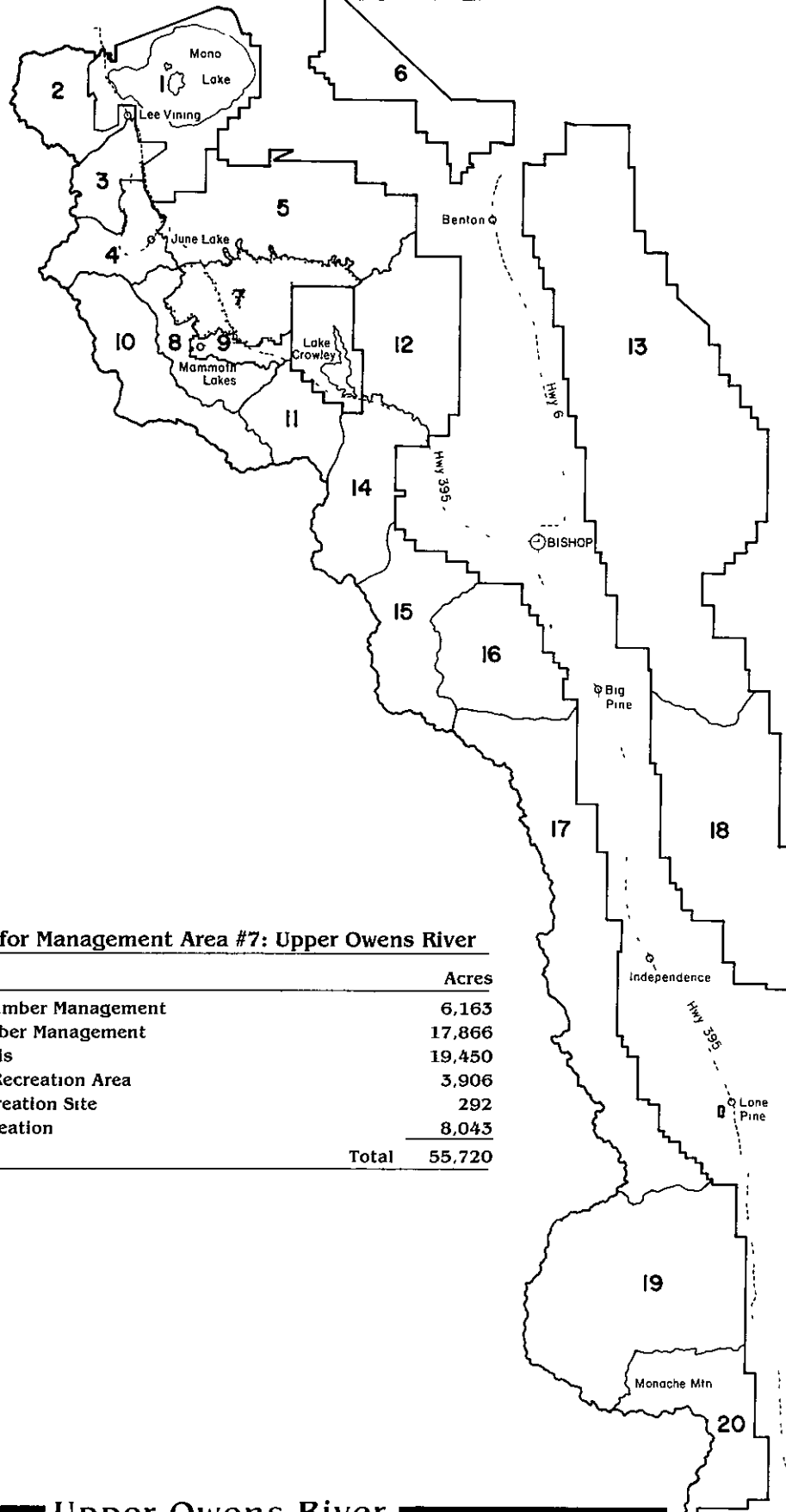
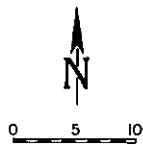


## INYO NATIONAL FOREST



## Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #7: Upper Owens River

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 9	Uneven-aged Timber Management	6,163
Rx 10	High Level Timber Management	17,866
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	19,450
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	3,906
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	292
Rx 16	Dispersed Recreation	8,043
Total		55,720

Upper Owens River



## Upper Owens River (#7)

### Description

The Upper Owens River Management Area is located immediately above and to the northwest of Lake Crowley. Included are the subdrainages of Deadman Creek, the Upper Owens River, Little Hot Creek, Dry Creek, and portions of Hot Creek. Prominent features include Lookout Mountain, Deer Mountain, Smokey Bear Flat, Little Antelope Valley and the Deadman/Inyo Craters volcanic formations.

With the exception of the land immediately adjacent to the Owens River, the remainder of the area is National Forest. A small fringe of the incorporated Town of Mammoth Lakes is located in the southern portion of the area. U.S. 395 traverses in a northwest/southeast direction and is the major access to the area.

Topography is characterized by numerous small drainages with moderate side slopes and flat ridgetops. Elevation ranges from 6,960 feet in the Hot Creek drainage to 8,796 feet atop Deer Mountain. The eastern portion contains moderately rolling rangeland with sage and bitterbrush side slopes and grassy valley bottoms. Higher elevations are characterized by the Jeffrey pine forest.

As the primary watershed for Lake Crowley, the area provides an important source for domestic water for the City of Los Angeles. The Upper Owens River is an important trout fishery.

The Management Area is within the Long Valley Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA). Seven lessees currently hold geothermal leases on approximately 38,190 acres of land within the Management Area. Exploration, including wells drilled to a depth of more than 6,000 feet, has been conducted by private industry and the scientific community. There is one operating 10 megawatt powerplant on private land within the Management Area. Commercial developers have applied to Mono County for the rights to build two additional power plants on private land. Commercial developers have applied to the Bureau of Land Management to build a single power plant on National Forest System land.

All or part of seven grazing allotments are located in the management area. Recreational use is primarily of a dispersed nature. The Inyo Craters, a popular day-use site, focuses on the interpretation of geologic history. Deadman, Lower Deadman, Glass Creek, and Big Springs Campgrounds provide overnight camping facilities.

Timber stands include nearly pure red fir; mixed stands of red fir, white fir, lodgepole and Jeffrey pine; pure stands of lodgepole; and a pure stand of Jeffrey pine. Because of logging activity, numerous single-lane and two-lane dirt and gravel roads bisect the area. Logging debris and dead and down wood form an important source of firewood for the adjacent Town of Mammoth Lakes and numerous other communities as far south as Lone Pine, California. There is commercial fuelwood harvesting on the area.

Because of its proximity to U.S. 395, a designated scenic highway, proximity to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and visibility from high elevation points such as Mammoth Mountain and Minaret Summit, the area requires special attention to meet established Visual Quality Objectives.

The area serves as important habitat for mule deer during the spring and fall migrations. A major deer migration corridor for the Casa Diablo deer herd extends from Management Area #12 (Benton-Casa Diablo) around the south end of the Glass Mountains, and follows the western slope of the Glass Mountains to a staging area in the Upper Owens River.

A large population of sage grouse (an estimated 1,000-1,200 birds) uses the Mammoth Caldera area, including the eastern half of this Management Area. Winter ranges are concentrated mostly on Bureau of Land Management and City of Los Angeles lands in the vicinity of Crowley Lake. Summer habitats for this species include the entire basin. There are three known strutting grounds in this Management Area.

#### Management Area Direction

##### Fish

- Manage O'Harrel Canyon Creek drainage to provide for recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout.

##### Geology

- Continue cooperation and coordination of geophysical exploration and research with the scientific community.
- Encourage continued geologic exploration and research relating to post-caldera formation, seismic and volcanic activity and the prediction of future seismic activity and volcanic eruptions.

##### Range

- Consider placement and timing of water availability for deer and other wildlife when developing water sources for livestock.
- Utilize plant species that also benefit wildlife when revegetating rangeland.
- Maintain or develop a vegetative mosaic when regenerating range forage.
- Encourage water spreading to enhance forage for livestock and sage grouse where feasible.
- Develop watering locations away from riparian areas.

##### Recreation

- Program and develop support facilities such as parking areas and trailheads for both nordic and snowmobile access along U.S. 395 and the

Scenic Loop Road when opportunities and funding become available. OSV access to the Inyo Craters will be permitted to continue.

- Develop a recreation composite plan to inventory, coordinate, and program the full summer and winter recreation development potential west of U.S. 395. Include the area in Prescriptions #10, #12 and #16. Construct programmed facilities as funds become available.
- Prohibit dispersed camping within two miles of the private land boundary of the community of Mammoth.
- Pursue reconstruction of Big Springs Campground at a location more suitable for the purpose.

#### Riparian

- Manage riparian areas to maintain high habitat quality for fish, especially in threatened and endangered species waters, wild trout waters, and the meadow reaches of the streams.

#### Timber

- Maintain plantation stocking at the greatest density acceptable to timber management where there are cover needs for deer (e.g., around meadows and along deer migration routes).
- Utilize existing roads for timber harvest where practical to minimize impacts on wildlife.

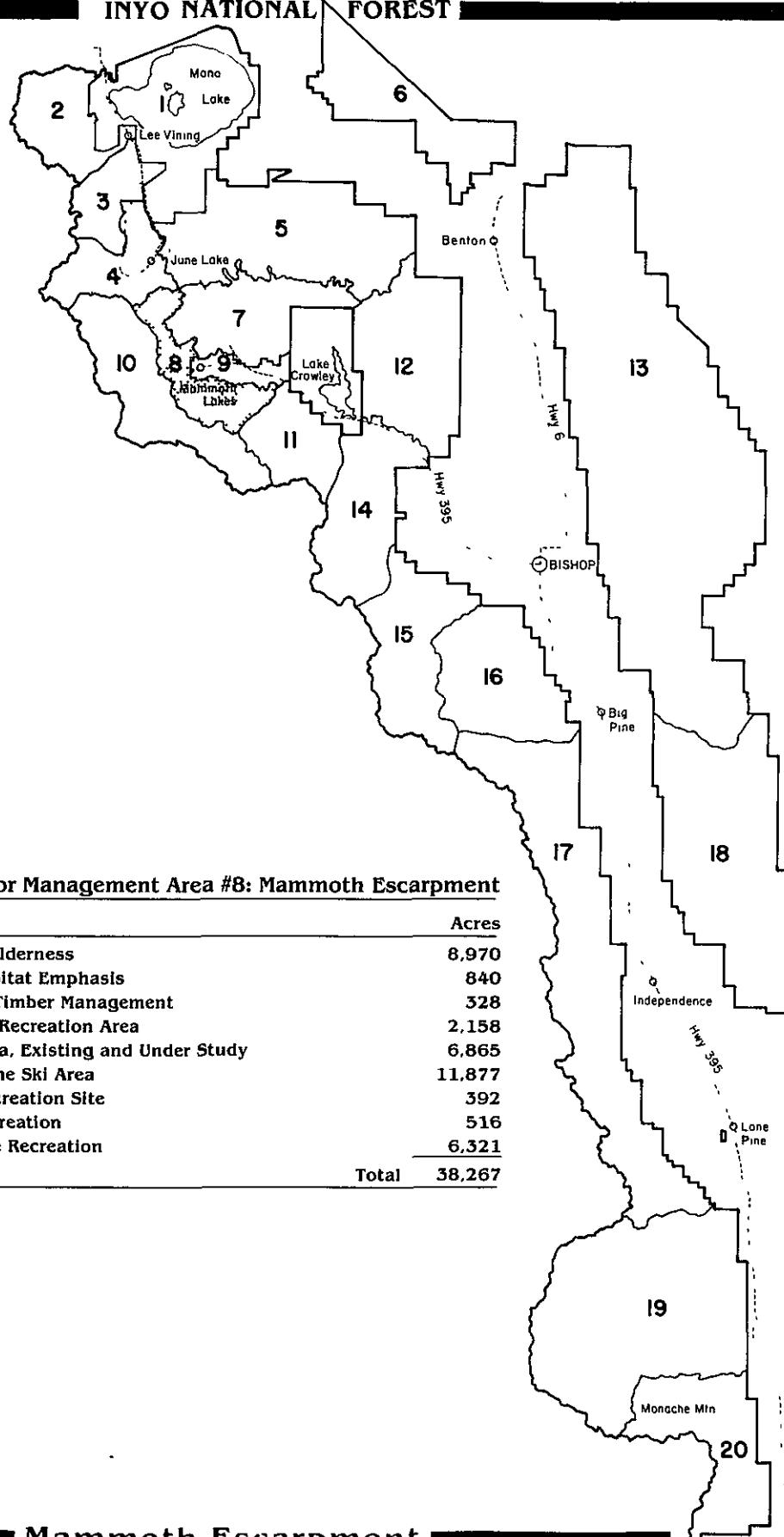
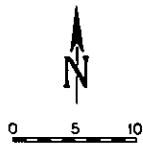
#### Visual Resources

- Develop corridor viewshed analysis and plans to include U.S. 395.
- Establish a crossing point for a major powerline route serving the potential geothermal area to the west of U.S. 395 at the least visually-sensitive point.
- Plan for additional powerline construction with the objective of eventually moving the existing 115KV line along U.S. 395.

#### Wildlife

- Maintain the productivity of meadows for sage grouse.
- Allow management activities that do not significantly interfere with key sage grouse habitat.
- Maintain or enhance the integrity of key winter ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer.

# INYO NATIONAL FOREST

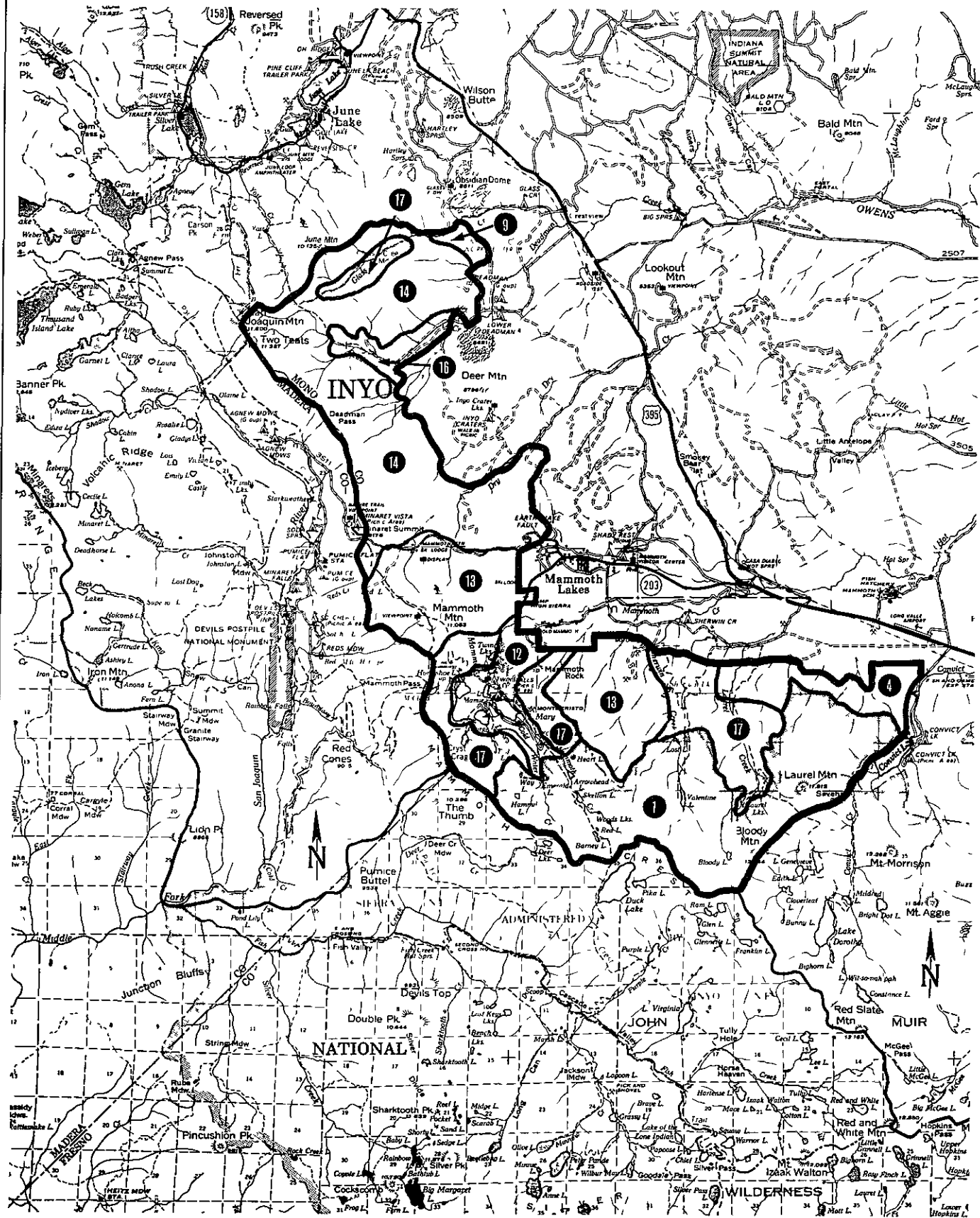


## Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #8: Mammoth Escarpment

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	8,970
Rx 4	Mule Deer Habitat Emphasis	840
Rx 9	Uneven-aged Timber Management	328
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	2,158
Rx 13	Alpine Ski Area, Existing and Under Study	6,865
Rx 14	Potential Alpine Ski Area	11,877
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	392
Rx 16	Dispersed Recreation	516
Rx 17	Semi-Primitive Recreation	6,321
Total		38,267

## Mammoth Escarpment

## Mammoth Escarpment



10 Prescription Numbers — Prescription Area Boundary — Management Area Boundary

NOT TO SCALE

## Mammoth Escarpment (#8)

### Description

The Mammoth Escarpment Management Area stretches from San Joaquin Mountain on the northwest boundary southerly, bordering the Ansel Adams Wilderness, to Mammoth Mountain and along the Mammoth Crest to Bloody and Laurel Mountains on the southeast boundary. A small portion of the John Muir Wilderness is included at the south end of the Management Area. Prominent features are San Joaquin Mountain, Minaret Summit, Mammoth Mountain, Mammoth Lakes Basin, Mammoth Rock, the Mammoth Crest, and Bloody and Laurel Mountains. Private inholdings include a 1.5-acre tract adjacent to Lake Mary and a 3.75-acre parcel adjacent to the Valentine Reserve and Lake Mary Road.

Topography rises from gentle slopes along the lower reach of Sherwin Creek to very steep, often precipitous terrain along the Mammoth Crest. Elevations range from 7,200 feet at the eastern tip of the area to 12,544 feet at the crest of Bloody Mountain. The lands form a spectacular and important scenic backdrop from U.S. 395, a designated scenic highway.

Vegetation is characterized by sage/bitterbrush and mountain mahogany in the southern portion of the escarpment, and mixed fir and lodgepole pine stands in the north. Mountain mahogany, lodgepole, whitebark, and limber pines are found at higher elevations. Riparian areas support stands of aspen, water birch, and willow.

The Management Area has a few active mining claims.

Small portions of three grazing allotments extend into the Management Area.

Developed recreation is the primary use on the area. This Management Area has more recreation visitors than any other in the Forest Service. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, the largest facility of its type in the United States, is located here. There is potential for additional alpine ski opportunities in the area.

The Mammoth Lakes Basin, a series of alpine lakes nestled in a bowl-shaped area immediately southwest of the Town of Mammoth Lakes is important for both summer and winter recreation purposes. It is also important as a watershed for domestic water use in the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The area includes numerous summer homes, lodges and resorts.

In addition to alpine skiing, many opportunities for nordic skiing are offered in the Mammoth Lakes Basin and in Mammoth Meadow. Although tracks are set in these areas, they are not formally designated as nordic ski areas. Because this area interfaces with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, its value for day-use activities and open space adjacent to the community must also be recognized.

Approximately 4,000 deer are dependent on this area for migration routes and summer range. The area is important to the Sherwin mule deer herd as a migration route in the fall and winter, with Solitude Canyon, Mammoth Pass and Deadman Pass serving as major migration corridors. The area east of Sherwin Creek is an important staging site in the spring as the deer herd



awaits the melting of snow. Glass Creek contributes to the Casa Diablo deer herd by providing fawning habitat.

Special uses in the area include electronic permits for sites on Mammoth and Lincoln Mountains, organization camps along Sherwin Creek, and permits to the Mammoth County Water District for domestic water and sewer activities in the Mammoth Lakes Basin. As a part of the permit agreement, dams in the Mammoth Lakes Basin are maintained by the Mammoth County Water District. Water use from the Lakes Basin is controlled by a Master Operating Agreement between the Forest Service and the Mammoth County Water District.

#### Management Area Direction

##### Cultural Resources

- Emphasize the interpretation of effects of recent volcanism on aboriginal life.

##### Facilities

- Conduct a cumulative effects study of the Mammoth/June area when a development proposal in this area requires an Environmental Impact Statement. The Mammoth/June area is defined by U.S. 395 on the east; Highway 203 on the south; the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses on the west; and the ridgeline of the June Lake complex on the north.

##### Fish

- Manage Glass Creek drainage above the campground to provide for recovery of the Lahontan cutthroat trout as approved by the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan.

##### Geology

- Emphasize glacial and bedrock geology at interpretive sites within the Lakes Basin.

##### Lands

- Consider no land exchanges involving Sherwin Meadow until final decisions are made on the ski area proposed for Sherwin Bowl.
- Continue electronic site use on Mammoth and Lincoln Mountains consistent with existing development plans.

##### Minerals

- Limit access for exploration activities to methods not requiring road construction.

##### Recreation

- Develop recreation composite plans to inventory, coordinate, and program the full summer and winter recreation development potential in the area

in Prescription #12 (Lakes Basin). Construct programmed facilities as funds become available.

- Identify and program dispersed trail facilities in the areas in Prescriptions #12, #14 and #17. Include hiking and equestrian trail opportunities in all areas and bicycle trails in the area in Prescription #12. Include opportunities for mountain bike trails within the Management Area. Interface trail systems with the community.
- Maintain levels of reservoirs in Mammoth Lakes Basin to desirable levels for recreation use and scenic enhancement during the entire summer use season.
- Emphasize day-use activities within the Mammoth Lakes Basin by developing needed day-use facilities to complement overnight campgrounds.
- Limit expansion of resort capacity in the Mammoth Lakes Basin to 10 percent above 1985 levels.
- Encourage public transportation in the Mammoth Lakes Basin for summer and winter day-use.
- Emphasize development of front country trails, particularly those linking Mammoth to the Forest.
- Limit nordic capacity (Skiers At One Time) in Mammoth Lakes Basin to 1,200, unless a special study indicates an increased capacity is socially and environmentally acceptable.
- Maintain current use patterns and open space on National Forest System lands adjacent to Valentine Reserve.

#### Visual Resources

- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plan that includes State Route 203 and the Lake Mary Road.
- Develop special mitigation measures along State Route 203 from the Town of Mammoth Lakes to Base Lodge 1 to soften ski area impacts for the summer-oriented visitor. This locality has been developed as an elongated base area for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and the designated VQOs may not have been met.
- Construct all ski area development in areas in Prescriptions #13 and #14 to meet the Retention VQO as seen from trails and use areas in Management Area #10 (wilderness).
- Encourage and work with the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County to develop a scenic resource element, an architectural element, guidelines, and mitigation measures as a part of any local planning effort.

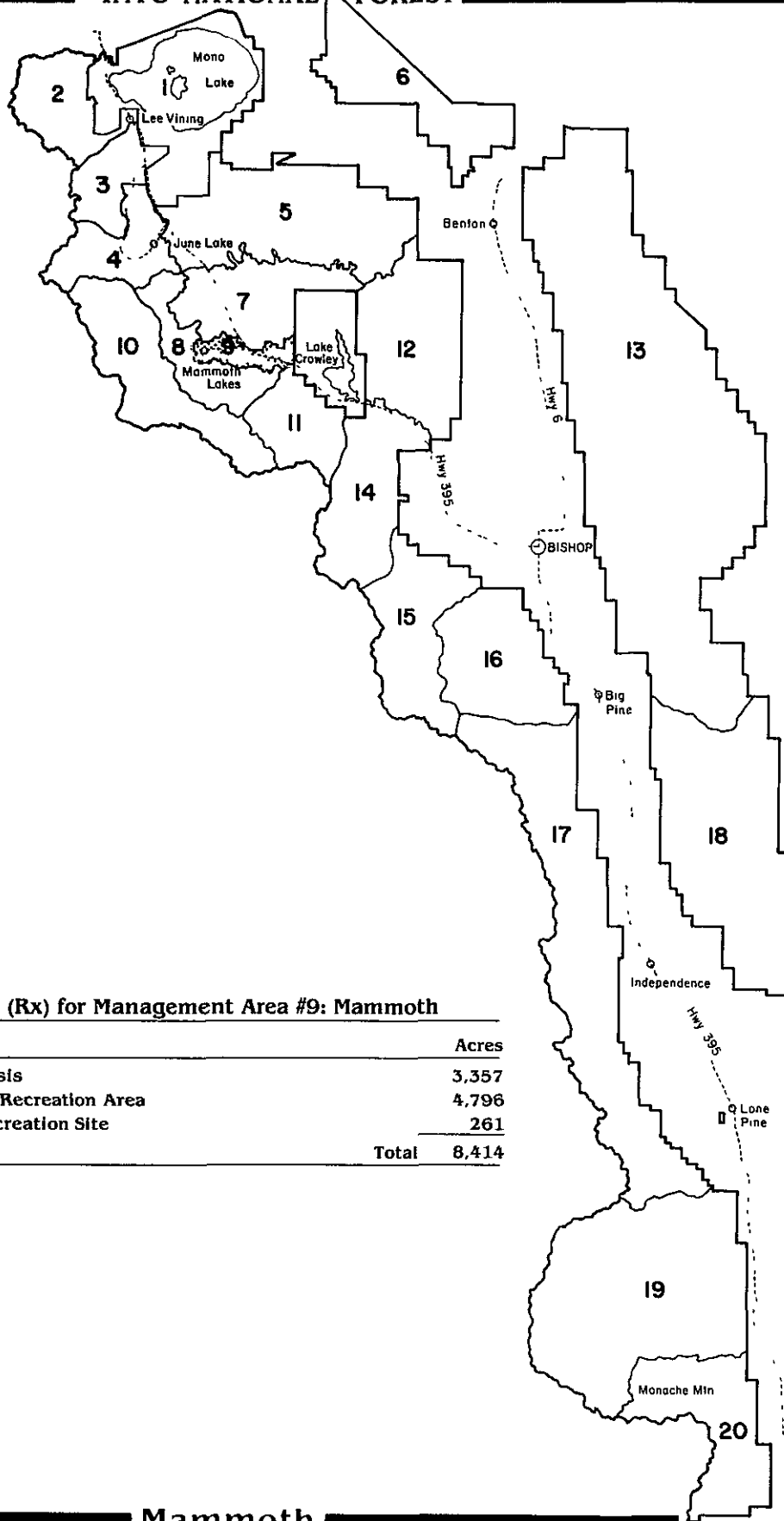
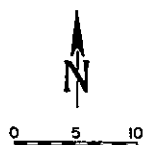
## Water

- Allow development on National Forest System lands in the Mammoth/June area where adequate water is available after natural resource needs are met. Allow for the exploration and development of new water sources on National Forest System lands for community purposes only when such opportunities have been exhausted on private lands.
- Work with responsible agencies to assure compliance with provisions of the Water Management Plan for Mammoth Lakes Basin.
- Manage the Glass Creek watershed above the Crestview water supply intake, and Mammoth Lakes Basin above the Mammoth Lakes Community water supply intake with all the precautions needed to ensure that water is provided at a quality level consistent and compatible with State Basin Plan objectives for domestic supply.
- Recognize the value of maintaining undiminished streamflows in management decisions.
- Adhere to the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Erosion Prevention Plan.
- Manage water resources within Mammoth Lakes Basin to provide adequate protection of natural resources, and to serve recreational demand along with water supply needs. Satisfy municipal water supply needs after natural resources needs are met.

## Wildlife

- Maintain the integrity of key winter ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer.

# INYO NATIONAL FOREST



**Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #9: Mammoth**

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 11	Range Emphasis	3,357
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	4,796
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	261
Total		8,414

**Mammoth**



## Mammoth (#9)

### Description

The Mammoth Management Area contains private land within the Town of Mammoth Lakes, National Forest System land, and land owned by the City of Los Angeles. The Mammoth/June Lake Airport, Hot Creek Fish Hatchery, Hot Creek, and Sherwin Creek Campground are important features in this Management Area.

The area contains the administrative facilities of the Mammoth Ranger District. Facilities include a major visitor center and District Office complex, a warehouse building, a housing area with six government-owned houses and fifteen trailer pads for private house trailers, a grazing pasture and tack facilities.

Topography is predominately moderately rolling terrain in the Mammoth Creek drainage. The western portion of the area contains red fir and Jeffrey pine forest, with the eastern portion comprised primarily of a grass/bitterbrush/sage vegetative type.

Recent land exchange efforts have consolidated land ownership within the Town of Mammoth Lakes leaving only two parcels of National Forest System lands remaining in the Town. These lands are identified as the Shady Rest and Woodstock parcels. Land exchange efforts in the past have been oriented primarily toward consolidation of ownership and providing lands for community needs such as school and hospital sites, industrial park sites for community and private needs, and land for affordable housing development. Because of the current growth emphasis of the newly incorporated Town, it is anticipated that future land exchanges will be proposed by the community to seek to provide amenity facilities in support of the current destination resort philosophy.

Because of the proximity to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, many National Forest land uses are directly related to the support of this popular resort community. Uses include the facilities of the Mammoth County Water District, Southern California Edison major power transmission lines, the Mammoth/June Lake Airport, Continental Telephone communication facilities, a community park, and the Hot Creek Fish Hatchery operated by the State of California. In addition to the private land, the City of Los Angeles also owns several parcels in the eastern portion of the area.

The area contains portions of two grazing allotments.

The area is important as a mule deer migration route and staging area in the fall and spring.

Recreation use is heavy at Sherwin Creek Campground, Shady Rest and Old Shady Rest Campgrounds immediately adjacent to the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and at Earthquake Fault Interpretive Site. Heavy dispersed use also occurs along Mammoth Creek and on Forest lands immediately adjacent to private land in the Town. Hot Creek Interpretive Site, a popular day-use area, focuses on the interpretation of the geologic resource.

Base Lodge II and the proposed Base Lodge VII, important access points for the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, are also located within the Management Area. Because of its proximity to the proposed Sherwin Bowl Ski Area, the western portion of the unit will play an important part in the development of base and other complementary facilities if Sherwin Bowl is developed.

The visual corridors along U.S. 395, a designated scenic highway, and State Route 203, the primary entry point for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, are important viewsheds to the traveling public.

### Management Area Direction

#### Cultural Resources

- Maintain and enhance cultural resource interpretive sites such as Mammoth Creek cabin, VIS cabin, Indian Caves.

#### Facilities

- Allow development of new ski base areas commensurate with local transportation system planning.

#### Fish

- Maintain productivity of the Hot Creek fishery in Section 25, Township 3 South, Range 28 East.
- Maintain resources affecting Hot Creek Fish Hatchery.
- Study Laurel Pond for introduction of fish in coordination with California Department of Fish and Game.
- Manage according to Hot Creek Wild Trout Management Plan of 1986.

#### Geology

- Continue to cooperate with and coordinate geophysical exploration and research with the scientific community.
- Encourage continued geologic exploration and research relating to post-caldera formation, seismic and volcanic activity and the prediction of future seismic activity and volcanic eruptions.
- Where appropriate emphasize geothermal resources at interpretive sites or in guides that cover the area.

#### Lands

- Exchange Forest Service lands into the private sector for community expansion when:
  1. The most appropriate use of the National Forest lands over the long term is in the private sector;

2. State, county, local and Forest Service planning processes identify and support conveying ownership of the parcel from National Forest System status to the private sector; and
  3. The use intended for the federal land being exchanged meets the intent of the current approved Community General Plan.
- Allow no federal land exchanges north of State Route 203 with the Mammoth Lakes community during this planning period.
  - Present proposed developments on National Forest System lands to other governments for their comment when those governments have a vested interest in the proposal.
  - Allow development on National Forest System land when it is clearly demonstrated that the infrastructure of a community can support the demands of the proposed development and benefits from development outweigh adverse impacts on the community.

#### Recreation

- Provide trail interface opportunities with the community of Mammoth Lakes.
- Maintain open-space areas adjacent to the Town of Mammoth Lakes for passive recreation use.
- Prohibit dispersed camping throughout the Management Area.
- Prohibit development of Shady Rest Park beyond existing perimeter roads, and north of the powerline rights-of-way.
- Allow development of Mammoth Creek Park by the Town of Mammoth.
- Identify and program the expansion potential of the Shady Rest and Sherwin Creek Campground complexes and develop as funds become available.
- Fully develop the interpretive potential of the Hot Creek geologic site as funds become available.

#### Visual Resources

- Develop a corridor viewshed analysis and plans that include State Route 203 and U.S. 395.
- Mitigate the visual impacts of existing major uses in the area seen from U.S. 395 and State Route 203 east of the Town, as this is the major gateway to the Mammoth area.

#### Water

- Allow development on National Forest System lands in the Mammoth/June area where adequate water is available after natural resource needs are met. Allow for the exploration and development of new water sources on



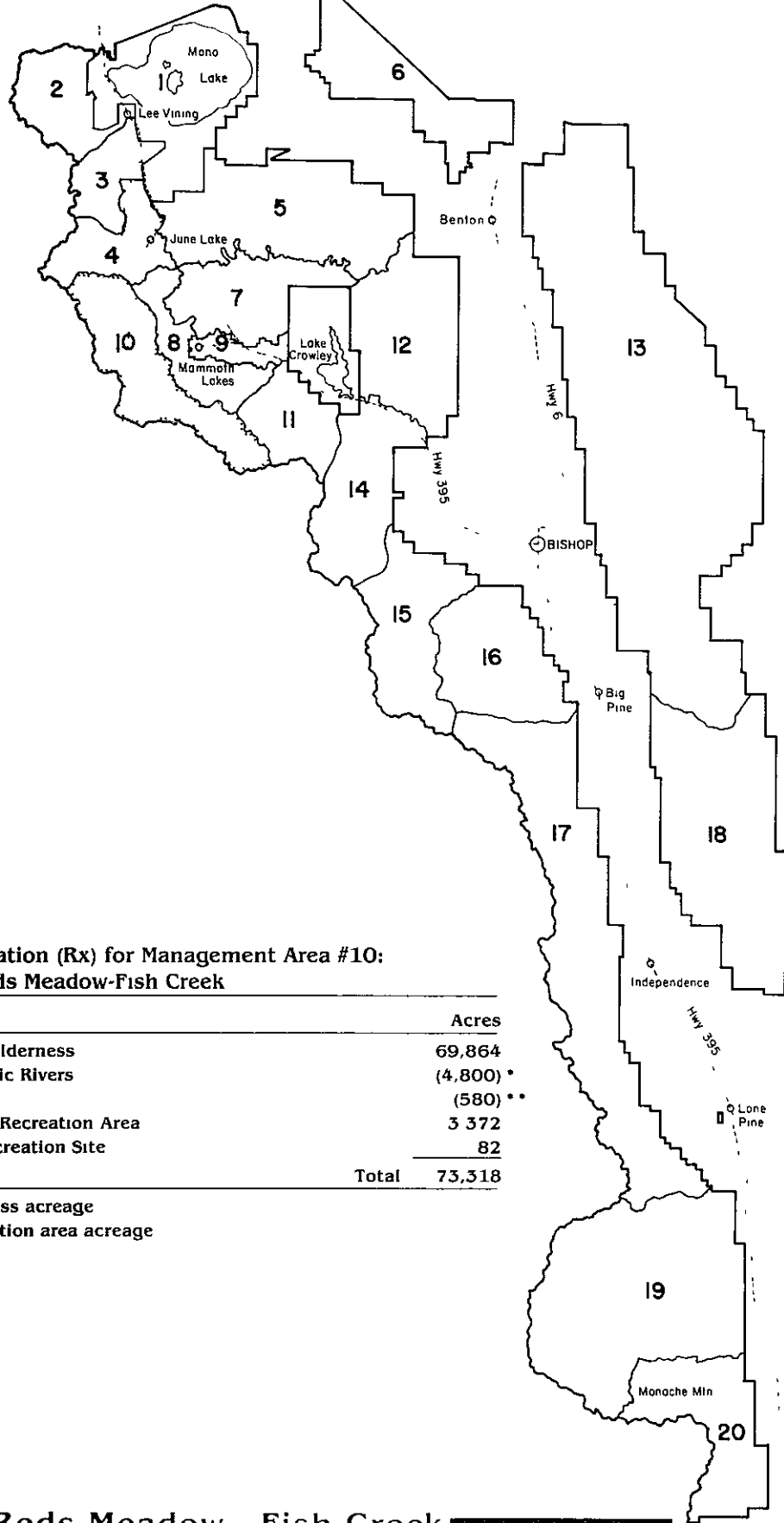
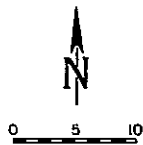
National Forest System lands for community purposes only when such opportunities have been exhausted on private lands.

- Support state water quality control requirements and local ordinances to mitigate adverse impacts of urban runoff onto National Forest System lands.

#### Wildlife

- Continue to enhance and maintain waterfowl habitat at Laurel Pond.
- Maintain the integrity of key winter ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer.

# INYO NATIONAL FOREST



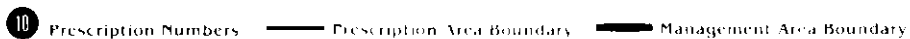
## Prescription Allocation (Rx) for Management Area #10: Reds Meadow-Fish Creek

Number	Name	Acres
Rx 1	Designated Wilderness	69,864
Rx 8	Wild and Scenic Rivers	(4,800) *
		(580) **
Rx 12	Concentrated Recreation Area	3,372
Rx 15	Developed Recreation Site	82
Total		73,318

\*Included in designated wilderness acreage

\*\*Included in concentrated recreation area acreage

# Reds Meadow—Fish Creek



197

## Reds Meadow-Fish Creek (#10)

### Description

The Reds Meadow-Fish Creek Management Area includes Reds and Agnew Meadows, a portion of the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses, and that part of the Sierra National Forest in the John Muir Wilderness administered by the Inyo National Forest. Devils Postpile National Monument, administered by the National Park Service, is located in the center of the Management Area. Prominent features are the Minarets, a distinctive "needle-like" formation along the Ritter Range escarpment, the Reds Meadow Valley, Devils Postpile, Minaret Falls, the high country in the Wildernesses with their many major peaks and lakes, Fish Creek Gorge, and the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River, a Wild and Scenic River candidate. There are no private land inholdings in the Management Area.

Topography is characterized by U-shaped valleys, steep to precipitous slopes, basaltic outcrops and cinder cones to 13,157 feet at the crest of Mt. Ritter.

Vegetation is as varied as the elevational differences, ranging from mixed chaparral/montane chaparral to pure lodgepole pine and red fir stands, to subalpine whitebark and limber pines.

There are no grazing allotments within the Management Area. There are two outfitter-guide pasture permits.

Recreation is the primary resource. The Reds Meadow Recreation Area, including the Devils Postpile National Monument, is an important developed recreation complex for day visitors, overnight campers and fishermen. Agnew Meadow and Reds Meadow serve as heavily used trailheads into the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses. A commercial facility provides a rustic resort experience with lodging and pack services for backcountry visitors. Day-use visitors are required to ride a public transportation system which is provided to reduce traffic congestion during the heavy use period (July to early September).

### Management Area Direction

#### Geology

- Emphasize glacial, bedrock, and volcanic geology at interpretive displays and in guides that cover the area.

#### Recreation

- Develop a recreation composite plan to inventory, coordinate, and program the full summer recreation development potential in the area in Prescription #12 (Reds Meadow). Construct programmed facilities as funds become available.
- Expand transportation systems and access alternatives that de-emphasize the private auto. Look at shuttles and a wide range of trail opportunities such as walking, horses, and bicycles as a possible replacement to private auto use.

- Continue to coordinate with the National Park Service to share administrative and fiscal responsibility for the existing shuttle system.
- Manage to maintain primitive recreation experience opportunities during winter months.

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers

- Maintain the existing wild and scenic attributes of the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River and allow no activities that would preclude this candidate river from wild and scenic designation.