

A Message from the Superintendent...

Welcome Visitors!

While enjoying the natural beauty of the Monument, please take a moment to appreciate the cultural history of the area and the importance of the 100th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act and how it shaped the future of Devils Postpile.

One hundred years ago in 1906, progress occurred in protecting America's natural and cultural resources that were being ravaged by widespread looting. The passage of the Antiquities Act by Congress legislated a President could designate National Monuments, defined as "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest," from public lands owned by the federal government. Because it took an Act of Congress to designate a National Park that often required a slow process of negotiations, the Antiquities Act could prevent possible irreparable damage that may have occurred during deliberations.

The timing of this legislation was critical to the future of this area, which, at that time, was immersed in stormy struggles over its fate. As in many other parks that were designated near the turn of the century, pressures to remove the protections that a Park endowed were widespread. In this region, mining, logging and hydroelectric interests had removed more than 500 square miles from Yosemite National Park in 1905. The area included in this removal extended from the Minarets down to the upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River as well as the Postpile and Rainbow Falls. With its removal from park boundaries, the acreage in question lost its protection from Yosemite.

Fortunately, the vision of dedicated citizens resulted in the designation of this National Monument in 1911. Additionally, in the first ten years of the Antiquities Act, thirty other monuments were designated throughout the United States. However, several parks still faced an uncertain future, thus Congress recognized that a greater sense of management direction was needed if parks were to survive. In 1916, the Organic Act established the National Park Service to preserve these areas "unimpaired for present and future generations."

The vision of past generations created the National Park System that inspires our present generation. Our mission is to carry on this legacy so that present and future generations will continue to enjoy our national treasures "unimpaired for future generations."

- Deanna M. Dulen, Superintendent of the Monument



Why the Need for Shuttle Buses?

Devils Postpile National Monument and the Reds Meadow Valley are only accessible by vehicle through a steep and winding road (Reds Meadow Road). For the first two and a half miles, the road is only single-lane with sporadic turnouts. Until 1978, the route was unpaved. This discouraged enough visitors to keep the area free of congestion and other related problems. When the road was paved to reduce dust, however, vehicle trips into the valley increased as a result of improved accessibility. Due to a shortage of parking spaces, the valley was unable to accommodate the number of cars driving down the road.

Concerns over visitor safety, traffic congestion, significant resource damage, limited parking capacity, and the quality of the visitor experience in the valley compelled the Inyo National Forest to implement a mandatory shuttle bus system in 1979. The shuttle bus has been in operation for 27 years. Revenues generated through passenger fares are used to operate the system. Under the new Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, passed by Congress in 2005, the Reds Meadow Transportation System was designated as an expanded amenity fee site. While Golden Passports and National Park Passes are still valid for standard amenity sites, they are no longer accepted for expanded ones which include items like transportation systems.

From mid-June through September, the shuttle operates from 7:00 am to 7:30 pm daily, during which time day users to the area are

required to take the bus into the valley. Visitors driving in before or after these hours, who are camping, who are staying at Reds Meadow Resort over night, hauling stock trailers, bringing in small watercraft for use in the lakes, or who can provide proof of physical handicap are permitted to drive their personal vehicles on the road.



The shuttle system has been effective at limiting the number of vehicles on the road, reducing traffic congestion and accidents, as well as alleviating resource damage while allowing more people to experience the beauty of the valley. Without it, vehicles entering the valley on a daily basis would need to be limited due to a significant lack of parking.

Monument, Forest, or Wilderness?

While there are two land management agencies in the vicinity of Devils Postpile, there are three different kinds of land.

The Monument is part of the National Park Service, an agency of the Department of Interior, which strives to preserve pristine landscapes, as well as natural and cultural resources. Land outside of the Monument belongs to the Inyo National Forest, part of the Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages land under the concept of multiple use, providing services and commodities that may include lumber, grazing, minerals, and recreation.

Both of these agencies also manage wilderness areas. For example, parts of Devils Postpile National Monument and the Inyo National Forest are designated as the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wilderness areas. Monuments, forests, and wilderness areas may incorporate different rules to accomplish their management goals. Be sure to check with a Park Ranger to determine what activities are permitted in different areas.

Partners in Parks

Sequoia Natural History Association This non-profit membership organization provides support for interpretation and sells books and other educational materials at the Ranger Station. This year's printing of The Post was entirely funded by SNHA. (559) 565-3759 / www.sequoiahistory.org



California Geographic Alliance The Alliance helps teachers prepare children to embrace a diverse world, succeed in a global economy, and steward the planet's resources. It also funded and supported the educational activities in this newspaper.



Friends of Devils Postpile Created in 2001 with the support of the Sequoia Fund, this organization is dedicated to supporting the care of resources, interpretive programs, and exhibits.

Yosemite Conservation Corps, California Conservation Corps, and the Student Conservation Association Every year, these groups provide labor and funding to assist in important trail work, facility maintenance, resource management, and visitor services.

National Park Service The agency oversees all aspects of this Monument. Park Rangers provide services including a Ranger Station, educational programs, and emergency response. Additionally, the NPS maintains all facilities and park resources. www.nps.gov



Did you know?

Approximately fifty-five percent of all columns in the Postpile formation are six-sided.