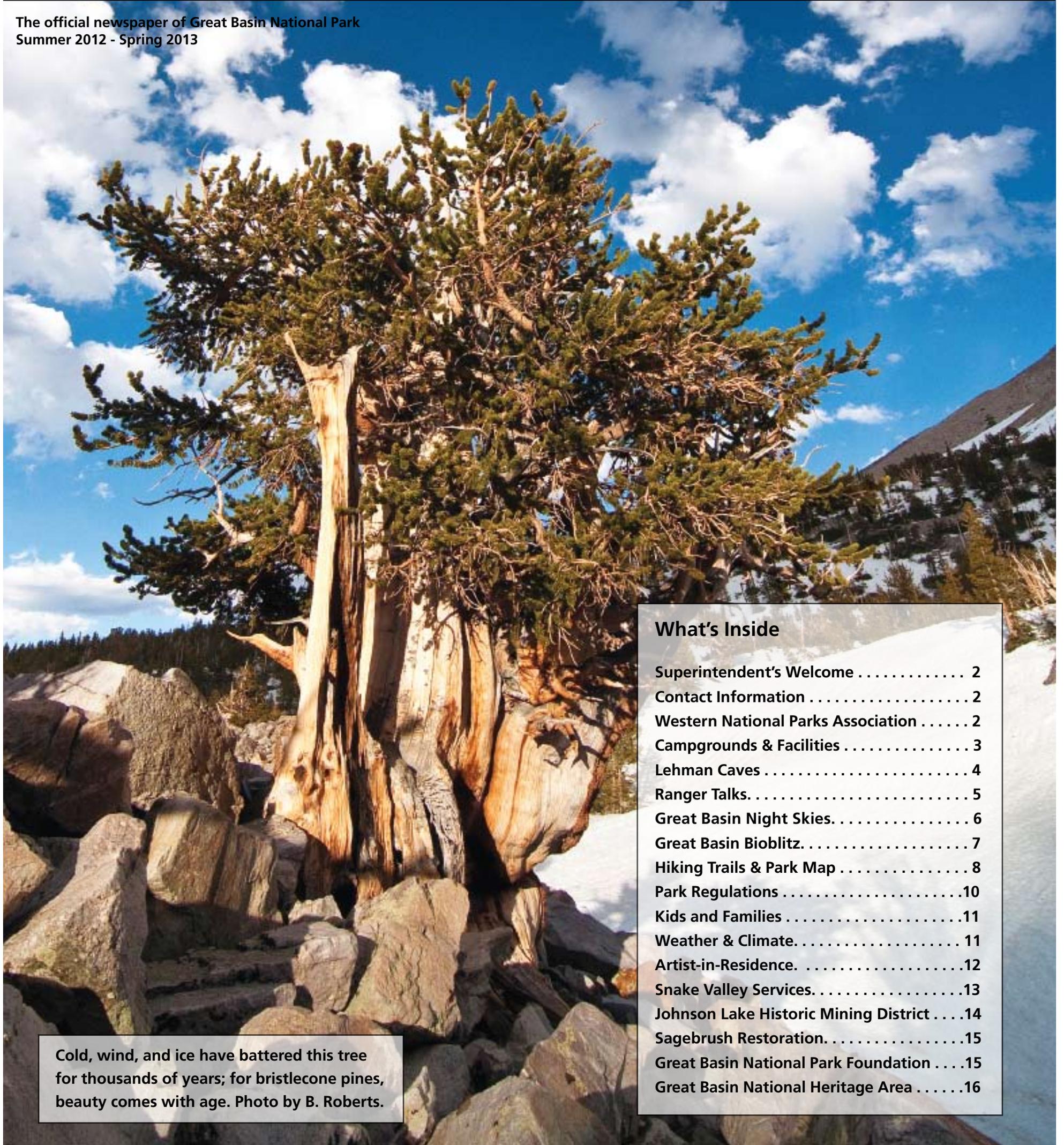


# The Bristlecone

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



The official newspaper of Great Basin National Park  
Summer 2012 - Spring 2013



Cold, wind, and ice have battered this tree for thousands of years; for bristlecone pines, beauty comes with age. Photo by B. Roberts.

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

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E-mail  
[grba\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:grba_interpretation@nps.gov)

Lehman Caves Ticket Sales  
(775) 234-7517

For Employment with the NPS or  
other federal agencies, go to  
[www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov).

Cell phone reception is  
not reliable in the park and  
surrounding areas. A pay phone  
is located at the Lehman Caves  
Visitor Center.

# Welcome to Great Basin National Park!

What do you think of when you think of Great Basin National Park? Well of course that depends on if you have ever visited the park or not. For the untraveled, Great Basin National Park may bring to mind an image of a Wild West landscape, a vast expanse of desert hardpan or some huge reservoir. If you are familiar with this high desert country, a favorite memory of sagebrush stretching across a rolling landscape marked by the occasional juniper tree may come to mind. But Great Basin National Park is so much more.

When I first came to Great Basin National Park, it wasn't even a park! In 1974, when I visited Lehman Caves, it was a national monument. I stood on the front porch of the visitor center with a brand new degree in park management and thought to myself just how good it would be to work here. Well, it took several applications and a whole career before I was able to come back to the park as the Superintendent. And yes, it is everything that I hoped it would be.

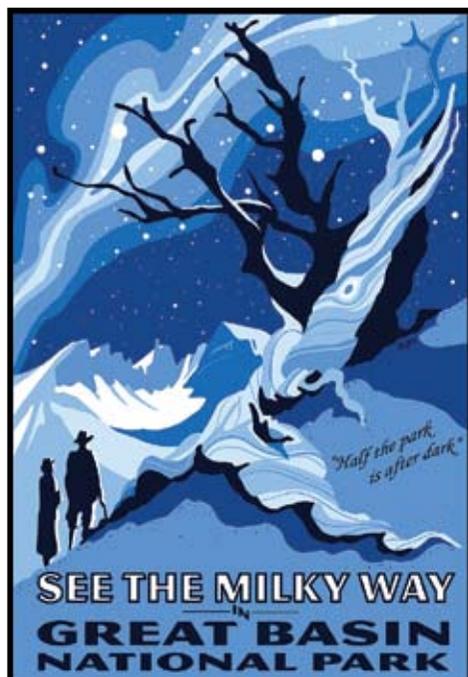
Great Basin National Park is a park in the way that another generation remembers their national parks. The park is seldom crowded, and hikers often have the whole trail to themselves. For much of the year, the cave tours seem like personally guided walks. Even in the summer time when the park is busiest, the campgrounds and park roads aren't overburdened. Lines are short and rangers have time to visit and answer questions. Other park visitors are even more neighborly. Sure, there are some that miss the use of their cell phones and the news of the real world may come a day late. Still, most come to enjoy the chance to join with nature on her terms and the experience of a slower time.

There is so much here. The 5,000 year-old bristlecone pines offer their unspoken council. A hike up to the rock glaciers may lead to a snowball fight. Some days the view from 13,063' Wheeler Peak seems to reach out forever. Lehman Caves has been visited since the 1880s! There are trout in the streams that might become dinner, if you are lucky enough to catch one. The night can be so dark and the moon so bright, that it almost hurts your eyes. There are little mountain lakes surrounded by old growth trees ready to become a photograph. Wildflowers share the mountain sides with chipmunks and marmots. There are deer and elk, but only the most fortunate might see a bighorn sheep or mountain lion. Of course there are snakes; the park is located in the South Snake Range and overlooks the Snake Valley, but they will leave you alone if you give them the chance. Who could imagine all of this as you look up the hill from the Great Basin Visitor Center in Baker?

During your visit, don't hesitate to ask your questions. Also, please make sure that your kids get a chance to participate in our Junior Ranger program. Maybe your best memory of the park will be savoring a big ice cream cone on a hot summer day while you look out across the valley below or the songs sung around a campfire at night. And there is always a possibility that time spent in Great Basin National Park will spark a career in the great outdoors. This is a place that will stay with you for the rest of your life. Help us to celebrate 25 years of service as a national park and your park!

*Andy Ferguson*

Superintendent



WNPA has bookstores in both park visitor centers and sells a wide selection of books, posters and other items.

## Western National Parks Association

Established in 1938, Western National Parks Association operates bookstores at sixty-five National Park Service sites throughout the western United States. WNPA's mission is to promote 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 \$40 million to the National Park Service, generated through store sales and member support. WNPA supports parks by producing more than a half million free interpretive items every year.

Currently, the association has more than 200 publications in print, and many new products are introduced every year, such as the book on Great

Basin National Park published in 2007. A catalog of these WNPA publications and hundreds of additional educational products, on a variety of subjects such as national parks, archeology, American Indians, biology, geology, history, cooking, and children's interests is available in the Great Basin National Park visitor center bookstores.

Western National Parks Association operates two bookstores in Great Basin National Park: one at each visitor center. Both stores offer a wide range of titles on the natural and cultural resources of the region. You can find those titles not immediately available in the bookstores at our online store at [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org).

# Park Facilities

## Lehman Caves Visitor Center

The Lehman Caves Visitor Center is located at the end of the main park entrance road (Hwy 488). The visitor center is open 8:00 - 4:30 every day of the year except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The self-guided Mountain View Nature Trail begins at the visitor center. Restrooms, drinking water, and a pay phone are also available. Adjacent to the visitor center, Lehman Caves Gift and Café is open in the summer.

## Great Basin Visitor Center

The Great Basin Visitor Center, located in the town of Baker, provides information on the park and the Great Basin region. Exhibits funded through donations raised by the Great Basin National Park Foundation tell the geological, biological, and cultural stories of the Great Basin. A short trail (bicycles and pets on leashes permitted!) leads from the visitor center to Baker. Open in summer 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Accessibility

Both visitor centers are wheelchair accessible. The Lehman Caves Visitor Center provides a lift between the parking lot and main level. Audio-visual programs are subtitled. All four developed campgrounds have at least one accessible site with a picnic table, fire grate, and tent pad. These sites are generally located next to restrooms. All sites are first-come, first-served. When campgrounds fill, these sites are made available to all campers.

Evening programs are offered during the summer at the Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds. Programs are given in wheelchair-accessible amphitheatres.

Assisted listening devices are available for use with any ranger-led program, including cave walks and evening programs. Talk to a ranger at a visitor center about using one before the start of the program.

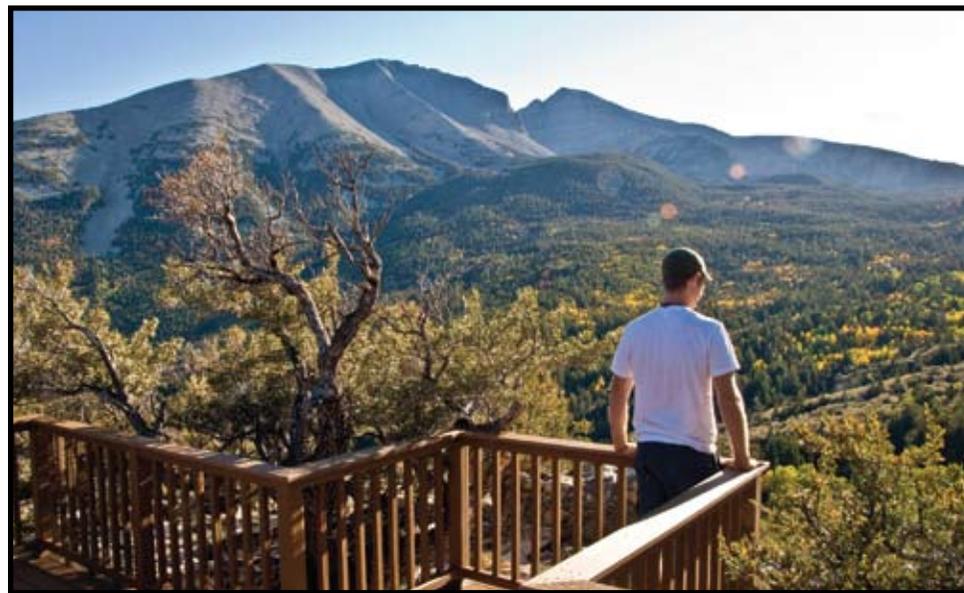
To access the telephone relay services, TTY users should call (800) 326-6868. The user will be connected to an interpreter and automated system. The voice number in Nevada to reach an interpreter is 1-800-326-6888.

## 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. Upper Lehman Creek Campground has several picnicking possibilities, including an area near the host site and tables near the amphitheater that are available for groups through a special use permit (775-234-7511). Picnic and restroom facilities are also located at the Pole Canyon trailhead and at Mather Overlook.

## RV Dump Station

The RV dump station, potable water, and trash and recycling receptacles (cans, cardboard, paper and plastic) are located approximately one half mile inside the park on the entrance road (Hwy 488). \$5.00 fee applies for water and dumping, summers only, no discounts.



Observation decks at Mather Overlook and Wheeler Peak Overlook allow visitors to enjoy Great Basin National Park's spectacular views. Photo by B. Roberts.

## Campgrounds

Great Basin National Park has four developed campgrounds with vault toilets, picnic tables, tent pads, and campfire grills. There are no hookups or leveled parking sites. Water is available in the summer at the campgrounds, or year-round at the visitor centers. Campsites are first-come, first-served. No reservations can be made. Visitors are responsible for knowing and following all campground regulations, which are posted on the campground bulletin boards. Camping fees are \$12 per night per site (\$6 with a Senior or Access Pass), with a 50% reduction when the water systems are turned off (spring and fall).

**Lower Lehman Creek Campground** is open year-round, is located along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive at an elevation of 7,300 feet and has 11 sites including 6 pull-throughs.

**Upper Lehman Creek Campground** is generally open May through October, is located along the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive at an elevation of 7,752 feet and has 22 sites.

**Baker Creek Campground** is located along the Baker Creek Road at an elevation of 7,530 feet and has 26 sites, 7 of which are pull-throughs. It is generally open May through October.

**Wheeler Peak Campground** is located at the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive at an elevation of 9,886 feet and has 37 sites. It is generally open Late May/early June through September.

**Grey Cliffs Group Campground** is available (groups only) by reservation from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It has pit toilets and picnic tables but no potable water. Fees apply. Reservations required: (775) 234-7511.

Ten newly developed campsites are located along **Strawberry Creek Road**. Sites are free and include fire grates, picnic tables and a centrally located pit toilet. Free primitive camping facilities are also available along **Snake Creek Road**. All sites have fire grates and picnic tables; some also have pit toilets. For both areas, there is no water and group size is limited to 15 people, 6 pack animals, and 6 vehicles per site. Maximum stay is 14 days per site.

# Visiting Lehman Caves

## Tour Prices

### Grand Palace Tour

Adults (16+)	\$10.00
Youth (5-15)	\$5.00
Infants/Tots (0-4)	N/A
Senior Pass	\$5.00
Access Pass	50%

### Lodge Room Tour

Adults (16+)	\$8.00
Youth (5-15)	\$4.00
Infants/Tots (0-4)	FREE
Senior Pass	\$4.00
Access Pass	50%



Cave popcorn (left), stalagmites (center) and translucent cave bacon (right) are just a few of the formations found in Lehman Caves. Explore this underground world on a guided walk with a Great Basin National Park ranger. NPS photos.

## Tour Information

Lehman Caves can only be entered with a guided tour. All tours are guided by a park ranger who will discuss the history, biology and geology of the cave. **To minimize the spread of White Nose Syndrome, a screening process is now in effect: see page 5.**

The **Grand Palace Tour** visits all areas of the cave that are open to the public, takes approximately 90 minutes, is 0.54 miles long, and is open to visitors ages 5 and older.

The **Lodge Room Tour** visits several rooms in the cave, takes approximately 60 minutes, is 0.4 miles long, and is open to all visitors.

A Gothic Palace Tour is an option for visitors who are unable to negotiate the stairs and narrow passageways. The entrance tunnel is 250 feet long with a 5-8% grade; wheelchairs are permitted only if members of your party can control and push the chair both into and out of the cave. Speak with a ranger for details.

Limited **photography** is permitted. Please follow your ranger's guidance on when and where to take photos and be aware that flashes can impair vision and disorient other visitors.

## For Your Comfort and Safety

- The elevation of the cave entrance is 6,825' (2080 m).
- There are 76 steps and slopes along the cave tour route.
- Low ceilings may require frequent stooping.
- Trails may be slippery. Wear shoes with good traction.
- Watch your step and use handrails where provided.
- Stay with your tour and stay on the trail.
- The cave is a constant 50° F (10° C) and 90% humidity.
- A light jacket is recommended.

## A Fragile Environment

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 rules:

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.

## Ticket Sales

Lehman Caves tours are limited to 20 people per tour and do sell out. Tickets may be purchased up to one month in advance in person at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center or by phone at (775) 234-7517. Same day tickets may only be purchased in person (not by phone).

All tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase. Major credit cards are accepted for phone orders. Phone orders are taken between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. 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 and will not be refunded. Senior and Access Passes must be presented to be eligible for a discount.

**Purchase your America the Beautiful Pass at Great Basin National Park and get one FREE cave tour ticket!**

The pass covers entrance fees at all National Park Service sites and other federal recreation sites for one year. Buy your \$80 pass at Great Basin National Park and you receive one free cave tour - up to a \$10.00 value!

## Daily Tour Times

### Summer Schedule

(May 25 - Sept. 3, 2012)

#### Grand Palace Tour

9:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

#### Lodge Room Tour

8:30, 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:00

### Winter Schedule

(Sept. 4, 2012 - May 23, 2013)

#### Grand Palace Tour

9:00 and 1:00

#### Lodge Room Tour

11:00 and 3:00

**All times are Pacific Time**

# Ranger Talks

Great Basin National Park is more than just Lehman Caves! A variety of ranger talks are offered throughout the summer, so join us to experience our remarkable resources first-hand! **The program schedule changes from week to week, so stop by a visitor center for program times, topics and locations.** Pets are not permitted at ranger programs. All outdoor programs are weather dependent.

## Campfire Programs

These 45-60 minute programs are offered in the summer at Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds. Program topics vary widely but are always about the Great Basin: human history, geology, plants, wildlife, and more. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

## Patio Talks

These brief talks are presented at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center and cover a range of subjects. The park's **Solar Scope** is often set up on the patio as well, allowing visitors the opportunity to safely view the sun.

## Great Basin for Kids

These 30-minute activities are a great way for children to interact with a ranger and learn about the park. Programs take place at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center on summer days; times and topics are posted at park visitor centers.



Sculpted by wind and ice, bristlecone pines are some of nature's most unique and beautiful creations. Photo by B. Roberts.

## Picnic in the Pines

Great Basin National Park is home to some of the oldest trees on earth—Great Basin bristlecone pines—which can live up to 5,000 years. To learn more about these trees, join a park ranger at noon on summer days at the Bristlecone Pine Grove.

## Self-guided Interpretive Trails

Great Basin National Park offers three self-guided interpretive trails. Walk through a pinyon-juniper ecosystem along the easy ¼ mile Mountain View Nature Trail, located at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center at 6,800 feet. Experience the sub-alpine forest first-hand along the ¼ mile accessible Island Forest Trail, located near Wheeler Peak Campground at 10,000 feet. Take some time to learn about the impressive survival strategies of the world's longest-living trees along the Bristlecone Interpretive Trail, located 1.4 miles up the bristlecone-glacier trail.

See page 8 for trail information.

# White-Nose Syndrome, Bats, and You

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a fungal disease that has killed more than one million bats in the U.S. and Canada. WNS is named for the white fungus that grows around infected bat's faces and other body parts. It was first documented in the winter of 2006-2007 in upstate New York and has since spread as far west as Oklahoma and as far south as North Carolina. White-Nose syndrome has been linked to the fungus *Geomyces destructans* and results in bats exhibiting abnormal behavior during winter months such as flying during the day and clustering near entrances. In some hibernacula (caves or mines where bats spend the winter) 90 to 100 percent of the bats have died. This epidemic has been called one of the greatest wildlife disasters in our nation's history. Bats make up over 20% of the mammal species on Earth and save the U.S. agricultural industry over three billion dollars a year in pest-control services.

Great Basin National Park is deeply concerned about the bat populations within and around the park and has developed a White-Nose Syndrome Response Plan, consistent with National Park Service guidance. As part of this plan, **all visitors to Lehman Caves are now screened through a simple question and answer process.** Visitors who have not been in any cave or underground mine in the past year, or who are not wearing any clothing, shoes, or other items that were in another cave or mine can go straight to their tour. **If visitors do have on clothing, shoes, cameras or other items that were in another cave or underground mine, they will be required to either change or**

**clean items before being allowed on the tour.** Cameras or other hard items can be wiped down with decontaminate wipes (provided by the park) and shoe soles can be decontaminated by immersion in a solution bath for 5 minutes (also provided by the park). As this process can take some time, visitors are encouraged to show up early or only wear and bring items that have not been in other caves or underground mines. Great Basin National Park is also taking the additional step of closing seven wild caves to recreational caving. Those seven caves are used by bats throughout the year. One wild cave, Little Muddy, will remain open each winter from October 1st to April 1st for those who can demonstrate cave conservation ethics, experience caving, and certify that their equipment is clean and disinfected.

As new information about both WNS and *Geomyces destructans* comes to light, Great Basin National Park will be implementing new decontamination and monitoring procedures, as further guidance becomes available. The park has also committed to reviewing the entire White-Nose Syndrome Response Plan, including cave closures, in three years time. Please work with us to protect our bats and their habitat.

You can find out more on the park website [www.nps.gov/grba](http://www.nps.gov/grba), the U.S. Geologic Service National Wildlife Health Center website [www.nwhc.usgs.gov](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website [www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/](http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/).

# Great Basin Night Skies: Half the Park is After Dark!

## FULL MOONS

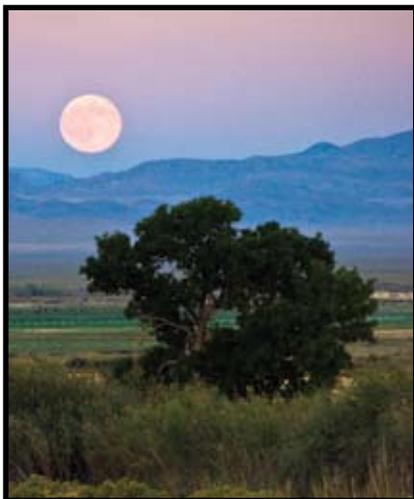
**Flower Moon**  
May 6, 2012

**Strawberry Moon**  
June 4, 2012

**Buck Moon**  
July 3, 2012

**Sturgeon Moon**  
August 2, 2012

**Blue Moon**  
August 31, 2012



Full moon rising over Snake Valley.  
Photo by D. Geary.

**Harvest Moon**  
September 30, 2012

**Hunter's Moon**  
October 29, 2012

**Beaver Moon**  
November 28, 2012

**Cold Moon**  
December 28, 2012

**Wolf Moon**  
January 27, 2013

**Snow Moon**  
February 25, 2013

**Maple Sugar Moon**  
March 27, 2013

**Planter's Moon**  
April 25, 2013



On a clear, moonless night in Great Basin National Park, thousands of stars, five of our solar system's eight planets, star clusters, meteors, man-made satellites, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way can be seen with the naked eye. Photo by Wally Pacholka.

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 national parks! Join Great Basin's *Dark Rangers* for a celebration of this rare and valuable resource. Programs begin with a ranger talk at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center and are followed by ranger-led telescope viewing through park-supplied telescopes.

### Weekly Astronomy Programs

Join Great Basin's *Dark Rangers* every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday night (Memorial Day to Labor Day) for astronomy programs. Explore our beautiful night sky with night sky themed talks and park provided telescopes. Programs start at dark at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.

### Holiday and Special Astronomy Events

Memorial Day Weekend - May 26 & 27, 2012  
Great Basin Astronomy Festival - June 14, 15 & 16, 2012  
Labor Day Weekend - September 1 & 2, 2012

### Transit of the Planet Venus

Join us as we watch the planet Venus cross in front of the sun on **Tuesday June 5, 2012**. The park will have activities all day long leading up to the beginning of the transit at 3:00PM (PDT). Learn how astronomers calculated the size of the solar system and try it out for yourself. This event will not take place again until the year 2117! Special safe solar viewing glasses will be available for purchase in our bookstores.

### Meteor Viewing Party

Join Great Basin *Dark Rangers* on **Monday August 12, 2012** for one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at their peak.

### 3rd Annual Great Basin Astronomy Festival

The third annual Great Basin National Park Astronomy Festival will take place **Thursday, June 14 through Saturday, June 16, 2012**. Join park rangers and experience out of this world family fun, excitement, and learn about day and nighttime astronomy. There will be many telescopes of different makes, shapes, and sizes for you and your family to look at the sun, stars, planets and other deep sky objects including nebulae and galaxies. Activities start at noon each day and continue until about 11p.m. each night. Check at a park visitor center or the park's website for the detailed schedule of events.

Great Basin National Park is proud to have Dr. Paul Bogard as the Keynote Speaker for this year's Astronomy Festival. Paul is the author of *The Geography of Night: Discovering Darkness in an Age of Light* and editor of *Let There Be Night: Testimony on Behalf of the Dark*. Paul's Keynote presentation will be Friday June 15 at 8:00PM

### Full Moon Hikes

Join one of Great Basin's *Dark Rangers* for a nocturnal adventure. These highly popular guided hikes start shortly after sunset and traverse Great Basin National Park under a moonlit sky.

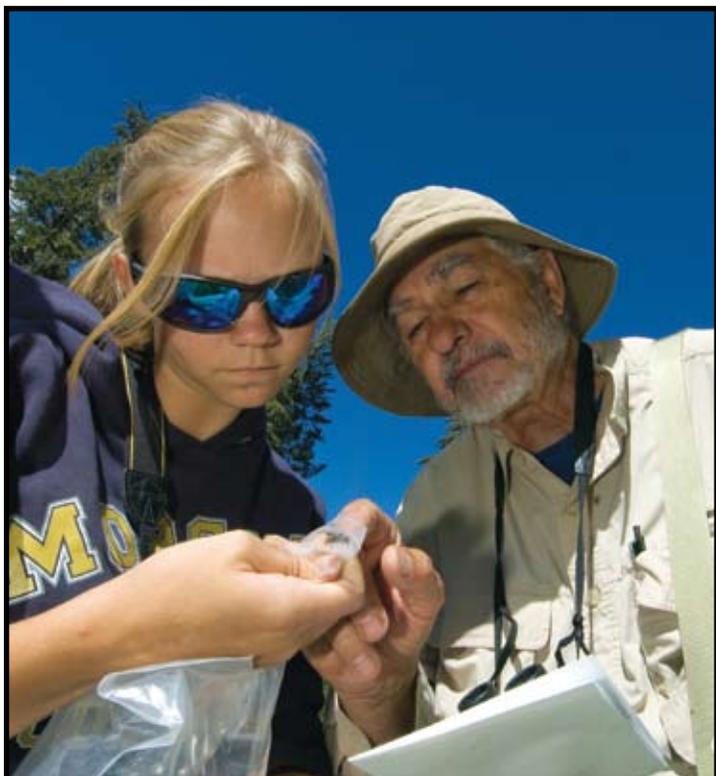
**Full moon hikes are scheduled for July 3, August 2, and August 31, 2012.** A limit of 40 people are permitted on these popular guided hikes and they are first come, first served (no reservations). Free tickets are available the day of the hike at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Although we keep the location of the full moon hike secret until you pick up your tickets, expect an easy to moderate two-mile hike above 10,000 feet. Rules are strictly enforced. Call or email for details.

# BioBlitzes and Biodiversity

Great Basin National Park is undertaking its fourth annual BioBlitz this summer, June 19-21, 2012. This BioBlitz will focus on the order *Diptera*—flies. You might not think that flies are an interesting subject, but as one of the largest insect orders, they have a great deal of diversity, ranging from tiny no-see-ums to large crane flies that help break down decaying matter. Over the past few years, six species new to science have been found in the park. These six species of flies are known only to Great Basin National Park. We expect that there may be more species new to science just waiting to be discovered.

One way to discover new species is during a BioBlitz. A BioBlitz is a short-term event designed to reveal biodiversity in a designated area. In Great Basin National Park, following a workshop on June 19, participants will explore near and far corners of the park for 48 hours to search for *Diptera*. They will collect specimens using a variety of techniques and also note the habitat and location where each specimen was collected. Experts will sort through the specimens to conduct a preliminary identification. Then the lead taxonomist for the event, Dr. Riley Nelson from Brigham Young University, will take the specimens back to his lab for further identification.

Past BioBlitzes have uncovered some of the marvelous diversity present in Great Basin National Park. A *Coleoptera* (Beetles) BioBlitz in 2009 added more than 30 families to the park list. An *Orthoptera* (Crickets and Grasshoppers) BioBlitz in 2010 contributed 17 additional species to the park list. The *Hymenoptera* (Bees, Wasps, and Ants) BioBlitz in 2011 added over 35 families and 65 species to the park list, and a species new to science was also found.



We welcome participants of all abilities during the 2012 *Diptera* BioBlitz. Last year we had volunteers from as young as 3 to older than 80. Volunteers are needed to go in the backcountry and others to look near roads and campgrounds. The park will provide training and have gear for participants to borrow. The most important thing needed is the desire to find out what's out there.

National parks are excellent places to look for biodiversity. They are generally protected from development, pollution, and other threats that are common near more urban areas. Many national parks were originally designated to protect a particular ecosystem. Great Basin National Park was set aside to protect a representative part of the larger Great Basin. Extending from the administrative site on the valley floor to soaring mountains, Great Basin National Park contains a great variety of habitat diversity. The different habitats in turn support an array of plants and animals.

Why is biodiversity important? A healthy biological diversity means that our water resources are better protected, the soils can form as they should, nutrients are stored and recycled, pollutants are broken down and absorbed, we have more food and medicinal resources, our ecosystems can better recover from unpredictable events like floods and fires, and much more.

If you'd like more information about the BioBlitzes and biodiversity, please ask at a visitor center or check out the park website: [www.nps.gov/grba/naturescience/great-basin-bioblitz.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grba/naturescience/great-basin-bioblitz.htm)



Fancy catching flies? Volunteers of all ages are welcome to participate in the Great Basin Bioblitz, June 19-21, 2012! Photos by D. Hunter (left) G. Baker (right).

## Wanted Citizen Scientists

**Abilities desired:  
Noticing your surroundings.  
Photography skills helpful.**



Photo by D. Hunter.

Great Basin National Park is beginning a new biodiversity program this year in partnership with the Encyclopedia of Life (EOL). We've created a Great Basin Community on EOL that has several collections of insects, mammals and plants, showing what can be found in the park. By joining the Great Basin Community, you can let us know what you saw on your visit or can ask questions about the wildlife you see in the collections. You can also upload your photos of organisms to the EOL Flickr group and they will be posted on the Great Basin EOL page. Your contributions will help contribute to the biodiversity knowledge of the park before, during, and after the annual BioBlitz, while also helping to build EOL. Stay tuned for more ways to participate, such as the mobile application being developed by EOL and iNaturalist. To sign up, go to [www.eol.org/communities/112](http://www.eol.org/communities/112).

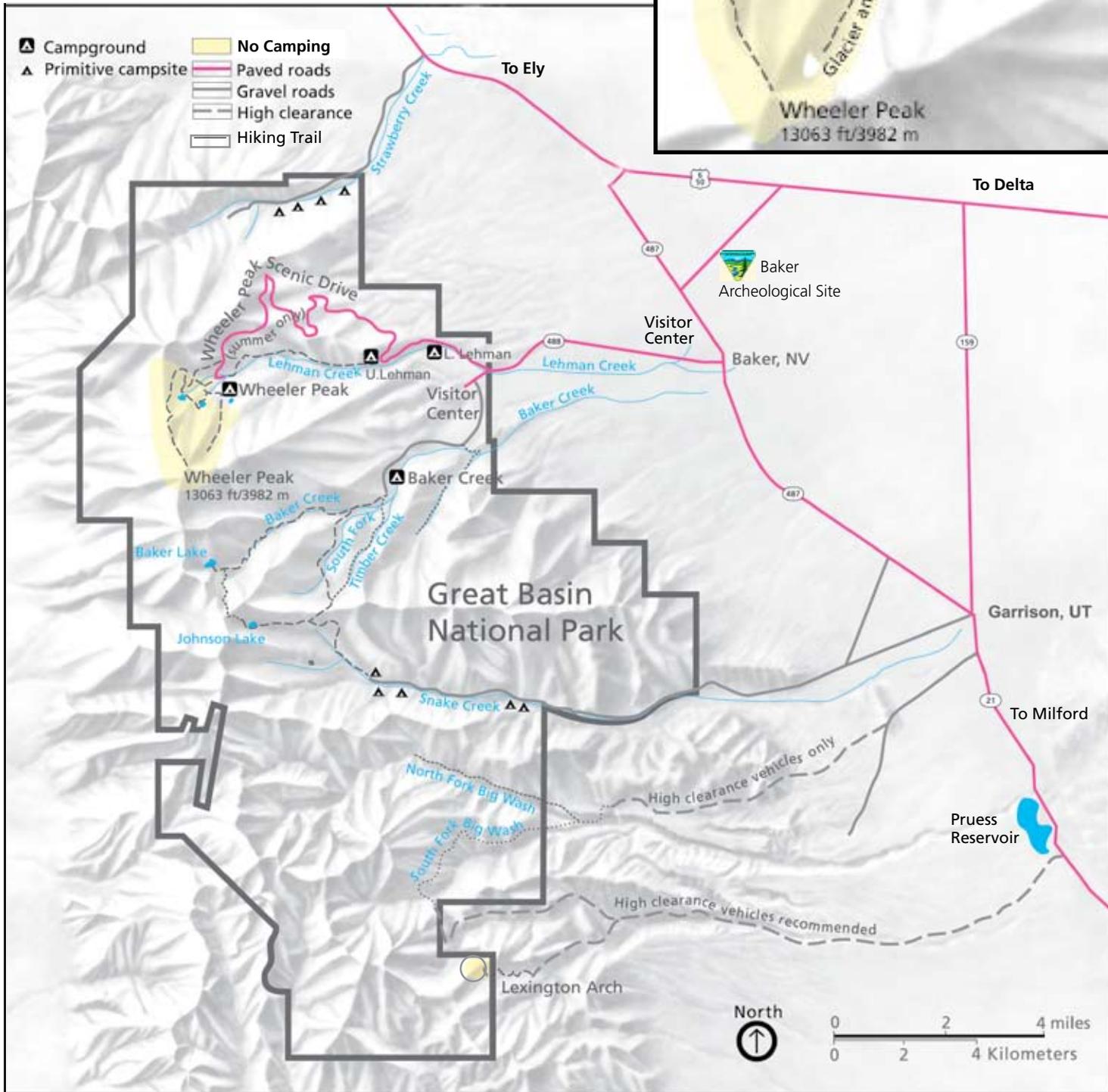
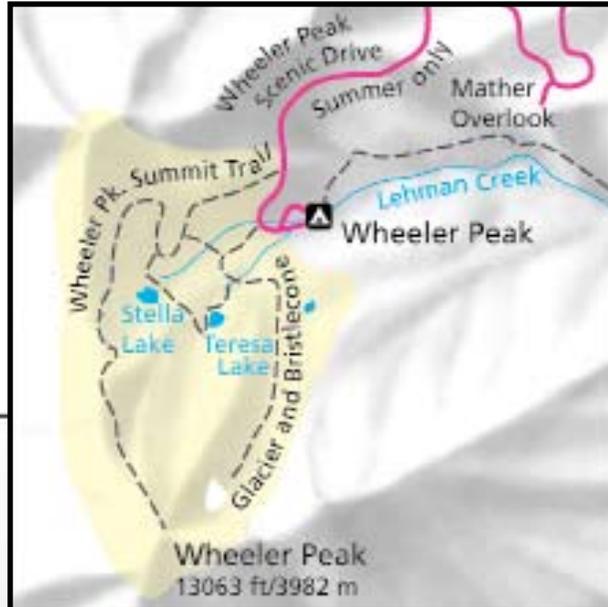
# Hiking Information

	Round-trip Distance	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
<b>Mountain View Nature Trail</b>	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) describes the geology and ecology of the area. The trail starts at the Rhodes Cabin next to the visitor center.
<b>Lehman Creek Trail</b>	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>
<b>Osceola Ditch Trail</b>	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 downslope through ponderosa pine, white fir and Douglas fir trees to the remnants of an 18 mile long channel built by gold miners in the 1880's. The trail follows the ditch towards Strawberry Creek.
<b>Wheeler Peak Trail</b>	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 Trailhead parking area. Day use only.
<b>Alpine Lakes Loop Trail</b>	2.7 miles (4.4 km)	600 feet (180 m)	9,800 feet (2,990 m)	The trail passes two beautiful sub-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.
<b>Bristlecone Trail</b>	2.8 miles (4.6km)	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 a rock glacier, nestled beneath Wheeler Peak. Day use only.
<b>Glacier and Bristlecone Trail</b>	4.6 miles (7.4 km)	1,100 feet (340 m)		
<b>Pole Canyon Trail</b>	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 trail passes through different forest communities, along the creekbed, and into several small meadows. If you are looking for a longer, more strenuous hike, continue on the Timber Creek Trail.
<b>Baker Lake Trail</b>	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.
<b>Baker Creek Loop</b>	3.1 miles (5 km)	870 feet (270 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	
<b>South Fork Baker Creek/ Johnson Lake</b>	11.2 miles (18.2 km)	2,740 feet (840 m)	8,000 feet (2,440 m)	This trail 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.
<b>Johnson Lake Trail (from Snake Creek)</b>	7.4 miles (11.8 km)	2,420 feet (740m)	8,320 feet (2,540 m)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #ffff00; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"><b>Warning: Do not enter any mine structures: STAY OUT, STAY ALIVE!</b></div> <p>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. Please preserve the past by leaving historic objects and buildings undisturbed!</p>
<b>Baker Lake/ Johnson Lake Loop</b>	13.1 miles (21.1 km)	3,290 feet (1,010 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>
<b>Lexington Arch Trail</b>	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) from 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. 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.



**Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive** is paved, but steep and winding. Vehicles and trailers over 24 feet in length are not permitted 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 obey posted speed limits: speeding is the most common cause of accidents on these roads!**

## 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 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 slurred speech and uncontrollable shivering. 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. 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!

# Planning for a Safe and Enjoyable Visit

## Camping

Front country camping is permitted in any available developed campsite. See page 3 for details. As a courtesy to your fellow campers, please follow all campground regulations. These regulations are posted in each campground on the information kiosk near the self-service fee stations. You can also contact a ranger or campground host for additional information.

Backcountry camping is free and permitted in many areas of the park. Please go to one of the park visitor centers to get recent trail condition reports and to acquire a backcountry camping informational brochure. Voluntary backcountry registration is encouraged; registration forms are available at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.



Before heading into the Great Basin backcountry, please fill out a voluntary backcountry registration form at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Backcountry travelers are responsible for understanding and following all backcountry regulations, such as no fires above 10,000 feet and no collection of bristlecone wood.

## Firearms

It is unlawful to use, point, or brandish a firearm in a national park. Hunting is strictly prohibited. Possession of firearms within the park is permitted in accordance with Nevada regulations. Firearms are not permitted in federal buildings. Ask a park ranger for details on the law and a list of state permits recognized in Nevada.

## Fishing

Fishing is a very popular activity in Great Basin National Park. A valid Nevada fishing license is required for anglers age 12 and older and can be obtained online at [www.ndowlicensing.com](http://www.ndowlicensing.com). Internet access and a printer are available at the Border Inn. Catch-and-release and use of barbless or de-barbed hooks is encouraged when fishing for Bonneville cutthroat trout. Within the park, the use of fish as bait, whether dead or alive or any parts thereof except for preserved salmon eggs is prohibited. Other aquatic bait may be used only in the water from which it is taken.

It is unlawful to transport live fish away from the body of water in which they were caught or to release them into another body of water. Introducing other aquatic species to the streams and lakes of Great Basin National Park severely impacts Bonneville cutthroat trout conservation efforts and is strictly prohibited by law. A three mile irrigation pipeline divides Snake Creek into two separate bodies. Fish and other aquatic organisms from the section of stream below the pipeline cannot be transferred to any portion of the stream located above the pipeline.

## Mountain Biking

Bicycle riding is allowed in the park only on roads open to motor vehicles (no trails). Primitive roads within the park and on adjacent 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. Please wear a helmet!

## Natural and Cultural Resources

All park resources, both natural and cultural, are protected and therefore may not be damaged, disturbed, defaced, or removed from the park. These resources include, but are not limited to, animal bones or antlers, live animals, rocks, fossils, standing trees both living and dead, any bristlecone pine wood whether standing or on the ground, arrowheads, rock art and any other historic objects. Many of these resources are fragile and irreplaceable; promptly report any violations to park staff.

For the enjoyment and safety of all visitors, please observe wildlife from a distance. For the health of the animals, please do not feed, touch, or otherwise disturb them from their natural state.

## Pack Trips and Stock Use

Horses, mules, burros, and llamas are permitted on the backcountry trails of the park, but not on paved roads, in developed campgrounds, developed areas, interpretive trails, the Lexington Arch Trail or the Wheeler Peak “No Camping” Area (see map page 9). Certified weed-free hay is required two days prior to and during your trip. More information is available at the visitor centers.

## Pets

Pets are allowed in the campgrounds, but they must be on a leash of 6 feet or shorter at all times. Pets are not allowed on trails or in the backcountry of the park, except for the Lexington Arch trail and the trail between Baker and the Great Basin Visitor Center. Leashed pets may be exercised in the campgrounds, in front of the visitor centers, and along roads. Please do not leave pets unattended except in your vehicle. These restrictions are intended to prevent harassment of wildlife and to provide for a better experience for other park visitors.

## Vehicles and Traffic Safety

For your safety and the safety of other visitors and wildlife, please abide by posted speed limits and traffic control devices. Due to the steep and winding nature of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, single vehicles and trailers greater than 24 feet in length are not permitted beyond the Upper Lehman Creek Campground parking area. Only all-terrain (ATV) / off-highway (OHV) vehicles that are properly licensed and registered (“street-legal”) are permitted on park roads. Unlicensed vehicles are not permitted. Currently, Nevada does not register ATVs/OHVs to be “street-legal” but some other states do. Driving off designated roadways is strictly prohibited.

Please **DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE** and avoid driving while fatigued. Be aware that animals congregate near roadways in and around the park, especially in the early morning, at dusk and at night.

Contact a ranger or stop by a visitor center for additional information. Regulations specific to Great Basin National Park are published in the Superintendent’s Compendium, available on the park’s website: [www.nps.gov/grba/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grba/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm).

# Great Activities for Kids and Families

The 2.7-mile **Alpine Lakes Loop** passes two beautiful lakes, Stella and Teresa Lakes. There are good views of Wheeler Peak. Begin at the Bristlecone Trail parking area, near the Wheeler Peak Campground.

**Campfire Programs** are offered in the summer at Upper Lehman Creek and Wheeler Peak Campgrounds, weather permitting. Program topics are related to the Great Basin's cultural and natural resources and programs last 45 - 60 minutes. Please come prepared with warm clothing and a lantern or flashlight.

**Family Adventure Packs** provide an opportunity for families to discover, learn about and document local resources while they explore Great Basin National Park. Each "themed" pack is equipped with a field journal and a large variety of educational tools for young explorers. Three different packs are available for check-out from park visitor centers: *Nature Discovery*, *Tracking*, and *Night Exploration*.

**Great Basin for Kids** activities are a wonderful way for families to get their children involved while they wait to enter the cave or just after they've finished their tour. Meet at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center for this 30 minute activity.

Becoming a **Junior Ranger** is a highlight for many children! After completing several activities in the book, attending a ranger program, and doing a service activity like picking up trash at your campsite, participants receive a certificate and a junior ranger badge.



A great way for children to interact with a park ranger is to participate in **Great Basin for Kids**: daily in the summer at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Photo by D. Hunter.

**Lehman Caves** is an amazing playground for your child's imagination! The Lodge Room Tour (60 minutes) is recommended for families with young children (details page 4).

**Star Parties** are fun for the whole family, though you may want to take an afternoon nap since these programs go quite late (details page 6).

**Program schedules change throughout the summer. Check our website or stop by a visitor center to find out what is happening during your visit.**

## Weather & Climate

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.

Realtime weather conditions and forecasts for several areas of the park are available on the park's website: <http://www.nps.gov/grba/planyourvisit/weather.htm>. Weather forecasts are also available at park visitor centers.

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)

**Data from Lehman Caves Visitor Center, 6,800 feet.**

## 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](http://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

Pack out everything you brought in with you, including cigarette butts and food scraps. Bury human 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.

### 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 Campfire Impacts

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

Observe wildlife from a distance. Never feed animals, and keep your food properly stored. Control pets at all times.

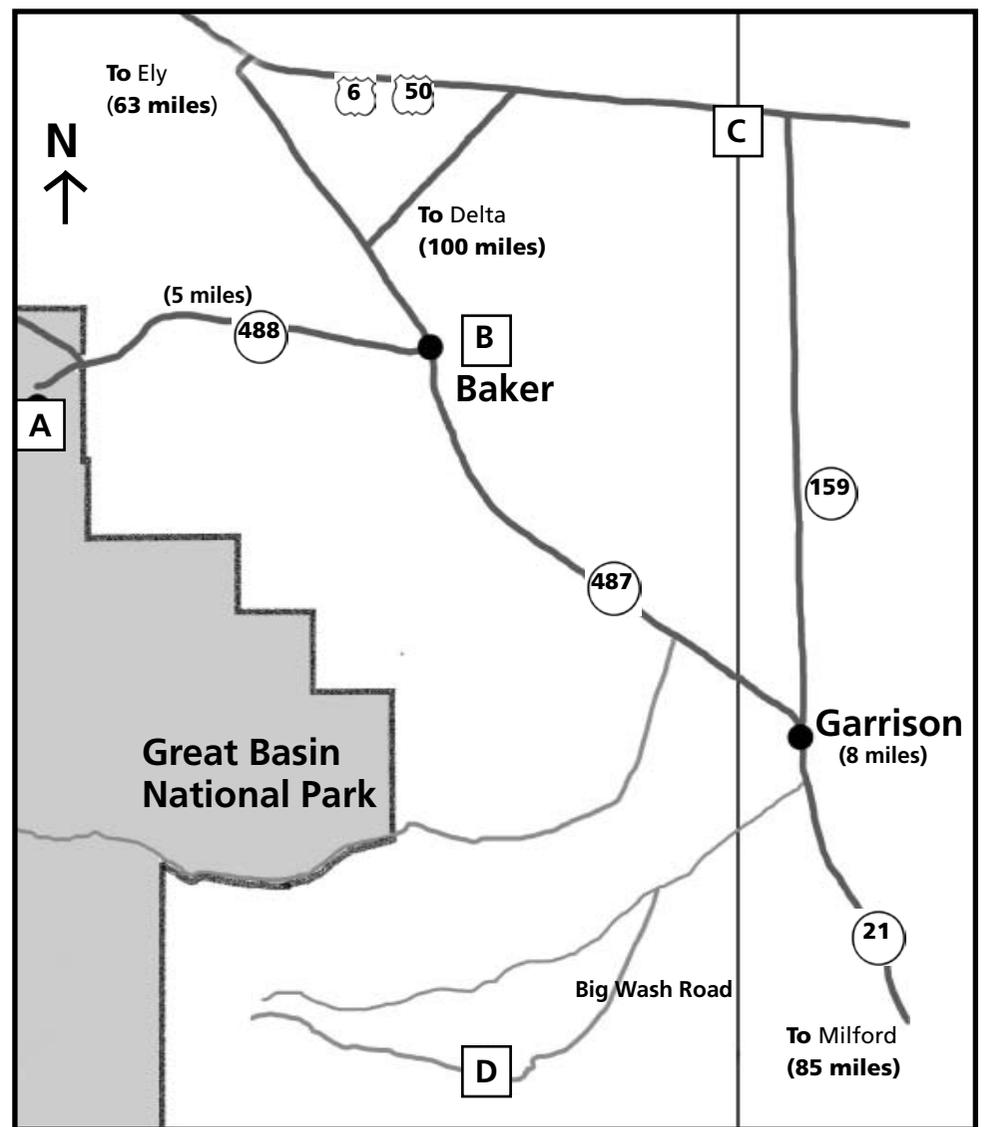
### Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Be courteous, yield to other users on the trail, take breaks and camp away from others, and let nature's sounds prevail.

# Area Services

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

- A** **Lehman Caves Visitor Center & WNPA Bookstore**  
(775) 234-7331
- Lehman Caves Gift and Café**    
(775) 234-7221
- B** **Great Basin Visitor Center & WNPA Bookstore**  
(775) 234-7331
- Baker Ranch Service Station**    
- Ferg's Firewood**
- Getaway Cabin**   
(775) 234-7272
- Silver Jack Inn & Art Gallery**  
**Lectrolux Cafe, Bar & Deli**    
(775) 234-7323
- T&D's Store, Restaurant & Lounge**    
(775) 234-7264
- Whispering Elms Campground**      
(775) 234-9900
- C** **Border Inn (open 24 Hours)**  
(775) 234-7300 year-round       
- D** **Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch**   
(775) 234-7172 year-round



Mileages listed are from Baker.

To learn more about local services, visit [www.greatbasinpark.com](http://www.greatbasinpark.com).

## The Darwin Lambert Artist-in-Residence Program



Throughout our nation's history, artists and writers have brought attention to our national heritage and have played a large part in the establishment of many national parks. Today many artists are able to visit our national parks through the Artist-in-Residence programs.

Great Basin National Park follows the tradition, offering the Darwin Lambert Artist/Writer-in-Residence Program. This program was created in honor of the late Darwin Lambert. As a proponent for the creation of Great Basin National Park and other parks, Lambert authored Great Basin Drama (available in park bookstores) in addition to other literary works.

This program offers visual and performing artists, composers, and writers the opportunity to live and work in Great Basin National Park. The selected resident(s) stay in a small cabin in the park for two to four weeks in the fall. No stipend is offered. Residents are required to present one public program in which they describe their work in relation to the park and its natural and cultural resources. Residents must also donate one original piece of their work to the park's permanent museum collection.

Learn more at [www.nps.gov/grba/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence.htm](http://www.nps.gov/grba/supportyourpark/artist-in-residence.htm).

To date, Great Basin National Park has hosted six artists-in-residence. Joe Norman was the 2011 resident and is shown here in his Salt Lake City shop, creating work inspired by his time in Great Basin National Park.

# Snake Valley Businesses

## The Border Inn

24-hour service. Motel (25 rooms w/ Direct TV), free WI-FI, restaurant (full menu + daily specials), bar, slots, pool table, video games, showers, gas, diesel, phones, laundry, ATM, and souvenirs. Convenience store and ice. 22 RV spots: full hookups and pull-through spaces. Computer available to print boarding passes, fishing licenses, etc. 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 Antler Art

Hand-crafted chandeliers, wall sconces, tables and more using natural renewable antlers, wooden wagon wheels, and old-fashioned oil lanterns. Thousands of happy customers worldwide since 1993. UL-Approved. All products guaranteed. The workshop, located 17 miles from Baker, is open by appointment. Complete catalog with more than 200 items available on-line at [www.Horns-A-Plenty.com](http://www.Horns-A-Plenty.com). Call for an appointment or a free color catalog. **(800) 467-6599.**

## 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.

## Baker Sinclair.

Showers (\$2/person), gas & diesel, coin laundry (\$1.50/wash/dry), public toilets. **(775) 234-7323.**

## 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 TV, wireless internet available, fully equipped kitchen, towels and linens provided, fenced yard with picnic area and barbecue. Small pets OK.

**(775) 234-7272.**

## Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch

Bed and Breakfast in luxury in our Lodge. Balcony-view rooms, private bath, king bed, luxury bedding, small fridge, full-cooked breakfast included. Full meal packages available by reservation only. Relaxing environment by running water, fly fishing (bring your own equipment), wonderful hiking. Great for a private getaway or design-your-own fitness vacation. 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. [rcrouch7172@gmail.com](mailto:rcrouch7172@gmail.com), [www.greatbasinpark.com](http://www.greatbasinpark.com), Hidden Canyon Ranch, P. O. Box 180, Baker, NV 89311 **(775) 234-7172.**

*While Great Basin National Park does not endorse the enterprises listed here, we do wish to thank them for their generous support in producing this publication as a visitor service.*

## Lehman Caves Gift and Café

Located adjacent to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. Famous for our homemade ice cream sandwiches, we also serve 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 & Lectrolux Restaurant/Deli/Bakery/Groceries/Esspresso/Book Store/Gallery-Movie House

10 rooms, Café with patio, free WI-FI, and garden dining for breakfast & dinner every day, lunch Fri-Sun, Full bar -espresso, beer, wine and spirits. Movie rentals. Also sports equipment rentals (Mtn. bikes, snow shoes, X-C skis). **Art/Antiques Gallery** on site (ceramic, furniture, photography, painting, sculpture, crafts). Guided hikes. Homemade desserts, candies, fudge, and assorted goodies, shakes, floats, hand-dipped ice cream. Best wine and microbrew list in rural America! Free primitive camping when campers patronize restaurant and/or grocery store. Every Fri night: 5-9 Cheap salads, Pizza and microbrews! Also Tourist Bulletin Board and Lost & Found at Lectrolux Cafe. Leave notices - we provide forms, leave lost items- we'll ship. [www.silverjackinn.com](http://www.silverjackinn.com). **(775) 234-7323.**

## T & D's Grocery Store, Restaurant, and Lounge

In business since 1989. Store open 7 days/week, carries large supply of groceries (meats, produce, dairy, canned goods), beer, wine, liquor, soda, ice, ice cream bars, fishing tackle, and camping supplies. Sorry we no longer sell NV fishing and hunting licenses. Restaurant serves lunch & dinner 7 days/week. Chef "T" has 35+ years of culinary experience. Well known for our pizza, but have a large variety of delicious Italian, Mexican, American and Vegetarian dishes at affordable prices. Dine in bright, cheery sunroom or on relaxing outdoor covered patio. Full-service bar: Chef "T" can mix up some incredible gourmet cocktails! Entertainment includes pool table, dart board, and surround-sound system. Open year round (reduced hours in winter). Located in downtown Baker. **(775) 234-7264.**

## Whispering Elms Motel, Campground & RV Park

Located under shady trees on the north end of Baker. Offering full service pull-through RV sites, 6 clean, non-smoking motel rooms (satellite TV, microwave, fridge, coffee), a large grassy area for tent camping, free WiFi, fire pits, coin laundry, showers, and a bar that boasts the best view of the mountains. Join locals and other travelers for a drink, a game of pool, darts, shuffleboard, horseshoes, and a conversation about the area and elsewhere. Bar opens 4pm daily, Spring-Summer-Fall. **(775)234-9900.**

## Regional Directory

### Chambers of Commerce

#### White Pine County, NV

(775) 289-8877

#### Delta, UT

(435) 864-4316

#### Beaver County, UT

(435) 438-5438

### Recreation Information

#### Humboldt-Toiyabe Nat'l Forest

(775) 289-3031

#### Ely Distict 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 NM

(435) 586-9451

#### Death Valley National Park

(760) 786-2331

#### Fremont Indian State Park

(435) 527-4631

#### Lake Mead NRA

(702) 293-8990

#### Timpanogos Cave NM

(801) 756-5238

#### Ward Charcoal Ovens & Cave Lake State Parks

(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)

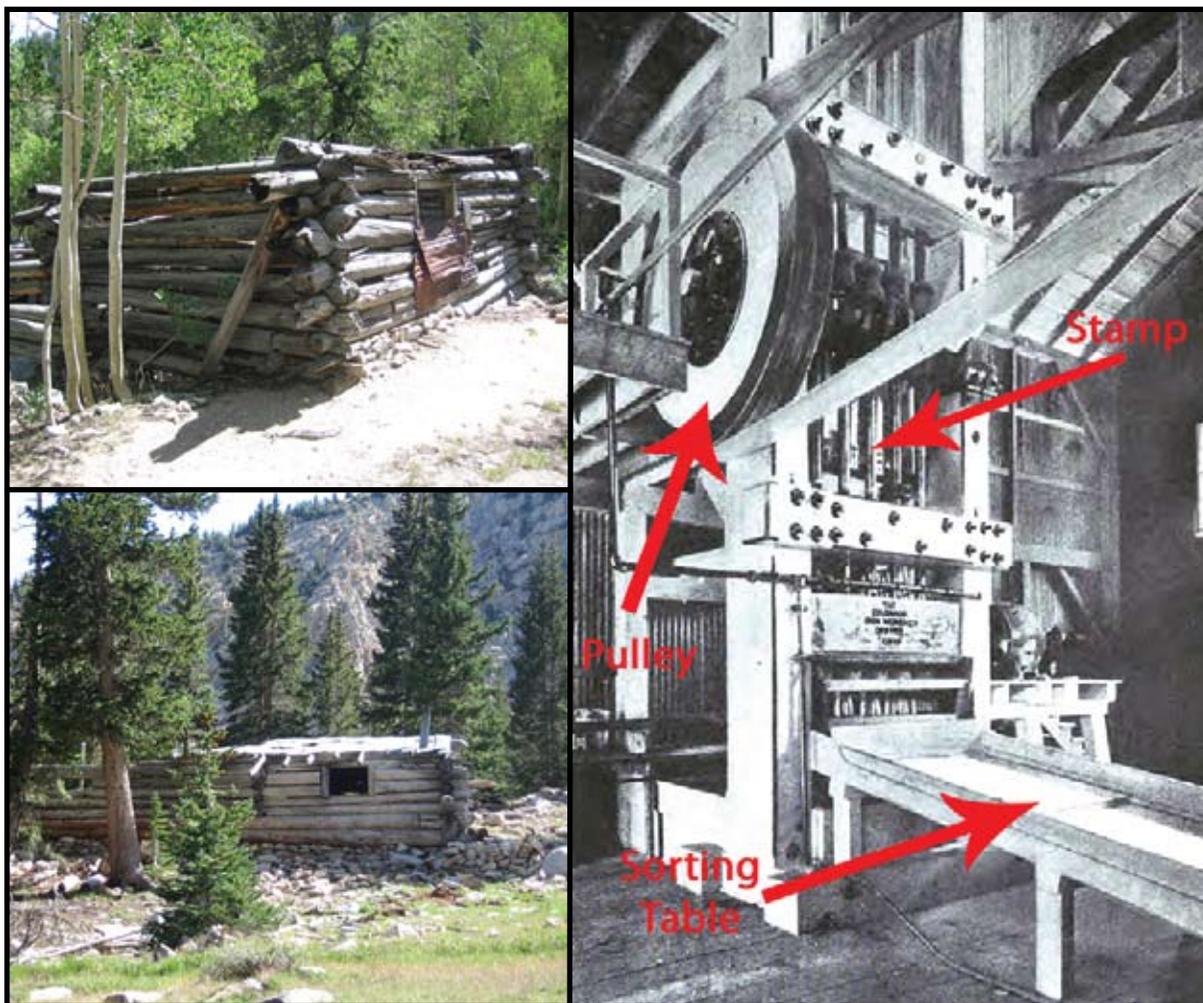
#### California DOT

(800) 427-7623

# Visiting Johnson Lake Mine

Mining is an important part of the history of Nevada. Scattered throughout the park are remnants of early mining endeavors long abandoned. Johnson Lake Mine is an early 20th century mine located in Great Basin National Park approximately 3.5 miles from the trailhead at the end of the Snake Creek Road. Alfred “Timberline” Johnson and Joseph Dearden began mining tungsten ore in the area of Johnson Lake sometime between 1910 and 1916. The high melting point of tungsten made it a valuable mineral. It was most commonly used in light bulb filaments and hardening steel.

To support the mining operation several facilities were built high in the Snake Creek drainage. Many of these remain today. Construction of an aerial tramway, tramway station, earthen/stone dam, stamp mill, stable, cookhouse, and three residences began around 1916. The buildings were constructed in the saddle notch log cabin style using locally cut timbers, some of which were most likely cut during the winter, as is evidenced by the high cut stumps that are scattered throughout the site. The mine reached peak production during World War I, but it later closed in 1935 due to an avalanche, which collapsed the mining adit and destroyed the aerial tramway station.



There are several historic buildings remaining from the Johnson Lake Mining District, such as the stamp mill (upper left) and the cookhouse (lower left). The righthand image shows what equipment would have been in the mill. NPS photos.

If you visit, your first stop will be at the mill and stable. The mill was a two story stamp mill, with two to five stamps. A stamp is similar to a huge piston which crushed the scheelite to extract the tungsten ore. The mill was powered by gravity-fed water from Johnson Lake. The scheelite was hauled from the tramway to the mill by burro, where the scheelite was crushed by the stamps. The stamps crushed the scheelite to remove the tungsten. After being crushed the material continued to a sorting table where the scheelite was separated from the tungsten. Then the tungsten was sent to a processing plant in Utah for further refinement.

The next stop is the residential area, which consists of a cookhouse and three residences. The first building is Residence #2 on your right. Now a seasonally wet area, it was most likely dry during occupation. The smaller building to the right is Residence #3. The Cookhouse and Residence #1 are up the trail on the left. The Cookhouse was used as a kitchen and dining hall. The kitchen was in the small room and the dining room was the larger room to the left.

Located on the east side of Johnson Lake is an earthen/stone dam. Just past the lake is the collapsed aerial tramway station. Hanging in the air above this, the aerial tramway remains intact. The cable runs from the collapsed adit to the aerial tramway station. The tramway brought scheelite from the adit to the station where it was taken to the mill by burro.

Historic mines can be dangerous places. Please follow these rules:

- 1) Do not enter buildings.
- 2) Stay on designated trails.
- 3) Avoid mining features such as adits or shafts.
- 4) When in doubt **STAY OUT** and **STAY ALIVE!**

With a gain of 2,500 vertical feet in elevation this trail is not recommended for the casual hiker. The experienced hiker should plan on a trip of 2-3 hours, and the moderate hiker 4-5 hours one way. Bring plenty of water and a lunch. Weather in higher elevations can change rapidly. The Johnson Lake Mine can also be reached via the Baker Lake Trail and the South Fork Baker Creek Trail (see Hiking Information on page 8 for more information).

Camping is not recommended at the Johnson Lake Mine, and no fires are allowed above 10,000 feet. Always camp at least 200 feet from water, buildings and artifacts (see Planning for a Safe and Enjoyable Visit on page 10 and Leave No Trace on page 11 for more information). Be safe and respect the past by leaving buildings and artifacts as you found them. They are important clues that help archeologists learn about the past. Always follow the Leave No Trace policy: Leave Only Footprints and Take Only Pictures. During 2012 you may see archeologists working in the area. Be sure to say hello, they'll be happy to answer your questions and share what they've learned.

# Restoring the Sagebrush Ocean

Some areas of the Great Basin are degraded due to natural and human causes. A 1996 Nature Conservancy report states that 80% of the sagebrush shrub-steppe has been substantially altered and less than 15% remains undisturbed. These areas may recover naturally with time, but they face a struggle: invasive weeds can outcompete and establish more quickly than native plants. Timely restoration of degraded and disturbed sagebrush sites inhibits invasive weeds and promotes the rapid recovery of native plant diversity.

Modern land managers are shifting away from seeding introduced nonnative grasses such as crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), to using locally collected native species to increase the ecological integrity of the project. Crested wheatgrass was introduced to North America for improving degraded rangelands. However, once established, crested wheatgrass can quickly dominate and hinder the reproduction and growth of native species.

Native plants represent the genetic product of a specific environment over time and are more adapted to survive the extremes of their home range. Many native grasses such as Great Basin wildrye have deep fibrous root systems that prevent soil erosion. Native shrubs like sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and antelope bitterbrush use deep tap roots to reach moisture. These shrubs can be planted as both seeds and young plants. Establishing



Sagebrush shrub-steppe, the defining ecosystem of the Great Basin Desert, is critical habitat for numerous Great Basin species. NPS photo.

shrubs quickly in disturbed sites protects native understory plants by intercepting water from rain and snow, improving soil structure and fertility, catching windblown soil, and shading seedlings.

Successful restoration of sagebrush habitat in the Great Basin focuses on both improvements inside the project area as well as increased connectivity between patches of healthy undisturbed plant communities. True restoration involves more than increasing native plant diversity through the reestablishment of native plants. It requires restoring the *processes* that sustain the sagebrush ecosystem of the Great Basin.

## The Great Basin National Park Foundation

The Great Basin National Park Foundation was established and incorporated in 1998 under the laws of the State of Nevada to raise funds and to assist Great Basin National Park and the National Park Service to achieve the park's mission. Bonnie Bryan, wife of Senator Richard H. Bryan, of Nevada, served as the Founding Chairperson. The Foundation's Board of Directors draws from a wide range of individuals willing to give of their time, funds and talents in order to offer the park access to opportunities that would otherwise be outside our reach. The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization.

To date, the Foundation has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and has been able to support the Park in numerous projects. These projects include the exhibits at the Great Basin Visitor Center, recording local oral histories, and improving park trails. Most recently, the Foundation has supported the Park's Night Sky Program with donations of three 11-inch Celestron telescopes, a trailer making it possible to



With three new telescopes donated by the Foundation, the Great Basin Astronomy Program is shooting for the stars! Photo by S. Spence.

store and take our program on the road as well as other essential program supplies. The Foundation also supports the park's annual Bioblitz (see article page 7) and even funded the printing of this newspaper. The Foundation's support, both financial and otherwise, makes them an invaluable park partner. To learn more about current projects and opportunities to donate, visit them on the web at [greatbasinfoundation.org](http://greatbasinfoundation.org).

**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 the park in the following areas:

**Campgrounds**

**Natural & Cultural  
Resource Management**

**Interpretation  
& Education**

**The Park Library  
& Museum**

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

Thank you to all the 2011 Volunteers who donated over 10,727 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) 234-7511.**

# The Great Basin National Heritage Area



Photo by D. Gooch.

Great Basin National Park lies within a national heritage area. Like national parks, national heritage areas are designated by Congress in recognition of their contributions in making up the unique fabric of our country. There are nearly 50 such Areas in the United States.

The Great Basin National Heritage Area was designated by the U.S. Congress in 2006 for its classic western landscape that contains long natural vistas, isolated high desert valleys, mountain ranges, ranches, mines, historic railroads, archeological sites and tribal communities.

The Great Basin National Heritage Area is a geographical region that encompasses White Pine County, Nevada and Millard County, Utah and adjacent Indian reservations and contains nationally significant archaeological, historical, cultural, natural and scenic features that are emblematic of the entire Great Basin region.

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership (GBHAP) is the coordinating entity for the Great Basin National Heritage Area. The National Park Service helps fund the Partnership, and Great Basin National Park is the GBHAP's primary partner.

The history of the Great Basin Region is long and interesting. There have been many players. Included is a story of mountain building. The mountains blocked moisture from the west, creating deserts. Ancient bristlecone pine trees persisted on mountain moisture while sagebrush covered the broad valleys.

Long distances between mountain "islands" led to plant and animal communities that were, to some degree, unique to each isolated area. Moving through the region are pronghorn, mule deer, elk, mountain lions, coyotes, rabbits, bats, hawks, eagles and other migratory birds. Some streams and lakes support fish populations, including the native Bonneville cutthroat trout.

Early human inhabitants were able to grow corn, beans and squash in valleys watered by mountain springs. Spanish explorers encountered tribes of Shoshone and Paiutes that still live here today. Mormon pioneers established sparse settlements in the mid 1800s. The Pony Express and telegraph blazed transportation and communication routes across the area.

Prospectors found deposits of gold, silver and copper; mining followed. Sheep herders and cattlemen utilized the range. Railroads were built to haul out the mineral ore and livestock. Small settlements grew, attracting Greeks, Serbs, Basques, Italians, and Scandinavians. Some of the boom periods have passed away, leaving the landscape, people, structures and practices you see today. This is an important piece of our national heritage.

Visitors to Great Basin National Park are encouraged to explore the cultural and natural features of the surrounding region and learn about its heritage. Learn more at [greatbasinheritage.org](http://greatbasinheritage.org).

**Straddling the Utah-Nevada border, the Great Basin National Heritage Area is rich in natural and cultural resources. Photos by D. Gooch and B. Roberts.**

