

# Wilderness Permit and Wilderness Permit Reservation Changes For 2015

## Hoover Wilderness

### Bridgeport Ranger District

There are changes this year that you need to be aware of as you plan your wilderness trips for this season. Yosemite National Park has instituted an exit quota for John Muir Trail trips that cross over Donohue Pass. They have placed a daily quota that limits the number of wilderness visitors who can exit the park at Donohue Pass. This is in addition to the trailhead entry quotas that have been in place for years. This change will only affect those planning to travel on the John Muir Trail. With this exit quota in place, we will not be able to take reservations, or issue wilderness permits, for John Muir Trail trips that start on the Bridgeport Ranger District and exit Yosemite at Donohue Pass.

Use on the John Muir Trail has increased nearly 100% just in the past 4 years. This increase in use has occurred, not because of changes in trailhead quotas, but through changes in visitor use patterns. Trail users have been creating their own John Muir Trail variations starting at various other trailheads, including those that provide access to the Hoover Wilderness. In addition to strict trailhead entry quotas (these quotas provide an opportunity to reserve a wilderness permit, as well as a way to obtain a wilderness permit on the planned day of entry) in place for trailheads that provide access to the John Muir Trail, there are also a limited number of trailheads that you can use to start a John Muir Trail trip. The trailheads available to start a John Muir Trail trip are all within Yosemite National Park. In order to provide a quality experience to those who are traveling on the John Muir Trail, Yosemite has implemented this exit quota system, and will be restricting use of the John Muir Trail to the specific entry trailheads. For most of its length, the John Muir Trail lies within designated wilderness. Wilderness managers in the Sierra Nevada are focused on providing high quality wilderness experiences to visitors. For many years now, this focus on wilderness experience for visitors has included trailhead quotas. This new exit quota is a further refinement in the quota system, intended to restore balance to wilderness use patterns within Yosemite National Park. There has been no reduction in wilderness trailhead quotas, either within Yosemite or on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. You are still free to plan wilderness trips that start in the Hoover Wilderness and cross over into Yosemite National Park Wilderness. You can plan loop trips of varying distance; you can plan one-way trips that begin in the Hoover Wilderness and exit at a trailhead in Yosemite.

For further information about the John Muir Trail, please contact Yosemite National Park. A good place to start would be:

[www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/jmtfaq.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/jmtfaq.htm)

For further information about wilderness permit reservations or wilderness permits for the Hoover Wilderness on the Bridgeport Ranger District, contact Jeffrey Weise (Wilderness Manager) at 760-932-5824 or by email at [jweise@fs.fed.us](mailto:jweise@fs.fed.us).