

National Trails Day With Friends Of The Inyo & MLTPA

Grub, brush and rock! Find out what that means on National Trails Day. Join Friends of the Inyo, MLTPA and the Inyo National Forest for the first Summer of Stewardship Trail Day event of 2012! June 2 is National Trails Day, and we'll be clearing the trails of the Mammoth Lakes Basin for early summer access. Volunteers will remove logs and debris from trails and pick up trash while learning trail maintenance skills from Inyo National Forest staff. Those interested in being regular members of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System volunteer trail crew should come on June 2 to get trained up for future SOS projects and other trail needs throughout the summer. **When:** 8:30 a.m. **Where:** Pokonobe Lodge on Lake Mary for a bagel breakfast, safety talk and work assignments. **What:** Head to a nearby Lakes Basin trail for a morning of maintenance and training, then back to Pokonobe for lunch and raffle prizes. **Who:** Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome! Please dress for trail work with sturdy, close-toed shoes, hat, long pants and a long-sleeve shirt. Gloves and tools provided. More info: www.friendsoftheinyo.org, www.mltpa.org, or call Drew at (760) 873-6500, or email: drew@friendsoftheinyo.org.

Devils Postpile Sets 37-Foot Vehicle Length Restriction on the Devils Postpile Access Road

In order to improve public safety and address concerns related to previous accidents and near misses on the Devils Postpile access road, Devils Postpile National Monument will be enforcing a limit of 37 feet for all vehicles or vehicle combinations (truck and trailer) on the access road. The Devils Postpile access road is a very short, narrow, and curvy section of road that provides access to the Devils Postpile Trailhead, ranger station and campground off of the main Devils Postpile/Reds Meadow Road.

Although the size limit on the access road will not entirely eliminate the possibility of accidents and near misses on the roadway, the monument hopes that it will make travel on the road safer for passenger vehicles and the Reds Meadow Shuttle System, which will operate under a special use permit this season.

The monument urges all vehicles on the access road to use extreme caution, even with the new restriction. The road is very narrow, and in many places barely accommodates two passing vehicles. Visibility is extremely limited. The speed limit on the access road is 15 miles per hour and vehicles must obey speed limits at all times.

For commercial tour buses wishing to access Devils Postpile National Monument during the shuttle bus operating season (from mid-June to September 5, 2012 and weekends in September), the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority (ESTA) operates the shuttle bus system and provides for a safer visit.

Shuttle bus service runs from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. ESTA also coordinates chartered services for guests, and this is a recommended option as the shuttle bus drivers have specific training and experience with the hazards of the road, a communication system between buses, and a safety program to mitigate hazards on the road. Please contact the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority at 760.924.3184 to arrange for your group's transportation on the shuttle bus.

For commercial tour buses wishing to arrive outside of the shuttle bus operating season, please contact Devils Postpile National Monument to apply for a commercial use authorization and to discuss access options.