

Ansel Adams Wilderness Day Hiking Trails

Inyo National Forest

The Ansel Adams Wilderness is an area of 228,500 acres in the Sierra and Inyo National Forests. Formerly known as the Minarets Wilderness, it was renamed in 1984 to honor the famous photographer and environmentalist.

TRAILHEAD LOCATION:

From the Mammoth Ranger Station, head west on Hwy 203 into town and turn right at the second light onto Minaret Road, an extension of Hwy 203. Continue past the Mammoth Mountain Bike Park/Ski Resort to "Minaret Vista", a scenic overlook. The road drops down to Devils Postpile and ends at Reds Meadow. The shortest trails to Shadow, Garnet and Thousand Island, begin at Agnew Meadows.

A *mandatory shuttle bus* operates from June to October, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. each day. Backpackers and hikers must ride the shuttle bus during the hours of road closure. Wilderness permits do not entitle backpackers or day hikers to drive their own vehicles to trailheads or to the valley. Day passes and seasonal shuttle passes are available at Mammoth Mountain. Please check with the Mammoth Visitor Center for current information.

AGNEW MEADOWS TRAILHEAD: This trailhead is located 3 miles from Minaret Vista, off Hwy 203. The road leads to two dirt parking lots that fill up quickly in the summer. The River Trail, The High Trail (Pacific Crest Trail), and the Shadow Lake Trail (an extension of the River Trail), all begin at Agnew Meadows Trailhead.

SHADOW LAKE, EDIZA LAKE:

Shadow Lake is a moderate hike with beautiful views of the Minarets and the Ritter Range. Starting from Agnew Meadows, the River trail drops 400 feet to the San Joaquin River, then remains level to the river. Crossing. It winds through stands of Lodgepole Pine and Juniper. After about 2 miles, the River trail and the Shadow Lake trail meet. The Shadow Lake trail heads west, across a bridge (middle fork of the river) and zigzags up a hot, dry slope. Just below Shadow Lake, there is a grand view of Shadow Creek's falls. From the upper end of Shadow Lake, the trail follows Shadow Creek to Ediza Lake, directly below the Ritter Range. This is a popular base camp for climbers who come to scale the peaks of the Minarets and Mt. Ritter.

GARNET LAKE: (*via the Shadow Creek Trail/Muir Trail*): About a mile above Shadow Lake, continue north, turn right and follow the John Muir Trail. Garnet Lake was perhaps named for the small garnet crystals that are locally abundant. From the lake, the trail climbs over the 500 foot ridge separating Garnet and Thousand Island Lakes. (*Via the River Trail*): From Agnew Meadows, follow the trail down to the bottom of the canyon, where it joins the trail coming from Red's Meadow and continue past the Shadow Creek Trail junction, through a canopy of Lodgepole Pine. After 2.7 miles, turn west (left) and hike a mile to the inlet of

Garnet, where the last section of the trail climbs steeply up a glacier carved ravine to Garnet Lake.

THOUSAND ISLAND LAKES: (*Via the River Trail*). Although this section of the trail is often within sound of the river, it is rarely in sight of it. However, it only takes a short detour to the rivers banks. The River Trail meanders to the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin, until it climbs up the ridge to meet the High Trail. Turn left and proceed to the inlet of Thousand Island Lake. (*Via the High Trail/PCT*): Terrific views of the glacier carved Ritter Range are visible here. Marvelous displays of wildflowers occur along the abundant streams that cross the trail. Find this trail in the first dirt parking lot, just past the pack station. The trail climbs the first 3 miles and then stays high as it follows expanses of sagebrush and flower filled ravines.

Agnew Meadows to:

Shadow Lake	3
Ediza Lake	6
Iceberg Lake	7
High Trail to 1000	9
River Trail to Garnet	5.6
River Trail to 1000	7.5
High Trail to Gem Lake	10.5

Shadow Lake (JMT North) to:

Garnet Lake	3
1000 Island Lake	4.5

Devils Postpile Ranger Station to:

Postpile	.04
Rainbow Falls	2.5
Minaret Falls	1.5
Minaret Lake	8.0
Tuolumne Meadows	34.2

A permit is required for overnight travel in the wilderness. Quotas are in effect on all trails from May 1st to Nov 1st. These quotas protect the wilderness resource and help us to provide a quality wilderness experience. Your actions can also help to preserve this wilderness by abiding by the following regulations:

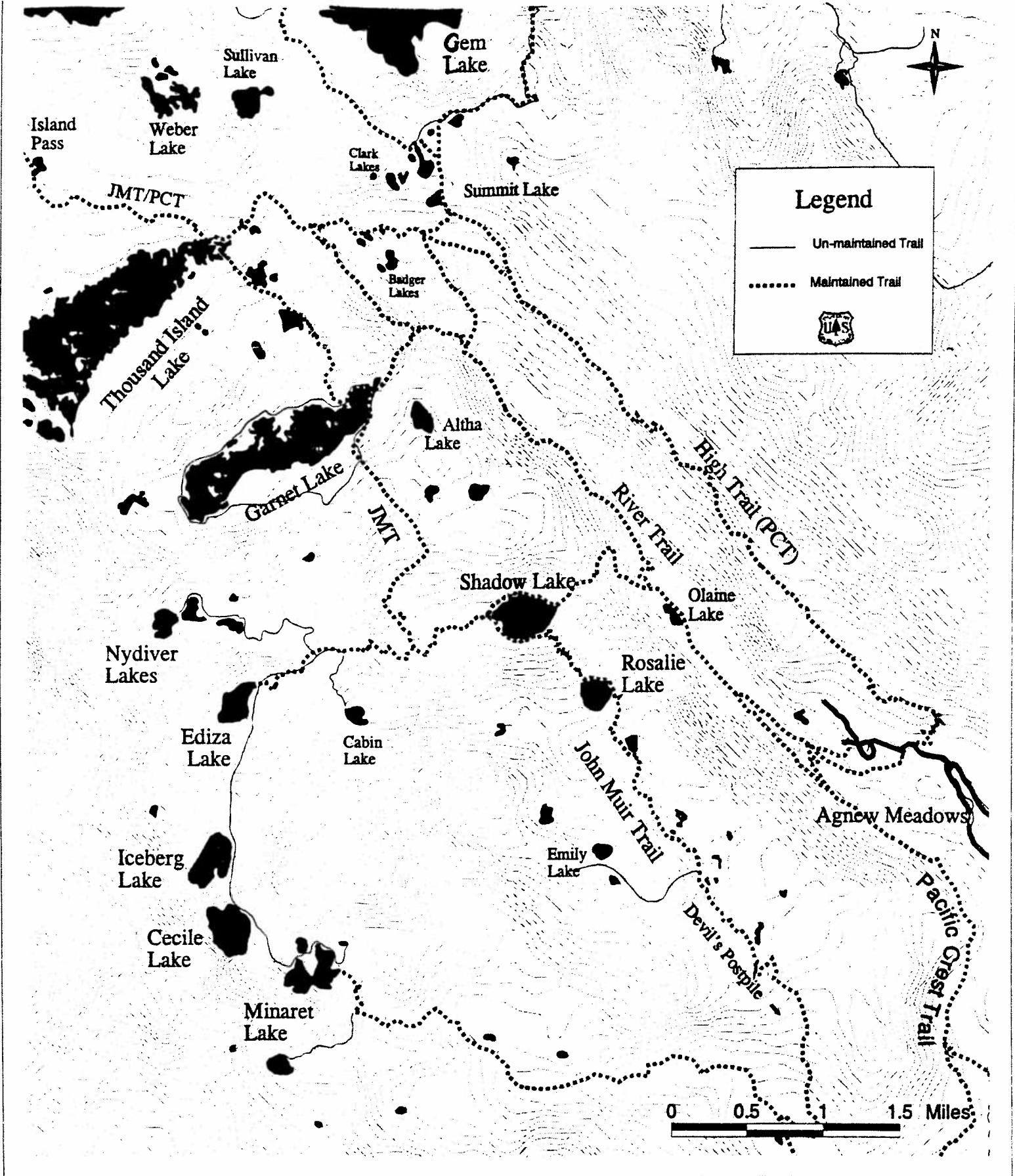
Wilderness travel is by foot, horseback or wheelchairs. All other mechanical travel, including bicycles, is prohibited. Please stay on the trail and do not cut switchbacks. Treat stream and lake water before using. Camp 300 feet from streams or lakes. Bury all human waste 6 inches deep and 200 feet from water. Pack out all trash.



Forest Service



Mammoth Ranger District
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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