

*Your comments were successfully submitted at  
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*Park:* Devils Postpile National Monument  
*Project:* Devils Postpile National Monument General Management Plan  
*Document:* Devils Postpile NM Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

*Name:* Laura Beardsley  
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*Organization:* Friends of the Inyo  
*Keep My Info Private:* No

Topic Question 1: We prefer the preferred alternative, Alternative C.

Topic Question 2: We like the proposed Wild & Scenic River designation, the proposed boundary adjustments, and the emphasis on partnerships and the visitor experience in addition to effective management of natural resources. Please see our full comments below.

Topic Question 3: Please see the comment letter below

Comments: September 30, 2014

Deanna Dulen, Superintendent Devils Postpile National Monument Attn: General Management Plan Team P.O. Box 3999 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Re: Devils Postpile National Monument General Management Plan Comments

Dear Deanna:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft alternatives for the proposed Devils Postpile National Monument General Management Plan. As a local non profit that works to engage people with public lands in the Eastern Sierra, we appreciate the thoughtful detail demonstrated in the draft plan and corresponding Environmental Assessment. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

In developing the plan alternatives, thank you for including efforts to identify and monitor species at risk due to climate change and other stressors on native vegetation and wildlife as well as mitigate their effects. We also appreciate your efforts to provide recommendations for management zones and approaches for the US Forest Service, and hope the Inyo National Forest will adopt some, if not all, of your

recommendations for the Reds Meadow Valley and adjoining areas including Minaret Vista. Doing so will better integrate visitor services, create efficiencies across the agencies, and generally improve the visitor experience and resource conditions.

*Comments:*

Friends of the Inyo supports the preferred alternative, Alternative C, for its emphasis on the visitor experience and cultural heritage in addition to the health and resilience of natural resources within the monument. We are especially supportive of your recommendation to establish the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River as a Wild & Scenic River. We also strongly support your proposal to seek a boundary adjustment to include within the monument the entire section of the river between the northern and southern boundaries, as well as the main trail corridor connecting Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls.

We are also pleased to note the preferred alternative's emphasis on partnerships both with other agencies, municipalities, and tribes, and with local groups for stewardship, interpretation, and connecting visitors with nature and wild places. As a local organization intent on connecting people with their public lands through exploration and stewardship, we look forward to working with you on this shared goal. In addition to engaging visitors with resource management activities through demonstrations (p 92), there may be an opportunity to work with partners, like Friends of the Inyo, and volunteers to assist in some of this work such as removing invasive species, restoring impacted areas, or improving trail conditions. This type of hands on involvement in the monument creates strong connections among participants and may be a way to address staff capacity shortfalls for appropriate projects. As the year progresses, we look forward to reviewing the Resource Stewardship Strategy referred to in the Draft General Management Plan.

We thank the staff of Devils Postpile National Monument, the NPS Regional Planning and Environmental Compliance Team, and the Inyo National Forest for working together to create such a comprehensive document. If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding our comments, please contact me at 760-873-6500 or email [laura@friendsoftheinyo.org](mailto:laura@friendsoftheinyo.org).

Sincerely,

Laura Beardsley Executive Director Friends of the Inyo

*Comment ID:* 931158-60642/15