

# The Bristlecone

The official newspaper of Great Basin National Park Summer 2016 - Spring 2017

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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**Mailing Address**  
Great Basin National Park  
5500 W. Hwy 488  
Baker, NV 89311

**Websites**  
[nps.gov/grba](http://nps.gov/grba)  
[facebook.com/GreatBasinNPS](https://facebook.com/GreatBasinNPS)

**Grey Cliffs Campground & Cave Tour Reservations**  
[recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov)  
(877) 444-6777

**Park Information and Questions**  
(775) 234-7331

**After Hours Non-Emergency Help**  
(702) 293-8998

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# The Great Basin Observatory

Great Basin National Park is not only a wonderful place to recreate, it is also an extremely valuable laboratory to conduct scientific research.



The park has some of the darkest night skies in the United States and has drawn thousands of people to the exciting experience of seeing a primeval night sky. It is also an ideal spot to conduct astronomical research. In celebration of the National Park Service Centennial (2016), the Great Basin National Park Foundation, the park's non-profit partner (see article on

page 11), has raised funds to build the Great Basin Observatory, the first research-class astronomical observatory in a national park.

The Great Basin Observatory will feature a 0.7-meter (28 inch) telescope with special cameras to capture images of deep space objects. It will be a fully autonomous and robotic astronomical observatory, meaning scientists and students from all over the world will be able to use its instrumentation to conduct research without having to be located on-site. Potential research topics include galaxy detection, extra-solar planet discovery, asteroid and comet observation, and supernova studies. The observatory will be used by various groups of researchers from university scientists to elementary and high school students of the Great Basin, and beyond.

The Great Basin Observatory is a cooperative effort of the Park, the Foundation, and four universities: University of Nevada, Reno; Western Nevada College (Carson City, NV); Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT); and Concordia University (Irvine, CA). The observatory will be used to educate and inspire scientists and park visitors about the wonders of our National Parks and Universe. As the National Park Service celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016, there is no better time to expand our definition of parks and ensure their preservation for future generations. Our national parks provide opportunities for recreation, to learn our history, to protect our most vulnerable species, and now to peer into the universe and contemplate our place in it.

## 2016 Great Basin Astronomy Festival September 29 - October 1

Join park rangers and experience out of this world family fun, excitement, and learn about day and nighttime astronomy.

### Astronomy Programs

On a clear, moonless night in Great Basin National Park, thousands of stars, five of our solar system's eight planets, star clusters, meteors, manmade satellites, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way can be seen with the naked eye. The area boasts some of the darkest night skies left in the United States. Low humidity and minimal light pollution, combined with high elevation, create a unique window into the universe.

# The Lost and Found Report

“Why would you leave your rifle and not come back?”

Numerous questions surround the small piece of American heritage found and recovered by Great Basin National Park archaeologists in November, 2014. A 132 year-old rifle, exposed to sun, wind, and snow, found leaning against



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a tree in the park, attracted worldwide attention through social media. The cracked wood stock, weathered to grey, and the brown rusted barrel blended into the colors of the old juniper tree in a remote rocky outcrop, keeping the rifle hidden for many years.

“Model 1873” distinctively engraved on the mechanism identifies the rifle as the Winchester Model 1873 repeating rifle. The serial number in Winchester company records held at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West museum in Cody, Wyoming indicates the gun was shipped from the factory in 1882, but the detailed history of this rifle is unknown. The mystery fueled imagination and prompted numerous theories of when and why the gun was abandoned.

Assisting with conservation, the Buffalo Bill Center identified a cartridge through x-ray imaging services provided by the local hospital. The cartridge removed from a compartment in the stock was made between 1887 and 1911. This provides clues but still no positive evidence of when the rifle was left.

Winchester Model 1873 rifles hold a prominent place in Western history and lore. The rifles are referred to as “the gun that won the West”. Selling for about \$50 when they first came out, the rifles reduced in price to \$25 in 1882 and were accessible and popular as “everyman’s” rifle. This rifle is a 44-40 caliber with octagon barrel, lever action, repeating rifle that could hold up to 14 cartridges. Its condition when it was found shows the rifle was well used and had been

repaired and continued to be used before it was abandoned.

The Great Basin Winchester continues to provide its own bit of lore. Who left the rifle? When and why was it leaned against the tree? And, why was it never retrieved? Research continues and details about the rifle's past are a mystery. The story from here is yours to share.



# Park Rules, Regulations, and Safety

Not knowing the rules is not an excuse to break them!

<b>Speed Limits</b>	Follow all speed limits throughout the park.
<b>Trails</b>	If trails are provided, stay on them. Taking shortcuts creates a complex web of social trails and causes erosion. When hiking cross country, try to disperse impact by not following others' footsteps. Do not create rock cairns. Leave the environment as you found it.
<b>Pets</b>	Pets are not allowed on most trails in the park. Clearly marked service dogs on a leash are allowed on trails. Pets on a leash are allowed on roads, campgrounds, and parking lots. Use caution when walking your pet and watch for vehicles.
<b>Fishing</b>	Fishing is allowed in the park; follow all Nevada State laws when fishing in the park. Use of live bait is prohibited. Fish entrails should be buried.
<b>Collecting</b>	No collecting of anything in the park. This includes but is not limited to rocks, sticks, wood, plants, soil, leaves, cones, artifacts, wildlife, cave formations, or park signs.
<b>Backcountry Camping</b>	Backcountry camping is allowed, except within ¼ mile of any developed site (i.e. road, buildings, campground, etc.), within the Wheeler Peak or Lexington Arch areas, near archeological sites, or in bristlecone pine groves. Campsites must be a minimum of 100 feet from trails and water. Camp on mineral soil if possible and avoid camping in the treeless alpine zone. Be sure to practice leave no trace while camping and hiking.
<b>Backcountry Permits</b>	Backcountry permits are optional but highly recommended. In all cases, you should tell a friend or family member where you will be going and when you plan to return.
<b>Campfires</b>	Fires may be built in the backcountry, but not above 10,000 feet elevation. At lower elevation, collect only dead wood already on the ground. Do not collect bristlecone pine wood, even when dead or down. (The growth rings in the wood are a historical record of climatic change valuable to scientists.) It is illegal to leave any fire unattended. The park strongly recommends using stoves for cooking in the backcountry.
<b>Firearms</b>	Firearms are allowed in the park. A person must follow all federal and Nevada state laws while carrying a firearm. Firearms are not allowed in federal buildings. Lehman Caves is considered a federal building. Hunting is not allowed in the park.
<b>Bicycles</b>	Bicycles are not allowed on trails or the backcountry. Use extreme caution when on the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive.
<b>Trail Running</b>	Trail running is allowed on all trails in the park. Some trails are rugged and in remote areas: be safe and stay hydrated! Be courteous to hikers while running.
<b>Mountain Lions</b>	Be aware: the risk of a mountain lion attack increases during dusk and dawn. Traveling in groups of 2 or more decreases your risk of a mountain lion attack. Never run away from a lion. Stand your ground and fight if necessary until they retreat.
<b>Horseback Riding &amp; Pack Animals</b>	Llamas, horses, and mules are allowed in the backcountry as pack animals. Any feed brought into the park for the animals must be certified weed-free and all animals must be on a weedfree diet for three days prior to arrival in the park. Horses and pack animals are allowed on all trails except: Wheeler Peak Day Use Area trails, Osceola Ditch trail, Lexington Arch trail, Baker to Johnson Lake Cutoff trail, and interpretive trails. A Special Use Permit is needed for over 6 horses or pack animals per group for day or overnight use. Check with the visitor center for any updated info.
<b>Alcohol</b>	Drinking alcohol in the park is allowed. Drink responsibly and absolutely NO drinking and driving.
<b>All Terrain Vehicles</b>	All terrain vehicles are not allowed in the park. Street legal vehicles must stay on designated park roads.
<b>Mines and Caves</b>	Do not enter an abandoned mine or cave in the park unless you have a permit. This is for your safety and the protection of park resources. Stay out! Stay alive!
<b>Pinyon Pine Nuts</b>	During Pinyon Pine nut season, the nuts may be gathered only for personal non-commercial use. Limit 25 lbs or three 2 ft by 3 ft gunnysacks of cones per household per year. Do not break, cut, pull, shake, climb, or injure the pines or other plants. Only free standing ladders may be used.
<b>Altitude Sickness</b>	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.
<b>Hypothermia</b>	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.
<b>Drinking Water</b>	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. Backcountry water resources are highly variable; carry all the water you will need.
<b>Driving Conditions</b>	Driving conditions in the park can be hazardous. 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.
<b>Cell Phones</b>	Cell phones do not always work in the park. Do not rely on them!
<b>Distracted Driving</b>	There are three main types of distractions: Visual- taking your eyes off the road, Manual- taking your hands off the wheel, and Cognitive- taking your mind off driving. While driving, your focus needs to be on driving safely.
<b>Lightning</b>	If you can hear thunder, you are within striking range. Seek appropriate shelter immediately. High elevations, open areas, and tall trees increase the risk of lightning strikes.



Always be courteous and respectful to law enforcement. They just want to protect you and the park. Not every activity can be addressed in this paper so check with a ranger if you have questions about anything not covered. It's your responsibility to know before you act.

# The Centennial Schedule

## Find Your PARK at Great Basin

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Through December 2016	The Winchester Heard 'Round the World	Great Basin National Park	A temporary display of the Winchester Model 1873 found in the park.
April 16, 2016	Centennial Junior Ranger Day	Great Basin National Park	Fun family activities for youth.
April 16 - 23, 2016	National Park Week	Great Basin National Park	#FindYourPark Challenge rangers to Park Service trivia. Look for the announcement of the Centennial Artist in Residence. Use the #FindYourPark selfie frame in the cave
May 20-22, 2016	Centennial BioBlitz	Great Basin National Park	Citizen Scientists will spend a weekend collecting, identifying, and recording birds in the park.
July 16-23, 2016	Celebrating Great People and Great Places	Great Basin National Park and Ely, NV	Great Basin and the National Speleological Society (NSS) host special interpretive programs and caving events.
August 12-13, 2016	Great Basin, Great Inspiration	Great Basin National Park, Ely, NV, and Delta, UT.	Artist workshops and keynote speakers.
August 25, 2016	For All of Time and Space	Great Basin National Park	Our signature event. Join us for a time capsule burial and "First Light" for the Great Basin Observatory. Special guest speakers and astronomy programs will be held.
August 25, 2016	Centennial Video on Fremont Experience	Fremont Experience, Las Vegas, NV	Short film shown on the Fremont Experience for NPS Centennial featuring Great Basin and several other parks.
September 29, 30 & October 1, 2016	Centennial Astronomy Festival	Great Basin National Park	Three days and nights of sky observations, with activities for children, families and adults, night sky viewing parties, guest speakers and a talent show.
September 24, 2016	Centennial Public Lands Day	Great Basin National Park	Bring regional youth to Great Basin and participate in hands on activities about park wildlife and cultural resources. A service project will also be completed.
October 27, 2016	30th Anniversary Celebration	Great Basin National Park and Online	Celebrate your 30th birthday, or any birthday at Great Basin National Park. Share your images on your social media sites using the hashtag #Turning30withGRBA or #GreatBasin all year long. Join our virtual party on October 27th on Facebook and Twitter. Visit us that day and there will be cake! Join our photo contest for the cover of the park newspaper.

2016 is a big year as we will celebrate both the National Park Service Centennial and the 30th Anniversary of the Park. Above you will find a list of planned events. If you are interested in our events contact Centennial Coordinator Nichole Andler at (775) 234-7521 or nichole\_andler@nps.gov

# EXPLORE 5 MORE

## Celebrate the National Park Service Centennial

With the combined effort of over 25 parks and organizations in the Grand Circle area of Arizona, Nevada and Utah; PARKS100 is celebrating the NPS Centennial in a new way. We have created a community, locally and online, to help you explore more of our area and find all types of parks, as well as local Centennial events, suggested itineraries, visitor centers, and our hidden gems.

## Venture Out & Explore Five More™

Don't miss our hidden gems! Within a short drive of Great Basin National Park (and each of our beloved national parks) are five more incredible outdoor places to explore. Make them part of your journey...

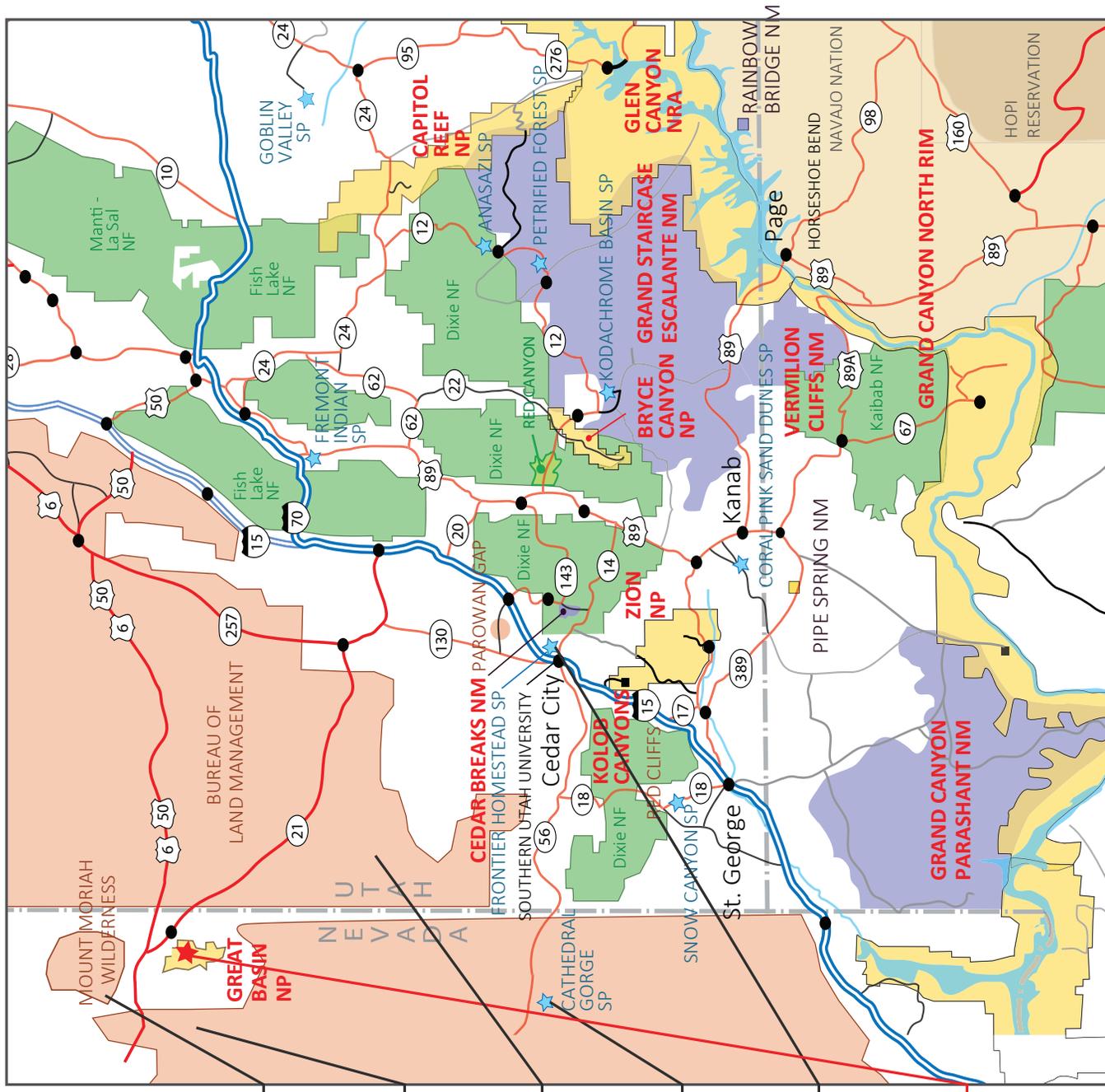
## Plan Your Visit Locally & Online

Find Parks100 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, as well as at [www.parks100.com](http://www.parks100.com).

**Baker, Nevada**  
Highway 487  
(775) 234-7331  
[nps.gov/grba](http://nps.gov/grba)

**Cedar City, Utah**  
581 North Main St.  
(435) 586-5124  
[visitcedarcity.com](http://visitcedarcity.com)

[WWW.PARKS100.COM](http://WWW.PARKS100.COM)



**MOUNT MORIAH  
WILDERNESS AREA  
(1 hour)**

**WARD CHARCOAL  
OVENS SP  
(1 hour)**

**SULPHUR WILD  
HORSE HMA  
(1 hour)**

**CATHEDRAL  
GORGE SP  
(2 hours)**

**FRONTIER  
HOMESTEAD SP  
(2.75 hours)**

**GREAT BASIN  
NATIONAL PARK**

## Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive and Lehman Caves VC - Paved Road

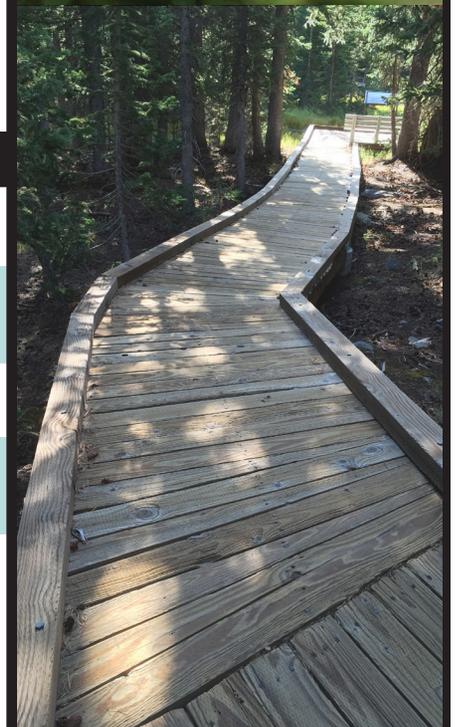
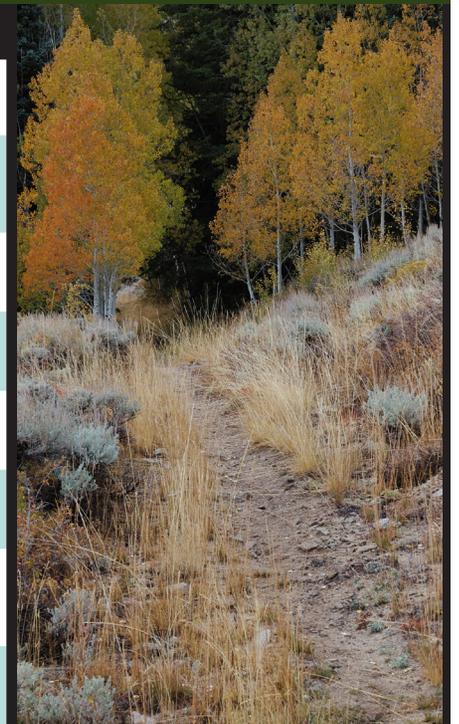
Trails	Trailhead Round-trip	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
Wheeler Peak Trail	8.2 miles (13 km)	2,900 feet (884 m)	10,160 feet (3,097m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> Start very early in the day because of the risk of afternoon thunderstorms. Along most of the route, the trail follows the ridge up to the Wheeler Peak summit.
Alpine Lakes Loop	2.7 miles (4.4 km)	600 feet (183 m)	9,800 feet (2,987 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Passes two beautiful sub-alpine lakes and has good views of Wheeler Peak.
Bristlecone Trail	2.8 miles (4.5 km)	600 feet (183 m)	9,800 feet (2,987 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Leads to an ancient bristlecone pine grove with trees up to 5,000 years old.
Glacier Trail	4.6 miles (7.4 km)	1,100 feet (335 m)	9,800 feet (2,987 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Continues beyond the bristlecone pine grove to a rock glacier, nestled beneath Wheeler Peak.
Island Forest Nature Trail 	0.4 miles (0.6 km)	50 feet (15 m)	9,800 feet (2,987 m)	<b>Easy:</b> Wheelchair accessible trail with benches to sit on.
Osceola Ditch Trail	9.2 miles (14.8 km)	200 feet (61 m)	8,400 feet (2560 m)	<b>Easy:</b> Walk through ponderosa pine, white fir, and Douglas fir trees. Trail follows the remnants of an 18-mile long channel.
Lehman Creek Trail	6.8 miles (11 km)	2,050 feet (625 m)	7,750 feet (2,362 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Passes through diverse habitats, along side a creek for parts of the trail.
Mountain View Nature Trail	0.3 miles (0.5 km)	80 feet (24 m)	6,825 feet (2,080 m)	<b>Easy:</b> This is a leisurely walk in the pinyon-juniper forest. The trail starts at the Rhodes Cabin next to the visitor center.

## Baker Creek - Gravel Road

Trail	Trailhead Round-trip	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
Pole Canyon Trail	4 miles (6.4 km)	600 feet (182 m)	7,000 feet (2,134m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Passes through different forest communities, along the creekbed, and into several small meadows.
Baker Lake Trail	12 miles (19.3 km)	2,620 feet (799 m)	8,000 feet (2,438 m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> Offers nice views of the surrounding peaks. Hike through ponderosa pines and a beautiful meadow.
Baker Creek Loop Trail	3.1 miles (5 km)	870 feet (265 m)	8,000 feet (2,438 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> A forested walk with a beautiful small meadow. Some steep sections.
Timber Creek Loop Trail	5.1 miles (8.2 km)	1,680 feet (512 m)	8,000 feet (2,438 m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> A steep climb up the Timber Creek Trail with good views of Snake Valley along the way. Enjoy lunch in a meadow lined by aspen groves, beneath imposing Pyramid Peak. Return via the lively, forested stream of South Fork Baker Creek.
Johnson Lake Via Timber Creek Trail	11.2 miles (18 km)	2,740 feet (835 m)	8,000 feet (2,438 m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> A steep climb offering expansive views of the Snake Valley and Pyramid Peak, followed by a forested stroll past the historic structures of the Johnson Lake Mining District. Then it's up an old road bed to treeline and breathtaking Johnson Lake.
Baker Johnson Lakes Loop Route	13.1 miles (21.1 km)	3,290 feet (1,003 m)	8,000 feet (2,438 m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> This is a long day hike or a classic one or two-night back packing trip. Along the way you'll cross a high alpine pass, stroll the shores of two sub-alpine lakes, pass through a historic mining operation and mingle with the big peaks of the Snake Range. Route finding required.

## Strawberry Creek - Gravel Road

Trail	Trailhead Round-trip	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
Sage Steppe Loop Trail	1 mile (1.6 km)	295 feet (90 m)	7,920 feet (2,414 m)	<b>Easy:</b> This short loop winds through riparian and mountain sage steppe habitat and also along sections of the creek. Loops back to the the trailhead.
Blue Canyon Trail	1.5 miles (2.4 km)	200 feet (61 m)	8,000 feet (2438 m)	<b>Easy:</b> Parallels old road meandering through meadows and wooded areas slowly gaining elevation. <b>Under Construction.</b>
Strawberry Creek Route	4 miles (6.4 km)	1,000 feet (305 m)	8,200 feet (2499 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Parallels Strawberry Creek and climbs gradually through shady pine and aspen forest, topping out on the Windy Peak Ridge saddle.
Osceola Ditch Trail	9.2 miles (14.8 km)	200 feet (61 m)	8,200 feet (2499 m)	<b>Easy:</b> Walk through Douglas fir, white fir, and ponderosa pine trees. Trail follows the remnants of an 18-mile long channel.



# Trail Guide

Experience Your Park

## Lexington Creek - 4 Wheel Drive High Clearance Road

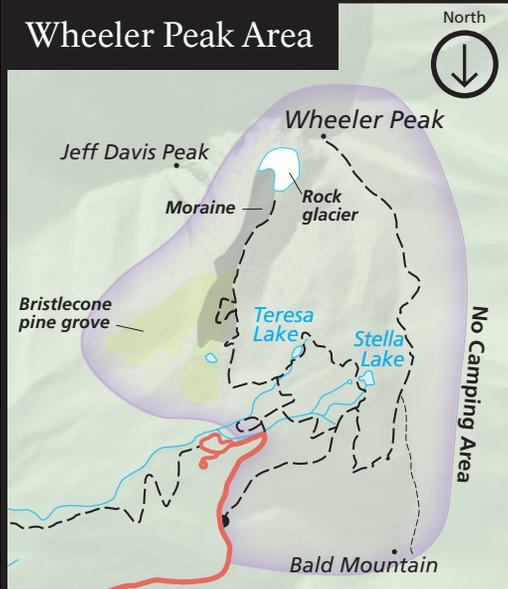
Trail	Trailhead Round-trip	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
South Fork Big Wash Route	11.2 miles (18 km)	1,440 feet (439 m)	6,920 feet (2,109 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Impressive gorge with sheer rock cliffs unique in this mountain range.
Lexington Arch Route 	5.4 miles (8.7 km)	820 feet (250 m)	7,440 feet (2,268 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Leads to a six-story limestone arch. The trail has steep sections. Inquire about road conditions.

## Snake Creek - Gravel Road

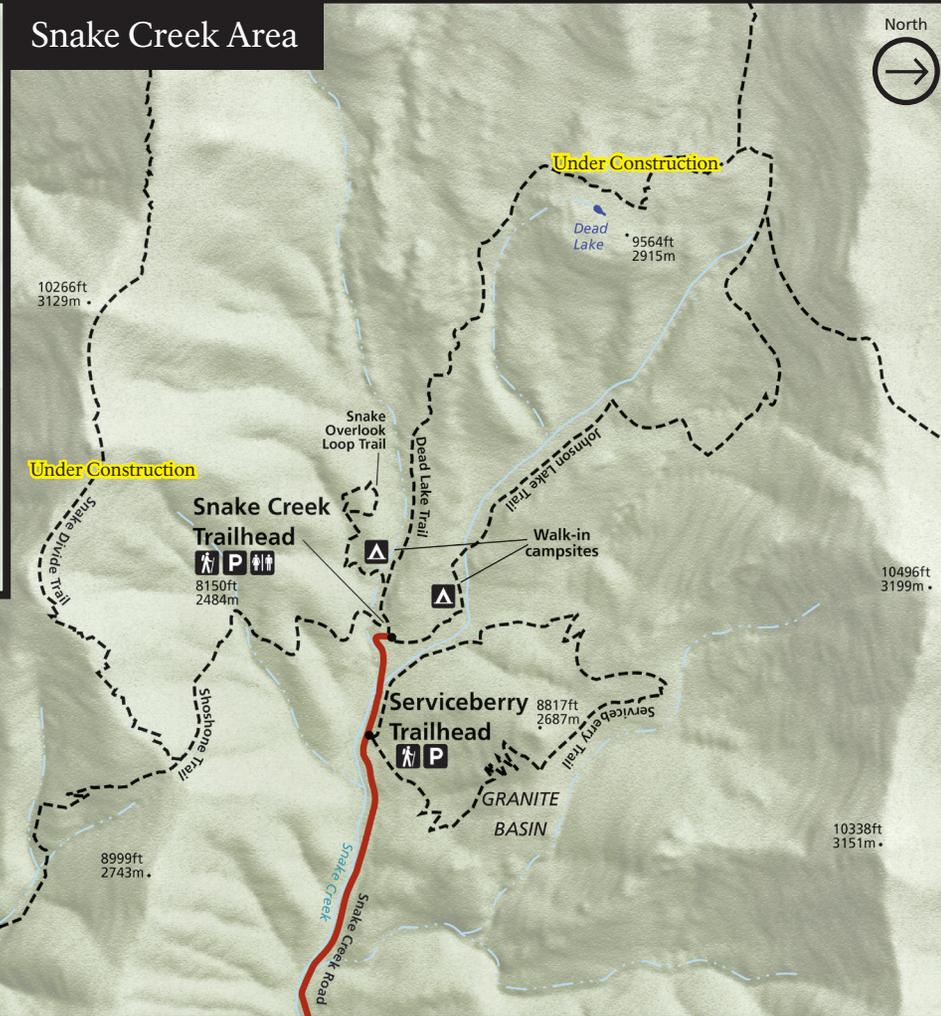
Trail	Trailhead Round-trip	Elevation Gain	Starting Elevation	Description
Johnson Lake Trail	7.8 miles (12.6 km)	2,610 feet (796 m)	8,150 feet (2,484 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> This short steeper route offers nice views of the Snake Creek drainage before reaching the historic Johnson Mill and Johnson Lake.
Dead Lake Trail	3.8 miles (6.1 km)	1,561 feet (476 m)	8,150 feet (2,484 m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> Follow old roadbed on the north slope of canyon. Middle sections are steep. <b>Under Construction.</b>
Shoshone Trail	6.4 miles (10.3 km)	1,927 feet (588 m)	8,150 feet (2,484 m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> Trail winds up south slope of canyon then ascends steeply to the ridge. No maintained trail to Upper North Fork Big Wash Canyon; route finding required.
Shoshone ADA Trail 	0.1 miles (0.16 km)	Negligible	8,150 feet (2,484 m)	<b>Easy:</b> Take in stunning views of the upper canyon before making your way to a deck overlooking Snake Creek. Bring a fishing rod to cast a line in one of the stream pools.
Snake Divide Trail	12.8 miles (20.6 km)	2,973 feet (906 m)	8,150 feet (2,484 m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> Follow the Shoshone trail along the canyon, then ascends steeply to the ridge. Snake Divide trail follows ridge to the Bristlecone Pine Natural Area. <b>Under Construction.</b>
North Fork Big Wash Trail	10.2 miles (16.4 km)	3,880 feet (1,183 m)	8,150 feet (2,484 m)	<b>Strenuous:</b> Experience a remote and rugged area of the park with more of a desert feel. Your walk will take you down a fading road, through canyon walls begging for exploration. Route finding required.
Snake Overlook Loop Trail	1.5 miles (2.4 km)	370 feet (113 m)	8,150 feet (2,484 m)	<b>Easy:</b> Follows an old road bed through mixed conifer forest to a beautiful vista. Take the loop trail back.
Serviceberry Trail	3.2 miles (5.2 km)	657 feet (200 m)	8,106 feet (2,471 m)	<b>Moderate:</b> Winds through forests and meadows before ascending. Views of Snake Creek Canyon can be seen from the top. Trail loops back to trailhead.



### Wheeler Peak Area



### Snake Creek Area



# Local Services

## Snake Valley and Spring Valley

For the most up to date info, visit [www.greatbasinpark.com](http://www.greatbasinpark.com)

Name	Lodging	Fuel	Restaurant/ Food	Groceries	Convenience Store	Bar	Firewood	RV Camping	RV Hook Ups	Tent Camping	Public Showers	Public Laundry	Art For Sale	Gift Shop
Baker RV & Fuel (In Baker, NV)		Yes												
Border Inn (775) 234-7300	Yes	Yes	Breakfast Lunch Dinner	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bureau of Land Management <a href="http://www.blm.gov/nv">www.blm.gov/nv</a> <a href="http://www.blm.gov/ut">www.blm.gov/ut</a>										Primitive				
D Bar X Lighting (800) 467-6599 <a href="http://www.dbarxlighting.com">www.dbarxlighting.com</a>													Handcrafted Rustic Lighting	
D Bar X Meats (775) 234-7107 <a href="http://www.dbarx.com">www.dbarx.com</a>			Meat Processor											
Ferg's Firewood (In Baker, NV)							Yes							
Gateway Accomodations <a href="http://www.gatewayaccomodations.com">www.gatewayaccomodations.com</a>	Yes													
The Getaway Cabin (775) 234-7007	Yes													
Hidden Canyon Bed & Breakfast (775) 234-7172 <a href="http://www.hiddencanyonretreat.com">www.hiddencanyonretreat.com</a>	Yes		Reservation Only											
Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest (775) 289-3031 <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf">www.fs.usda.gov/htnf</a>										Primitive				
Lehman Caves Gift & Cafe (775) 234-7221			Breakfast Lunch										Yes	Yes
Magic Bean Coffee Cart (In Baker, NV)			Coffee											
Major's Station RV Park (775) 591-0347						Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes				
Rock Sage Room (775) 234-7127 <a href="http://www.airbnb.com">www.airbnb.com</a>	Yes													
Sacramento Pass Campground (BLM) (775) 289-1800 <a href="http://www.blm.gov/nv">www.blm.gov/nv</a>								Yes		Yes				
Salt and Sucre (719) 237-5726 <a href="http://www.saltandsucre.com">www.saltandsucre.com</a>			Sack Lunches Baked Goods											
Silver Jack Inn & Lectrolux Cafe (775) 299-5428 <a href="http://www.silverjackinn.com">www.silverjackinn.com</a>	Yes		Breakfast Dinner	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
T&Ds Store & Restaurant (775) 234-7264 <a href="http://www.greatbasinxenman.com">www.greatbasinxenman.com</a>			Lunch Dinner	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Western National Parks Association Bookstore (775) 234-7331 <a href="http://www.wnpa.org">www.wnpa.org</a>														Yes
Whispering Elms Campground (775) 234-9900 <a href="http://www.camptheelms.wix.com/the-elms">www.camptheelms.wix.com/the-elms</a>	Yes					Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		

## Park Campsite Guide

Pay at site - First come first served  
Camping half price for Golden Age or Access Pass card holders

Name	Elevation	Total Sites	Group Sites	Accessible ADA Sites	Pull-through Sites	Developed Backcountry Sites	Cost per Night	Comments
Lower Lehman Creek	7,300 ft	11		1	6		\$12	No Water due to repairs
Upper Lehman Creek	7,752 ft	XX		XX	XX	XX	XX	Closed in 2016 for repairs
Baker Creek	7,530 ft	34		2	2	2	\$12	
Wheeler Peak	9,886 ft	37		1			\$12	
Grey Cliffs	7,140 ft	16	5	2			Adv. Reservations	No Water
Strawberry	7,251 ft	11	2	1			Free	No Water
Monkey Rock	Snake Creek	6,674 ft	1	1			Free	No Water
Pinnacle	Snake Creek	6,748 ft	1	1			Free	No Water
RV Site	Snake Creek	6,776 ft	1				Free	No Water
Squirrel Springs	Snake Creek	7,219 ft	3				Free	No Water
Eagle Peak	Snake Creek	7,640 ft	3	1			Free	No Water
Shoshone	Snake Creek	8,240 ft	2			2	Free	No Water
Johnson Lake Trail Site	Snake Creek	8,244 ft	1			1	Free	No Water
Backcountry (Primitive Camping)	N/A	N/A					Free	Permit Highly Recommended

# Examining Climate Change in Your Park

Great Basin National Park about 15,000 years ago would have looked much different. Lake Bonneville, predecessor to the Great Salt Lake, filled much of Snake Valley. A forest of bristlecone and limber pines grew nearly to the lake's edge.



You would have seen dire wolves, giant short-faced bears, ground sloths, and ancient horses and camels. Incredible Teratorns, with wingspans of eighteen feet and weighing 150 pounds, would have soared overhead. Glaciers hundreds of feet thick flowed

from the higher peaks, carving rock and pushing moraines of cobble that are still evident today.

Why isn't the park like that now? Simply put, the climate has changed and it continues to change. Park staff and many researchers are studying these past and present changes, their implications on the park plants and animals, and what we have to look forward to.

You can spot evidence of past climate change during your visit. High on Mount Washington, above the current treeline, you might see pieces of wood. These are remnants of bristlecone pines that grew higher up the mountain when temperatures were even warmer than what we encounter today.

Climate studies have been done using sediment cores from sub-alpine lakes, testing pollen in

middens deposited by woodrats over thousands of years, and by dating animal bones in caves.

While the climate is always changing, the current rate of climate change happening today is unprecedented. The CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has reached a record high relative to more than the past half-million years, and has done so at an exceptionally fast rate. Current global temperatures are warmer than they have ever been during at least the past five centuries. It is happening so fast that some plants and animals don't have time to adapt or evolve to the new conditions.

The park participates in the GLORIA program. During the 2013 resurvey of plots, park staff and volunteers found a number of species that weren't present five years earlier. Projected changes over the next several

decades include changes in mean annual precipitation and mean annual streamflow, shifts towards earlier snowmelt by one to several weeks, and reductions in streamflow volume. These changes sound small but cumulatively can have a huge effect on the plants and animals.

The increase in greenhouse gasses is largely caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Now that we know what is causing these abnormally high conditions, there are ways you can help reduce greenhouse gasses. Try to minimize the amount of electricity you use by turning off unnecessary lights and electronics. Use less fuel by walking, riding your bike, using public transportation, and carpooling more. The climate is always changing, but humans now play a bigger role. Let's use our power wisely.

## The White-Nose Syndrome Epidemic

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a bat-killing fungus that looks like powdered sugar around the muzzle and ears of wintering bats. Since the emergence of this disease in 2006, WNS has decimated bat colonies across a wide swath of the Eastern and Midwestern US and Canada, reducing some populations by over 90%. Some individual colonies have perished entirely. WNS crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Europe, possibly hitching a ride on the clothes and shoes of tourists. While European bats seem to have developed an evolutionary resistance to the fungus, North American species have no such advantage. It kills indirectly, interrupting winter hibernation which forces the bats to burn excess calories at a time of year when there is no way to replace them. Eventually, they starve to death.

Bats are an important part of nearly every ecosystem on earth. Found in all regions except the harshest polar climates, bats make up about 20% of the world's mammal population. Fruit-eating bats spread seeds and are largely responsible for reforestation of burned areas. Nectar-eating bats pollinate many plants, including banana trees. Cave-roosting bats are considered a keystone species because they provide guano, a building block of the cave food web. Bats also save the US agricultural industry over three billion dollars a year in pest control services.

It is easy for you to play a part in helping to control the spread of this disease. Heed posted cave closures. If you have any doubt of whether your clothes may be contaminated, change or launder them before entering any cave. If you have worn your shoes in

any cave, underground mine, or suspected bat sanctuary, please switch footwear before the tour or allow our staff to disinfect your shoes. Other items to consider disinfecting include cameras, headlamps, and flashlights. If this means you need to show up 20 minutes early, please take the time. Bats need our help now.

As new information about WNS comes to light, Great Basin National Park will be implementing new decontamination and monitoring procedures. Please work with us to protect our bats and their habitat.

As of just last year, WNS has been found in caves in China.

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.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org](http://www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org).



# What is the Great Basin?

The Great Basin 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. This park is a small representation of all the region has to offer.



**The Great Basin** can be classified in three ways: hydrographically, biologically, and geologically.

**The Hydrographic Great Basin** is a 200,000 square mile area that is defined by water and how it flows. All of the water in the Great Basin drains internally. Precipitation either evaporates, sinks underground, or flows into lakes. Creeks, streams, and rivers find no outlet to any ocean.

**The Great Basin Desert** is defined by plant and animal communities. It is a temperate desert with hot, dry summers and snowy winters. 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.

**The Basin and Range Province** is the product of geological forces stretching the earth's crust, creating many north-south trending mountain ranges. These ranges are separated by broad valleys or basins.

# Western National Parks Association

Established in 1938, Western National Parks Association operates bookstores at sixty-eight 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.

The association has more than 200 publications in print, including *Great Basin*

*National Park*, which was published in 2007. A catalog of WNPA publications and other educational products on subjects from Archeology to Zoology is available in the Great Basin National Park visitor center bookstores. WNPA members receive a 15% discount on all bookstore items; the annual membership fee is \$45.00. Ask at a visitor center for details.

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, hiking maps, logo items, and a variety of items revealing the Great Basin.



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# The Great Basin National Park Foundation

The non-profit Great Basin National Park Foundation, an invaluable Park partner, supports Great Basin National Park primarily through fundraising for specific projects. In its 18 years, the Foundation has raised over \$1.5 million for Park visitor services and resource management, such as the growing collection of oral histories, improvement of Park trails, wildlife research, and the design and construction of the Great Basin Visitor Center exhibits.

The Foundation's most recent fundraising effort is for the Great Basin Observatory (see article on page 2), which will be built this summer in celebration of the National Park Service Centennial. The Foundation has secured approximately \$850,000 for this

project. Donations have come from nearly 100 individuals and organizations and have ranged from \$10 to \$200,000. "Sagan Society" donors (\$100,000 and more) are the Mike and Linda Niggli Family, the David Nathan Meyerson Foundation, the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership, and the Mount Cuba Astronomical Foundation. "Galileo Group" donors (\$50,000 plus) include the Nevada Energy Foundation, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, the Robert S. and Dorothy J Keyser Foundation, and the E.L. Cord Foundation. A complete list of donations is located on the GBO website: [www.GreatBasinObservatory.org](http://www.GreatBasinObservatory.org).

To learn more about current projects and opportunities to support them, visit the Foundation at [www.GreatBasinFoundation.org](http://www.GreatBasinFoundation.org).



# The Great Basin National Heritage Area

Did you know that Great Basin National Park lies within a national heritage area? Like national parks, national heritage areas are designated by Congress; they are different from national parks in that heritage areas generally do not own property and utilize public-private partnerships to preserve, promote, and interpret heritage resources. There are 49 national heritage areas in the United States.

The Great Basin National Heritage Area was designated in 2006 for its significant natural and cultural resources and its classic western landscape: long natural vistas, isolated high desert valleys, mountain ranges, ranches, mines, historic railroads, archeological sites and tribal communities.

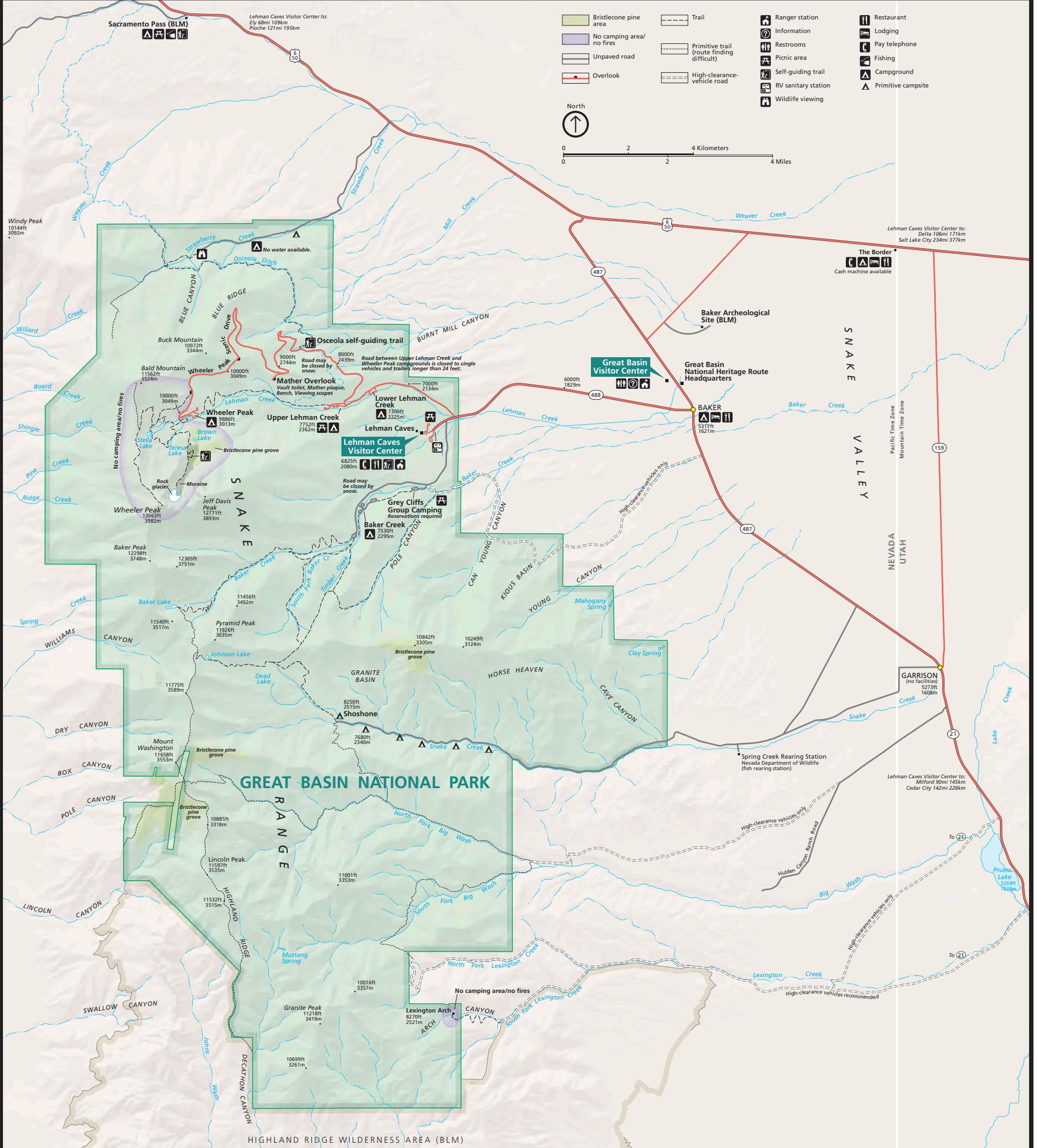
The Great Basin National Heritage Area is a geographical region that encompasses White Pine County, Nevada; Millard County, Utah; and nearby tribal lands.

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is the coordinating entity, and our mission is to promote preservation, education, and enjoyment of the region's unique heritage. The Partnership has been able to grant funds for projects throughout the heritage area, many of which have created or expanded unique visitor experiences. Ask for a map at the visitor center. We encourage you to take an extra day or two to explore the heritage area!

Learn more at [www.greatbasinheritage.org](http://www.greatbasinheritage.org).



# Great Basin National Park



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