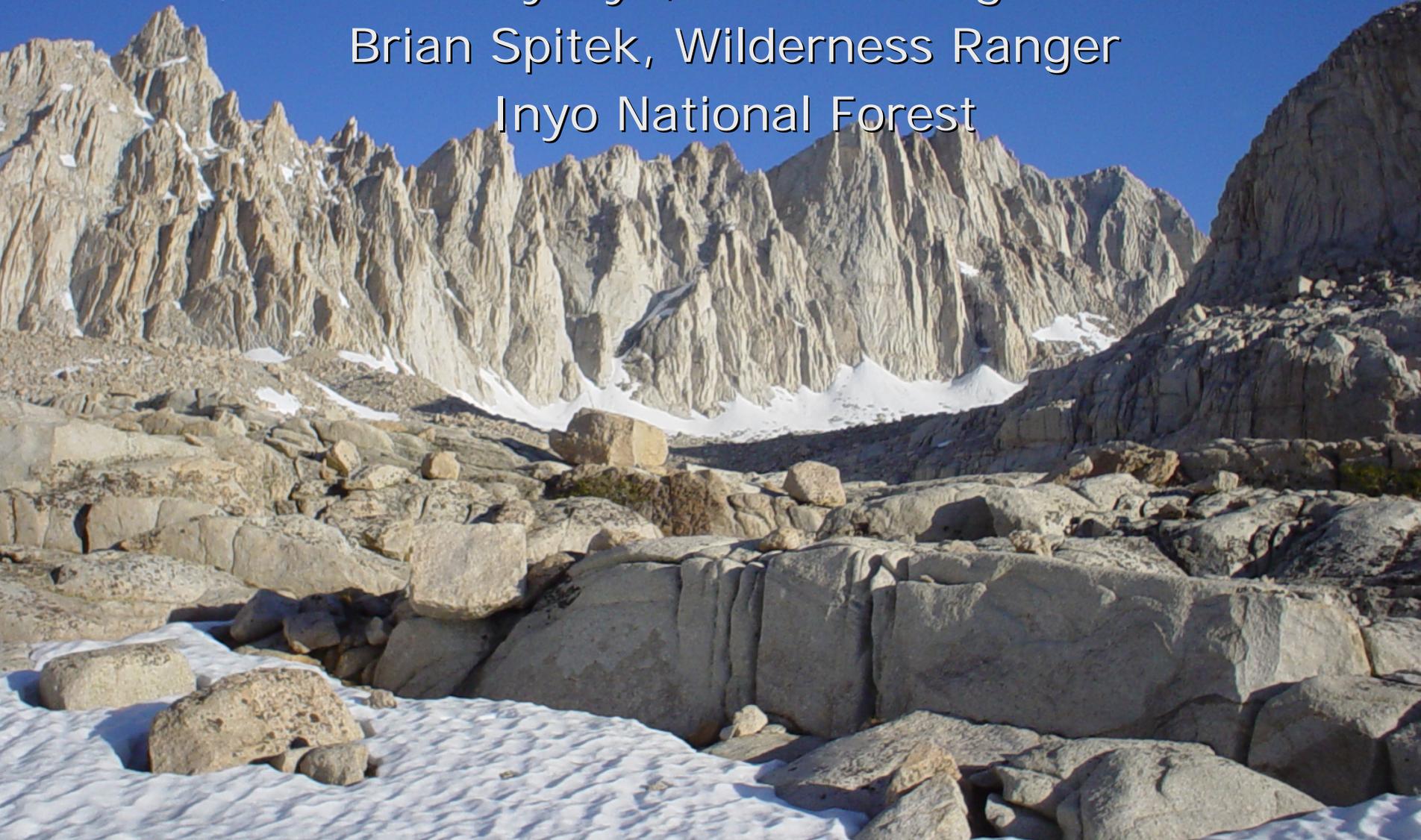


# Mt. Whitney Case Study

Garry Oye, District Ranger

Brian Spitek, Wilderness Ranger

Inyo National Forest



# Mt. Whitney

- ◆ Historical Perspective
- ◆ Lessons Learned
- ◆ Future Direction

↑ PORTAL STORE  
↑ PICNIC AREA  
← HIKER PARKING

SPEED LIMIT  
10

46  
←





MOUNT WHITNEY  
TRAIL





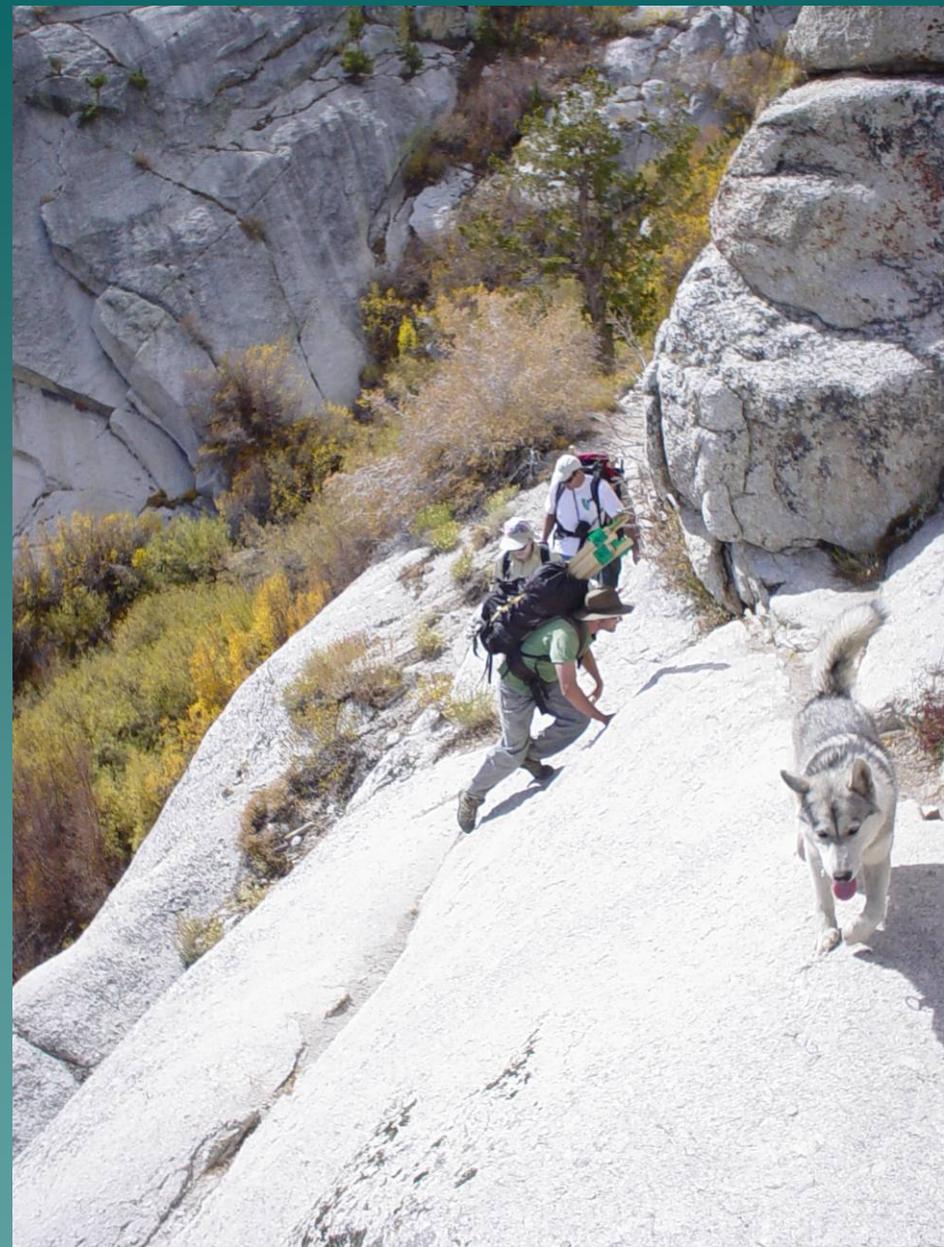


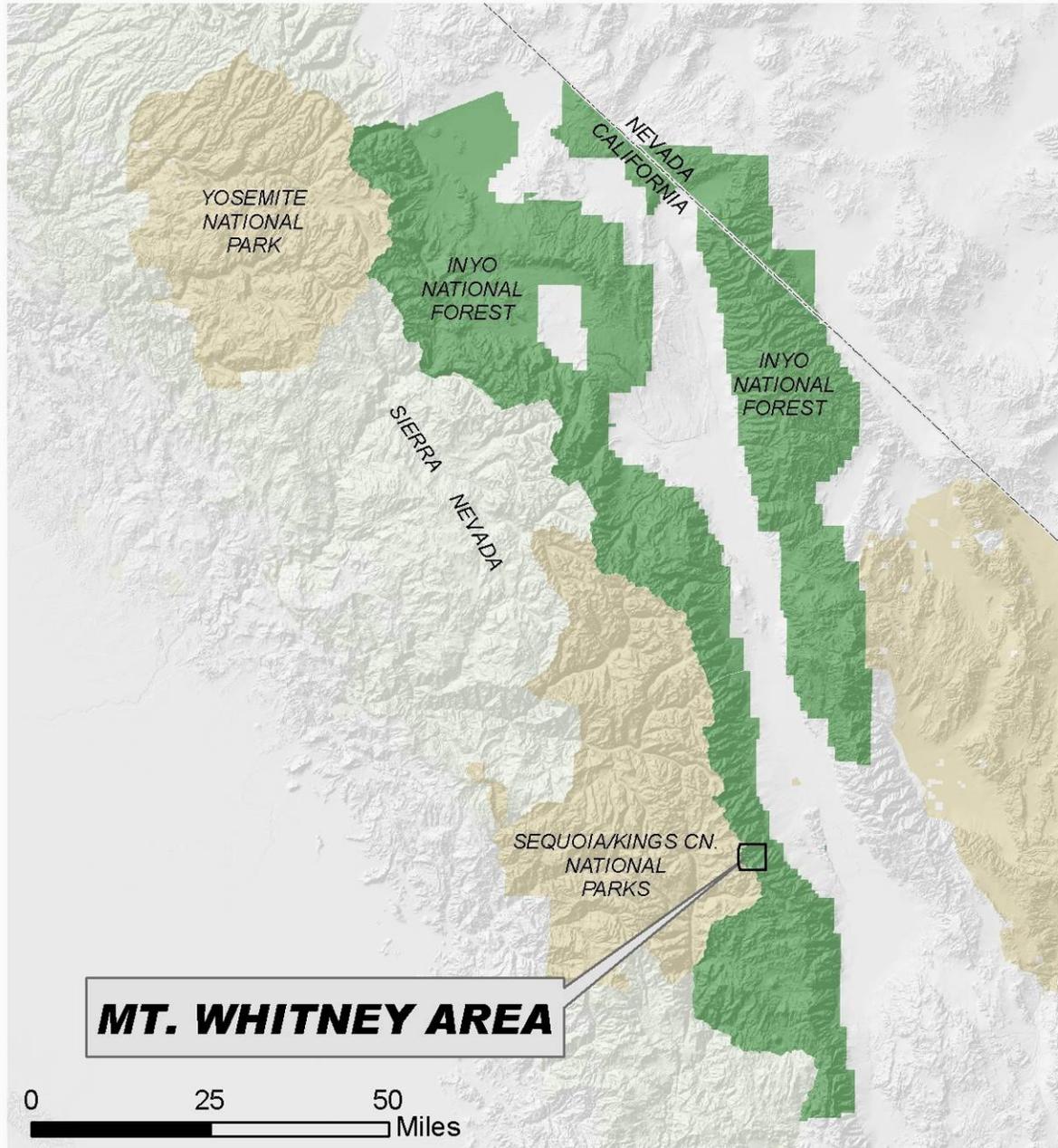


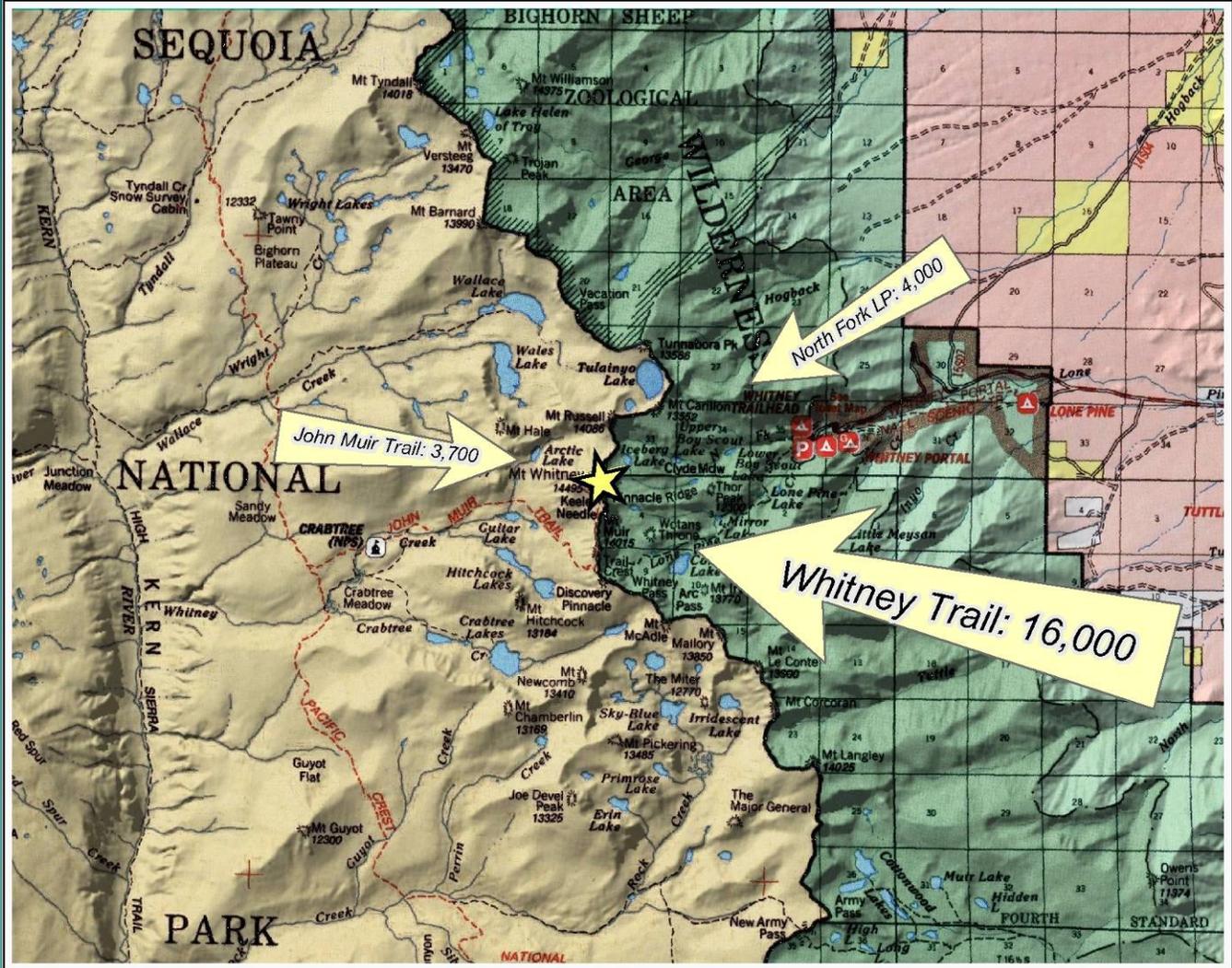












# Historical Perspective

- ◆ 1873 First Ascent
  - ◆ 1904 Trail Completed
  - ◆ 1930s Whitney Portal Development
  - ◆ 1964 Wilderness Act
  - ◆ 1970s Backpacking Boom
- 

# Limited Entry Quotas

- ◆ 1974 75 people per day
- ◆ 2001 Whitney Trail  
(100 day and 60 overnight)  
North Fork Lone Pine  
(15 overnight)  
Trail Crest Exit  
(25 per day)

# Lessons Learned

- ◆ Beware of Unintended Consequences
  - ◆ Visitors want to do the Right Thing
  - ◆ Good Fences don't always make good neighbors
  - ◆ No such thing as a free lunch
  - ◆ Simple is better
  - ◆ The time is never right for change
- 

# Unintended Consequences

- ◆ North Fork Lone Pine
- ◆ Toilets
- ◆ Trailhead Development

# North Fork



# Toilets







Build more parking lots?!



# Visitors want to do the right thing.

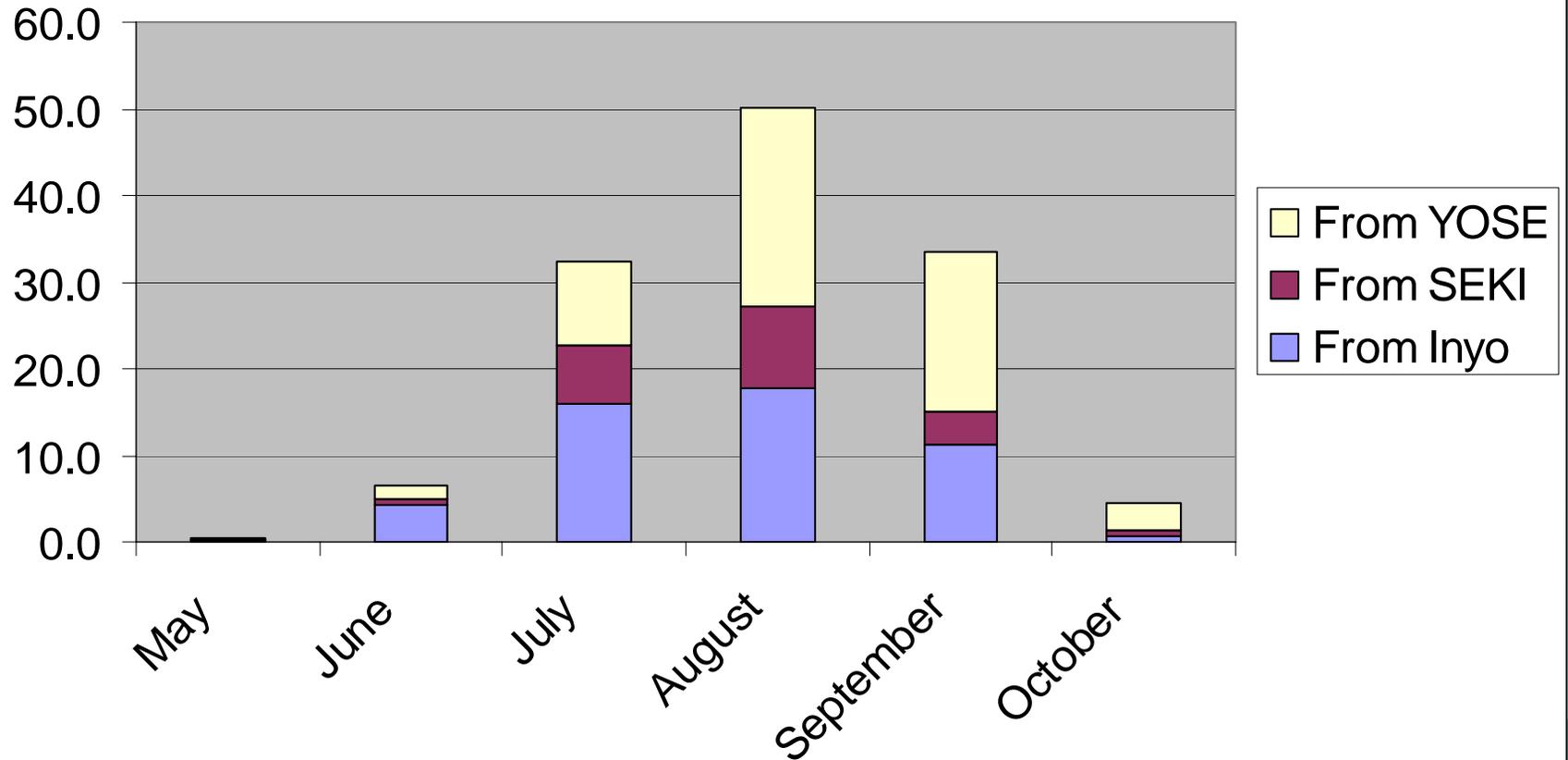


In 2007, visitors packed out over 3 tons of human waste.

# Good Neighbors

- ◆ Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
- ◆ Yosemite National Park
- ◆ Interagency  
Coordination/Cooperation

## Trail Crest Exits 2007: Average Visitors per Day



# No Free Lunch

- ◆ Reservations
- ◆ Permits
- ◆ WAG bags
- ◆ Toilets
- ◆ User Fees

# Simple is Better

- ◆ Reservations
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Quota Schemes
- ◆ Permits
- ◆ Fees

# Time is Never Right

- ◆ Need for Change
  - ◆ Courage and Leadership
  - ◆ Public Notice & Public Involvement
- 

# Future Direction

- ◆ Create a New Whitney Experience
- ◆ Personal choice and responsibility
  - Safety and Resource Protection
- ◆ Transit
  - Portal Parking Lot to Portal Village
  - Bears in wilderness, not cars
  - Cars in Valley, not at destination
- ◆ Pulses of Use



