

TRAIL CONDITIONS REPORT

MOUNT WHITNEY TRAIL

August 14, 2011

Run off from recent thunderstorms eroded and damaged portions of the Mt. Whitney Trail. These sections are open and passable. However, the trail is rougher than normal, and a little bit more difficult to locate in some locations. The trail is free of snow, except for a low angle snowfield just below the summit.

Thunderstorms and Lightning are common this time of year. If thunderstorms are forecast, plan to leave the summit by noon. Regardless of the forecast, visitors should pay attention to the weather. Thunderstorms are usually preceded by several hours of clouds' building and other signs. Clouds building early in the day may indicate that a thunderstorm is brewing. Carry rain gear and avoid cotton clothing, which is very cold when it becomes wet.

Day Hikers: It's A Long Way To The Top! You don't want to find yourself sick and/or exhausted on the summit or crest as nightfall approaches. Establish a turn around time (around noon for example) and stick with it. Travel in pairs at a minimum and make sure **everyone** in your group makes it back to the parking lot. **The summit is only halfway!**

PROTECT YOUR WILDERNESS BY OBSERVING THE FOLLOWING

- **Wilderness Permits** are required for all overnight users and for day users going beyond Lone Pine Lake. Bring your permit with you, **DO NOT** leave it on the dashboard of your car!
- **Pack out your solid waste.** Permit holders not in possession of waste kits will be cited (CFR 36/261.11(d) (\$150.00 minimum fine, \$5000 and or 6 months imprisonment maximum fine)
- **Store Food Properly.** Bear proof food storage containers are required along the trail. At the trailhead, remove all food from vehicles and store it in the bear proof lockers provided.
- **Stay on the trail and do not shortcut switchbacks.** Shortcutting switchbacks damages plants, causes erosion, and results in costly trail repairs
- **Always camp 100 feet** (about 45 paces) **from lakes and streams**

The Mount Whitney Wilderness Rangers