

Relevant (Important) Facebook Threads on the new Yosemite JMT Permit Rules and Options for those receiving or fearing permit denial

Bibliography compiled by Raleigh Martin

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Commentary

First of all, a little about me. I am the lead moderator of the John Muir Trail Yahoo Group, where we have a research archive on the JMT surpassed and matched by no other website. Facebook is not setup to be a research archive, whereas Yahoo supports nested folders for links, files, databases, and photographs. We have made extensive use of everything. We are referenced by Elizabeth Wenk and the Pacific Crest Trail Association as a vital resource for JMT hikers. We have over 3700 members as of

this bibliography date. Go here to join if you have not already:
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/johnmuirtrail/info>

For newcomers I recommend you read this thread first, it explains the new JMT application rules issues by Yosemite, effective, 2/2/2015.

About Yosemite's New (Announced) Permit Changes
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152711948013981/>
Originally posted 1/29/2015
Thread Started by Roleigh Martin
195 comments as of 2/3/2015

To get a permit to do the JMT, one needs to [think outside the box](#). Here are the categorical approaches to getting a JMT permit:

Approach Short Title	Approach description	Note
Kosher JMT Southbound (SOBO)	Get a permit per the specific rules in Yosemite's NP JMT FAQ from Happy Isles to Whitney Portal	One's odds for getting this are very remote; best obtained if one applies every day until you win the lottery; problem is that many others are playing this same game.
Kosher JMT Northbound (NOBO) – from Horseshoe Meadows or Cottonwood Meadows	Since the JMT officially terminates or starts at Whitney Summit, one can get to the summit either from the West or the East; getting a Kosher JMT NOBO permit from the West is the easiest to obtain. See this page .	The advantage of getting this permit is that one has 32 miles to hike before getting to the Summit, allowing more time to adjust to the altitude, plus one does not have to deal with the Whitney Quota Lottery game
Kosher JMT NOBO – from Whitney Portal	Get a permit per the specific rules by Inyo National Forest to hike the JMT NOBO starting at Whitney Portal. See this page for the rules.	The problem with this approach besides it being a lottery is that the dates to discover you win are past the dates you could have gotten a NOBO JMT permit starting at Horseshoe Meadows.
Kosher JMT Bi-Directional, Two-Permit Approach (first NOBO, then SOBO). Note, this is called the MOBO approach, named by John Ladd. ¹	At any of the large two digit number of intermediate trailheads on the East or the West of the JMT, get a permit to first hike NOBO to Happy Isles, then bus back to near your starting point, get your second permit from the Forest Service to then hike from that initial starting point to Whitney Portal or Horseshoe Meadows. See this spreadsheet .	This requires getting two permits, spaced apart in time equal to the time it takes to hike the first "half" and bus back to the nearest forest agency to pick up the second permit (that has been reserved ahead of time), and then get back to that initial starting mid-point and hike southbound. Horseshoe or Cottonwood Meadows

¹ See MOBO.PDF in the files tab, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/10152829851203981/> and this thread, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152830431848981/>

		Trailhead is the easier second permit to get.
Start-shifted JMT Northbound Permit	Start the JMT at Kennedy Meadows and hike either the entire JMT to Happy Isles or end after 220 miles (the same length of the JMT).	This adds an additional 65 miles to one's hike if you do the entire hike.

I also recommend you review the 51 page slideshow I presented on the JMT to the Sierra Club in Reno, Nevada, March 2015. http://bit.ly/JMT_SlideShow_201503

You'll need good maps to do your JMT. Read my 34 page analytical comparison review of the 5 JMT map guides: <http://trailtosummit.com/comprehensive-review-5-jmt-guidebooks/>

Additionally, you'll want maps that will show you the alternate trailheads and how to drive or shuttle to them. See this file about the most comprehensive map of the Sierra surrounding the JMT (aside from Yosemite National Park): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/10152776398453981/>

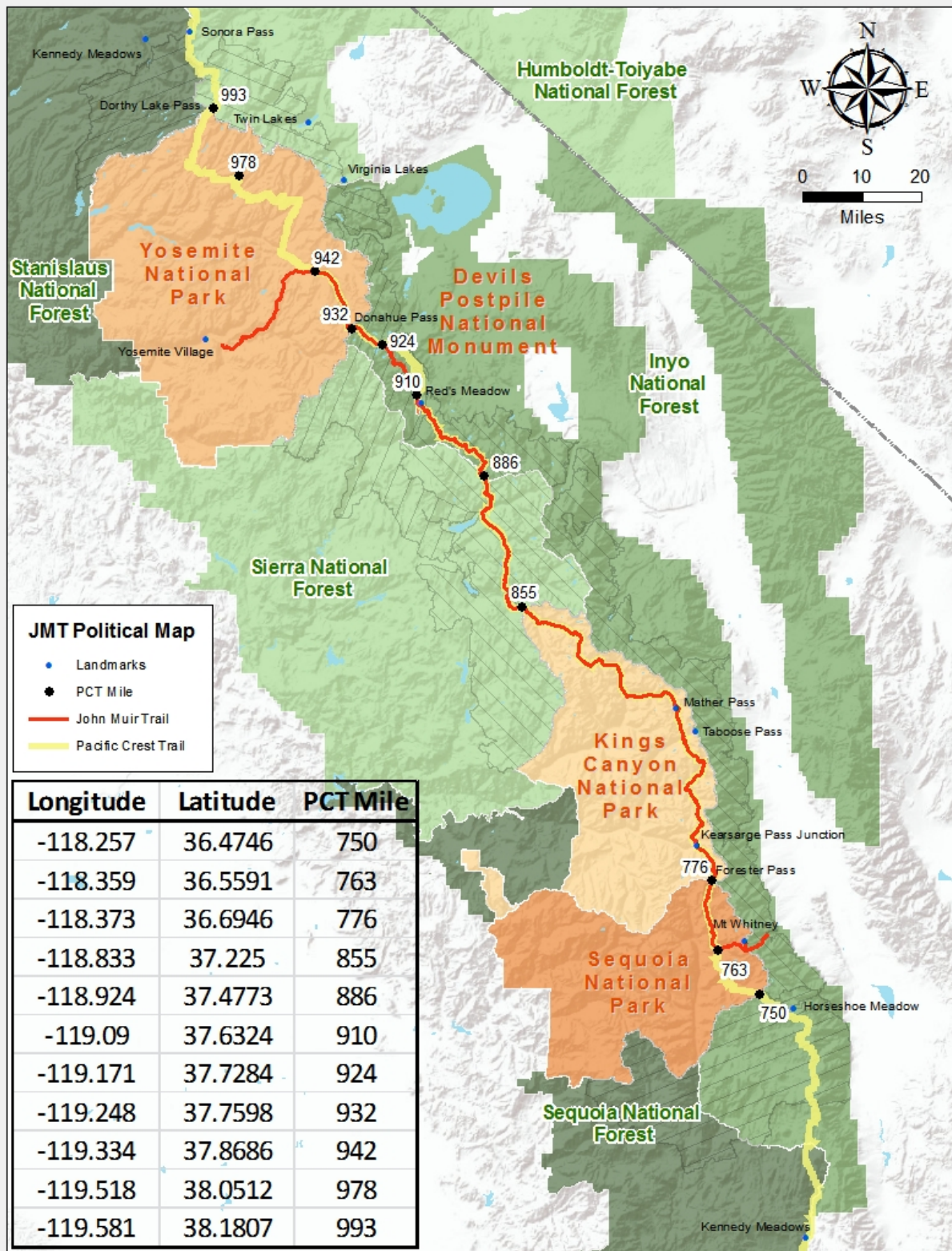
Also recommended are maps from either National Geographic or Tom Harrison about (in sorted order):

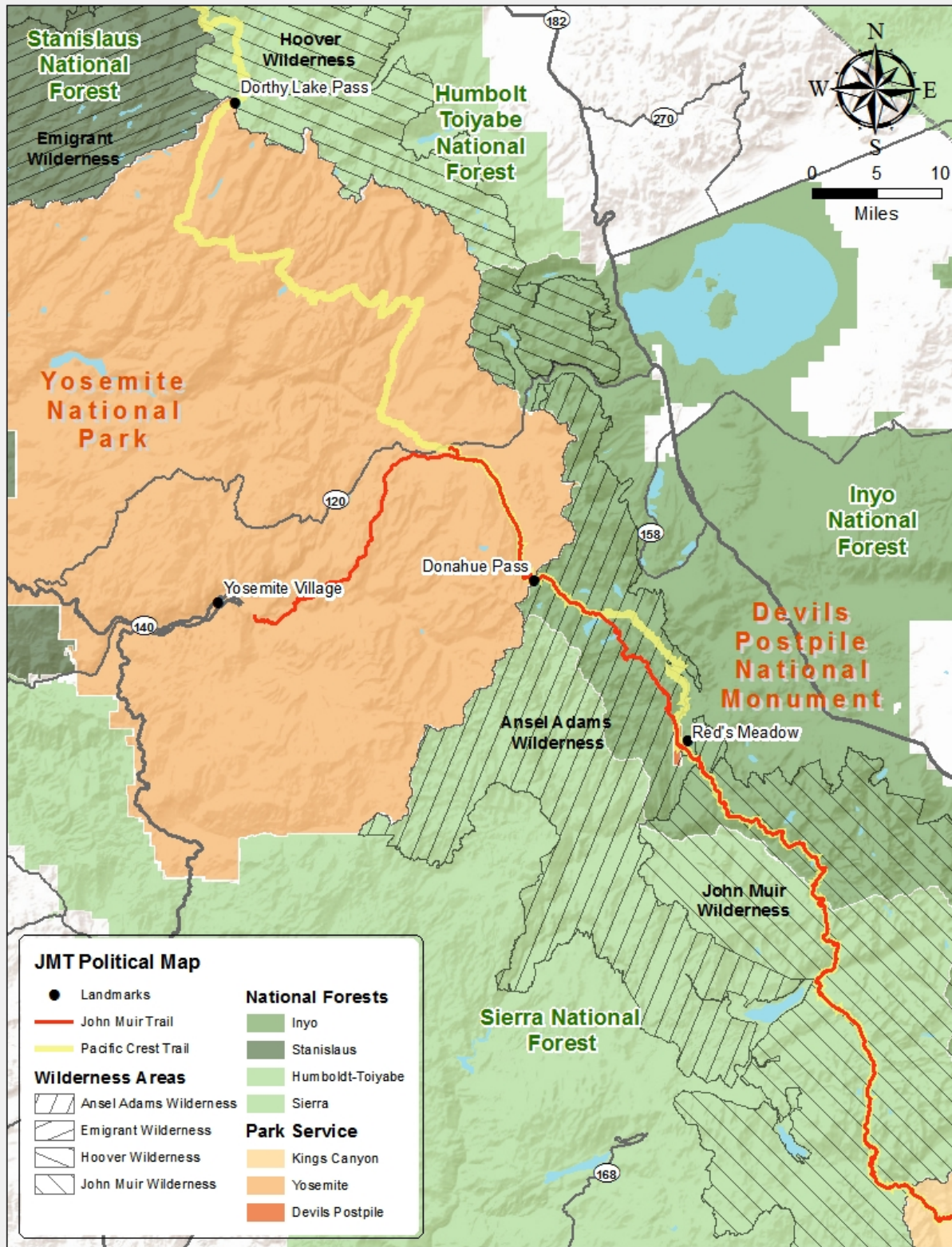
- ü Ansel Adams Wilderness Area
- ü Golden Trout Wilderness Area
- ü Hoover Wilderness in Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest
- ü Kings Canyon
- ü Sequoia National Forest
- ü Sequoia National Park
- ü Sierra National Forest

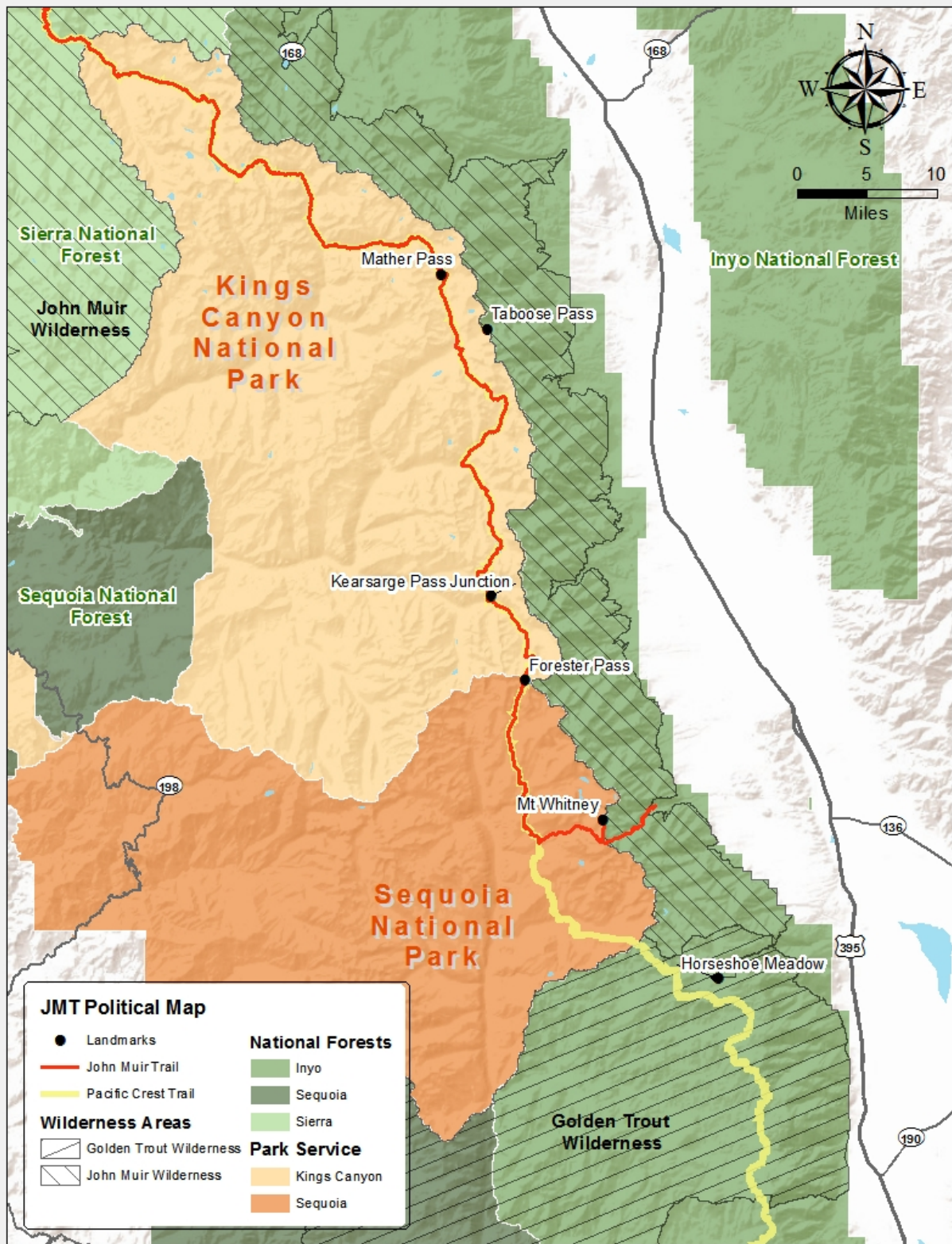
Note, Hoover Wilderness in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest are no longer issuing permits from either Twin Lakes, Virginia Lakes, or Green Creek Trailhead where the intent is to hike the JMT once the permit holder arrives at Tuolumne Meadows.

You should also review the Sierra Administrative Boundaries map created by Elizabeth Wenk which is a PDF document located [here](#) and in the [Facebook Files tab](#). This will let you know from whom you need to apply to get a permit depending upon which point of the JMT you want to start (before the beginning, beginning, or any midpoint, east or west of the JMT).

Cartographer, Jen Dvorsky, also did a political boundary map of the JMT zone too and provided permission to include it in my documentation. Here is the zoomed-out map followed by the two zoomed-in portions of the map. Thank you, Jen!







I review the 5 JMT map guides in great depth (34 pages, with an included Excel scoring spreadsheet which you can tailor the scoring weights), which is published here:

<http://trailtosummit.com/comprehensive-review-5-jmt-guidebooks/>

Two books tie for #1 but the unadjusted raw score shows the [John Muir Trail Data Book](#) by Elizabeth Wenk, 2014, to have the highest raw score. What is relevant about this book for this document about permits is that she shows 33 lateral trails that connect to the JMT on pages 109-112 and shows the length to the JMT and what permit agency to go through to get the permit, as well as what towns are accessed to get to the trailhead. For each of these trails she provides the trail name, length, elevation gain/loss, GPS coordinates, trailhead elevation and the name of the JMT junction and the mileage offset on the JMT where it joins (either headed northbound or southbound).

One of the main permit options is to get two permits, one headed Northbound from some midway point, the other, starting so many days later, starting from the same point, headed Southbound. For instance, you could use recreation.gov and get a permit hiking north on the JMT from Devil's Postpile, and another one scheduled for 2 weeks later to let you hike from Devil's Postpile on the JMT south of there. You'd have to buss (on a YARTS bus) from Yosemite Valley to Mammoth Lakes once you got to Yosemite Valley after using up your first permit, then at Mammoth Lakes picking up your second permit, and then going back to the trailhead and hiking south then on that second permit. I call this approach the bi-directional, two-permit JMT permit reservation method. Elizabeth Wenk's book is great for doing this as her table of 33 lateral trails shows you how to do each of those options!

Additionally, DJ Ayers in the Yahoo JMT group has documented 145 trailheads with access to the JMT. You have to join the Yahoo Group to download this file, but it's free. It is a great job of documentation. He has two files (KMZ for seeing such on Google Earth and XLS for seeing it in Excel). John Muir Trail Yahoo Group Folder [Link](#) to the files mentioned.

Go here to join the group, you need to have a basic Yahoo account to have access to the web portion of the group (files and links). You do not need to use Yahoo Email though.

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/johnmuirtrail/info>

To create a Yahoo Account, go here: <https://login.yahoo.com/config/login> and click on "Create Account".

The John Muir Trail Yahoo Group has over 3700 members and has more research material on Sierra hiking than all the other known web sites combined, this is due to the fact that we have some of the best researchers actively contributing to the site and we have a rich depth of folders in both the Links and Files section of the online library. Note these two authorities and what they say about the group:

From <http://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/john-muir-trail/jmt-faq/>

"Where do people go online to talk about the JMT?

We recommend the John Muir Trail Yahoo Group and JMT Facebook group as active hubs for discussion related to the John Muir Trail. Don't miss the "links" and "files" sections on the yahoo group."

From Elizabeth Wenk's 5th edition of her book, John Muir Trail: The Essential Guide to Hiking America's Most Famous Trail, 2014.

"The John Muir Trail forum on Yahoo Groups is an inviting place to ask questions and also hosts a large collection of help sheets."

Important Permit Information Links (Trailhead names, quotas, etc)

Ansel Adams Wilderness

[Ansel Adams Wilderness Area Page on Permits and Campfires](#)

California Campfire Permit (Online Access)

[California Campfire Permit Page](#)

Golden Trout Wilderness

[Golden Trout Wilderness Area Page on Permits and Campfires](#)

Hoover Wilderness

[Hoover Wilderness Area Page on Permits and Campfires](#)

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

[Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Hiker and Backpacker Information](#)

Inyo National Forest

[Inyo National Forest Page on JMT and PCT Permits](#)

Note on the above page: "If you will finish the trip at Mt. Whitney, the [Trail Crest Exit quota](#) will apply."

[Recreation.Gov's Wilderness Permit Map of Inyo National Forest](#)

[Recreation.Gov's page on Inyo National Forest Wilderness Permits](#)

[Wilderness Trail Names and Quotas for Inyo National Forest](#)

John Muir Wilderness

[John Muir Wilderness Page on Permits and Campfires](#)

Overall Sierra Administrative Boundaries Map

[Sierra Administrative Boundaries Map by Elizabeth Wenk](#)

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park

[Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Page on Permits and Campfires](#)

Sequoia National Forest

[Wilderness Permits for Sequoia National Forest](#)

Sierra National Forest

[Obtaining a Wilderness Permit - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Wilderness Quotas Sierra National Forest](#)

South Sierra Wilderness

[South Sierra Wilderness Area Page on Permits and Campfires](#)

Yosemite National Park

[Yosemite Conservancy Page on Wilderness Permits](#) (also see their [details](#) page)

[Yosemite NP Wilderness Permits](#)

[Yosemite NP JMT FAQ \("Wilderness Permits for JMT Hikers"\)](#)

[Yosemite NP Page on JMT and PCT](#)

[Yosemite National Page on Permits and Campfires](#)

Annotated Bibliography

Entries are presented from Latest to Earliest

Yosemite Reservations are now 6 months out not 24 weeks out. "Yosemite has changed their "sliding permit window" to 182 days - see link."

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10153277598953981/>

Originally posted 10/15/2015

Thread started by Elizabeth Wenk

45 comments as of 11/4/2015

Questions about "The MOBO approach"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152830431848981/>

Originally posted 3/24/2015

Thread started by James Christopherson

5 comments as of 3/24/2015

Poster got permit exiting Yosemite at Isberg Pass to hike over to Devil's Postpile and then on south on the JMT. Asks about trail condition until arriving at JMT.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152818185023981/>

Originally posted 3/18/2015

Thread started by Alex Vaughan

3 comments as of 3/18/2015

"So i'm starting to get a little bit discouraged that I wont get a permit like what can I do to up my chances to grab one!!!"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152816882338981/>

Originally posted 3/17/2015

Thread started by Everette Haire

12 comments as of 3/19/2015

Phone Difficulties with Yosemite Reservation System, Mono Pass TH Option, etc.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152792829268981/>

Originally posted 3/6/2015

Thread started by Tim Sharp

43 comments as of 3/6/2015

"Anyone have experience trading permits with others? Is that allowed?"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152784296148981/>

Originally posted 3/6/2015

Thread started by Kathleen Rush

17 comments as of 3/6/2015

"After being denied 3 applications of a HI-Ililouette over Isberg Pass and exit Whitney. I called permit office and actually got through." [And got the permit over the phone]

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152788761413981/>

Originally posted 3/4/2015

Thread started by Jeffrey Loflin

16 comments as of 3/4/2015

Personal experience comments about getting the bi-directional (first NOBO, second SOBO or vice-versa), two-permit JMT reservation from places like recreation.gov

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152782887933981/>

Originally posted 3/2/2015

Thread started by Dwayne Carter

4 comments as of 3/2/2015

Using an unused spot on a permit, doing a bi-directional, 2 permit JMT hike
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152775723993981/>
Originally posted 2/26/2015
Thread started by Shehzad Lokhandwalla
10 comments as of 2/26/2015

"considering a NOBO permit request. Can anyone tell me what my best chance would be, entry, 1st night camp etc..?"
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152774236393981/>
Thread started by Gary Agee
23 comments as of 3/5/2015

Do I put down a Donahue Pass exit date on my reservation application for Yosemite NP?
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152760509618981/>
Originally posted 2/19/2015
Thread started by Ralph Acorn
1 comment as of 2/19/2015

Issues to consider when doing a bi-directional (split Nobo/Sobo) JMT Permit Reservation
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152759821488981/>
Originally posted 2/19/2015
Thread Started by Doreen Likness
1 comment as of 2/19/2015

Links to Trailheads (their codenames and quotas) for Inyo National Forest and Sierra National Forest
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152758218258981/>
Originally posted 2/18/2015
Thread started by Roleigh Martin
3 comments as of 2/18/2015

About faxing difficulties getting a JMT permit reservation from Yosemite
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152756855433981/>
Originally posted 2/18/2015
Thread started by Sreejith Kt
9 comments as of 2/18/2015

Can anyone tell me what time of day new permits become available on recreation.gov?
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152757474028981/>
Originally posted 2/18/2015

Thread started by Travis Almandinger
7 comments as of 3/2/2015

About hiking the JMT Northbound and permit reservation considerations/questions
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152757029908981/>
Originally posted 2/18/2015
Thread started by Tony Cortina
19 comments as of 2/18/2015

"21 consecutive days of SOBO attempts declined, dreams shattered. So long JMT."
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152754458828981/>
Originally posted 2/16/2015
Thread started by Christian Evans
53 comments as of 2/18/2015

"After being turned down many times for LYV, Sunrise, and Lyell canyon, I thought starting in wawona and going over Isberg would be a slam dunk...I was turned down for that too."
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152751597128981/>
Originally posted 2/16/2015
Thread started by Larry Martin
14 comments as of 2/18/2015

About getting a Yosemite Permit Reservation and doing a JMT Detoured-Start by exiting Yosemite at Isberg Pass and difficulties getting this alternate-route permit
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152747502433981/>
Originally posted 2/15/2015
Thread started by Kara Downey
11 comments as of 2/18/2015

Starting in Yosemite at Mono Pass TH and where to camp that first night (Yosemite NP is not allowed)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152681983778981/>
Originally posted
Thread started by Roleigh Martin
17 comments as of 2/13/2015

Announcement of a new (relevant) facebook group, Theodore Solomons Trail Hikers
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152737218598981/>
Originally posted 2/11/2015
Thread started by Jenna Yokoyama
No comments but in one day 158 members joined

"Just had a rejection for leaving from mono meadows (on a day that wasn't full) and exiting Yosemite over isberg (with a view to join up with the jmt at devils post pile). The standard email cited Donahue pass quota as the reason. Any ideas?"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152737103173981/>

Originally posted 2/11/2015

Thread started by Stuart Hyslop

9 comments as of 2/12/2015

After you have made a reservation application, please indicate your action in this poll

https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152735319188981/?qa_ref=qd

Originally posted 2/10/2015

Poll started by Roleigh Martin

55 respondents so far as of 2/12/2015

46 comments as of 2/12/2015

Doing Rae Lakes out of Road's End; Walk-in Permit to do JMT; Mono Pass Option

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152734066523981/>

Originally Posted 2/9/2015

Thread started by Lori Rogers

30 comments as of 2/10/2015

Elizabeth Wenk's Trail Notes on the Yosemite Alternate Hiking Trails to Exit Yosemite on non-Donahue Passes

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152733983518981/>

Originally Posted 2/9/2015

Thread started by Elizabeth Wenk

15 comments as of 2/10/2015

Hiking a Northbound JMT thru-hike

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152721336628981/>

Originally posted 2/2/2015

Thread started by John Ladd

20 comments as of 2/3/2015

About hiking from Devil's Postpile to Happy Isles, busing back to Red's Meadow, hiking on 2nd permit to Whitney

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152716809793981/>

Originally posted 1/31/2015

Thread started by Sean Walsh

27 comments as of 2/3/2015

About Yosemite's New (Announced) Permit Changes

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152711948013981/>

Originally posted 1/29/2015

Thread Started by Raleigh Martin

195 comments as of 2/3/2015

Big Changes Ahead for JMT Thru-Hikers (about Yosemite Permit Changes)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152711807018981/>

Originally posted 1/29/2015

Thread started by Simon Campbell

19 comments as of 2/3/2015

Alternative JMT Trails elsewhere in the Country

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152712352773981/>

Originally posted 1/29/2015

Thread started by Rachael Moya Jacobs

102 Comments as of 2/3/2015

About the Great Sierra Loop (alternative to the JMT)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152710487298981/>

Originally posted 1/28/2015

Thread started by Eric Moll

10 comments as of 2/3/2015

Megaloop Alternative to the JMT

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152709077073981/>

Originally posted 1/27/2015

Thread started by Simon Campbell

46 comments as of 2/3/2015

On Northbound (NOBO) alternative to doing a traditional Southbound (SOBO) JMT Hike

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152702913408981/>

Originally posted 1/24/2015

Thread started by Carl Ramstrom

17 comments as of 2/3/2015

About Ray Rippel's blog post of his interview with Ed Dunlavy, Yosemite Wilderness Office Mgr.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152699427488981/>

Originally posted 1/22/2015

Thread started by Martin Berdon
61 comments as of 2/3/2015

Double permit option, first hike North from Vermilion Resort; 2nd permit hike to Vermilion Resort from Whitney or Horseshoe Meadow (after taking bus from Happy Isles to Lone Pine)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152698624653981/>
Originally posted 1/22/2015
Thread started by Upama Rai
14 comments as of 2/3/2015

On Theodore Solomons Trail (a parallel trail to the JMT)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152697399248981/>
Originally posted 1/21/2015
Thread started by Jeff Hester
41 Comments as of 2/3/2015

On Mono Pass Trailhead (Optional Starting SOBO Trailhead)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152681983778981/>
Originally posted 1/13/2015
Thread started by Roleigh Martin
13 Comments as of 2/3/2015

On Pending Yosemite Permit Changes (interview with Ed Dunlavey by Peter Hirst)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152680579338981/>
Originally posted 1/12/2015
Thread started by Peter Hirst
22 Comments as of 2/3/2015

On Theodore Solomons Trail (a parallel trail to the JMT)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2240988980/permalink/10152678900428981/>
Originally posted 1/12/2015
Thread started by Roleigh Martin
37 comments as of 2/3/2015
