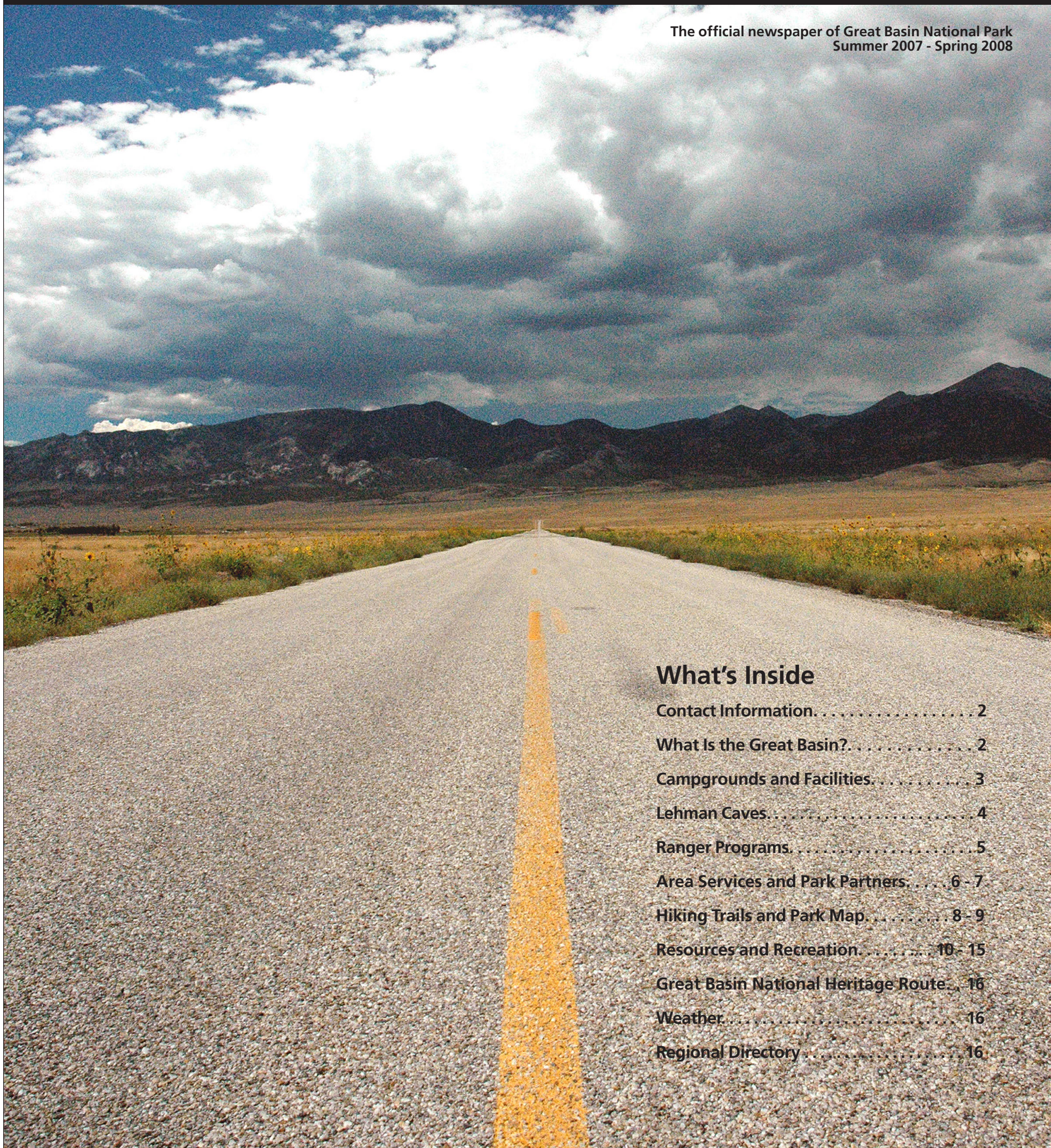


The Bristlecone

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The official newspaper of Great Basin National Park
Summer 2007 - Spring 2008



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Great Basin National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Fax Number
(775) 234-7269

Lehman Caves Advance Ticket Sales
(775) 234-7331 ext. 242

For Employment with the National Park Service or other federal agencies, log on to www.usajobs.opm.gov.

Note:
Cell phone reception is not reliable in the park and surrounding areas.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

What Is The Great Basin?

Defining the Great Basin begins with a choice: are you looking at the way the water flows (hydrographic), the way the landscape formed (geologic), or the resident plants and animals (biologic)? Each of these definitions will give you a slightly different geographic boundary of the Great Basin, but the hydrographic definition is the most commonly used.

The Hydrographic Great Basin is a 200,000 square mile area that drains internally. All precipitation in the region evaporates, sinks underground or flows into lakes (mostly saline). Creeks, streams, or rivers find no outlet to either the Gulf of Mexico or the Pacific Ocean. The region is bounded by the Wasatch Mountains to the east, the Sierra Nevada to the west, and the Snake River plain to the north. The south rim is less distinct. The Great Basin includes most of Nevada, half of Utah, and sections of Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and California. The term “Great Basin” is slightly misleading; the region is actually made up of many small basins. The Great Salt Lake, Pyramid Lake, and the Humboldt Sink are a few of the “drains” in the Great Basin.

The **Basin and Range** region is the product of geological forces stretching the earth’s crust, creating many north-south trending mountain ranges. These ranges are separated by flat valleys or basins. Across the region are “ranges [that] come in waves, range after range after north-south range, consistently in rhythm with wide flat valleys; basin, range, basin, range; a mile of height between basin and range” (John McPhee, *Basin and Range*). These hundreds of ranges make Nevada the most mountainous state in the country.

The **Great Basin Desert** is defined by plant and animal communities. The climate is affected by the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains. It is a temperate desert with hot, dry summers and



snowy winters. The valleys are dominated by sagebrush and shadscale. The biologic communities on the mountain ranges differ with elevation, and the individual ranges act as islands isolated by seas of desert vegetation. Because the Great Basin exhibits such drastic elevation changes from its valleys to its peaks, the region supports an impressive diversity of species, from those adapted to the desert to those adapted to forest and alpine environments.

At first glance, the Great Basin appears to be a desolate landscape not worthy of exploration, but nothing could be further from the truth. The rich diversity of this region may be subtle, but from the sagebrush to the mountain tops there are a thousand secrets to discover.

Welcome to Great Basin National Park!



The Great Basin is a spectacular example of America’s vastness and spirit. Great Basin National Park preserves a small representative piece of this region and is a place you can experience the fascinating resources of this vast area. The park provides an abundance of natural features and history for all to enjoy. From the depths of Lehman Caves to the 13,063 foot height of Wheeler Peak, from the natural landscape that includes ancient bristlecone pines, streams, lakes, and majestic mountain ranges to the abundant wildlife including pronghorn, badgers, mule deer, coyotes, and eagles, Great Basin National Park is yours to discover.

Park Facilities

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

The Lehman Caves Visitor Center is located at the end of the main park entrance road. The visitor center contains exhibits, a bookstore, and a theater featuring a video about Lehman Caves and the park. The visitor center and Lehman Caves are open every day of the year except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Lehman Caves Gift and Cafe (open April -October) is located adjacent to the visitor center. The self-guided *Mountain View Nature Trail* begins at the visitor center. Restrooms, drinking water, and a pay phone are also available. *Open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Pacific time), with extended hours in the summer.*

Great Basin Visitor Center

The new Great Basin Visitor Center, located just north of the town of Baker, opened in May 2005. This new center allows visitors to obtain information on the park and the Great Basin region. The Great Basin Visitor Center houses a bookstore, exhibit hall, and mini-theater. This summer and fall, exhibits on loan from the Nevada Humanities will occupy the exhibit hall. Photographs donated by regional and local artists are also on display. The visitor center is open every day of the year except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Restrooms and drinking water are also available. *Open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Pacific time), with extended hours in the summer.*

Picnic Areas

The park has several developed picnic areas. The first is located near the Lehman Caves Visitor Center parking lot. It has several accessible tables and fire grills. Restrooms and water are available in the summer. This area is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Summer hours may be extended. Upper Lehman Creek Campground has several picnicking possibilities, including an area near the host site, tables near the amphitheater, and a group picnic area available by reservation. The newest park picnic area and restroom facilities are located at the Pole Canyon trailhead.

RV Dump Station

The RV dump station, potable water, and trash receptacles are located approximately one half mile inside the park on the entrance road (Hwy 488). *Summer only; \$5.00 fee applies, no discounts.*

Campgrounds

Great Basin National Park has four developed campgrounds with vault toilets, picnic tables, tent pads, and campfire grills. Only a few campsites can accommodate long trailers or RVs. There are no hookups or leveled parking sites. *Only Lower Lehman Creek Campground is open year-round.* Water is available in the summer at the campgrounds, or year-round at the visitor centers.

All campsites are first-come, first-served. **No advance reservations can be made.** Campsites may not be "saved" or reserved for members of a party arriving later. Up to two vehicles, three tents, and eight people are allowed per campsite. Campgrounds fill often during summer months, especially on weekends and holidays. Visitors are advised to find a campsite early in the day.

The **Grey Cliffs Group Campground** is open to groups only and is available from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It has pit toilets and picnic tables but **no potable water**. Fees apply. Reservations are required: (775) 234-7331, ext. 213.

Free primitive camping facilities are available along Snake Creek and Strawberry Creek roads. All sites have fire grates. Snake Creek sites have picnic tables; some also have pit toilets. Camping is usually available at the park's primitive sites or on neighboring public lands.

Campground regulations are posted on the campground bulletin boards. Visitors are responsible for knowing and following all regulations including the following:

- * **Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.**
- * **Generators can be used from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. only.**
- * **Camps must be kept clean. Collect all waste water and dispose in campground toilets or at the RV dump station. Pick up all trash.**
- * **Bathing and washing dishes, utensils, or clothing at water spigots is prohibited.**
- * **Pets must be kept on a leash (not longer than 6 feet) and under physical control at all times. Pets are not allowed on trails. Leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object is prohibited.**
- * **Build fires only in park provided metal rings and extinguish completely when not attended.**
- * **Only dead wood on the ground can be used as fuel for campfires.**
- * **Chainsaws are prohibited.**

Campgrounds		Nightly Fees:		Per Site (regular fee): \$12.00 Golden Age or Golden Access: \$6.00			
	Elevation	Sites	Accessible Sites	Pull-through Sites	Usually Open	Distance from Visitor Center	Comments
Lower Lehman Creek	7,300 feet (2,200 m)	11	1	6	year-round	2.5 miles (4.0 km)	Nearest campground host is at Upper Lehman Creek campground.
Upper Lehman Creek	7,752 feet (2,362 m)	22	1	0	May - October	3.5 miles (5.6 km)	Group picnic area available by reservation. Campground host: Site 1
Baker Creek	7,530 feet (2,295 m)	34	2	6	May - October	3.5 miles (5.6 km)	Access is via a graded gravel road. Campground host: Site 8
Wheeler Peak	9,886 feet (3,013 m)	37	1	0	June - September	12.0 miles (19.0 km)	Access is via the narrow, curvy Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Vehicles longer than 24 feet are not recommended. Campground host: Site 1

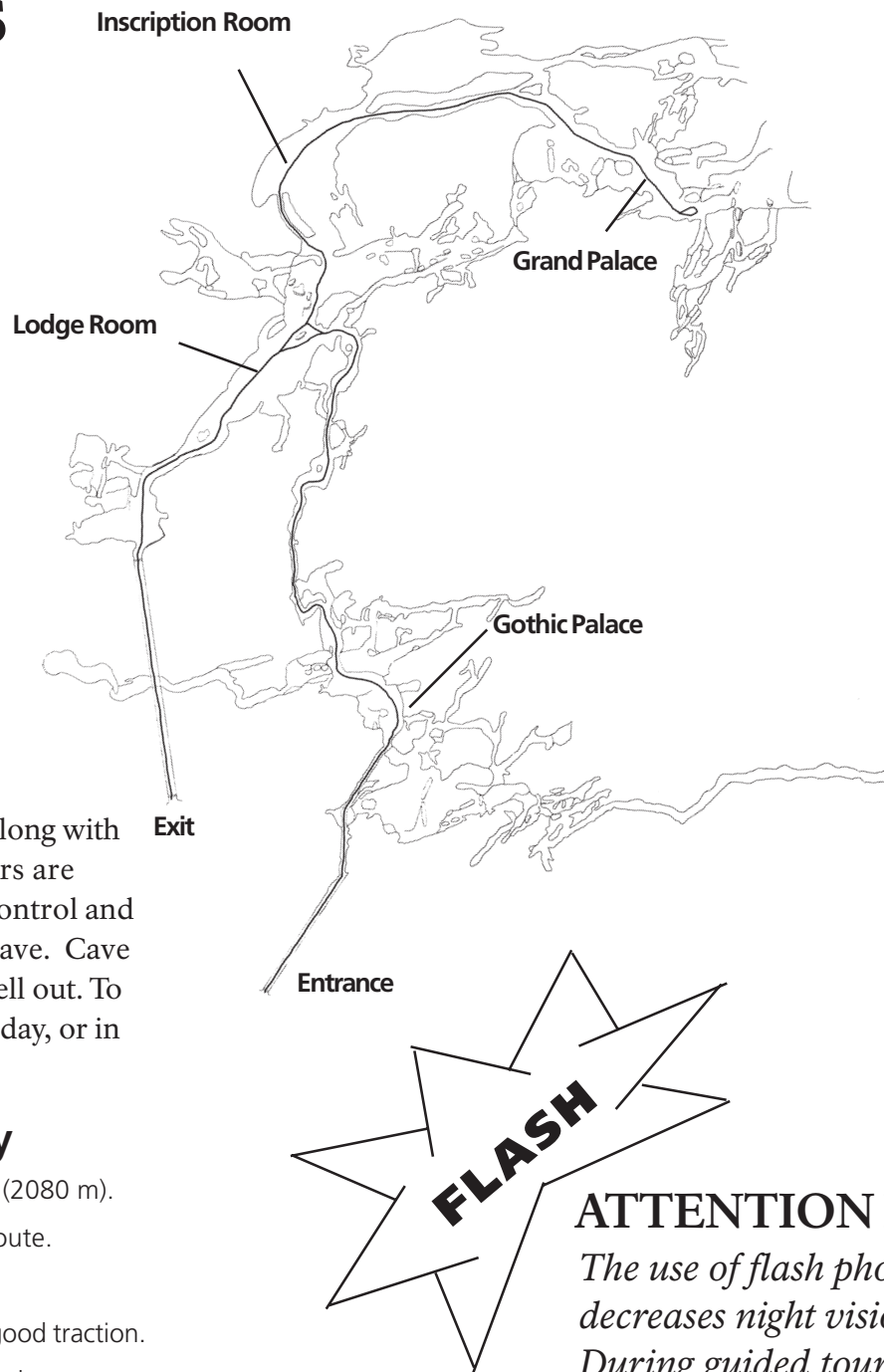
Lehman Caves

Tour Information

Lehman Caves can only be entered with a guided tour. Along the tour route in Lehman Caves are stalactites, stalagmites, draperies, helictites, shields, and more. All tours are guided by a park ranger who will discuss the history and geology of the cave. Cave tours are 60 or 90 minutes long. The 90-minute tour visits as far as the Grand Palace and is 0.54 miles total; the 60-minute tour visits as far as the Lodge Room. *Children under 5 years of age are not permitted on the 90-minute tour.* A First Room Tour is available for those unable to negotiate the stairs and narrow passageways. Regrettably, Lehman Caves is not ADA accessible. The entrance tunnel is 250 feet long with grades ranging from 5% to 8%; wheelchairs are permitted if members of your party can control and push your chair both into and out of the cave. Cave tours are limited to 25 persons and often sell out. To ensure space, buy your tickets early in the day, or in advance by telephone.

For Your Comfort and Safety

The elevation of the cave entrance is 6,825 feet (2080 m). There are steps and slopes along the cave tour route. Low ceilings may require frequent stooping. Trails may be wet and slippery. Wear shoes with good traction. Watch your step and use handrails where provided. Stay with your tour; rangers turn off lights as rooms are exited. The cave is a constant 50° F (10° C) and 90% humidity. A light jacket is recommended.



Advance Ticket Sales

During summer months, Lehman Caves tours may sell out. To ensure a space, visitors may purchase tickets up to one month in advance. *Tickets cannot be purchased over the phone on the day of the tour.* A maximum of 12 out of the total 25 spaces per tour are available for advance sale.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center or by phone at (775) 234-7331, ext. 242. All tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase. Major credit cards are accepted for phone orders. Phone orders are taken from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday. All advance sales are final; please plan carefully.

Advance tickets must be picked up at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center **at least 15 minutes prior to tour time.** Unclaimed tickets will go on sale to walk-in customers. Golden Age and Golden Access cards must be presented to be eligible for a discount. Unclaimed tickets will not be refunded.

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The use of flash photography in Lehman Caves decreases night vision and disorients other visitors. During guided tours, rangers will inform you when and where photography is appropriate. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Lehman Caves Tour Prices

	90 Minute Tour	60 Minute Tour	Park Recreation Fees at Work
Adult 16 & Older	\$10.00	\$8.00	The fees paid by visitors to Great Basin National Park for camping and for ranger-guided cave tours are used to fund many important park projects and services. The fees you pay at Great Basin National Park are returned to the park and have been used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Install new restrooms at trailheads and campgrounds * Produce free interpretive bulletins about park features * Improve trailheads with new information signs and maps * Install the accessible Forest Island Self-guided Nature Trail * Purchase equipment for recycling
Youth 5 - 15 Years Old	\$5.00	\$4.00	
Infants & Toddlers 0 - 4 Years Old	N/A*	Free	
Golden Age cardholder only	\$5.00	\$4.00	
Golden Access cardholder only	50%	50%	

* Children younger than 5 years old are not permitted on the 90 minute tour.

For the Cave

The Lehman Caves ecosystem is easily affected by our presence and actions. Please help us in our effort to maintain its integrity by following these important regulations:

You may bring a jacket, a hand-held camera, and a flashlight into the cave. All other items, including food, water or other beverages, purses, backpacks, camera cases, and tripods are not allowed. Touching or collecting of cave formations is strictly prohibited.

Walks & Talks

Evening Programs

Campfire programs are offered in the summer at Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds. Programs are 45-60 minutes long and address subjects related to the Great Basin's cultural and natural resources. The schedule of program topics for each week is posted at the visitor centers and in the park campgrounds. Come prepared with warm clothing and a lantern or flashlight. Pets are not permitted at the evening programs. Evening programs are scheduled **daily May 25 through September 2, 2007** at the Upper Lehman Creek Campground. Additional evening programs are presented at the Wheeler Peak Campground on **Fridays and Saturdays from June 29 through September 1, 2007**. Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. May 25-July 28 and 7:00 p.m. July 29 - September 2. All times are Pacific Daylight Time. Programs are weather dependent.

The Darkest Night Skies

Two-thirds of Americans cannot see the Milky Way from their backyards, and nearly all of us (99%) live in places with measurable light pollution. Here at Great Basin National Park, our night skies are dark- among the darkest in the country, even among other national parks. Join a ranger and amateur astronomers for a celebration of this rare and valuable resource. In this sanctuary of natural darkness you can see stars like few places on Earth! Special stargazing events are scheduled throughout the summer. Check at a park visitor center for dates, times, and location.



Some bristlecone pines in the Wheeler Peak grove are over 4,000 years old.

Bristlecone Interpretive Trail

This trail (1.4 miles one-way with a 600 foot elevation gain) is the best place in the park to see bristlecone pines, many of which are 3,000 - 4,000 years old! At the grove, a series of interpretive panels describes the ecology of these hardy survivors. From the grove, you may continue on to the glacier, hike the Alpine Lakes Loop Trail, or return the 1.4 miles to the parking lot (see trail information on page 8). On many summer days, a Park Ranger will be roving the Bristlecone Trail and will be happy to stop and chat. Be advised that this trail is at high elevation. Bring water and snacks, and be prepared for inclement weather. The trailhead is located at the terminus of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive.

Program Schedule: Friday, May 25, 2007 - Monday, September 3, 2007

	8:30	9:00	10:30	11:00	12:30	1:00	2:30	3:00	4:00
90 Minute Cave Tour		Daily		Daily		Daily		Daily	
60 Minute Cave Tour	Daily		Daily		Daily		Daily		Daily
Upper Lehman Evening Program: Daily 5/25-7/28 starting at 7:30 p.m.; 7/29 - 9/2 starting at 7:00 p.m.									
Wheeler Peak Evening Program: Fridays and Saturdays 6/29-7/28 starting at 7:30 p.m.; 8/3 - 9/1 starting at 7:00 p.m.									

Program Schedule: Tuesday, September 4, 2007 - Thursday, May 22, 2008

	9:00	11:00	1:00	3:00
90 Minute Cave Tour	Daily		Daily	
60 Minute Cave Tour		Daily		Daily

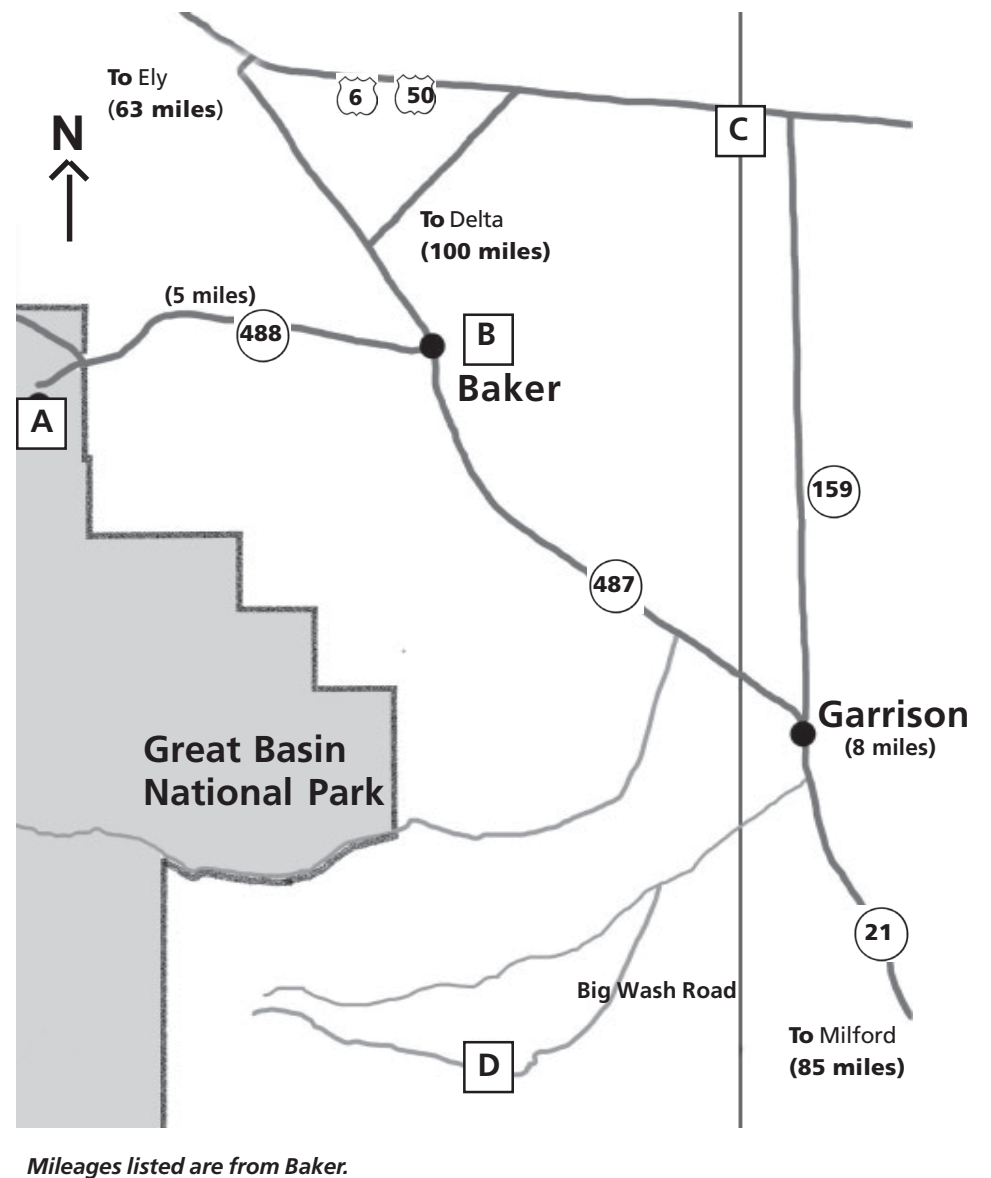
Purchase your **America the Beautiful** pass at Great Basin National Park and receive a **FREE CAVE TOUR!**

The America the Beautiful interagency pass covers entrance fees at all National Park Service sites and other federal recreation sites for 12 calendar months. Buy your \$80 America the Beautiful pass at Great Basin National Park and you receive one free cave tour - up to a \$10.00 value! Talk to a ranger at a visitor center for details.

Area Services

- Convenience store
- Fuel
- Gift shop
- Laundry facilities
- Lodging
- Public showers
- Restaurant
- RV facilities

- A** **Lehman Caves Visitor Center & WNPA Bookstore**
- Lehman Caves Gift and Cafe**
- B** **Great Basin Visitor Center & WNPA Bookstore**
- Baker Ranch Service Station**
- Ferg's Firewood**
- Getaway Cabin**
- Great Basin Art & Antiques & End of the Trail...er**
- Happy Burro Tradin' Post**
- Silver Jack Inn & Lectrolux Cafe**
- T&D's Store, Restaurant & Lounge**
- Whispering Elms Campground**
- C** **Border Inn**
- D** **Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch**



Mileages listed are from Baker.

To learn more about local services, visit www.greatbasinpark.com.

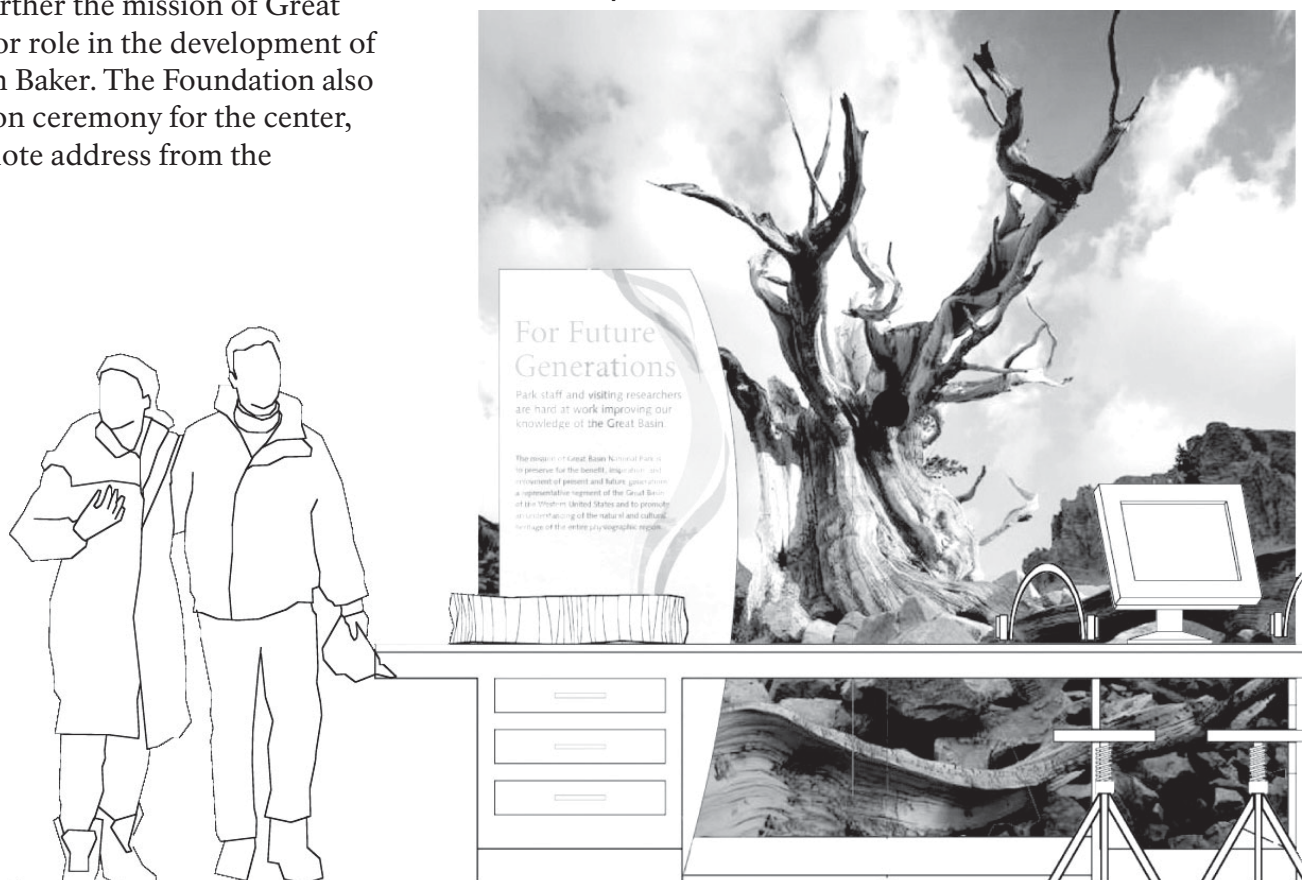
The Great Basin National Park Foundation

The Great Basin National Park Foundation was formed and incorporated in 1998 to promote and financially support projects that further the mission of Great Basin National Park. The Foundation played a major role in the development of the new Great Basin Visitor and Resource Center in Baker. The Foundation also provided assistance in the planning of the dedication ceremony for the center, which was held in July of 2005 and included a keynote address from the Honorable Senator Harry Reid.

Currently, the Foundation is completing a successful campaign to raise the funds for the construction of exhibits for the new center. The exhibits will give rich interpretation of the Great Basin region, with specific sections dedicated to geology, ecology, night skies, Great Basin cultures, and the management and preservation of park resources. Design of the exhibits was completed in January of 2007, and the first phase of the exhibits will be installed in the fall of 2007. A topographic relief map utilizing satellite photography has already been installed.

To learn more about the Foundation and how you can help Great Basin National Park, please visit the Foundation's website:
www.greatbasinfoundation.org

The first phase of exhibit construction will include a life-size bristlecone pine model located in the center of the exhibit hall.



Snake Valley Businesses

Baker Ranch Service Station

Located on HWY 487 in the town of Baker. Self-serve gas and diesel available 24 hours (credit or debit card required). Laundromat, public restrooms, public and camper's pay showers (change available at Silver Jack Inn).

The Border Inn

24 hour service. Motel (recently upgraded rooms with satellite TV and some with kitchenettes), restaurant, bar, slots, pool table, video games, showers, gas, diesel, phones, laundry, and souvenirs. Also convenience store and ice. 22 RV spots- full hookups and pull-through spaces. Located on the Utah-Nevada state line on Highway 6 & 50. 13 miles from the park. **(775) 234-7300.**

D Bar X Lighting & Horns-A-Plenty

Local master craftsman, featuring unique antler chandeliers and other antler art. Also creating wagon wheel chandeliers, sconces, and tables; lamp shades; and shed antler mounts. See all products on-line at www.horns-a-plenty.com or call for a free catalog: **(800) 467-6599.**

"End of the Trail...er"

Baker's original bed-and-fix-your-own-breakfast features two bedrooms (one Queen, one Twin), a kitchenette with breakfast "fixings" already in your refrigerator, a private deck with a great view of the Snake Range and Great Basin National Park, TV, telephone, and wireless internet. Quiet, clean, and comfy! Open May through October. No smoking, no pets. Ask about discount rates. www.Outside-Art.com/EOT.html. **(775) 234-7206.**

Ferg's Firewood

Campfire wood- \$5.00 per large bundle. Self-serve, 24-hour availability. Two locations in Baker- follow the signs. Proceeds go to a local, hard working student's college fund.

The Getaway Cabin

Tired of motels? How about privacy in a clean, comfortable cabin located in the town of Baker. Room for the whole family. Satellite color TV, fully equipped kitchen, fenced yard with picnic area and barbecue. Small pets OK. **(775) 234-7272.**

Great Basin Art & Antiques

Featuring art and artists of the Great Basin. Pottery, watercolors, mixed media, photography, horsehair art and much more by local artists. Located on the outskirts of Baker. Just south of the gas station, turn west on Eureka and follow the rainbow flags. We're an easy walk from downtown Baker. Stop by! Open May - October 10 AM to 7 PM, closed Tuesdays. www.Outside-Art.com. **(775) 234-7106.**

Happy Burro Trad'n Post

After retiring from Happy Burro Stores in Idaho City, ID and Winnemucca, NV, Jack and Ruth McCune purchased a building in Baker, NV at the corner of Elko and Main Street. Featuring American Indian jewelry, arts and crafts, Black Hills gold and silver and souvenirs. We also have knives, moccasins and belts. Come see us. Open May-Sept. **(775) 234-7115.**

Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch

Bed and Breakfast in luxury lodge, or camping in teepees or cabins. Full meal packages available by reservation only. Pheasant hunting packages. Campsites, hot showers, recreation area, children's playground, heated pool, trout fishing, hiking, farm animals. Relaxing environment by running water. Great for retreats or reunions. 14 miles from Baker, in the mountains at the eastern edge of the park, with private access to Big Wash Trail. Open year-round. Reservations required. Hidden Canyon Ranch, P.O. Box 180, Baker, NV 89311. www.hiddencanyonranch-nv.com. **(775) 234-7172.**

Lectrolux Café, Bakery, Deli Urban Groceries, Picnic Stuff, Espresso, Wine & Spirits Bars

Groceries include Beef Steaks and Wild Salmon Steaks. Patio dining for breakfast-lunch-dinner Thurs-Sun, breakfast and dinner only Mon-Wed., Happy Hour every Friday 4-7 pm \$2.50 Microbrews, \$2 Buds. Movies - Wed & Sat nights 7:30. Open May - October. 10% off all eat-in food by mentioning this ad. tmarasco@sbcglobal.net. **(775) 234-7323.**

Lehman Caves Gift & Cafe

The Park's Cafe and Gift Shop Concession is located adjacent to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Famous for their homemade ice cream sandwiches, the cafe also serves breakfast, lunch, snacks, hand dipped ice cream cones, malts, shakes, frozen treats, and home-baked desserts. The gift shop has Great Basin and Lehman Caves souvenirs, apparel, cards, mugs, books, plush animals, toys and games, pottery, wood and metal arts, jewelry, local and Great Basin crafts, camping and travel items, and bagged ice. Open April through October. **(775) 234-7221.**

Silver Jack Inn

7 cozy Inn rooms, 3 Efficiencies, and 5 RV spaces. Cafe with patio dining for breakfast-lunch-dinner(6:30am - 9pm). Also sports equipment rentals (Mtn. bikes, snow shoes, X-C skis). tmarasco@sbcglobal.net. Open April - November. **(775) 234-7323.** www.silverjackinn.com

T&D's Country Store, Restaurant, and Lounge

We have been in business over 17 years. Our store carries a large supply of groceries, packaged liquor, ice, fishing tackle, some camping supplies, and NV fishing/hunting licenses. Restaurant summer schedule: Breakfast Sat-Sun, Lunch and dinner 7 days/week. Sunroom dining + covered patio with fireplace. Well known for our pizza, but have a large variety of delicious Italian, Mexican, American, and Vegetarian dishes at affordable prices. Lounge is a full-service bar with pool table and surround-sound system. Open year round. Ask at a park visitor center for winter hours. Located in downtown Baker. **(775) 234-7264.**

Whispering Elms Motel, Campground & RV Park

Six miles from Great Basin National Park, located in beautiful Baker, NV. Offering 25 full-service RV sites, 6 clean motel rooms, large grassy areas for tents, many shade trees, coin laundromat, and clean showers. Summer only. **(775) 234-9900.**

WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

Established in 1938, WNPA operates bookstores at sixty-five National Park Service sites throughout the western United States, with a mission of promoting the preservation of the national park system and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation, and research. WNPA has contributed more than \$37 million to the park service, generated through store sales and member support. WNPA supports parks by producing more than a half million free interpretive items every year, such as brochures and this *Bristlecone* newspaper.

Currently, the association has more than 200 publications in print, and many new publications are introduced every year, such as the new book on Great Basin National Park scheduled to be published this year. A catalog of these WNPA publications and hundreds of additional educational products, on a variety of subjects such as national parks, biology, geology, archeology, history, cooking, and children's interests is available in the Great Basin National Park visitor center bookstores. You can find those titles not immediately available in the bookstores online at www.wnpa.org.

WNPA supports Great Basin National Park in many ways, such as funding supplies, the park's Junior Ranger program, and the annual Christmas Bird Count.

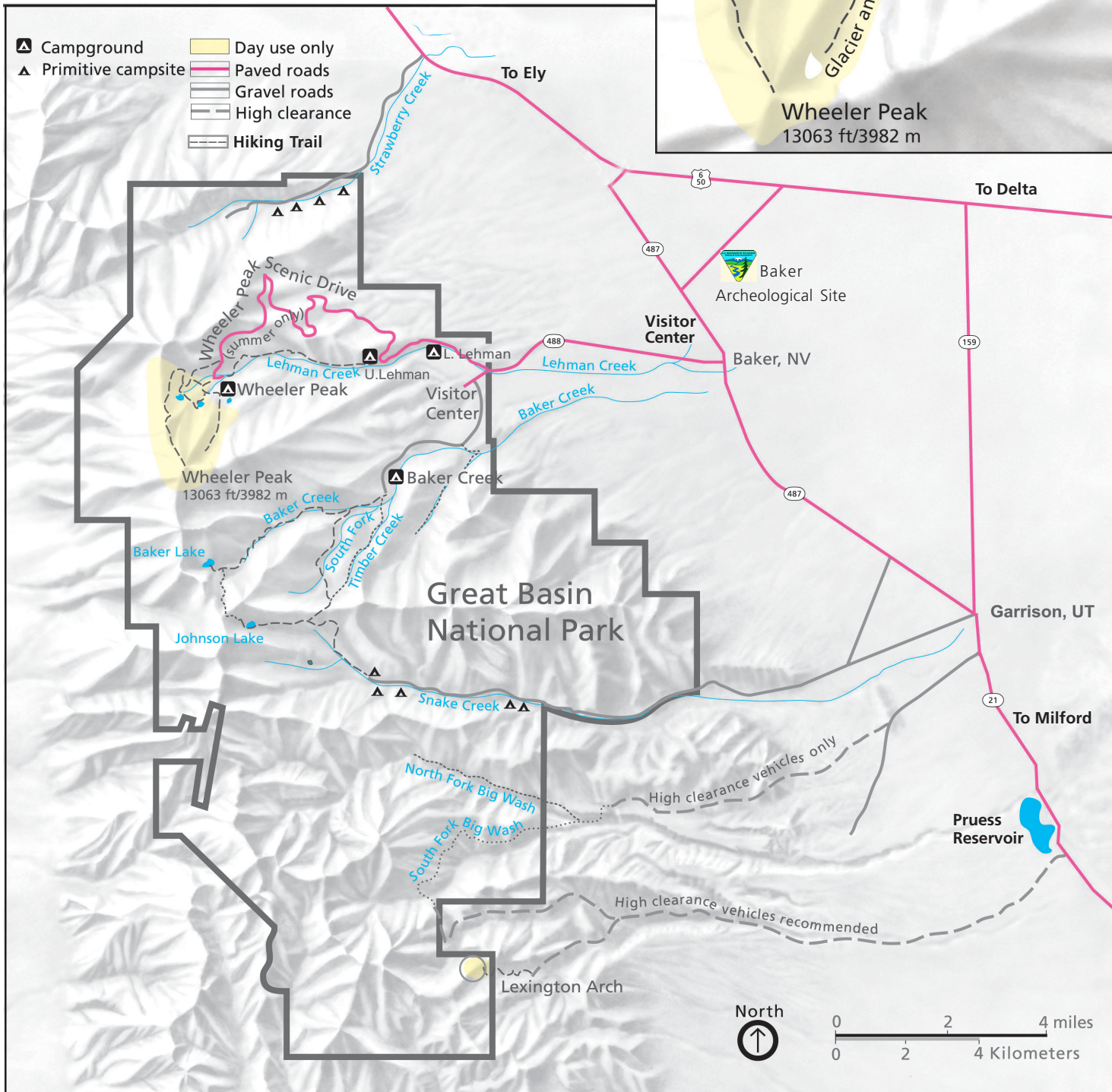
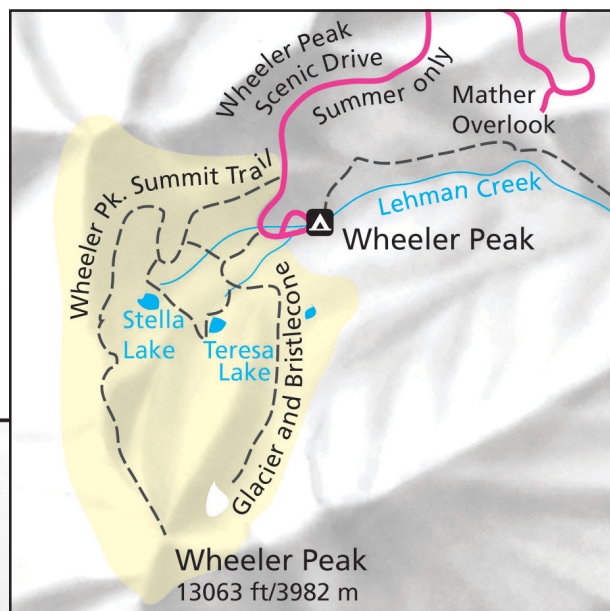
Hiking Information

	Round-trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
Mountain View Nature Trail	0.3 miles (0.4 km)	80 feet (25 m)	6,825 feet (2,080 m)	This is a leisurely walk in the pinyon-juniper forest. The trail guide (available for loan at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center desk) describes the geology and ecology of the area. The trail starts at the Rhodes Cabin next to the LCVC.
Lehman Creek Trail	6.8 miles (11 km)	2,050 feet (620 m)	7,750 feet (2,360 m)	This trail can be accessed from trailheads in both the Wheeler Peak and Upper Lehman Creek Campgrounds. It passes through diverse habitats, paralleling a creek for parts of the trail. <i>Flagged for winter use.</i>
Osceola Ditch Trail	9.6 miles (16.0 km)	445 feet (drop) (136 m)	8,565 feet (2,635 m)	Begin at the signed pullout on the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Walk down slope through ponderosa pine, white fir and Douglas fir trees to the remnant of an 18 mile long channel built by gold miners in the 1880's. The trail follows the old ditch towards Strawberry Creek.
Wheeler Peak Trail	8.2 miles (13 km)	2,900 feet (890 m)	10,160 feet (3,100 m)	This hike should be started very early in the day because of the risk of afternoon thunderstorms. Along most of the route, the trail follows the ridge up to the Wheeler Peak summit. It is easiest to begin the hike from the Summit Trail parking area. Day use only.
Alpine Lakes Loop Trail	2.7 miles (4.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	The trail passes two beautiful alpine lakes, Stella and Teresa Lakes. There are good views of Wheeler Peak. Begin at the Bristlecone Trail parking area, near the Wheeler Peak Campground. Day use only.
Bristlecone Trail	2.8 miles (4.6 km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	Interpretive signs in the bristlecone pine grove explain the lives and significance of these ancient trees. The Glacier Trail continues beyond the bristlecone pine grove to the only glacier in Nevada, nestled beneath Wheeler Peak. Day use only.
Glacier and Bristlecone Trail	4.6 miles (7.4 km)	1,100 feet (340 m)		
Pole Canyon Trail	4 miles (6.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	7,000 feet (2,150 m)	This hike starts east of the Grey Cliffs Campground area and crosses a small bridge. Once a road, this primitive trail passes through different forest communities, along the creekbed, and into several small meadows. If you are looking for a longer, more strenuous hike, ask a ranger how to connect to the Timber Creek Trail.
Baker Lake Trail	12.0 miles (19.4 km)	2,620 feet (800 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	The trail begins at the end of the Baker Creek Road. It offers nice views of the surrounding peaks and ends at Baker Lake, an alpine lake with beautiful cliffs behind it. Just over a mile up the trail is the cut-off for the loop trail. Pass through ponderosa pines and a beautiful meadow, then return via the South Fork Baker Creek trail.
Baker Creek Loop	3.1 miles (5 km)	870 feet (270 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	
South Fork Baker Creek/ Johnson Lake	11.2 miles (18.2 km)	2,740 feet (840 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	This trail also begins from the Baker Creek Road and follows the South Fork of Baker Creek. It then joins with the Johnson Lake Trail, passing historic Johnson Lake Mine structures just before reaching the lake.
Johnson Lake Trail (from Snake Creek)	7.4 miles (11.8 km)	2,420 feet (740 m)	8,320 feet (2,540 m)	Johnson Lake can also be reached by starting at the end of Snake Creek Road. This shorter, steeper route offers nice views of the Snake Creek drainage before reaching the historic Johnson Mill and Johnson Lake. Warning: do not enter any mine structures!
Baker Lake/ Johnson Lake Loop	13.1 miles (21.1 km)	3,290 feet (1010 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	The Baker Lake and Johnson Lake Trails can be combined into a loop hike. This makes a good overnight trip. The connecting section is a steep route over the ridge between Baker and Johnson Lakes. The ridge top offers spectacular views in all directions. <i>Caution: this trail is very steep and prone to avalanches in winter. Route finding can be difficult.</i>
Lexington Arch Trail	3.4 miles (5.5 km)	820 feet (250 m)	7,440 feet (2,270 m)	This trail leads to a six-story limestone arch. The trail has steep sections. The trailhead is outside of the park, about 25 miles (48 km) south of Baker. The road is unpaved. Check at a park visitor center for road conditions. Dogs on leash are permitted. Day use only.

Park Map

Finding Your Way

The maps shown here are meant as orientation maps and should not be used in place of trail maps or topographic maps. If you are planning on hiking, especially in the more remote areas, please purchase a topographic map at a park visitor center. Many trails in the park are primitive, making route finding difficult. It is a good idea to carry a compass and have basic orienteering skills before heading into the backcountry. The bookstores sell 7.5 minute topographic maps and trail maps, as well as books detailing the trails and routes in Great Basin National Park.



Park Road Access

Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive is paved, but steep and winding. Vehicles over 24 feet in length are not recommended beyond Upper Lehman Creek Campground. The scenic drive is open three miles to Upper Lehman Campground year-round. The upper nine miles of the road are generally open June through October, weather dependent.

Baker Creek Road is a graded gravel road and is generally open May through November, weather dependent.

Remote park roads (Strawberry, Snake, Lexington) are open year-round, but can be muddy or snowy in the winter and spring. High clearance vehicles are recommended for these rough dirt roads. Please drive slowly; speeding is the most common cause of accidents on these roads!

Travel distances from Baker: Ely, NV: 63 miles west; Delta, UT: 100 miles east; Milford, UT: 85 miles south-east.

Recreation Hazards

Altitude Sickness is a condition brought on by high elevations often in conjunction with strenuous activity. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, nausea, incoherent speech, and headache. The cure is to descend immediately. Altitude sickness can be life threatening. To avoid altitude sickness, ascend slowly, eat lightly and frequently, and drink plenty of water.

Hypothermia is a serious, sometimes fatal, condition in which a person's body temperature is lowered. It can occur at temperatures well above freezing. Avoid hypothermia by wearing appropriate, layered clothing. Do not wear cotton clothing as it is very cold when wet. Carry extra clothes, drink plenty of fluids, eat high energy foods, and stay dry. Signs of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering and slurred speech. Drowsiness, lack of interest, and incoherent speech follow. If someone shows signs of hypothermia, warm the individual slowly, replace wet clothes with dry ones and give the person warm liquids without caffeine.

Drinking Water is essential; it is easy to become dehydrated when hiking in the dry desert air. Carry plenty of water and drink it! All surface water should be chemically treated, boiled, or passed through a filter capable of eliminating harmful microbes and parasites such as giardia.

Abandoned Mines are common in the park and the surrounding region. They can be extremely dangerous. Shafts and tunnels are unstable; do not enter them. Great Basin National Park is currently working to make abandoned mine lands safer.

Driving conditions in the park can be hazardous. Please obey the posted speed limits. Use lower gears on long downhill sections to prevent overheated brakes. Use of seat belts is required in both Nevada and the park. Please stop only at pullouts. Watch for wildlife and pedestrians (especially deer on the Scenic Drive and marmots on Baker Creek Road). Congestion in the visitor center parking areas can lead to accidents. Please use caution.

Cell Phones do not usually work in the park. Do not rely on them!

Hiking is a great way to explore the park as it is possible to experience true solitude. Make sure you are prepared before starting. Weather may change rapidly. Eat frequently and drink plenty of treated water. Trails are listed on page 8. Rangers can recommend other possible routes in even more remote areas of the park.

Backcountry Use

Camping is permitted in the park at least 1/4 mile from a developed site. Camping is not permitted in the Wheeler Peak and Lexington Arch Day Use Areas. Backcountry registration is not required but is free and recommended. Stop at a visitor center to register and to obtain a copy of the regulations. Registration helps provide for your safety and allows the park to monitor backcountry use. **You are responsible for knowing and following the backcountry regulations** which are posted at trailheads and available at park visitor centers.

ATV Use is not allowed in the park.

Mountain Biking is allowed only on roads (no trails) in the park. Helmets are strongly recommended. The primitive roads within the park and on adjacent U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands offer challenges for all skill levels of mountain bikers, and some can be connected into loops. For more information on possible rides, check with a ranger at a visitor center.

Pack Trips and Stock Use

Horses, mules, burros, and llamas are permitted on the backcountry trails of the park. However, some areas are closed to stock use, including paved roads, campgrounds (except primitive roadside sites along Snake and Strawberry Creeks), developed areas, interpretive trails, the Lexington Arch Trail and the Wheeler Peak Day Use Area. Be sure to picket, hobble, or graze your animals at least 100 yards from any water source. Feed animals weed-free hay for one week before trips in the park. All packed feed must also be weed-free. More information is available at the visitor centers.

Pets in the Park are allowed in the campgrounds, but they must be on a leash of not more than 6 feet at all times. Pets are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry of the park, except for the Lexington Arch Trail. Leashed pets may be exercised in the campgrounds, in front of the visitor centers, and along roads. These restrictions are intended to prevent molestation of wildlife and to provide for a better experience for other park visitors.

Smoother Roads Ahead



While road improvements are being made to the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive in July and August, visitors may expect short delays.

In 2007 Great Basin National Park plans three significant improvements in three areas of the park: Baker Creek Campground, the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive and the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.

In the Baker Creek Campground work will result in flatter, firmer campsites and better parking. This work is planned throughout the summer months, one campsite at a time. Visitors may notice some trucks hauling materials along the Baker Creek Road and in the campground throughout the summer. On a limited basis a Bobcat skid loader or a tractor/backhoe will be used to assist this work.

Significant improvements to the road surface and basic maintenance of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive are planned for mid to late summer. The majority of the work will involve placing an overlay of chip-seal along the entire route. Work will progress one lane at a time where congestion and multiple switchbacks are located, with wait times of up to 30 minutes. Be prepared

for delays and alter your speed in construction zones and areas of loose gravel. This work will also include placing a chip-seal overlay on the main park entrance road from the park boundary to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.

The Lehman Caves Visitor Center front steps will be replaced and access improved with a new ramp. Late summer or fall construction may cause detours and delays at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Alternate parking and access routes will be provided and the visitor center and cave will remain open.

These three projects will provide important improvements to the park's infrastructure. There will be better designed and safer features in Baker Creek Campground. The service life of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive and park entrance road will be extended. The new stairs and ramp will improve pedestrian access and accessibility to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center, Gift Shop and Café.

Accessibility

Both visitor centers are fully accessible to mobility impaired persons. Service dogs are allowed in Lehman Caves. Visitors who are unable to negotiate the narrow passageways beyond the Gothic Palace may join the first part of any 90-minute tour for a reduced fee.

Each campground has at least one accessible site (locations are marked on maps that are posted on campground bulletin boards) with adapted picnic tables, cement pads, and paved pathways leading to nearby restrooms. Campfire programs at Wheeler Peak

and Upper Lehman Creek Campgrounds are reached by accessible dirt paths.

A wheelchair and stroller-friendly trail is located adjacent to the Wheeler Peak Campground; it is 4/10 mile and challenge level I.

Some park publications are available in alternate formats, such as large format. Please contact the park in advance to make a request.

Frequently Asked Visitor Questions

Can I take my dog (pet) on the trail with me?

No. Pets are prohibited on trails because even the most well behaved dog can still disturb and frighten wildlife, leave behind feces containing diseases transmittable to wild animals, and make other visitors on the trail uncomfortable, detracting from their experience.

Can I ride my bicycle on park trails?

No. Under NPS regulations bicycles are classified as vehicles, so they are limited to roadways.

Why do I have to obey the speed limits?

Your safety, and the safety of wildlife and other visitors, depends on it. Roads tend to be winding, narrow, and unfamiliar to most drivers. Speed kills more wildlife in national parks than any other cause. Slowing down gives you time to respond to an unexpected curve in the road, wildlife, or visitors on foot or bicycle.

Can I pass slower vehicles on the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive?

No. The entire drive is a designated *no passing zone*. Slower vehicles should use any available pullouts to allow traffic to pass. Please do not obstruct traffic when viewing wildlife or taking pictures.

Why can't I take some rocks, a piece of bark, or a few flowers home with me?

It seems innocent enough, just one rock, just one flower, but imagine if every one of the park's 80,000 visitors did that every year. Now we're talking 80,000 rocks and 80,000 flowers removed from the environment yearly. The damage would be immense. Please leave natural objects undisturbed so the next visitor can enjoy them too.

Can I bring my firearm into the park?

Hunting, shooting, or carrying weapons is not allowed in national parks. For the safety of wildlife, visitors, and employees weapons can be transported in a vehicle if unloaded, disassembled, and out of sight. A firearm or weapon cannot be carried on your person at any time.

Can I feed the birds, deer, or other wildlife?

No. A fed animal is a dead animal. Conditioning any animal to human food ultimately leads to its removal. Remember, even small, cuddly, fuzzy animals are wild and can carry diseases like bubonic plague and rabies.

What do I do if I become ill, injured, or in need of rescue while in the park?

Be aware that cell phones are not reliable within the park. You should attempt to contact a park ranger, campground host, other park employee, or go to the nearest visitor center. Law enforcement rangers are trained in emergency medicine and search and rescue. Always use caution and common sense while recreating, as limited emergency resources are available in this remote location. The nearest medical facilities are more than an hour away in Ely, Nevada, or Delta, Utah.

What if I need assistance after hours?

Call 911. There is a pay phone at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. During the summer months, you can also attempt to contact a campground host.

Do I need a permit to camp the backcountry?

No, however voluntary backcountry registration at any visitor center is recommended. Visitors planning overnight backcountry trips during the winter months are strongly encouraged to register and to obtain information on current conditions. Both day and overnight hikers are encouraged to sign in at the trail registers.

Where can I build a fire?

In campgrounds, fires are allowed only in the established fire rings. In the backcountry, fires are allowed, except above 10,000 feet or in the designated Wheeler Peak and Lexington Arch Day Use Areas. Only dead and down (on the ground) wood can be collected for fires. When departing your backcountry campsite, please disassemble fire rings. Use of chainsaws is not permitted in the park.

Do I need a fishing license?

Yes. State fishing regulations apply, and a Nevada fishing license is required for all visitors ages 12 and older in order to fish in the park. Nevada fishing licenses are available in the town of Baker.

Please do not move fish between creeks. Whirling disease is expanding in Utah and northern Nevada, and we are trying to keep it out of the park. Thoroughly wash all waders and other gear before entering a different creek.

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace refers to a method of outdoor recreation which minimizes the impact on the land and wildlife. These techniques also leave the area more enjoyable for the next hiker. More information can be found at www.LNT.org.



Plan Ahead and Prepare

Plan ahead for your safety and enjoyment and to protect the landscape in order to have a safe, enjoyable vacation with minimal impact to the land. Always carry a map, compass, food, water, rain protection, sunscreen, sunglasses, and warm clothing when hiking.

Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces

When trail hiking, stick to the trail. Do not widen it or cut switchbacks. When hiking cross-country, pick your route to avoid impacting fragile areas, like alpine or wetland vegetation.

Dispose of Waste Properly

Bury waste in a hole 4-8 inches deep. Pick a site at least 200 feet (60 m) from water, campsites, and trails. Do not leave toilet paper on the ground; pack it out with you. Pack out all trash and litter.

Leave What You Find

Leave the areas you have used (such as campsites) looking natural. Park regulations prohibit collection of anything, including flowers, rocks, or historical and archeological artifacts. Ask a ranger about exceptions such as pinyon pine nuts and berries.

Minimize the Use and Impact of Fires

Build small fires in preexisting fire rings or use a camp stove. The park only permits the use of dead and down wood for fires. Bristlecone pine wood may not be burned. Fires are not permitted above 10,000 feet elevation (3,060 m).

Respect Wildlife

Do not approach or interfere with any wildlife.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Volunteer FOR YOUR PARK

Have you ever wanted to work
in a national park?

Great Basin National Park
can use your enthusiasm and
expertise! Volunteers may be
able to help with:

Campgrounds

**Natural & Cultural
Resource Management**

**Interpretation
& Education**

**The Park Library
& Museum**

Housing may be available,
depending on the length
and season of service.

Thank you to all the 2006
Volunteers who donated
nearly 7,000 hours to help
with campgrounds, trails,
visitor services, and resource
management projects!



**If you would like to help
YOUR NATIONAL PARK
by volunteering, call
(775) 234-7331, ext. 213.**

Springs in the Desert

Were you surprised to find that, compared to other areas in the region, water is abundant in Great Basin National Park? We owe it all to the dozens of springs welling up from within the South Snake Range: springs supplying water to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center and park campgrounds – water that in 2005 was voted the Best Tasting Water in Nevada.*

Springs are locations where underground stores of water meet the surface. This water comes primarily from snowmelt. Although Snake and Spring Valleys receive a scarce six inches of precipitation annually, the mountains receive feet of snow. This snow slowly seeps into the ground through the spring and summer, allowing the ground to “hold” the water longer than if the precipitation fell as rain. That “held” water is sometimes released via springs along the mountain slopes. Some of these springs join together to form the ten perennial streams that flow out of Great Basin National Park into the valleys below.

Following a stream downhill from the park, however, won’t lead you to a river or lake, like it would in other parts of the country. Most streams in the Great Basin disappear into the dry desert air, seep into the ground, or evaporate as they flow into the basin below. The

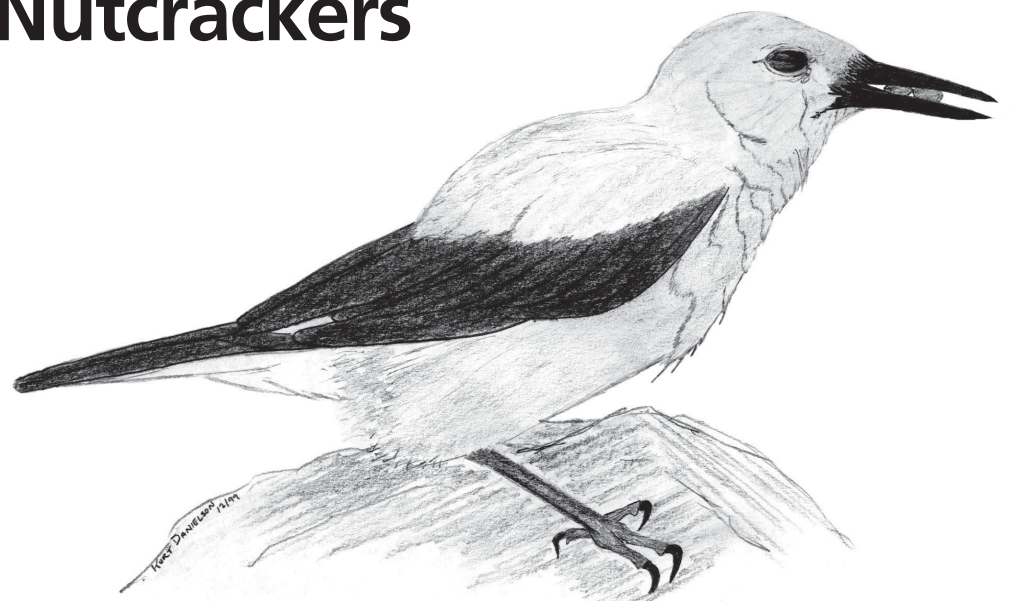
water that seeps into the ground along the way is either used by plants and animals, or stored in aquifers.

The local watershed, which encompasses all these springs and streams, is delicately balanced. If more water leaves the system than enters it, then there is a water deficit. Unfortunately, snow surveys in the South Snake Range over the past 65 years show a trend of less snowfall. This translates into less water available for springs and streams through the hot, dry summers. Insects, birds, and mammals, as well as wildflowers, trees, and shrubs dependent on these water sources could begin to disappear. Fires may burn larger and hotter, with more fuel available earlier in the season. With demands on the limited water supply both from outside the park, and within, the domino effects are incalculable, but one thing is sure: as scarce as water is in the Great Basin, every drop counts.

**Results from a 2005 survey by the Nevada Rural Water Association.*

Those Nutty Nutcrackers

You’ve heard them referred to by many different names: little magpies, camp robbers, those big gray obnoxious birds that steal the bacon off my picnic table. One gentleman even commented that he “thought somebody’s parrots had escaped”. What are they? They are one of the most interesting, unique, intelligent, and yes, at times obnoxious, of all bird species: Clark’s Nutcrackers.



Named for Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the first to describe the species in 1805 in present-day Montana, these birds are common in Great Basin National Park, and most of the west. Found in alpine areas from central British Columbia to central Arizona, and from northern New Mexico to the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, they are easy to spot. Look for a bird the size of small crow, with a gray body, white face patch, and black and white wings and tail.

Like most Corvids, the family of jays and ravens to which they belong, nutcrackers eat a variety of foods. But they rely on the seeds of several species of pine trees for the majority of their nutritional needs through much of the year. In autumn, when limber and piñon pine seeds are ripe in the Great Basin, the Clark’s Nutcracker will harvest and store up to 100,000 of them, a behavior called “caching.” Adults can carry up to 30 piñon pine seeds at a time in their sublingual pouch, a cavity beneath their tongues.

(Continued on page 15)

Great Basin's Great Night Skies

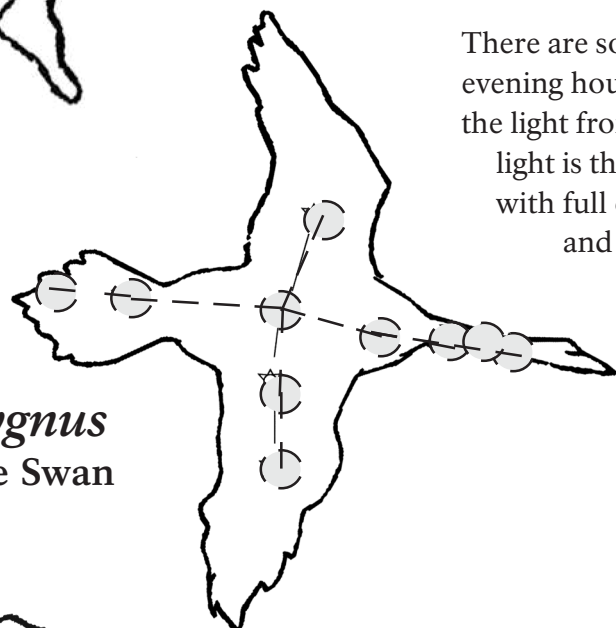


Orion
The Great Hunter

Many people who visit Great Basin National Park are amazed by how many stars they can see on clear, dark nights. Most Americans grow up unable to see the stars that their grandparents knew so well. Many children today think the Milky Way is just a candy bar. Dark night skies are becoming an extinct phenomenon, and the major factors contributing to the loss are light pollution and air pollution.

Light pollution is the illumination of the night sky caused by artificial light. Most light pollution, or sky glow as scientists call it, is completely unnecessary, and is caused by bad lighting fixtures. Light pollution leads to the decreased visibility of the night sky. Many lights that we have installed at our homes, businesses, billboards, schools, and streetlights are the culprits behind light pollution. These lights don't have covers or are pointed upward and disperse light in all directions, wasting energy and money. Some of the light from these fixtures gets where it is needed, but most light is lost into space. It is estimated that money spent by wasted outdoor lighting sources in the United States alone comes to one billion dollars a year.

There are some simple things that people can do to decrease light pollution. During the evening hours, close blinds or curtains to the windows of your residence. This prevents the light from escaping into the night sky. Use time controls, or dimmers to ensure that light is there when needed, and off when it isn't. Replace inappropriate light fixtures with full cut-off, low intensity and downward pointing lights. Shielding a light fixture and pointing it downward makes the area below the light better lit, making it safer and decreasing light pollution.

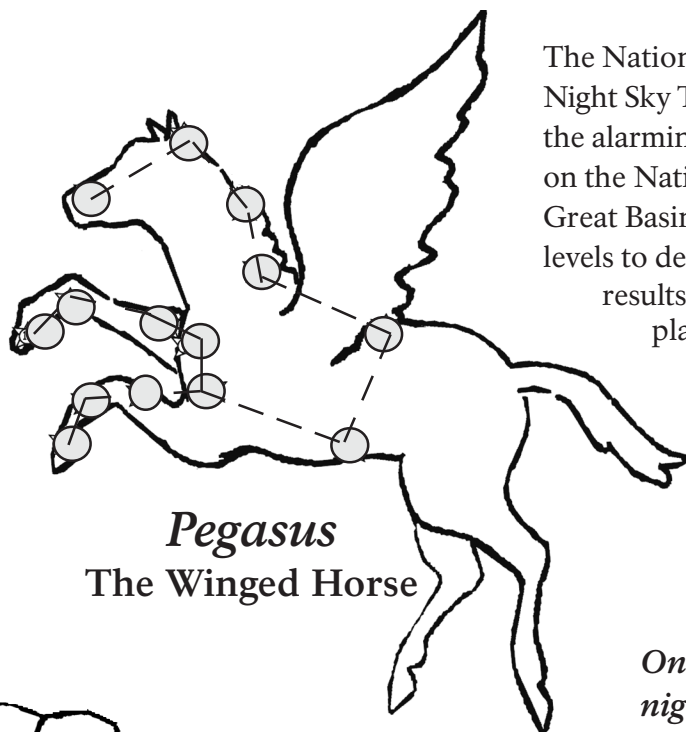


Cygnus
The Swan

Light pollution isn't the only factor contributing to the decreased visibility of the stars. Air pollution contributes to the scenario as well. Because Great Basin National Park is so remote, and away from major urban areas, the park has exceptional air quality, which leads to better visibility of the night sky.

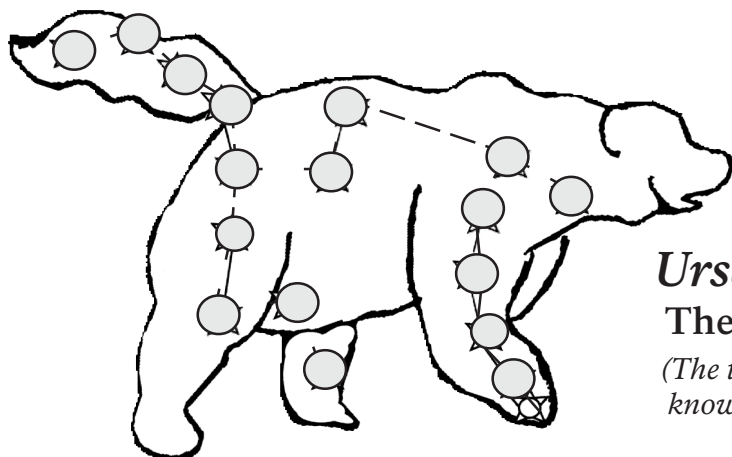


Ursa Minor
The Little Bear
(Also known as the Little Dipper)



Pegasus
The Winged Horse

The National Park Service has an extension called the Night Sky Team. This team was formed as a response to the alarming increase of light pollution and its affects on the National Parks. The Night Sky Team visited Great Basin in October of 2005 and tested the light levels to determine how dark the skies are here. The results were as expected. This is one of the darkest places in the National Park Service, making it an ideal place to stargaze. Several stargazing events are scheduled for the summer of 2007. Check at a visitor center to see if one is scheduled during your visit.



Ursa Major
The Big Bear
(The tail of the Bear is also known as the Big Dipper)

One of the easiest ways to enjoy dark night skies is to look for constellations. Some of the better known constellations are shown here. Check out the Western National Parks Association bookstores in the park for guides and charts for novice stargazers, starting at just \$1.50.

Suprising Sagebrush



In a land of extreme contrasts, adaptation is the key to surviving great temperature variations, poor soils, and lack of water. Sagebrush, which covers nearly half of the Great Basin Desert with a dozen different species, perhaps best illustrates this ability. Big sagebrush, for example, draws water from deep, moist soil layers and redistributes it at night into the upper portions of the plant. The leaves are covered with dense grey hairs that help cool the plant by reflecting sunlight and reducing evaporation from the drying winds.

Sagebrush communities consist of a mix of sagebrush and other shrubs, along with perennial grasses, forbs, and wildflowers, providing habitat for a truly impressive number of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Predators, such as coyotes, enjoy sagebrush as a plentiful hunting arena. Sage grouse, sagebrush voles, pygmy rabbits, sage thrashers, sage sparrows and long tailed voles literally depend on the sagebrush ecosystem for their very survival.

But the face of the sagebrush habitat has changed dramatically in the last 150 years, a period of increased human use in the Great Basin. Livestock grazing, road and trail building, mining, construction, human transportation, water diversion, fire suppression, and climate change have all played a role in altering sagebrush communities.

Disturbances such as grazing and fire have increased the non-native plant cheat grass. Found throughout western states, cheat grass decreases the amount of nitrogen in the soil, shades out biological crusts of lichens and bacteria vital to plant diversity, and immediately uses moisture, thereby out-competing native perennial grasses. When cheat grass becomes established, it creates a monoculture that is poor habitat for wildlife such as sage grouse and horned lizards.

Fire suppression has allowed piñon-juniper woodlands to expand into sagebrush communities. Because these trees require more water than sagebrush, the habitat itself eventually disappears. Forage in sagebrush

communities is more diverse than in piñon-juniper forests, impacting wildlife populations.

With such complex changes occurring at an accelerated rate throughout the entire Great Basin, park managers have taken steps to preserve the best sagebrush communities in the park. Research shows that within the boundaries alone, 11,000 acres have converted from sagebrush to piñon-juniper forest.

The best way to preserve sagebrush habitat now is through manual thinning of piñon-juniper trees, a procedure not typically used in national parks. Prescribed fires would burn too intensely because of high fuel levels, creating conditions that favor cheat grass, leaving a more difficult problem to combat. Grey Cliffs, Lehman Flats, and Baker Creek have been treated by hand. Once the trees are removed, they are chipped and scattered throughout the treated areas, minimizing the amount of cheat grass that becomes established. In winter months, slash piles are burned and crews scatter the ash over the land. Eventually, a well-planned prescribed fire program will maintain the manually treated areas.

Restoration efforts will not transform the sagebrush communities to look exactly as they did 150 years ago, but it will increase the stability of the ecosystem, which will in turn benefit the entire web of life. Management plans and research provide guidance to help the park fulfill its mandate of preserving native ecosystems intact. But the surest, easiest, and most responsible way to preserve an organism is to protect its habitat before the species becomes endangered.

The changes here are one example of a global situation in which habitat conversion and degradation have left species tittering on the brink of extinction. Sagebrush habitat preservation saves a piece of our biological heritage. This tapestry of life gives us hope for the future. We know that future generations will be fortunate if they too have the chance to be inspired by sights and sounds of the Great Basin.

Beautiful Butterflies

They come in a myriad of colors, patterns, and sizes, and may travel thousands of miles to visit Great Basin National Park. No, we're not talking about visitors, rather the more than 100 species of butterflies you may see here!

These beautiful insects usually arrive in large numbers in late May, when flowers are blooming at lower elevations, and peak in population from mid-July to early August. Like bees, many butterflies feed on plant nectar, and travel from plant to plant, helping to pollinate flowers.

Small Wood- Nymphs are abundant in sagebrush areas and can be distinguished by a spot on the light brown upper wing that looks like an eye. Males have just one eyespot, but females have two. In the piñon-juniper woodlands, look for Spring Whites. These common white and yellow patterned butterflies are found throughout the western United States.

Look for butterflies around creeks, where many will congregate at mud puddles to lap up water with their tube-like mouths. Along with butterflies in the Blue subfamily, such as Boisduval's Blues and Shasta Blues, you might see Spring Azures. Both blue and azure males often have blue on the upperside of their wings with spotted gray undersides.

Flowers near creeks may attract coppers, hairstreaks, and skippers. Fritillaries, such as Zerene Fritillary and Callippe Fritillary, are abundant. They are often orange with white and brown patterns on the upperside of the wings. Fritillaries are long-lived for butterflies; adults live up to six months, reportedly because they taste bad to other insects.

Butterflies are a great indicator of an environment's health because of their sensitivity to pesticides and toxins. A decline in normal butterfly populations is always cause for concern and is the reason many scientists monitor them closely.

For more information, pick up a book or field guide about butterflies at one of the visitor center bookstores. Check out the park's website (www.nps.gov/grba) for a complete butterfly list, photos, and links to additional information.



From Top to Bottom: Spring White, Small Wood Nymph, Spring Azure, Boisduval's Blue, and Callippe Fritillary. Photographs used with permission from Paul Opler.

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Nutcrackers (continued from page 12)

Placing a few to several dozen an inch deep into the ground, they create caches from several hundred yards to several miles away from the pine trees they harvest from. Caches tend to be in areas that will stay relatively free of snow during the winter, such as near the trunks of trees or on sun exposed slopes. These seeds are the birds' winter food supply and the main food source for the young nutcrackers that will hatch in the early spring. Storing pine seeds allows them to live at high elevations year round when other animals must leave during the harsh winters or adopt alternative strategies such as hibernation.

But the question arises, how do nutcrackers find these food stores scattered over large areas, months after they've been hidden? Incredibly, they remember where they put them! For humans, who may have trouble remembering the location of a set of car keys, it is hard to imagine that a small bird can remember where it placed thousands of caches, six to ten months after burying them. But laboratory studies of captive nutcrackers have confirmed that they have remarkable spatial memory, that is, the ability to remember specific locations in space. The birds may develop a

mental map, using landmarks such as trees, rocks and logs, to locate specific caches. In fact, they may have one of the most well developed spatial memories in the animal kingdom, surpassing even humans!

The amazing spatial memories of nutcrackers have made them the subject of numerous experiments to better understand the structure and function of the brain. Some of what scientists are learning about these birds may help us better understand how our own brain functions. This in turn may lead to ways to identify the causes and develop treatments for such memory disorders as Alzheimer's.

So, when harassed by the raucous calls of the Clark's Nutcracker as you hike and camp in the mountains of Great Basin National Park, consider how uniquely adapted this bird is to its environment. Next time you forget where you left your car keys, just be glad your survival doesn't require you to remember where you left several *thousand* sets of keys. And should someone call you a "bird brain," just smile and thank them for the compliment!



Great Basin National Heritage Route Designated

In 1998, citizens of Millard County, Utah; White Pine County, Nevada; the Duckwater Shoshone Reservation; and the Ely Shoshone Reservation came together to form the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership. This grass roots, non-profit organization works to preserve the heritage of the central Great Basin, an area with stories of national significance. Integral to the group's endeavors is the belief that preserving and interpreting the cultural and natural heritage of the area will provide for both intellectual enrichment and sustainable economic development. Designation of the central Great Basin as a national heritage area has been a major focus of the group since its inception. This goal was realized on October 13, 2006 when the bill designating the Great Basin National Heritage Route was signed into law.

The National Heritage Areas program provides resources for the preservation of local heritage in areas that are "historically cohesive." Although this is a federal program, designation as a national heritage area does not compromise local interests or control; rather it gives local communities a national designation that helps them obtain funding and other resources to preserve their heritage. Designation as a national heritage area can also benefit the local economy, as heritage tourism increases with designation.

The Heritage Area Partnership is now in the process of developing a Management Plan for the heritage route. The plan will provide guidelines for marketing,



The central Great Basin is rich in natural and cultural heritage: Shoshone youth in ceremonial regalia (left) and the Nevada Northern Railroad in Ely, NV (right) which is a National Historic Landmark. Photos: copyright Kristi Fillman.

interpretation, and preservation. With federal funds forthcoming and a comprehensive management document in hand, the Great Basin National Heritage Route will be equipped to tell the stories of the Great Basin, showing how they illuminate not only local history but our nation's history as well.

Points of interest on the National Heritage Route include two National Historic Landmarks: the Nevada Northern Railway in Ely, Nevada and the Topaz World War II Japanese Internment Camp near Delta, Utah, and, of course, Great Basin National Park.

Further information and brochures are available at park visitor centers, *Lehman Caves Gift and Cafe* and local businesses.

Website: www.greatbasinheritage.org

Weather

There is almost an 8,000 foot (2,400 m) difference in elevation between Wheeler Peak and the valley floor. Weather conditions in the park vary with elevation. In late spring and early summer, days in the valley may be hot, yet the snowpack may not have melted at high elevations. The Great Basin is a desert, with low relative humidity and sharp drops in temperature at night. In the summer, fierce afternoon thunderstorms are common. Weather conditions are highly variable. Please come prepared for all types of weather. It can snow any time of the year at high elevations.

Month	Average Max.	Average Min.
January	41°F (5°C)	18°F (-8°C)
February	44°F (7°C)	21°F (-6°C)
March	48°F (9°C)	24°F (-4°C)
April	56°F (13°C)	31°F (-1°C)
May	66°F (19°C)	40°F (4°C)
June	76°F (24°C)	48°F (9°C)
July	86°F (30°C)	57°F (14°C)
August	83°F (28°C)	56°F (13°C)
September	75°F (24°C)	47°F (8°C)
October	62°F (17°C)	37°F (3°C)
November	49°F (9°C)	26°F (-3°C)
December	42°F (6°C)	20°F (-7°C)

As recorded at Lehman Caves Visitor Center, 6,800 feet.

Regional Directory

Chambers of Commerce

White Pine County, NV
(775) 289-8877

Millard County, UT
(435) 864-4316

Iron County, UT
(435) 586-4484

Recreation Information

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
(775) 289-3031

Ely District BLM
(775) 289-1800

Fillmore District BLM
(435) 743-3100

Bryce Canyon National Park
(435) 834-5322

Cathedral Gorge State Park
(775) 728-4460

Cedar Breaks National Monument
(435) 586-9451

Death Valley National Park
(760) 786-2331

Fremont Indian State Park
(435) 527-4631

Lake Mead National Recreation Area
(702) 293-8990

Timpanogos Cave National Monument
(801) 756-5238

Ward Charcoal Ovens & Cave Lake
(775) 728-4460

Zion National Park
(435) 772-3256

Road Conditions

Nevada DOT
(877) NVROADS (687-6237)

Utah DOT (Winter Only)
(866) 511-UTAH (8824)

California DOT
(800) 427-7623