



# Preliminary Alternatives

Newsletter #3, Summer 2011

## Letter from the Superintendent

Please join us in this opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Devils Postpile National Monument and to participate in planning for the monument’s second century.

This newsletter presents various preliminary alternatives being considered for the upcoming general management plan (GMP). The GMP will help guide the monument as it enters its second century and will provide the framework for managing natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the next 20 years.

History provides inspiration to the significance of these efforts. One hundred years ago, a proposal to blast portions of the Devils Postpile formation came across the desk of USDA-Forest Service Engineer Walter Huber. The intent was to create a dam that would flood the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River and provide power to local mining operations. Huber regarded the proposal as a “wanton destruction of scenery” and worked with managers and citizens to advocate for the creation of a monument to protect Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls.

Our predecessors took a bold step in creating Devils Postpile National Monument and ensuring long-term protection for these treasured resources. We invite our partners and the public to help us create an enduring vision of preservation for the monument’s scenic and resource values, benefitting both present and future generations.

Many visitors, residents, and stakeholders contributed their thoughts and ideas during the initial scoping for the GMP. Many of the ideas we heard from the public are now included in the preliminary alternatives, which represent initial ideas for how the monument might address specific issues or areas of management concern. Your involvement is important and we want to hear your ideas for the future.

It is also important to note that while the GMP will result in a commitment to a specific vision for Devils Postpile National Monument, the NPS and USFS recognize the public and resource benefits of the monument are intertwined with the surrounding Reds Meadow Valley and Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin. Both agencies are working together on this plan and using this opportunity to develop additional recommendations for the valley and watershed, so our shared efforts can provide high quality visitor experiences and resource protection as we look forward to the next 100 years.

Please join us in creating the future of Devils Postpile National Monument and this historic plan. This plan is the blueprint for the future, and everyone is welcome to engage in this opportunity to contribute to safeguarding the natural and cultural heritage of this outstanding resource. Your input, coupled with NPS resource and planning expertise, monument staff, and collaboration with staff from the Inyo National Forest, will catalyze the vision for the future for this special place.

This is an opportunity of a century.

Deanna Dulen  
Superintendent  
Devils Postpile National Monument

### You’re invited

Devils Postpile will be hosting an open house meeting in September. You will have an opportunity to provide your input on the preliminary alternatives presented in this newsletter and to share any additional ideas or comments with the planning team.

**Mammoth Lakes Library**

Thursday, September 15, 2011  
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
400 Sierra Park Road  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Sept  
15



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# Collaboration with the Inyo National Forest

For many years, Devils Postpile National Monument and the Inyo National Forest have worked together to provide collaborative management of the monument and the Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River valley, providing a quality visitor experience and enhanced resource protection. Working cooperatively and in close coordination has enhanced agency effectiveness, resource management, and public service.

In 2009, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the National Park Service (NPS) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on the preparation of the Devils Postpile National Monument General Management Plan (GMP) and create a foundation for future cooperation in valley-wide management and planning. Under the MOU, the USFS, along with Devils Postpile National Monument, is a key participant in the development of desired valley-wide conditions for facilities, transportation, and the overall visitor experience, as well as resource management issues. The planning team includes interagency participants from both the National Park Service and Inyo National Forest. This interagency planning effort is a natural evolution of the collaborative relationship between the two agencies.

The GMP will be a National Park Service decision document. Its management guidance will govern future actions taken by the NPS. It will also contain recommendations for action by the Inyo National Forest. The USFS could undertake any of all or all of the recommendations individually or by integration into planning on the Inyo National Forest.

The GMP will evaluate and address some issues across the Reds Meadow Valley and the Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River watershed. Some recommendations in this plan will require interagency coordination to implement. However, this GMP will not address issues related to wilderness use on the Inyo National Forest, nor will it address carrying capacity or user capacity issues for USFS lands.

# What is a General Management Plan?

A general management plan (GMP) identifies the overall direction for the future management of units of the National Park System. GMPs take a long range, broad and conceptual view. They provide a framework for managers to use in making decisions about how best to protect resources, what levels and types of uses are appropriate, what facilities should be developed, and how people should access the park. The GMP for Devils Postpile National Monument will describe the general path that the National Park Service intends to follow in managing the monument over the next 15-20 years.

## Three scales of planning

In recognition of the intertwined resources and visitor experiences on the lands of both agencies, this planning process will result in a specific NPS decision for future management of Devils Postpile NM and recommendations for the Inyo NF that could be adopted by the USFS and incorporated into their planning. Together, these ideas represent an overall vision for collaborative management in the watershed, within Reds Meadow Valley, and Devils Postpile National Monument.

# Development of Preliminary Alternatives

The four preliminary alternatives presented in this newsletter outline a full range of potential management options for the future of Devils Postpile National Monument. These alternatives represent different approaches to address specific issues identified by monument staff, visitors, and other interested parties.

The general management plan process requires the NPS to examine a variety of approaches for managing Devils Postpile. This process allows those interested in Devils Postpile, the NPS, and its partners to compare and contrast the advantages and/or disadvantages of one course of action over another and establish a sound approach to decision-making required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

All of the preliminary alternatives must be consistent with the purpose for which Devils Postpile National Monument was established. The preliminary alternatives must be reasonable, viable, and conform to National Park Service guiding laws, regulations, and policies.

The GMP planning team developed these preliminary alternatives in 2010 in response to issues and concerns from the public, NPS, and partners about Devils Postpile. The concepts and components of



Planning team members at alternatives development workshop.

the alternatives are based upon public suggestions received during the scoping process and the planning team’s professional expertise.

While you read the management options, keep in mind that these are just initial ideas. At this stage there may be some gaps and inconsistencies and some ideas might not be fully developed. With your input, the planning team will continue to refine these concepts and ideas. Also, keep in mind that these options are conceptual in nature. The general management plan establishes a vision of the future that will guide year-to-year management of Devils Postpile; implementation could take many years.

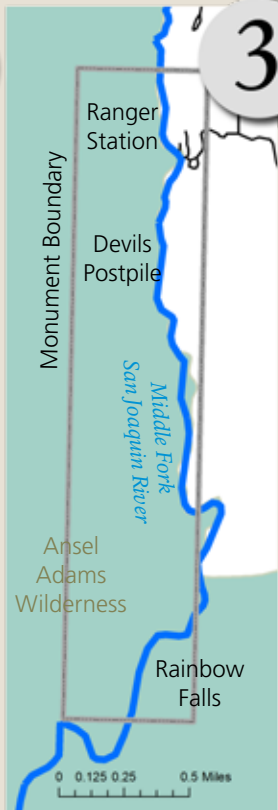
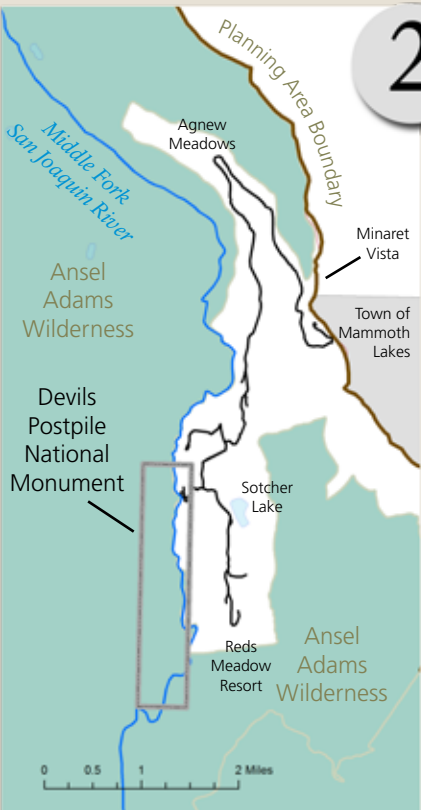
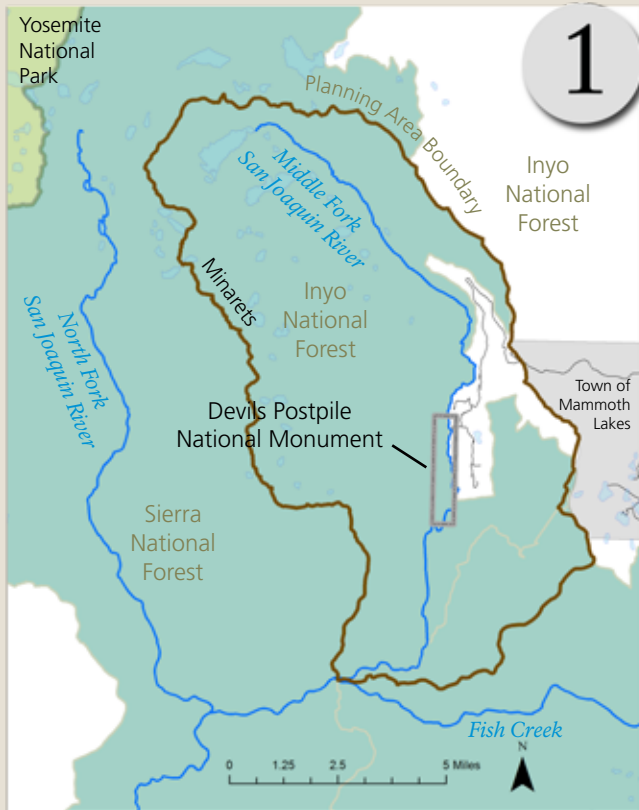
# We would like to hear from you! Tell us what you think:

As you read through this newsletter, we ask that you think about what alternatives or parts of alternatives you like best, and why. You can communicate your thoughts in several ways listed below:

- Attend our public open house
- Complete the electronic version of the comment form on the web at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/depo> (this is our preferred method of submitting written comments)
- E-mail your comments to [depo\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:depo_gmp@nps.gov)
- Fill out and mail the enclosed comment form
- Send a letter to the Superintendent



Please send us your comments by **September 30, 2011**  
Your continued involvement in the planning process is critical for the successful completion of the GMP.



## Three Scales of Planning

- 1 **Watershed Scale** (USFS and NPS)
- 2 **Reds Valley Scale** (USFS and NPS)
- 3 **Monument Scale** (NPS only)

- Devils Postpile National Monument
- Wilderness
- Planning Area
- ~ Rivers
- Roads
- Yosemite Nat'l Park
- Town of Mammoth Lakes



# Management Zoning

One of the tools in park planning is management zoning. Management zones are used to define the desired conditions for different areas of a park. Each zone specifies a particular combination of resource conditions, visitor experiences, and types of development, as described below. Alternatives were developed by applying these zones to different areas, as shown on the maps on pages 5-7.

The entire watershed was zoned, including both National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. Zoning within Devils Postpile National Monument would be effective upon completion of the GMP. Zoning on the Inyo National Forest, as indicated in this newsletter, has been done in cooperation with USFS team members and represents a vision for collaborative management within the watershed. This zoning would become effective if the GMP is adopted by the USFS or its recommendations are otherwise incorporated into USFS planning.



Management Zone Summary Table					
Zones	Frontcountry	Sensitive Resource Management	Natural/Wild	Portal/Transition	Key Attraction/Focused Interpretation
Zone Concept	This zone is managed for diverse visitor opportunities (education, interpretation, and outdoor recreation) and park operations, consistent with the fundamental resources and values and scenic quality of the area. Natural and cultural resources are protected, but natural resources could be modified or cultural resources adaptively reused to accommodate visitor or management needs.	This zone is managed for natural and cultural resources that are particularly sensitive to a variety of impacts and are provided the highest level of protection, while being monitored and possibly studied for scientific research.  Visitors have opportunities to learn about these resources, but access to these areas is highly managed and could include closures.	This zone is managed to preserve natural, wild characteristics and maintaining resource integrity while accommodating low to moderate levels of visitor use that provide a sense of remoteness and challenge.	This zone is managed to provide a transition between areas with higher development and more primitive and pristine wilderness areas. This zone can accommodate periodic high visitor use with limited improvements, as necessary, while still providing a high degree of resource protection.	This zone is managed to highlight significant sites, structures, and landscape or special features for their interpretive and educational value and providing visitors with hands on experiences. Natural and cultural resources are protected. Surrounding areas and landscapes could be modified or adaptively reused to accommodate visitor needs.
Natural and Cultural Resource Desired Conditions	Natural and cultural resources are protected and the natural and rustic character of the area is predominant.  Natural resources and processes could be modified to accommodate visitor and administrative needs such as facilities and infrastructure, as well as safety concerns. Cultural resources could be adaptively reused to accommodate visitor and administrative needs.  Cultural resources would provide distinct visitor opportunities and experiences throughout the area. The cultural elements would support interpretation and visitor use.	Protection of significant or designated natural and cultural resources is paramount.  Natural resource objectives (e.g. research) would be pursued in collaboration and in concert with cultural resource objectives.	Continuation of physical and ecological processes and ecosystem services in the watershed is paramount.  Cultural resources in designated wilderness are managed compatible to wilderness character, based on their condition, significance, and safety considerations.  Qualities and features of this zone provide connectivity and integration with a larger wilderness and ecosystem.	Continuation of physical and ecological processes and ecosystem services in the watershed is paramount.  May be modifications to natural resources to facilitate visitor introductions to the wild character of the area.  Cultural resources are managed based on their condition, significance, and safety considerations to complement the goals of promoting ecosystem processes and to be compatible with wilderness character in designated wilderness.  Cultural resources may provide opportunities for interpretation.	Special natural features and values are protected while being actively interpreted.  Surrounding natural resources may be modified or actively managed to facilitate visitor access, learning and research activities.  Cultural resources would provide distinct visitor opportunities and experiences throughout the area. The cultural elements would support interpretation and visitor use.  Cultural resources could be adaptively reused to accommodate visitor and administrative needs.
Wilderness	Not applicable.	Designated wilderness within this zone is managed primarily for its natural quality.	Designated wilderness within this zone is managed primarily for its untrammeled, natural, and undeveloped qualities, as well as opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.	Designated wilderness within this zone is managed primarily for wilderness qualities of natural and untrammeled character.	Designated wilderness within this zone is managed primarily for wilderness qualities of natural and untrammeled character.
Visitor Experience Desired Conditions	The visitor experience is focused on connections to traditional park experiences, a diversity of activities, and physical access. Visitors are provided with orientation, education, interpretation and amenities consistent with the natural setting and rustic character of the area.  <b>Use Levels:</b> Visitors can expect a high degree of social interactions with other visitors and with a broad range of user types.	The visitor experience is focused on understanding and protecting the special resources protected by this zone. Access is subordinate to research and resource protection considerations.  <b>Use Levels:</b> Use density and encounter levels may be high, but concentrated and highly managed.	The visitor experience is focused on immersion in primitive and wild environments, a high degree of opportunities for solitude, natural sounds, smells, and views, and self-reliance.  <b>Use Levels:</b> Lower visitor use levels. Encounters with others are infrequent. Potential for high degree of solitude.	The visitor experience is focused on introduction to wilderness experiences and locations. Visitors have some opportunities for solitude, discovery, and connections with nature in an undeveloped environment with some interpretation.  <b>Use Levels:</b> Visitation levels are moderate to high. Interaction with other visitors is generally moderate, but could be high during peak use. This zone serves as a thoroughfare for visitors accessing wilderness experiences.	The visitor experience is focused on introduction to the special values attached to a specific destination or attraction. Visitors are provided with orientation, education, interpretation and amenities consistent with the natural setting and rustic character of the area and the attributes of place.  <b>Use Levels:</b> Visitors can expect a high degree of social interactions with other visitors.
Types of Facilities and Level of Development	Development levels are minimal to moderate. Aimed at access, public safety, and resource protection.  Facilities are rustic in appearance and compatible with historic character and a natural setting. Facilities include roads, campgrounds, buildings, etc.	This zone has minimal facilities to support research, resource protection, and visitor access where appropriate (e.g. trails, picnic tables, restroom), Interpretative- waysides.  This zone has non-paved roads with an emphasis on road construction techniques that are compatible with sensitive resources.	Facilities/structures would be very minimal for research, resource protection, and low-level visitor use. Such structures include minimal signage wayfinding and boundary delineation compatible with wilderness policies and regulations.  Roads are not found in this zone.	Facilities/structures are minimal for low-moderate visitor use and address safety and protection.	The level of development is specific to each site and the values for which it is managed.



# Preliminary Alternatives

For each of the four preliminary alternative there is a concept statement that generally describes the guiding philosophy or overall direction for each alternative. After the concept statement, there is a description of the management directions and actions that would be taken for each alternative (highlights). A summary table on pages 8-9 provides more details on the alternatives.

## ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

The following list includes a summary of the common management actions that would occur under the alternatives. Some of these actions are common to all four alternatives (Alternatives A, B, C, and D) and others are common to the three action alternatives (B, C, and D).

- ⌘ indicates actions common to the three action alternatives
  - indicates actions common to all four alternatives

## Natural Resources

- ⌘ Increase intra- and interagency coordination for resource management and restoration activities.
- ⌘ Develop a resource stewardship strategy for the monument to guide subsequent resource management priorities.
- ⌘ Establish a comprehensive monitoring program for geologic resources, emphasizing the Postpile itself, in addition to ecological communities.
- ⌘ Monitor and mitigate, where possible, the pressures of climate change and other stressors on native vegetation and wildlife.
- ⌘ Enhance restoration of riparian areas and wetland habitats to the greatest extent possible.
- Inventory and evaluate facilities that could discharge into water sources, mitigate threats to water resources and hydrologic processes, and remove or upgrade facilities that do not meet water quality standards.
- ⌘ Actively pursue inventory, research and monitoring, and study of hydrologic influences in the watershed in partnership with the Inyo NF in order to improve understanding of the influences that affect the monument’s resources enhance management and protection of those resources.

## Visual and Scenic Resources

- Continue to work to maintain high quality viewsheds.
- ⌘ Reduce intrusion of existing buildings and infrastructure on views through screening and other techniques that could include less reflective materials, paint colors that blend with the natural landscape, and minimized lighting.
- ⌘ Sensitively design and site new facilities or infrastructure in order to limit impacts on visual and scenic resources.

## Cultural Resources

- Increase interagency coordination for cultural resource preservation strategies and treatment.
- Continue to work to improve communication and collaboration with interested tribes.
- Continue to facilitate traditional and contemporary American Indian uses consistent with agency policies and federal regulations.
- ⌘ Research and inventory ethno-historic tribal uses of traditional plant, animal and mineral resources to improve understanding of traditional uses.
- ⌘ Actively pursue special studies to determine National Register eligibility of monument cultural resources, such as buildings, trails, and archeological sites
- ⌘ Integrate more cultural resource information into ongoing monument interpretation and education programs

## Wilderness

- Continue to preserve wilderness character in areas of designated wilderness.
- Continue to manage key locations in the monument and valley as a launching point to a greater wilderness, highlighting, protecting, and maintaining significant wilderness trails including the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail.
- No new overnight camping opportunities in designated wilderness in the monument would be provided.
- Encourage scientific research, but strictly manage in designated wilderness, consistent with minimum requirements analysis and agency policy.
- Research installations in wilderness would be temporary and would not be highly visible or detract from wilderness character.
- ⌘ Any future wilderness planning would be done as a joint plan in collaboration with the Inyo National Forest.

## Climate Change and Sustainability

- Continue to reduce carbon emissions and increase energy and fuel efficiency whenever and wherever possible.
- Continue to implement the actions identified in the Devils Postpile NM Climate Friendly Action Plan.

- Emphasize and prioritize sustainable or green facility design for any new construction, retrofitting, and upgrading of facilities to the greatest extent possible.
- Integrate the principles, goals, and objectives of the NPS Climate Change Response Strategy and the USFS National Roadmap and Performance Scorecard into management and operations.

## Research and Related Facilities

- Continue to support and encourage scientific research and study consistent with NPS policies and use the best available science in decision-making.
- The monument will seek to obtain information and data that will help managers accomplish park management objectives provided for in law and planning documents and provide information that can be used in public education.
- ⌘ NPS and USFS will work together, and in collaboration with other federal agencies, to create a short- and long-term research plan and strategy/agenda to identify research needs for the monument and the greater watershed, helping streamline the process for prioritizing and granting permits for research.
- ⌘ Agencies will work together to facilitate research by working with partners in the community to provide housing and facilities in Mammoth Lakes for visiting researchers.
- ⌘ Consider interagency review measures for permitted research and science activities when research activities cross agency boundaries.
- Ensure research activities follow permit and review procedures, with required documentation for evaluating permit requests and timely review of requests.
- ⌘ Research related facilities and instrumentation will be located and designed to minimize their impact on resources and their visual intrusion on the traditional national park visitor experience.

## Visitor Experience

- Continue to provide a range of traditional visitor experiences such as hiking, camping, picnicking, fishing, wildlife viewing, bicycling, and equestrian use.
- ⌘ Work on an interagency basis to increase safety zones around areas of high concentrations of visitors to improve safety and minimize visitor conflicts. Areas would include Rainbow Falls trail, Devils Postpile Trail and could include other locations as determined necessary.
- ⌘ Improve public education and signage about boundary awareness and visitor safety to reduce conflicts.
- Boating and floatation devices would not be allowed in the river corridor within the monument but would continue to be allowed on some USFS lakes.

- ⌘ Synchronize long range interpretive planning between the NPS and USFS in order to create an integrated visitor experience and consistent messaging.
- The monument and the USFS would continue to partner with Mammoth Mountain, the town of Mammoth Lakes, and other organizations, agencies, and tribes on trail connections, signage, and interpretation.
- ⌘ The valley would have consistent design standards for signage that would use the style of rustic architecture and complement the natural setting.
- ⌘ Use signage to create a more distinct and inviting sense of arrival; improve signs along Hwy 203 and create a more distinct entrance sign in the vicinity of Minaret Vista.
- Continue to work on an interagency basis to ensure impacts from ongoing winter use are minimized and mitigated and winter use conforms with different agency regulations and policies.

## Facilities and Transportation

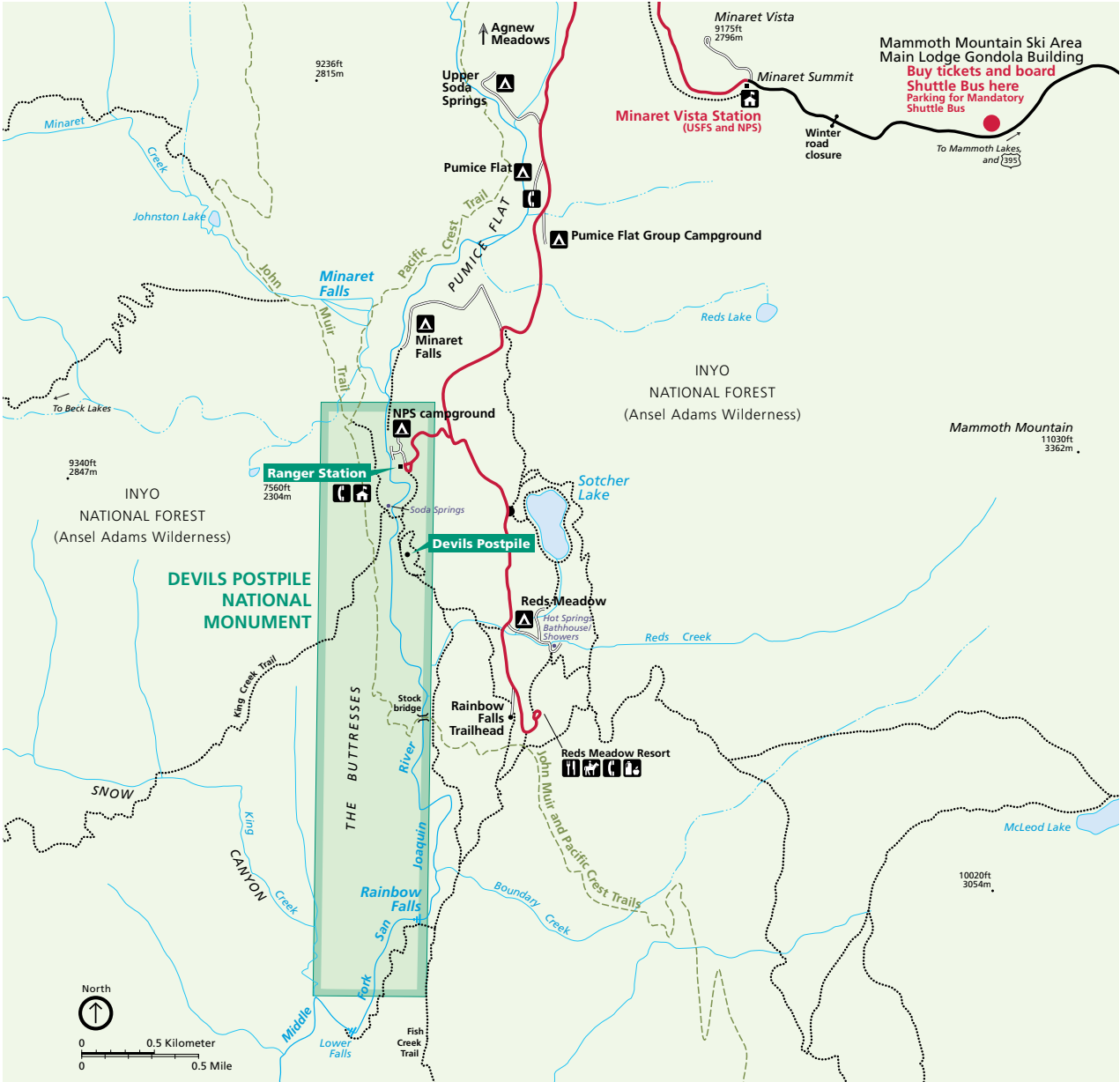
- ⌘ Facilities would be sustainable, modest in scale, and sensitively sited to protect resources.
- ⌘ Facilities would be designed in the style of rustic architecture that complements the natural setting.
- Continue to maintain the current shuttle system operation as the primary visitor access during the peak season.
- The Minaret Vista Contact Station would remain the only vehicular entrance to the valley.
- Roads would continue to provide safe visitor access and emphasize opportunities for protecting and viewing scenery and wildlife, promote a tranquil experience, and generally speeds would be slower than typical roads in this class.
- ⌘ Recommend designating the road from Minaret Vista through the valley as a Forest Highway.
- ⌘ New employee housing opportunities in Mammoth Lakes would be explored, including evaluating options for leasing or providing potential future government housing.
- ⌘ The NPS and USFS would work together to evaluate and improve shared utilities, such as water and sewer systems.
- ⌘ Evaluate strategies to reduce loading on the existing sewage infrastructure.

## Interagency Coordination and Collaboration

- Continue to coordinate and collaborate with the Inyo NF on a range of management and operations issues related to visitor and resource management.
- ⌘ Expand the partnership with the Inyo NF and be a model for interagency collaboration and coordination in watershed management and working across agency boundaries at a landscape scale.

# Alternative A: No Action

*This alternative proposes continuation of current management and serves as a baseline for comparison. The Inyo National Forest lands would continue to be managed consistent with existing plans and national forest system guidance.*






# Alternative B: Watershed Emphasis



## Concept


This alternative proposes greater emphasis on managing and promoting visitor understanding of the broader upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River Watershed, and the role of the monument within that watershed. Visitor services are focused on Minaret Vista as the key location for learning about the watershed and its resources.



## Site-Specific Actions




 Indicates actions to be undertaken by the National Park Service, regardless of Forest Service implementation


  Indicates recommendations for joint USFS/NPS action, dependent on USFS implementation

 Indicates recommendations for USFS implementation

### Minaret Vista (USFS)




**Redesigns Minaret Vista to become a primary destination and focus of visitor activities.**

-  Build small visitor contact station that can be seasonally staffed with some interior exhibit space and improved exterior information
-  Relocate and redesign parking and restrooms
-  Improve transit compatibility. Provide a bus stop, turn-around, and ability to accommodate possible transit transfers into the valley

 Create new trails, including an interpretive trail and/or an ADA accessible trail and a connection to Pacific Crest Trail



### Ranger Station (NPS)

**Retains the existing ranger station, while rehabilitating it for improved accessibility.**

-  Maintain the existing ranger station but remove administrative functions and rehabilitate the building to convert it to visitor use only, improving functionality and ADA access
-  Improve bus stop orientation with a minimum scale redesign
-  If it is destroyed by flood or other natural events, replace in-kind but out of the floodplain and in an already impacted area of the monument




### Campground (NPS)

**Removes the monument campground and redesigns parking and day use to reduce visual impacts and restore riverbanks.**

-  Convert the Devils Postpile campground to day use and cooperate with the USFS to provide replacement campsites elsewhere in the valley
-  Relocate and redesign the day use parking lot to reduce visual impacts and restore riparian areas









### Pumice Flat (USFS)

**Uses the Pumice Flat cabin area for shared maintenance and administrative needs.**

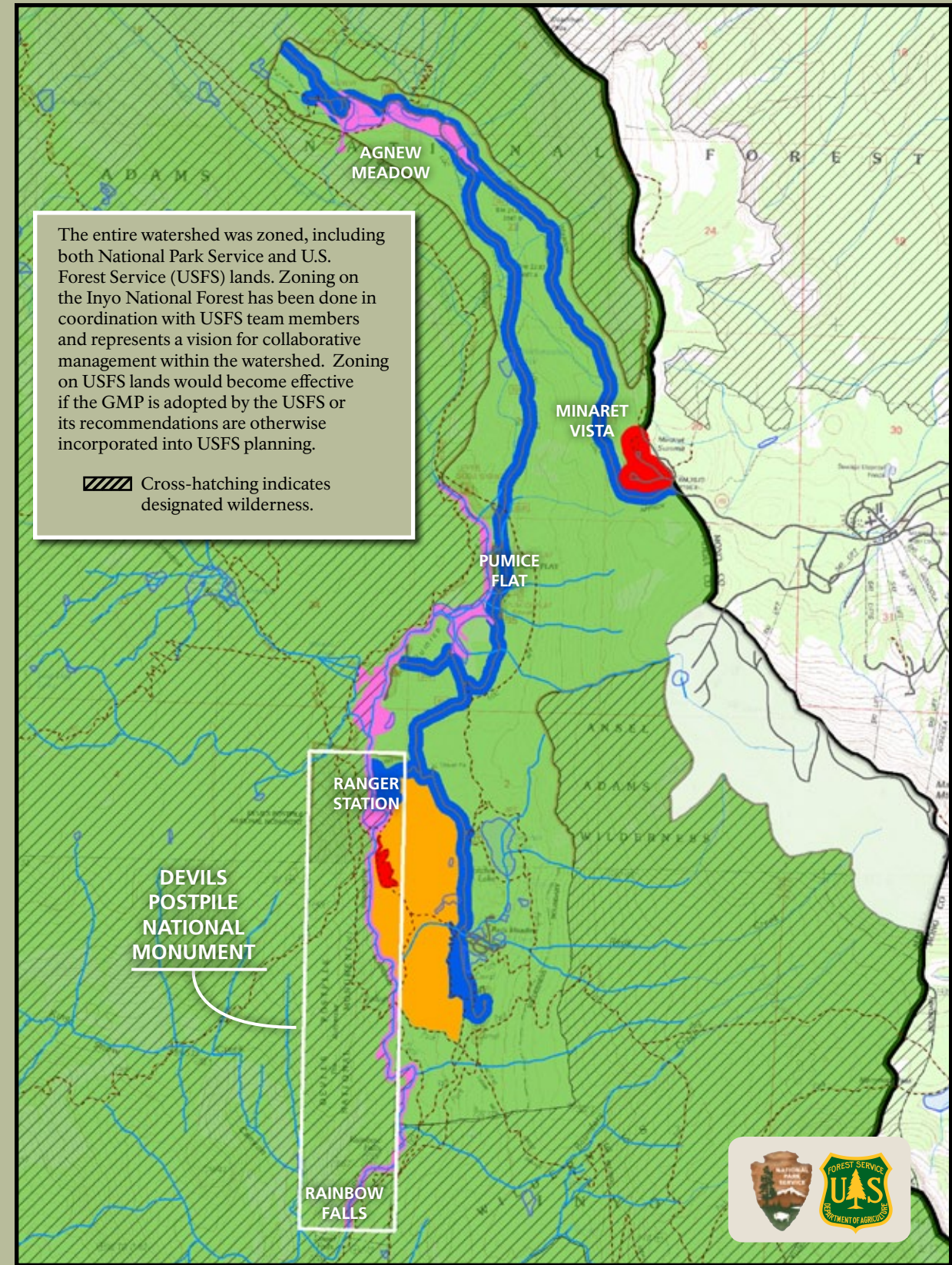
-   Adaptively reuse the Pumice Flat cabin for shared maintenance and administrative needs
-  Small equipment storage and maintenance work areas would be developed around the Pumice Flat cabin for minimal maintenance needs

### Rainbow Falls (NPS)

**Redesigns trail to promote wilderness qualities and a sense of discovery. Discontinues commercial day use in wilderness within Devils Postpile NM, including stock trips to Rainbow Falls.**

-  Create more of a wilderness quality trail and sense of discovery to and at Rainbow Falls
-  Discontinue commercial stock day trips to Rainbow Falls; trips passing through the monument would continue
-  Remove stock hitching post from current location
-  Evaluate the need for relocating a tie up for private stock use at a smaller scale away from the immediate proximity of the viewing area and potentially outside of wilderness if there is a need without commercial day rides
-  Remove interpretive panels out of wilderness
-  Remove log stairs and realign the trail to avoid the edge
-  Consider removing the rock stairs to the base of the falls
-  Maintain viewing platform sizes and character

## Management Zones



Natural/Wild	Portal/Transition	Frontcountry	Sensitive Resources	Key Attractions
Managed for natural and wild characteristics; wilderness qualities; low to moderate levels of use	Transition between development and more primitive areas; provides introductory wilderness experiences	Provides diverse visitor opportunities; higher levels of development and use.	Visitor access is highly managed to protect sensitive resources	Nationally significant sites managed for visitor access according to specific place-based values.



**Above:** Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River  
**Below:** Devils Postpile






# Alternative C: Connecting People to Wild Nature

## Concept





*This alternative emphasizes the monument and the corridor from Minaret Vista down through Reds Meadow Valley as a gateway to a greater wilderness and a place for visitors to experience and connect with nature and history in a wild setting.*







## Site-Specific Actions

-  Indicates actions to be undertaken by the National Park Service, regardless of Forest Service implementation
-  Indicates recommendations for joint USFS/NPS action, dependent on USFS implementation
-  Indicates recommendations for USFS implementation




### Minaret Vista (USFS)

- Introduces people to the wild setting beyond Minaret Vista.**
-  Build visitor contact kiosk that can be seasonally staffed and provide improved exterior information
  -  Relocate and redesign parking and restrooms
  -  Provide a bus stop
  -  Improve trail connections to Pacific Crest Trail and others





### Ranger Station (NPS)

- Relocates the ranger station out of the floodplain. Enhances visitor service through expansion of the existing building and improves integration with parking and shuttles.**
-  Relocate the visitor contact/ranger station out of the floodplain but within the already impacted developed area of the monument
  -  Remove administrative functions and expand the visitor contact/ranger station to improve ADA accessibility and provide a greater range of visitor services with increased efficiency such as museum collection exhibits, improved display space, and storage for interpretive tools
  -  Integrate the visitor contact/ranger station with an improved shuttle bus stop that provides modest shelter as well as visitor information
  -  Improve parking and circulation for shuttle buses, cars and pedestrians through site design







### Campground (NPS)

- Removes some sites that are adversely impacting river resources, while increasing camping opportunities elsewhere in the valley.**
-  Sites within 100 feet of the river are removed or designated for walk-in users only; riparian areas are restored
  -  Relocate and redesign the day use parking lot to reduce visual impacts and restore riparian areas
  -  Increase camping capacity in the valley in less sensitive areas

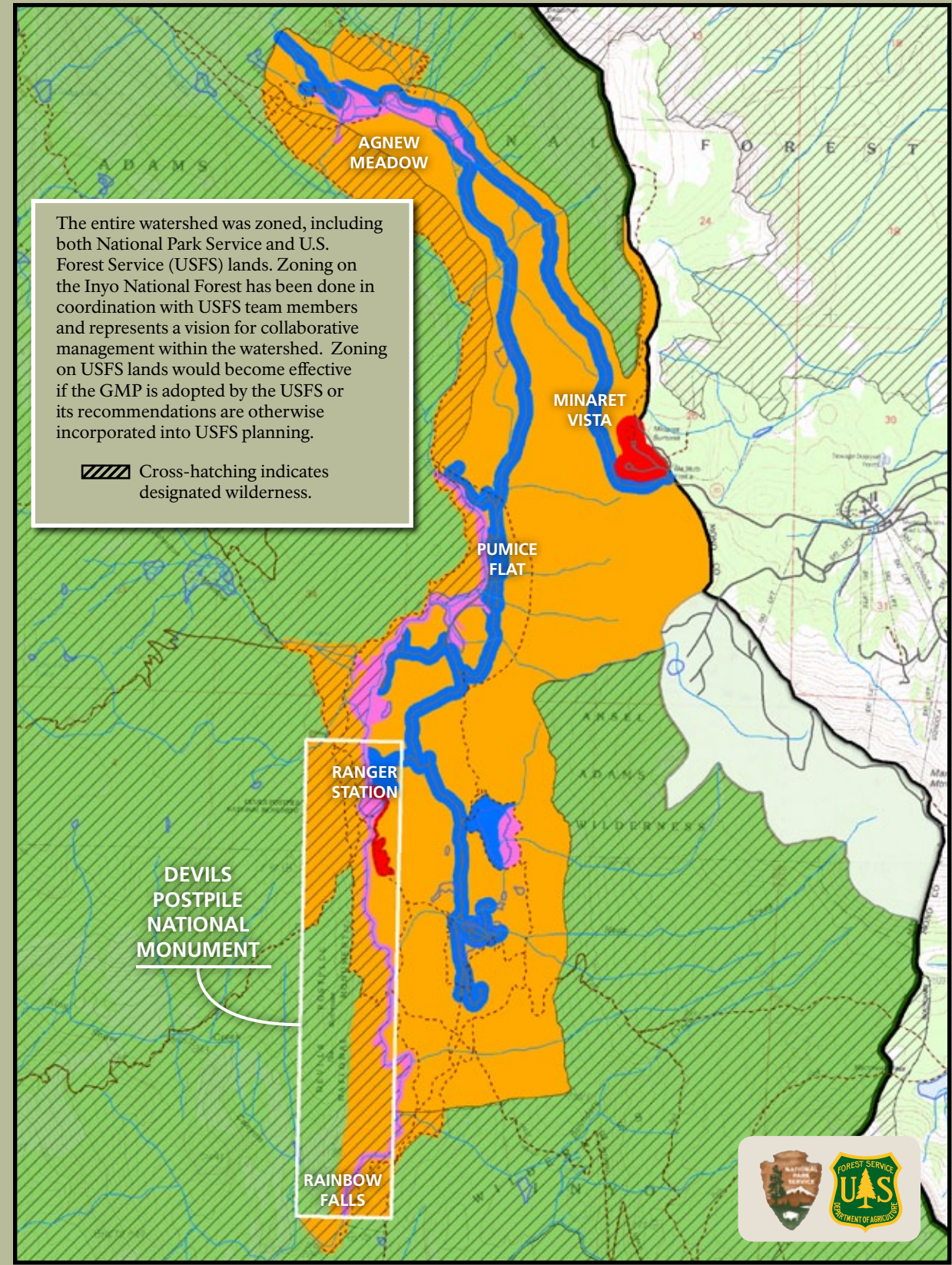
### Pumice Flat (USFS)

- Adds a new interagency maintenance and administrative office space facility at the Pumice Flat campground and provides for public use of the Pumice Flat cabin.**
-  Relocate most of the monument’s current maintenance and storage needs to Pumice Flat
  -  Construct a small interagency, multi-purpose maintenance facility in the vicinity of the Pumice Flat Group Campground to serve the support needs for operations and maintenance in the valley. Existing group camping sites would be relocated to other campgrounds in the valley. The facility could also include administrative office space and a multi-purpose space
  -  Adaptively reuse Pumice Flat cabin for public use, possibly as a joint nature center or environmental education center. Half of the cabin could be used for research space or as a field lab
  -  Include a bus stop at Pumice Flat for visitors

### Rainbow Falls (NPS)

- Redesigns facilities at Rainbow Falls to promote wilderness qualities and a sense of discovery. Continues equestrian day use opportunities.**
-  Continue to allow commercial day use in wilderness within the monument, such as horseback and fishing trips, provided these activities meet the “extent necessary” determination under the Wilderness Act
  -  Permits for commercial day use in wilderness would be required through an open and competitive process
  -  Maintain current trail alignment to minimize crowding; soften the trail design and edges to create more of a wilderness trail design and promote a greater sense of discovery and arrival to Rainbow Falls
  -  Create a separate trail for stock from Reds Meadow Resort to Boundary Creek to separate stock and pedestrian use
  -  Move interpretive panels out of designated wilderness and create a small interpretation and orientation portal at the Boundary Creek trail junction before visitors enter wilderness
  -  Maintain viewing platform sizes and character

## Management Zones



Natural/Wild	Portal/Transition	Frontcountry	Sensitive Resources	Key Attractions
Managed for natural and wild characteristics; wilderness qualities; low to moderate levels of use	Transition between development and more primitive areas; provides introductory wilderness experiences	Provides diverse visitor opportunities; higher levels of development and use.	Visitor access is highly managed to protect sensitive resources	Nationally significant sites managed for visitor access according to specific place-based values.



Bird Banding Demonstration



# Alternative D: Focus on Special Destinations

## Concept

Key resources and attractions with national significance are emphasized through a focus on place-based values and facilitated visitor experiences. Improvements to visitor services would be centered around experiences at key destinations, primarily Minaret Vista, Devils Postpile, Rainbow Falls, and Reds Meadow. Active management is focused on resources with national significance, with more indirect or passive management applied elsewhere.



## Site-Specific Actions



Indicates actions to be undertaken by the National Park Service, regardless of Forest Service implementation



Indicates recommendations for joint USFS/NPS action, dependent on USFS implementation



Indicates recommendations for USFS implementation

### Minaret Vista (USFS)

Becomes a special destination as part of the overall experience and alternative trailhead to locations in the valley.

- Build visitor contact kiosk that can be seasonally staffed and improved exterior information
- Relocate and redesign parking and restrooms
- Provide a bus stop
- Build new trails including an interpretive trail and/or an ADA accessible trail, connection to the

Pacific Crest Trail, and other possible connections to locations in the valley

### Ranger Station (NPS)

Provides a new visitor services facility with expanded space for exhibits and improved accessibility.

- Remove the existing ranger station
- Build a new visitor contact station (estimated approx. 800-1000 sq. ft and not necessarily all enclosed) outside of the floodplain and within the already impacted developed area of the monument to provide improved ADA accessibility as well as improved indoor space for interpretation/museum collection display or exhibits
- Integrate the new visitor contact station with an improved shuttle bus stop that provides modest shelter as well as visitor information

### Campground (NPS)

Removes some sites that are adversely impacting river resources, while retaining or increasing camping opportunities in the monument.

- Remove sites that are adversely impacting river resources
- Maintain or increase the existing camping capacity through reconfiguration of the campground
- Delineate river access points in the campground and day use area to better protect riparian areas

### Pumice Flat (USFS)

Adds a new interagency maintenance and administrative office space facility at the Pumice Flat campground and provides for special group uses of the Pumice Flat cabin area.

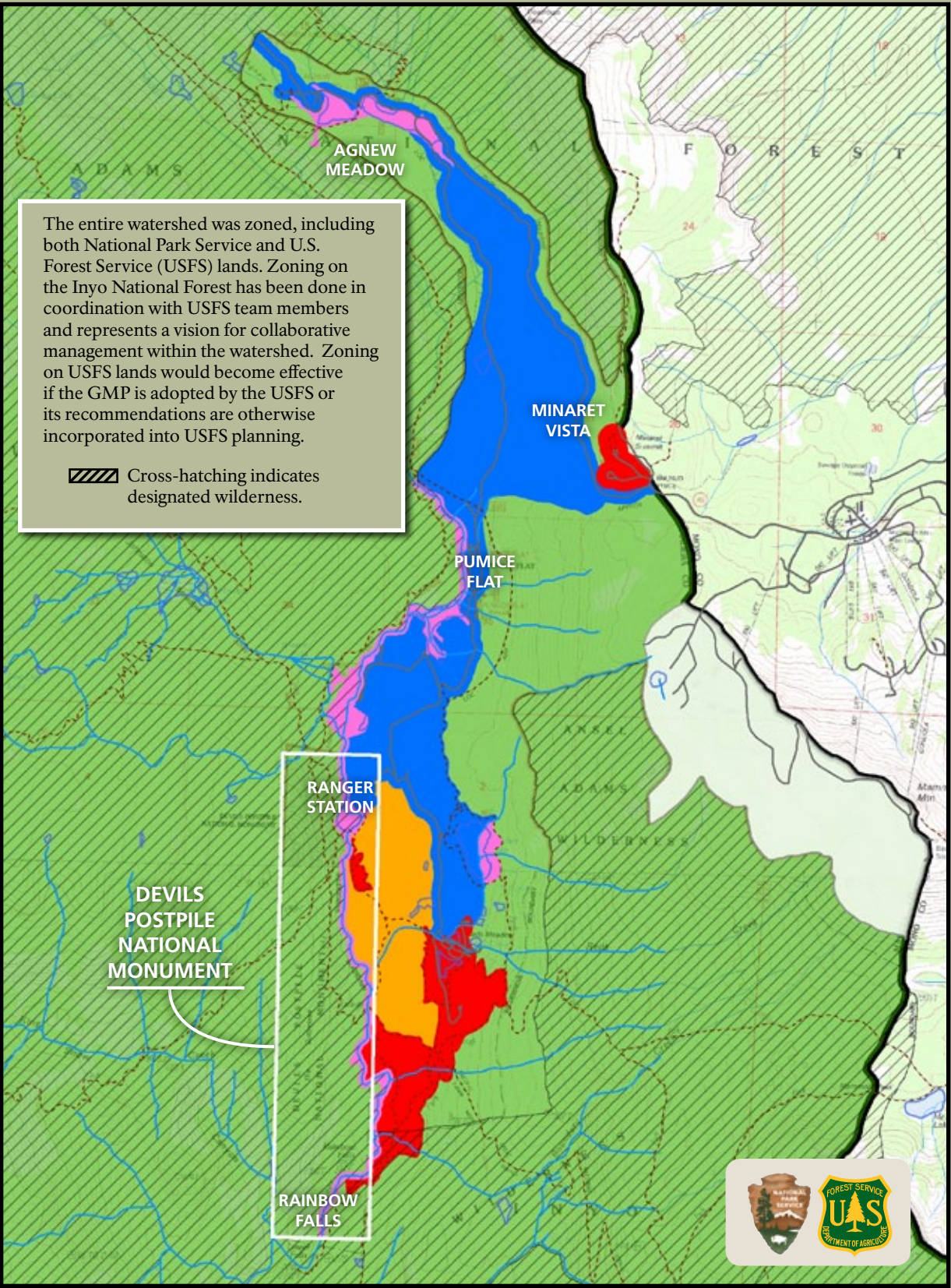
- Relocate most of the monument’s current maintenance and storage needs to Pumice Flat
- Construct a small interagency, multi-purpose maintenance facility in the vicinity of the Pumice Flat Group Campground to serve the support needs for operations and maintenance in the valley. Existing group camping sites would be relocated to other campgrounds in the valley. The facility could also include administrative office space and a multi-purpose space
- Adaptively reuse Pumice Flat cabin and the site around the existing cabin to support group activities (school groups, student research groups, volunteer groups, or other special use groups)
- Include a bus stop at Pumice Flat for visitors

### Rainbow Falls (NPS)

Provides a staging area with enhanced visitor amenities outside of designated wilderness. Discontinues commercial day use in wilderness within Devils Postpile NM, including stock trips to Rainbow Falls.

- Emphasize the undeveloped quality of wilderness
- Maintain current trail alignment to minimize crowding; soften the trail design and edges to create more of a wilderness trail design and promote a greater sense of discovery and arrival to Rainbow Falls
- Develop a wilderness portal/staging area at Boundary Creek that includes a restroom and picnic area, interpretive panels focused on wilderness, and a stock staging area
- Discontinue commercial stock day trips to Rainbow Falls; trips passing through the monument would continue
- Remove stock tie up from current location
- Evaluate the need for relocating a tie up for private stock use at a smaller scale away from the immediate proximity of the viewing area and potentially outside of wilderness if there is a need without commercial day rides
- Remove interpretive panels out of wilderness
- Create a separate trail for stock from Reds Meadow Resort to Boundary Creek to separate stock and pedestrian use
- Maintain viewing platform sizes and character

## Management Zones



Natural/Wild	Portal/Transition	Frontcountry	Sensitive Resources	Key Attractions
Managed for natural and wild characteristics; wilderness qualities; low to moderate levels of use	Transition between development and more primitive areas; provides introductory wilderness experiences	Provides diverse visitor opportunities; higher levels of development and use.	Visitor access is highly managed to protect sensitive resources	Nationally significant sites managed for visitor access according to specific place-based values.



Rainbow Falls





# Summary of Preliminary Alternatives

This table represents the range of ideas explored for the preliminary alternatives.

Actions to be undertaken solely by Devils Postpile National Monument would be authorized upon completion of the GMP. Actions to be taken by the Inyo National Forest have been developed in collaboration with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) team members. These ideas represent a vision for collaborative management within the watershed. The GMP, however, would not mandate or authorize these recommendations. The USFS could undertake any or all of the recommendations individually or by integration into planning on the Inyo National Forest.

	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Watershed Emphasis	Alternative C: Connecting People to Wild Nature	Alternative D: Focus on Special Destinations
Alternative Description	<i>This alternative proposes continuation of current management and serves as a baseline for comparison.</i>	<i>This alternative proposes greater emphasis on managing and promoting visitor understanding of the monument in the context of a larger watershed.</i>	<i>This alternative emphasizes the monument and the corridor from Minaret Vista down through Reds Meadow Valley as a gateway to a greater wilderness and a place for visitors to experience and connect with nature and history in a wild setting.</i>	<i>This alternative emphasizes key attractions with national significance for resource protection and facilitating visitor experiences, primarily at Minaret Vista, Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls.</i>
Natural Resources				
Primary Concept	Continue current resource management activities.	Implement a watershed approach to resource management, expanding and prioritizing interagency collaboration and coordination in more areas of watershed management.  Natural resources would continue to be protected to a high degree with an emphasis on unimpeded natural processes in the watershed.  Protect sensitive resources through visitor use management strategies that may be more passive, such as siting facilities and infrastructure to avoid sensitive resources, rerouting trails, etc.	Natural resources would continue to be protected to a high degree.  Provide visitors with more direct access to resources in order to connect with the natural surroundings while still protecting sensitive areas.  Protect sensitive resources through direct and active visitor use management strategies, such as fencing, to minimize impacts.  Emphasize demonstrations of resource management techniques, such as inventory and monitoring, to engage visitors with natural resource management activities.	Natural resources would continue to be protected to a high degree with an emphasis on resources around special destinations.  Protect sensitive resources through more direct visitor use management strategies in areas of concentrated visitor use and more passive strategies in other areas to avoid sensitive resources.
Cultural Resources				
Primary Concept	Continue to document and protect cultural resources.	Continue to document and protect cultural resources and focus interpretation of cultural resources on national register listed and eligible properties in the watershed.	Continue to document and protect cultural resources and focus interpretation of cultural resources on the broader human history of the valley as a travel corridor.  Emphasize demonstrations of cultural resource projects, such as archeological investigations, to engage visitors with cultural resource management activities.	Same as Alternative B
Museum Collections	Museum collections would continue to be stored within the monument, at Death Valley National Park, or other locations.	Consider additional interagency and intra-agency co-location opportunities.  Provide some access to museum collections via virtual options.	Same as Alternative B, plus  Provide some exhibit space for rotating museum collections as part of interpretive displays in Devils Postpile NM.	Same as Alternative C
Climate Change and Sustainability				
Primary Concept	Continue to participate in regional and interagency efforts to understand the potential implications of climate change on Devils Postpile NM's resources.	Continue to participate in interagency and regional efforts to understand the effects of climate change on natural and cultural resources, natural processes, recreation demands, operations and facilities and develop adaptation strategies for the monument and watershed to address anticipated changes to resources and infrastructure.  Continue to interpret knowledge related to climate change to the public.	Same as Alternative B, plus  Increase emphasis on opportunities for visitors to engage in hands-on learning with climate change research being conducted in the monument.	Same as Alternative B
Wilderness				
Primary Concept	Continue to manage wilderness for the qualities of wilderness character.	Minimize imprint of humans and maximize the natural qualities of wilderness. No new facilities in wilderness and maximize removal of existing facilities that are non-conforming.  No new trailheads or designated trails in wilderness.  No or very limited new signs, primarily small orientation signs at trail junctions.  No commercial day use, such as horseback and fishing trips, would be allowed in wilderness within Devils Postpile NM.  Commercial trips that pass through Devils Postpile NM to other locations on the Inyo NF or beyond would be allowed to continue, consistent with Inyo NF direction.	Provide an outstanding introductory wilderness experience for visitors. Enhance opportunities and access for wilderness recreation while still minimizing development.  Limited new trails could occur in wilderness.  Some additional signage in wilderness could occur in addition to orientation signs at trail junctions such as mileage markers.  Continue to allow commercial day use in wilderness within Devils Postpile NM, such as horseback and fishing trips, provided these activities meet the "extent necessary" determination under the Wilderness Act.  Commercial trips that pass through Devils Postpile NM to other locations on the Inyo NF or beyond would be allowed to continue, consistent with Inyo NF direction.	Focus on Rainbow Falls as an opportunity to provide an outstanding introductory wilderness experience while minimizing the imprint of humans in the remaining Devils Postpile NM wilderness.  No new trailheads or designated trails in wilderness.  No or very limited new signs, primarily small orientation signs at trail junctions.  No commercial day use, such as horseback and fishing trips, would be allowed in wilderness within Devils Postpile NM.  Commercial trips that pass through Devils Postpile NM to other locations on the Inyo NF or beyond would be allowed to continue, consistent with Inyo NF direction.



	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Watershed Emphasis	Alternative C: Connecting People to Wild Nature	Alternative D: Focus on Special Destinations
Visitor Experience				
Primary Concept	Visitor experiences would continue to include a range of recreational experiences that are compatible with the traditional park experience.	<p>Visitor experiences would continue to include a range of recreational experiences that are compatible with protecting the watershed.</p> <p>Emphasis would be placed on traditional, low-impact recreation such as camping, day-hiking, backpacking, fishing, and sightseeing.</p> <p>Interpretation and education programs and media emphasize themes related to the watershed scale and the role of Devils Postpile NM within the watershed. Interpretive and educational messages at Minaret Vista focus on the watershed while messages at Devils Postpile NM focus on the role of the monument within the watershed.</p>	<p>Visitor experiences would continue to include a range of recreational experiences that have traditionally been available within the valley, with an increased emphasis on self discovery and opportunities to connect with nature.</p> <p>Emphasis would be placed on traditional, low-impact recreation such as camping, day-hiking, backpacking, fishing, and sightseeing while also exploring opportunities for increased trail connections and improving some bicycle opportunities within the valley.</p> <p>Interpretation and education programs and media emphasize themes related to corridors and connectivity as well as and the role of the area as a gateway to a broader wilderness.</p> <p>More hands-on engagement for visitors in a wider variety of program areas.</p>	<p>Visitor experiences would continue to include a range of recreational experiences that have traditionally been available but visitor experiences at key destinations would be facilitated to a greater degree.</p> <p>Improvements to the visitor experience and associated development would be centered around improving experiences at key destinations, primarily Minaret Vista, Devils Postpile, and Rainbow Falls.</p> <p>Enhanced interpretation and interpretive services facilitate experiences centered on key destinations while opportunities for visitor use and experience are made available via self-discovery elsewhere.</p> <p>Education programming prioritizes understanding those key resources with national significance.</p>
Visitor Information and Interpretation	The park would continue to provide interpretive services for a range of visitor interests and needs.	<p>Interpretation and education would be focused on the watershed and the role of Devils Postpile NM in the watershed.</p> <p>Most facilitated learning would occur at Minaret Vista. Opportunities for self-directed learning and discovery would be provided in the valley.</p>	<p>Same as No Action, plus</p> <p>A greater emphasis on information and orientation to facilitate visitor connections to a variety of opportunities and resources.</p>	Interpretation would be focused on the identified values of each special destination.
Curriculum-Based Education	Current programs would continue.	Education programming would occur primarily at Minaret Vista and would be focused on integrating science, management, and interpretation on a watershed scale.	Education programming could focus on a proposed nature center/environmental education center at Pumice Flat cabin.	<p>Education would be focused on the identified values of each special destination.</p> <p>Educational programming for groups could focus at Pumice Flat Cabin.</p>
Interpretation and Information Facilities	Current interpretation facilities would remain.	New interpretation facilities may include a small visitor center and interpretive trails at Minaret Vista. The Devils Postpile NM ranger station would be relocated out of the floodplain.	New interpretation facilities may include enhanced exhibits at Minaret Vista, and a small addition to the existing Devils Postpile NM ranger station.	New interpretation facilities may include enhanced exhibits at Minaret Vista and a new small visitor contact station at Devils Postpile NM.
Outreach and Partnership Programs	Current outreach and partnership initiatives would continue.	Expand partnerships in areas related to landscape-scale watershed management.	Expand partnerships that help market the monument and valley as an opportunity to connect with nature and as a gateway to a larger wilderness experience.	Expand partnerships that help market the monument and valley as an opportunity to explore special resources with a variety of recreational and educational opportunities.
Recreation Opportunities and Related Facilities				
Hiking and Hiking Trails	Maintain current number of trails, existing trail alignments, and trail uses.	<p>Consolidation of trails or realignment of trails could occur based on resource protection needs and focused on avoiding sensitive riparian areas and reducing turbidity.</p> <p>A new interpretive trail at Minaret Vista would provide an orientation to the watershed.</p> <p>Limited new trails could occur in the watershed.</p>	<p>New trails and improved trail connections between destinations, campgrounds, and supporting infrastructure would be emphasized.</p> <p>Consider a loop trail within the valley that would link sites and destinations and provide an improved hiking experience.</p> <p>Trails would be designed to blend in with natural surroundings and existing trails could be realigned and revegetated to harmonize better with surrounding nature.</p> <p>Develop an interagency multi-modal trail plan to evaluate long term trail connections and opportunities in the valley.</p>	<p>New trails would focus around connecting visitors with special destination areas. Trails would be designed to accommodate higher visitor use and interpret special features.</p> <p>Existing trails may also be realigned to better protect special destination resources.</p> <p>Design trails in order to mitigate crowding issues and separate potential conflicts between different users (e.g. stock use and hiking) and visitor densities.</p>
Bicycling	Bicycling would continue to be allowed in existing locations primarily along the road corridor.	Same as Alternative A	Potential dedicated trail for bicycles to improve safe bicycling experiences.	Same as Alternative A
Picnic Areas	Current picnic and group facilities would remain.	New picnic areas would be sensitively designed away from watershed resources. Existing picnic areas located in riparian areas could be removed or redesigned to better protect resources.	Additional small picnic areas could be provided. Picnic areas would be minimally designed to harmonize with natural settings.	Picnic areas at special destinations would be located to disperse visitor use and in locations that do not disrupt visitor enjoyment of the special destinations.
Camping and Campgrounds	Existing campgrounds would remain in their current configurations.	<p>Remove the Devils Postpile NM campground and convert the site to a day use area with riparian restoration.</p> <p>Strive to maintain existing camping capacity by dispersing the overnight camping experience to other locations in the valley (USFS).</p> <p>Campgrounds would be redesigned to protect riparian and wetland habitat and riverbanks. This could include removal or realignment of campsites, notably sites out of sensitive riparian and wetland habitat.</p> <p>Any additional replacement overnight camping would be located away from sensitive riparian and wetland habitat. Emphasize low development and the lightest on the land type of camping feasible.</p>	<p>Sites near the river would be removed or designated for walk-in users only.</p> <p>Current camping capacity in the valley would be maintained, but campsites would be located in less sensitive areas.</p> <p>Overnight camping opportunities in the valley overall could be increased to provide more opportunities to connect people with nature. Tent camping would be emphasized. Could include increasing the footprint of existing campgrounds.</p> <p>Opportunities to revegetate campgrounds and remove selected campsites that impact riparian resources where possible.</p> <p>Opportunities would be sought to separate types of overnight camping to reduce recreation conflicts and improve visitor experiences, either within individual campgrounds or across campgrounds in the valley.</p> <p>A higher level of personal ranger contact in campgrounds throughout the valley would be provided.</p>	<p>Downscale the campground in its existing location and remove sites that are adversely impacting river resources. Facilitate better day use along the river by delineating specific access points along the river.</p> <p>Strive to maintain or increase the existing camping capacity within the monument, though some sites could be relocated to less sensitive areas in the valley.</p> <p>More camping opportunities could be provided near special destinations. Analyze the needs of existing recreation users in the location and consideration for future camping opportunities.</p> <p>Opportunities to revegetate campgrounds and remove selected campsites that impact riparian resources where possible.</p> <p>To the extent possible, provide a higher level of personal ranger contact in campgrounds throughout valley.</p>



	Alternative A: No Action	Alternative B: Watershed Emphasis	Alternative C: Connecting People to Wild Nature	Alternative D: Focus on Special Destinations
Recreation Opportunities and Related Facilities (continued)				
Stock Use	Private stock use, including horses, mules, burros, and llamas would continue to be allowed in the monument. The only stock crossing would continue to be the stock bridge and no crossings would be allowed in open water. Grazing and off-trail use would continue to be prohibited in the monument. Stock use would continue to be allowed on USFS land consistent with current agency policy.			
Concessions and Commercial Uses				
Concessions Operations	Concessions operations in the valley would continue under Inyo NF management. No concessions operations in Devils Postpile NM. Continue to rely on Sequoia Natural History Association for bookstore and interpretive displays in Devils Postpile NM.			
Commercial Services	Commercial uses in Devils Postpile NM that include guiding, filming, or leading commercial trips would continue to require commercial use authorizations.	No commercial day use activities, such as horseback and fishing trips, would be allowed in wilderness within Devils Postpile NM.  Devils Postpile NM would continue to allow commercial activities such as guiding and filming in the monument outside of designated wilderness with appropriate permits.  Commercial trips that pass through Devils Postpile NM to other locations on the Inyo NF or beyond would be allowed to continue, consistent with Inyo NF direction.  No additional commercial stock day use for other locations in Devils Postpile NM would be allowed.	The monument would continue to allow commercial day use in wilderness, such as horseback and fishing trips, provided these activities meet the “extent necessary” determination under the Wilderness Act.  Continue to allow commercial activities such as guiding and filming in Devils Postpile NM outside designated wilderness with appropriate permits.  Permits for commercial day use in wilderness would be required through an open and competitive process.  Commercial trips that pass through Devils Postpile NM to other locations on the Inyo NF or beyond would be allowed to continue, consistent with Inyo NF direction.  No additional commercial stock day use for other locations in Devils Postpile NM would be allowed.	Same as Alternative B, plus Devils Postpile NM would partner with the Inyo NF to create a staging area for commercial stock day use and others at the Boundary Creek Junction outside of designated wilderness.
Reds Meadow Resort	Continue to operate on the Inyo NF with visitor services that include a restaurant, rental cabins, a store, and a pack station.  Evening campfire programs are given to resort guests.	Continue to encourage an operation similar to the current operation to provide visitors, campers, and through hikers on the JMT and PCT with valuable services.  Avoid over-commercializing or over-developing the site, maintaining the current rustic design and character of the operation while updating the amenities and services.	Same as Alternative B, plus:  Expand opportunities to provide interpretive services and programs at Reds Meadow Resort.	Same as Alternative C
Facilities and Transportation				
Level of Development/ Development Character	Existing facilities and trails would remain and continue to be maintained, including minor improvements to visitor facilities.	There would be less development in the monument and valley. New facilities would be focused at Minaret Vista and in Mammoth Lakes.  Facilities would be sustainable, small in scale, and sensitively sited to protect watershed resources.	New facilities would be focused on connecting people to nature through expanded trail systems, improved trailheads, camping/overnight stays, and better directional information.  Facilities would be small in scale and sensitively designed (screening, etc.) to enhance the feeling of being in the wild/ in nature.	Facility improvements would be focused on special destinations (Minaret Vista, Devils Postpile, Rainbow Falls, Reds Meadow).  Facilities would be sensitively designed to protect significant resources/special destinations and the natural setting while allowing for higher visitor uses.
Administrative Offices	Administrative offices would remain at their current locations in the monument and in Mammoth Lakes.	Emphasize partnering to locate office space in Mammoth Lakes and consider expanding the site design at the Mammoth Welcome Center to include a new interagency support facility that would host the NPS, USFS and possibly other agencies or partners.  Maintain a minimum core presence in the valley and in Devils Postpile NM for resource protection and visitor safety.	New opportunities for office space would be explored in the valley in conjunction with new maintenance and also in Mammoth Lakes.  Continue to co-locate facilities with the Inyo NF in the valley as well as in Mammoth Lakes as a primary goal to enhance operational efficiency of agencies managing the watershed.	New opportunities for office space would be explored in the valley (Pumice Flat) or in Mammoth Lakes.
Employee housing	Current employee housing would remain in the monument with some seasonal lodging in Mammoth Lakes.	Some housing would be removed from the Devils Postpile NM administrative area.  Maintain a minimum core presence in the valley and in Devils Postpile NM within existing facilities for resource protection and visitor safety.	Some housing would be removed from the Devils Postpile NM administrative area. Consider some housing in conjunction with the maintenance facility at Pumice Flat.  Maintain an overnight staff presence in the valley and monument within existing facilities that is commensurate with the programs and services being offered.	Same as Alternative C
Maintenance Facilities	The monument would continue to operate maintenance from the small facility in the administrative area. A new maintenance facility is needed.	A small maintenance facility would be sited at Pumice Flat incorporating adaptive reuse of the cabin.  Some larger maintenance functions would be moved out of the valley to Mammoth Lakes.	A small maintenance facility would be sited at Pumice Flat Group Camp, co-located with other administrative facilities and functions.	A small maintenance facility would be sited at Pumice Flat Group Camp.
Roads and Parking	Existing roads and parking areas would remain.	Roads and parking areas could be realigned to better protect and restore watershed resources.  Improve delineation of parking to protect resources, particularly around sensitive riparian areas.	Same as Alternative B, plus:  Develop an interagency multi-modal trail plan to evaluate long term trail connections and opportunities in the valley and associated parking needs.	Roads and parking could be realigned or screened to protect the identified values of special destinations.  Improve delineation of parking to protect resources, particularly around sensitive riparian areas and special destination areas.
Shuttle System	Maintain existing shuttle stops with limited improvements evaluated on a case-by-case basis.	A new shuttle stop and turnaround would be created at Minaret Vista, and possibly other locations.  The visual impact of the shuttle stops would be minimized and compatible with the natural setting. Limited amenities would be provided.	New shuttle stops would be considered at sites in the valley to provide more connections to nature. Potential locations include Minaret Vista, Pumice Flat, and Minaret Falls.  Small-scale visitor amenities and improved visitor orientation would be provided at shuttle stops, compatible with the natural setting.	A new shuttle stop would be created at Minaret Vista and Pumice Flat.
Signage	Existing signage would remain in the valley and monument.	Signage and waysides would be used on a limited basis and may be removed in wilderness and sensitive areas.	Improved signage would emphasize visitor orientation and opportunities at trailheads and shuttle stops. Self-guided tours would be emphasized over waysides.	Signage and waysides would be focused on special destinations.



# Boundary and Designation Proposals

The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 requires the National Park Service to consider potential boundary modifications in GMPs. Park boundaries are often drawn to reflect practical considerations at one point in time and do not necessarily reflect natural features, administrative considerations, or changing land uses. Under the NPS *Management Policies*, boundary adjustments may be recommended to protect significant resources and values, enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes, address operational and management issues, or otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes.

Potential boundary adjustments must also be feasible to administer, considering size, configuration, ownership, costs, and other factors. Other alternatives for management and resource protection must have been assessed and judged to be not adequate.

## Boundary Adjustment Under Consideration

The monument is considering a small boundary adjustment to encompass more of the primary geologic features identified in the monument’s designation (Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls). This initial idea will be further explored and detailed in the Draft GMP. Some factors to consider include:

- The primary geologic features are not completely contained within the existing monument boundaries;
- Trail management would be benefitted if the entire length of the trail between Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls was within one management jurisdiction;
- It is infeasible to realign the trail within the existing monument boundary to achieve a single jurisdiction, and;
- Adjusting the boundary would likely require an act of Congress.

## Additional Recommendations for the Watershed

*Joint Special Designation for the Watershed, such as National Monument*

Through this planning process, the two agencies are exploring additional designation recommendations for the watershed that highlight the nationally significant resources in the area and visitor opportunities for the public, and institutionalize cooperative management of the watershed.

- The area is nationally significant enough to have a larger designation in the federal family, such as National Monument, with institutionalized/legislated cooperative management of the area between the NPS and USFS.
- No changes to individual jurisdictions, range of activities, or what is permitted on each agency’s lands are being considered.
- Additional designation would allow a greater ability to use a larger suite of authorities between the two agencies to manage the area.
- Designation would demonstrate landscape-scale management and cooperation across agency boundaries for enhanced stewardship of a significant resource.
- The ability to provide a cohesive visitor experience would be enhanced.



The Minarets, Inyo National Forest

# Wild and Scenic River Eligibility

The Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Act requires federal agencies to evaluate a river’s eligibility for inclusion in the WSR system as part of their land management planning processes. The GMP/EIS provides an opportunity to efficiently evaluate rivers within the planning process. The NPS, in coordination with the Inyo National Forest, is evaluating the Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River, updating a previous eligibility study conducted in 1991 that found the river segments contained in the GMP planning area to be eligible for wild and scenic river status.

The Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River was found to be eligible for inclusion in the WSR system as it meets the free-flow requirement and possesses a number of outstandingly remarkable values as described below. Four segments were classified as recreational, scenic, or wild as required under the WSR Act. The outstandingly remarkable values below are updated descriptions of some of the values identified in the 1991 process.

## Geology

The river corridor contains several examples of exemplary geologic features, including Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls. The entire length displays a diverse set of products of very recent volcanism and glaciation, along with evidence of earlier geologic activity of the Sierra Nevada. Devils Postpile is internationally known as a rare combination of geologic features, including textbook examples of columnar jointing along with glacial polish and striations. While most Sierra Nevada waterfalls were created by glaciers, the sheer face of Rainbow Falls is due to the juxtaposition of two different volcanic rock layers.

## Scenery

Dramatic alpine scenery, including Mount Ritter, Banner Peak, and the Minarets, is an integral part of the visitor experience within the river corridor. Thousand Island Lake’s spectacular scenery, as the river’s source, was made famous by photographer Ansel Adams. Rainbow Falls and Devils Postpile are two additional features in the river corridor recognized for their outstanding scenic qualities.

## Recreation

Two nationally recognized trails, the Pacific Crest Trail and the John Muir Trail, intersect and follow the river corridor along much of its length.

## Wildlife

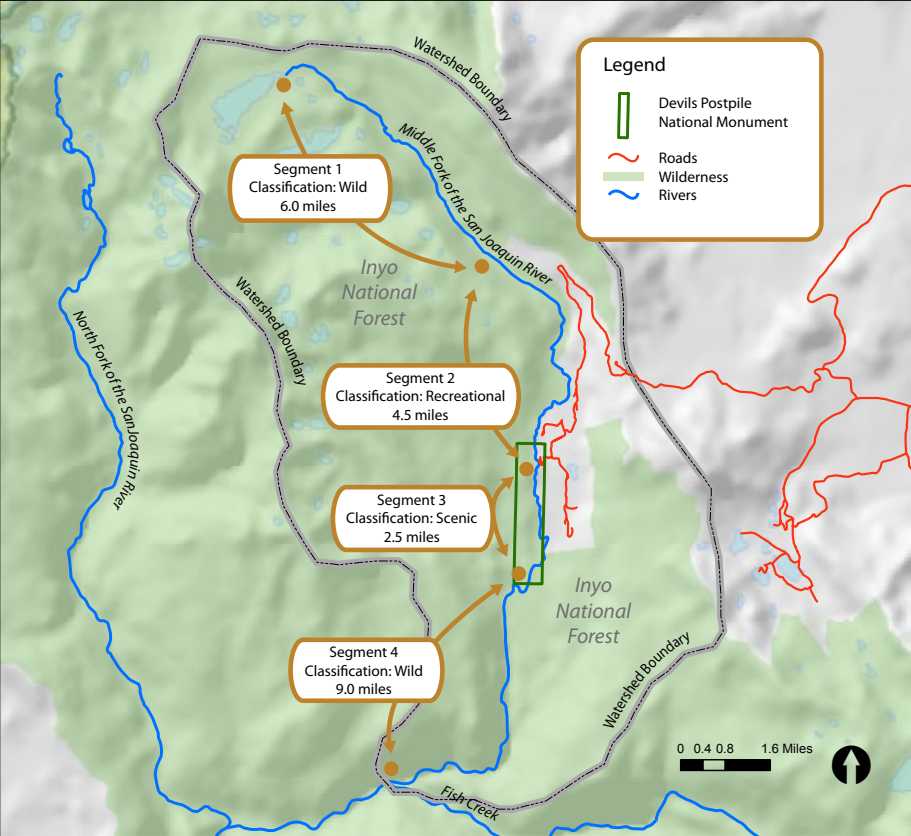
The watershed is at a convergence of south, central, and northern Sierra Nevada biogeographic regions and includes the overlapping boundaries of many species’ ranges and provides migratory corridors. This creates an unusually high level of biodiversity for the region. Also, the river corridor provides habitat for threatened and endangered species.

## NEXT STEPS: Evaluate Suitability

Suitability is based on:

- The characteristics that make the river segments worthy of designation
- The ability of NPS to manage the river segments to protect their ORVs, water-quality, and free-flow
- The compatibility of wild and scenic river designation with other potential uses of the river segments
- The public’s support for designation

## Wild and Scenic River Segments








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**Devils Postpile National Monument**  
PO Box 3999  
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**DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement  
Newsletter #3, Preliminary Alternatives, Summer 2011

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**GMP Project Web Site:**  
*For current information and to provide comments directly online:*  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/depo>

**Park Web Site:**  
*For general information about the park:* [www.nps.gov/depo](http://www.nps.gov/depo)

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Comment Form - insert

General Management Plan Schedule

Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunities
Summer 2009	<b>Conduct Public Scoping</b>  Identify goals and issues that need to be addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review newsletter</li><li>Send us your ideas and concerns using the response form</li><li>Participate in public workshops and voice your ideas and concerns about the future of the monument and meet the planning team</li></ul>
2010-2011	<b>Develop Preliminary Alternatives</b>  Based on results of public scoping, develop a draft outline of different possible futures and strategies for the monument.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review preliminary alternatives comment newsletter</li><li>Send us your ideas and concerns using the response form</li><li>Participate in public workshops to learn more about the proposed draft alternatives</li></ul>
2012	<b>Prepare and Distribute Draft GMP/EIS</b>  Revise alternatives based on comments. Prepare and distribute a Draft GMP/EIS, including identification of a preferred alternative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review Draft GMP/EIS or summary newsletter</li><li>Send us your written comments on the Draft GMP/EIS</li><li>Participate in public workshops and voice your ideas and concerns</li></ul>
2013	<b>Revise Draft GMP/EIS and Prepare and Distribute Final GMP/EIS</b>  Revise and update the Draft GMP/EIS based on comments and prepare and distribute Final GMP/EIS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review the Final GMP/EIS.</li><li>Work with the monument to implement the plan</li></ul>

We are currently at this step

