



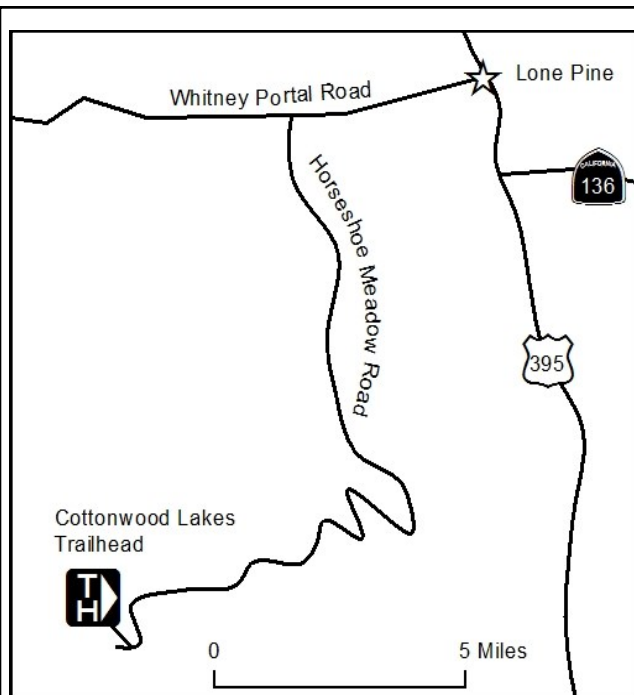
Forest Service

Inyo National Forest



# Cottonwood Lakes / New Army Pass Trail

Named for the cottonwood trees which were located at the original trailhead in the Owens Valley, the Cottonwood Lakes are home to California's state fish, the Golden Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*). The lakes are located in an alpine basin at the southern end of the John Muir Wilderness. They are surrounded by high peaks of the Sierra Nevada, including Cirque Peak and Mt. Langley. The New Army Pass Trail provides access to Sequoia National Park and the Pacific Crest Trail.



## Access:

The trailhead is located approximately 24 miles southwest of Lone Pine, CA. From Highway 395 in Lone Pine, turn west onto Whitney Portal Road. Drive 3.5 miles and turn south (left) onto Horseshoe Meadow Road. Travel approximately 20 miles, turn right and follow signs to the Cottonwood LAKES Trailhead.

## Season:

Horseshoe Meadow Road is usually open from late May to October. It is closed in winter due to snow. The trail is relatively snow free from approximately June to October. For the rest of the year, snow may cover some or all of the trail.

## Trailhead Facilities:

Water: Yes

Bear Resistant Food Storage Lockers: Yes

Campgrounds: Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead Campground is located at the trailhead. Visitors with stock may use Horseshoe Meadow Equestrian Camp, located nearby.

## On The Trail:

Food Storage: Food, trash and scented items must be stored in bear-resistant containers.

Camping: Use existing campsites. Camping is prohibited within 25 feet of the trail, and within 100 feet of water.

Human Waste: Bury human waste 6"-8" deep in soil, at least 100 feet from campsites, trails, and water.

Campfires: Campfires are prohibited above 10,400 ft.

Pets: Pets must be under control at all times.

Additional Regulations: Information about Kings Canyon National Park regulations is available at [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki), [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/inyo/cottonwoodlakestrail](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/inyo/cottonwoodlakestrail) or at Inyo National Forest visitor centers.

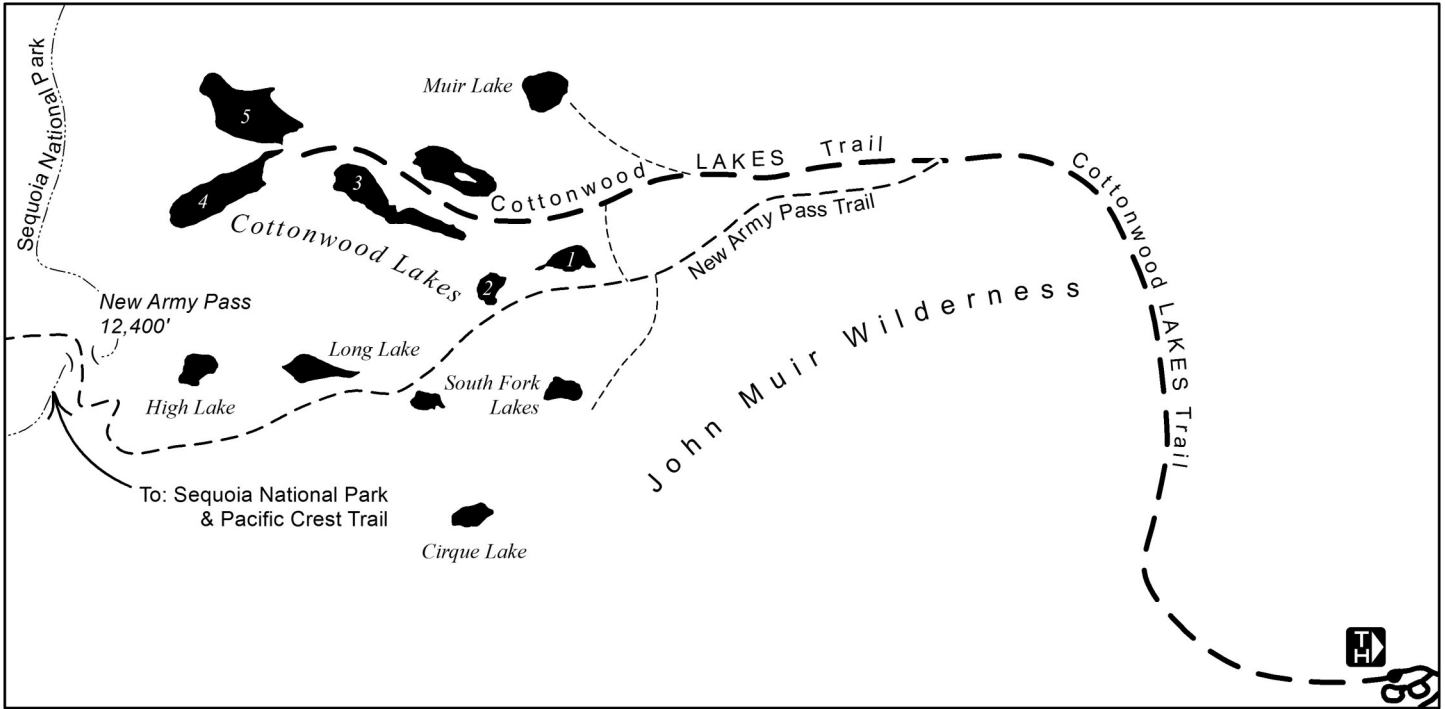
## Permit & Quota Information:

Permits are required for overnight trips. Obtain permits at Inyo National Forest Visitor Centers. Between May 1 and Nov 1 use is limited by daily entry quotas. Permits for this period may be reserved up to six months in advance at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).



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**Cottonwood Lakes / New Army Pass Trail**

Location	Distance	Elevation
<b>Trailhead</b>	<b>0 miles</b>	<b>10,000 ft</b>
Cottonwood Lakes/New Army Pass JCT	3.5 miles	10,400 ft
Cottonwood Lake #3	5.5 miles	11,000 ft
New Army Pass	8.2 miles	12,400 ft



**Leave No Trace Principles**

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Minimize use and impact of fires.
5. Respect wildlife.
6. Leave what you find.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

**Maps:**

USGS Quad: Cirque Peak; Mt. Langley

Tom Harrison: Mt. Whitney Zone

National Geographic: Mount Whitney

**Need more information?**

**On the web at:**  
[www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo)

**Mt Whitney Ranger District**  
 P.O. Box 8  
 Lone Pine, CA 93545  
 760-876-6200



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