vital services to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Devils Postpile National Monument, which may not be available through federal funding. They provide books and educational materials in their bookstore at Devils Postpile. To browse their online bookstore visit: <http://www.sequoiahistory.org/>.



## Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association

The Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association 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 National Forests. Proceeds from bookstores and your donations support interpretive programs, printed materials and visitor center displays. To browse their online bookstore, visit <http://www.esiaonline.com>.

