

# JOHN MUIR WILDERNESS

## INYO NATIONAL FOREST



**INTRODUCTION:** The John Muir Wilderness encompasses more than one-half million acres within the Sierra and Inyo National Forests. It extends almost 100 miles along the crest of the Sierra Nevada in Central California. Elevations range from 5,000 to 14,495 feet on Mt. Whitney. The John Muir Wilderness is characterized by deep canyons, meadows, streams and lakes. This wilderness was named after John Muir, who referred to the Sierra Nevada as "the most beautiful of all the mountain chains."

**TRAILS:** The John Muir Wilderness contains hundreds of miles of trails. Three of the more well known are the Pacific Crest, John Muir and Mt. Whitney trails. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) extends 2,620 miles from Canada to Mexico. The John Muir Trail (JMT) extends 212 miles from Mt. Whitney on the south to Happy Isles in Yosemite Valley on the north. In this flyer, only a few of the John Muir Wilderness Trails near Mammoth Lakes will be covered.

**DUCK LAKE TRAILHEAD:** From the Mammoth Ranger Station, head west on Hwy 203 into town. At the second light, Hwy 203 turns into "Lake Mary Road." Follow the signs to Lake Mary and then Coldwater campground, where trailhead parking is available. Here the Duck Pass trail provides access to Duck Lake, Purple Lake, Virginia Lakes, and the John Muir/Pacific Crest Trail.

**DEER LAKES TRAILHEAD:** This trailhead begins at Lake George and climbs over Mammoth Crest and eventually to Deer Lakes. A side trail one mile up leads to Crystal Lake.

**MAMMOTH PASS TRAILHEAD:** Follow the signs to Horseshoe Lake. This trailhead parking lot has plenty of spaces and leads to McLeod Lake, Red Cones and the John Muir/Pacific Crest trail.

<b>Coldwater to:</b>	
Heart Lake	1
Arrowhead Lake	1.2
Barney Lake	2.5
Duck Pass	4
Duck Lake Outlet	5
Purple Lake	8

<b>Horseshoe Lake to:</b>	
McLeod Lake	0.5
Red's Meadows	4
Devils Postpile	6
Red Cones	3.5
Upper Crater (JMT/PCT)	4

<b>Lake George to:</b>	
Crystal Lake	1.3
Mammoth Crest	3
Deer Lakes	5.5

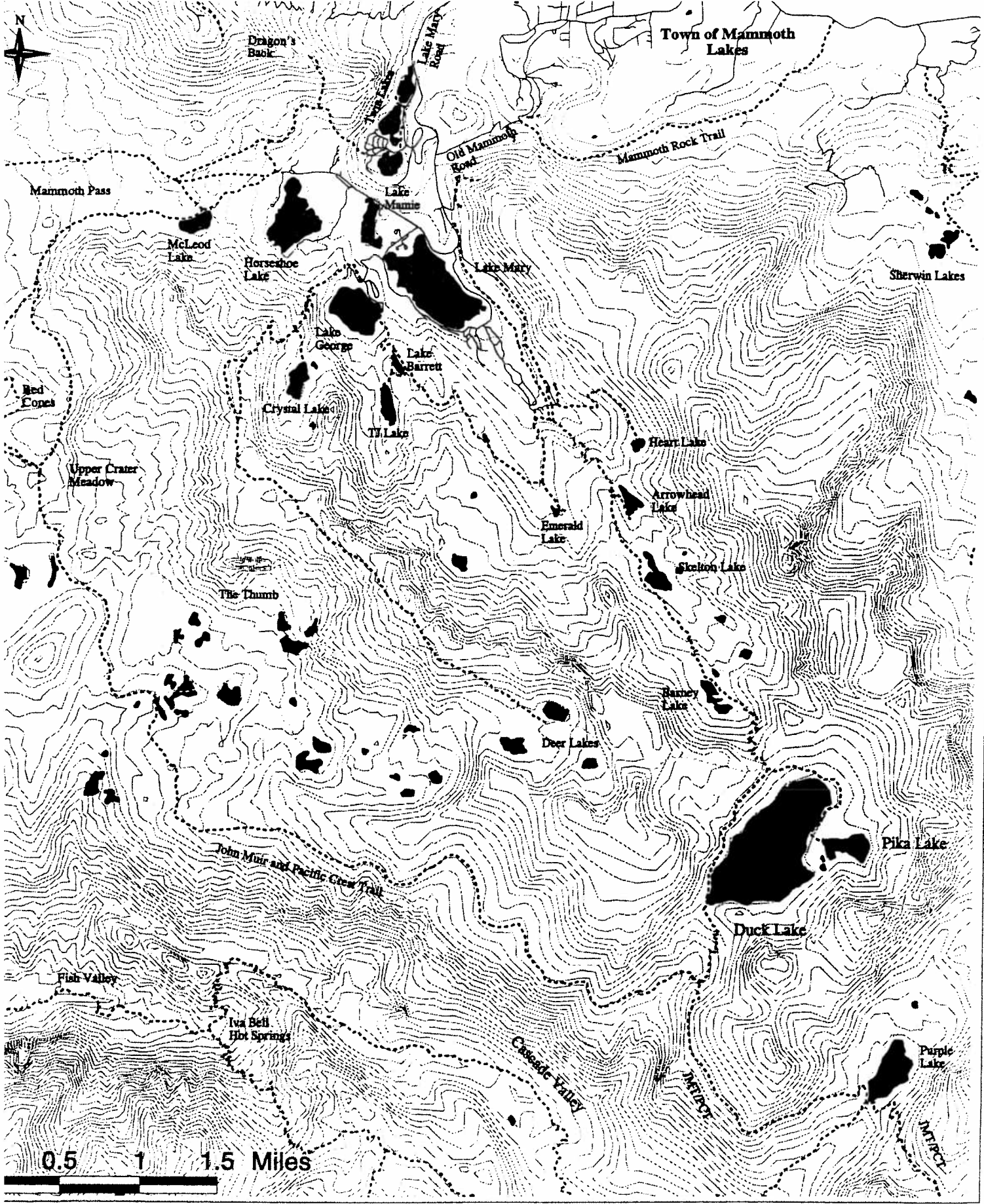
**TRAVEL METHODS:** Wilderness travel is by foot or horseback ONLY. Wheelchairs may be used in the wilderness, but all other mechanical travel, including bicycles, is prohibited. Maximum group size is 15 people and 20 head of stock.

**PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:** Wilderness permits are required year round, for entry into the John Muir and adjoining Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park wilderness areas for overnight or longer trips. Permits are available at the Forest Ranger Station closest to the trailhead entry location. All trails on the John Muir Wilderness now have entry quotas. These quotas are in effect from May 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. 60% of the trailhead quota is available through reservations and 40% is available on a walk-in basis. Please follow "Leave No Trace" techniques in the wilderness. Inquire at the nearest ranger station for more information.



Mammoth R.D.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# *John Muir Wilderness Trails*