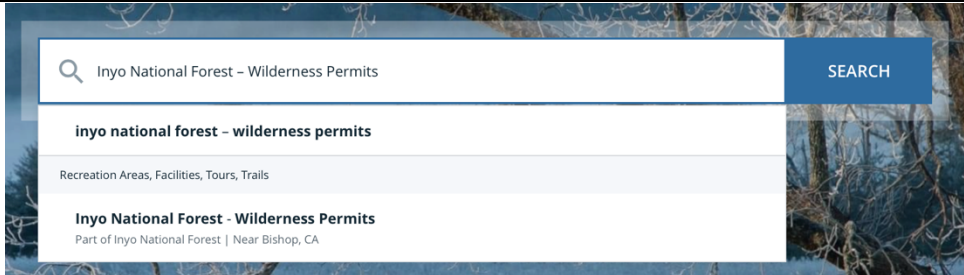
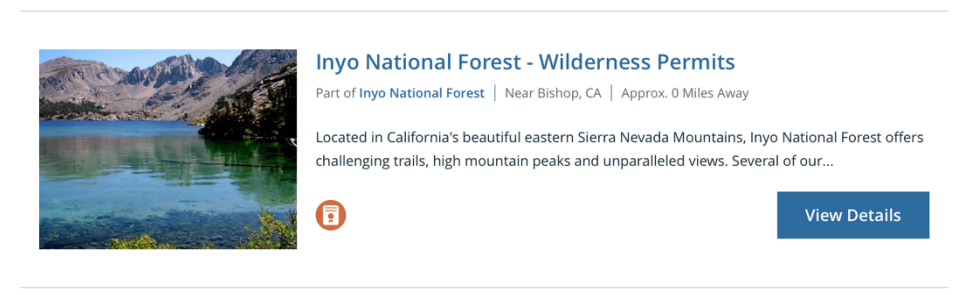
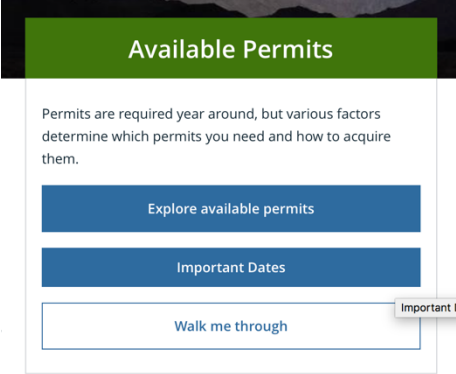
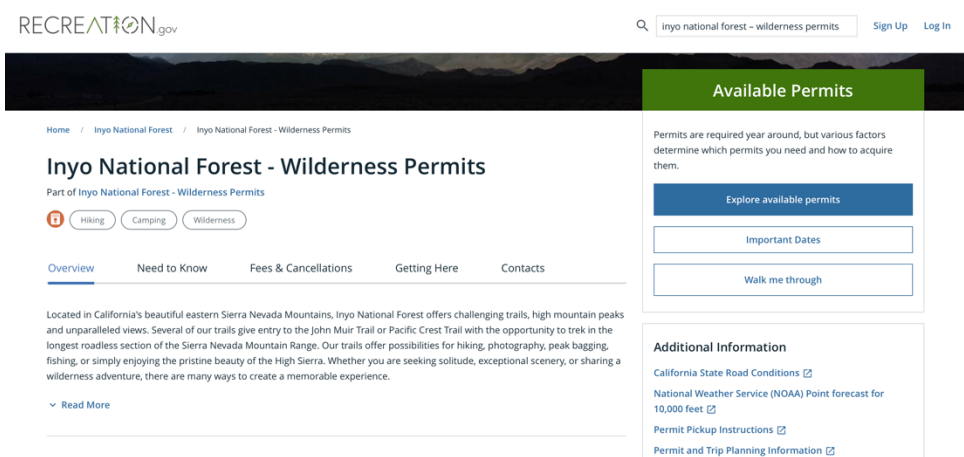


The Hassle-free JMT Permit Application

THE STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS	
<p>1. Go to the Recreation.gov website and type 'Inyo National Forest – Wilderness Permits' in the search field. Select the wilderness permits selection from the drop-down and then on the next screen, click on the 'View Details' button.</p> <p>*Or you can just click here if you don't feel like typing and clicking.</p>	 
<p>2. On the next screen, you can take a quick look at the 'Important Dates' as there is a special quota season for Cottonwood Pass. If you want to acquire a permit to hike before the quota season begins, you cannot reserve one online and will need to visit an Inyo National Forest Information Center to obtain a walk-up permit for the non-quota season.</p>	
<p>3. When you're ready, scroll back up and hit the button to 'Explore Available Permits'</p>	

The Hassle-free JMT Permit Application

4. *NOTE: For the purpose of illustrating the permit process, I've chosen 'Cottonwood Lakes' since at the time of updating this post, I was unable to select Cottonwood Pass. You will select 'GT60 – Cottonwood Pass', unless you would prefer to hike out of Cottonwood Lakes.*

On the 'Detailed Availability' screen, select 'Overnight' for the type of permit, then enter the date you want to begin your hike and the number of people in your group.

Answer the question 'Is this a commercial guided trip? This can include an Outfitter, Guide, or pack Outfitter?' If you select 'Yes' you will receive a message that you must coordinate your trip with that guide.

Scroll down to 'GT60 – Cottonwood Pass' and if there's availability (the field will be blue and display the available number of permits), select the date you want. If you're unfortunate enough to have no availability for the date you selected, choose 'Next Available' to see what options you have.

You could alternatively take the Cottonwood Lakes trail, which also starts in the [Horseshoe Meadow area](#), but it is a more difficult trail and a little bit out of the way. Click [here](#) for a copy of the [Horseshoe Meadow area trail map](#) that will illustrate the difference between entering at Cottonwood Lakes trail and Cottonwood Pass trail.

The screenshot shows the RECREATION.gov website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Inyo national forest - wilderness permits' and links for 'Sign Up' and 'Log In'. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'Overnight', a date of '06/03/2019', and a group size of '2'. The main content area is titled 'Detailed Availability' and includes a question: 'Is this a commercial guided trip? This can include an Outfitter, Guide, or pack Outfitter.' with radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No'. Below this is a table for '2019 JUN' showing permit availability for various sites. The table has columns for 'ID', 'SITES', 'AREA', and days of the week (MON 3, TUE 4, WED 5, THU 6, FRI 7, SAT 8). The row for 'JM39 Cottonwood Lakes' shows a checkmark in the MON 3 column and the number '36' in the TUE 4 and THU 6 columns. To the right of the table is a map showing the location of 'JM39: Cottonwood Lakes' in a green area. At the bottom of the table, there is a legend for 'Available', 'Walk-up', and 'Unavailable' and a 'Book Now' button.

ID	SITES	AREA	MON 3	TUE 4	WED 5	THU 6	FRI 7	SAT 8
JM39	Cottonwood Lakes	John Muir	✓	36	36	36		
SS63	Olancha Pass (Non Quota)	Golden Trout	W	W	W	W		
SS64	Haiwee Pass (Non Quota)	Golden Trout	W	W	W	W		
SS65	Kennedy Meadows (Non Quota)	Golden Trout	W	W	W	W		

The Hassle-free JMT Permit Application

Once you've selected an available date, click on 'Book Now'

- If you not already logged in, you will be asked to do so. If this is your first time visiting the newly updated recreation.gov website, you will need to reset your password.

After you've logged in, fill in your Permit Holder information (this information here is for the group leader).

It is recommended you add your other group members as alternate permit holders (up to 3 persons) in the event you yourself cannot pick up the permit.

Will you be trekking up Mt. Whitney? If so, select 'Yes'.

RECREATION.gov

inyo national forest - wilderness permits

11:47

Lisa G.

Order Details

Review Cart

Payment

Confirmation

Order Details

Permit Holder

First Name

Last Name

Street Address

Apt or Suite Number

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Phone

Save above changes to my account.

You may select a max of 3 other people to act as alternate permit holders on your trip. Please enter a valid email address for each of the intended holders. They will receive an email and will need to validate within **72 hours**. See [Alternate Permit Holders](#) for more information.

[Add alternate](#)

Visiting Mt. Whitney

Are you visiting Mt. Whitney at any point during your trip?

Yes No

There is a fee of \$15.00 per person for trips visiting Mt. Whitney.



Inyo National Forest - Wilderness Permits

Part of Inyo National Forest

Overnight Permit

Check in

June 3, 2019

Check out

July 6, 2019

Entrance Location

Cottonwood Lakes

Trip Itinerary

Mon, Jun 3, 2019

#1 Lake (Cottonwood Lakes)

Adult/Child 2 x \$15.00 \$30.00

Reservation Fee 1 x \$6.00 \$6.00

Amount Due \$36.00

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The Hassle-free JMT Permit Application

6. Now for the tedious part of the permit application process...entering your trip itinerary. Hopefully, you've heeded my advice and already determined your camping locations for each day prior to getting to this step.

In Section 1 of the 'Trip Itinerary' section, enter your exit date (the date you expect to complete your hike). When you do this, Section 2 will populate with fields that you will need to fill in with anticipated camping locations. As I mentioned in 'STEP 1 - PLAN YOUR ITINERARY', the drop-down list is cumbersome, and you will be tempted to select the option "Other / Don't Know". If you choose this option too many times, you may not be able to complete your application. This information is vital to provide useful information for SAR (search and rescue) in the event of an emergency.

Filling in these fields is not straightforward. To see the locations available, click in the field and hit the down arrow on your keyboard, this will pull up the full location list to select from.

After selecting your camp locations for each day in section 2 of your 'Trip Itinerary', select your exit point (where you plan to end your hike) in the 'Entry & Exit Points' section.

Trip Itinerary:

You have selected the entry date, entry point, and group size listed below for your trip. Next, select your exit date, exit point, and camp locations to complete your itinerary.

1 - Enter an exit date to create your trip itinerary:

[Modify start date in Detailed Availability](#)

Entry Date: Jun 3rd 2019 Total Days: 22

Exit Date: Group Size: 2

2 - Select your camp locations to complete your itinerary:

Please use Down Arrow Key to see all available options.

Date	Campsite Location
Jun 3rd 2019	#1 Lake (Cottonwood Lakes)
Jun 4th 2019	Chicken Spring Lake (PCT- Cottonwood Pass)
Jun 5th 2019	SEKI - Rock Creek (84)
Jun 6th 2019	SEKI - Crabtree (83)
Jun 7th 2019	<input type="text" value="Type to select from the list..."/>
Jun 8th 2019	<input type="text" value="Type to select from the list..."/>
Jun 23rd 2019	Yosemite - John Muir Trail- Little Yosemite

Entry & Exit Points

Select the entry point and exit point you will be using during your trip.

[Modify this entrance in Detailed Availability](#)

Entry Point:

Exit Point:

The Hassle-free JMT Permit Application

7. Group size appears again here, why, I don't know. Perhaps the time in between when you looked for permit availability and the time you entered your camp locations, you decided that you don't like one of your group members anymore and you want to cut them out of the hike? Or perhaps you are now mad at them for making you complete this tedious application and you decided they should fill out their own application? Most likely, you can just ignore modification of this field, but make sure it contains the correct number of group members.

Next select your travel method. I've selected 'Foot' since I don't plan on using a dog sled (yes, that's actually an option!)

Indicate whether or not you will be bringing any animals. (Note that dogs are not allowed on any parts of the trails in both Yosemite and Sequoia / King's Canyon, which is a good portion of the JMT.)

The screenshot shows the 'RECREATION.gov' website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'Inyo National Forest - Wilderness Permits', a clock showing '13:00', and a user profile for 'Lisa G.'. The main content area is titled 'Group Size' and includes the instruction: 'Indicate how many total people will be in your group, including you. You may decrease this number, but it is set to the max selected in detailed availability.' Below this, there is a 'Total Group Size' dropdown menu set to '2' and a 'Modify group size' link. The next section is 'Travel Method', with the instruction: 'Please select the type of travel you will be using on this trip.' The 'Travel Method' dropdown is set to 'Foot'. The final section is 'Animals', with the question: 'Are you bringing animals on your trip?' and radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No', where 'No' is selected.

8. In the next section, select the 'Issuing Station' where you plan to pick up your permit (this can be changed later on if necessary)

The addresses of the permit issuing stations can be found [here](#).

The screenshot shows the 'RECREATION.gov' website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'Inyo National Forest - Wilderness Permits', a clock showing '11:53', and a user profile for 'Lisa G.'. The main content area is titled 'Issuing Station' and includes the instruction: 'Please select from the locations below where you will be picking up your permit.' Below this, there is a 'Station Location' dropdown menu with a 'Select Location' button. The dropdown is open, showing a list of locations: 'Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center', 'Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center', 'Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center', and 'White Mountain Ranger Station'. There is a 'Close' button at the bottom of the dropdown. To the right of the dropdown, there is a text input field with the label 'ons for your trip.' and a 'Close' button.

The Hassle-free JMT Permit Application

9. The 'Need to Know' section contains important information regarding your permit as well as a quick safety overview. Be sure to read this section and acknowledge that you've read the information by checking the box next to **'Yes, I have read and agree to the Need to Know information.'**

RECREATION.gov

Inyo National Forest - Wilderness Permits 11:05 Lisa G.

Need to Know

Important Information: Below you will find important information that regards your stay with us. Please carefully read the information and click the check box below to agree to our Rules and Regulations for Inyo National Forest - Wilderness Permits.

Facility Information

You are agreeing to the following:

No Show

Your reservation will be canceled as a no show unless you pick up the permit or arrange for late arrival before the no show deadline of 10am on the entry date. [Link to Permit Pick up Instructions](#)

Wilderness Permit

The group leader is responsible for picking up the permit and relaying wilderness information to your group. You are accepting responsibility as leader that your group will follow **all of the rules** and regulations, including:

Yes, I have read and agree to the Need to Know information.

10. Proceed to your cart and complete the checkout process.

Inyo National Forest - Wilderness Permits
Part of Inyo National Forest

Overnight Permit

Check in: **June 3, 2019** Check out: **June 3, 2019**

Entrance Location: **Cottonwood Lakes**

Trip Itinerary: **Mon, Jun 3, 2019**

#1 Lake (Cottonwood Lakes)

Tue, Jun 4, 2019

Other / Don't Know

Wed, Jun 5, 2019

SEKI - Rock Creek (84)

Thu, Jun 6, 2019

SEKI - Crabtree (83)

Sun, Jun 23, 2019

Yosemite - John Muir Trail- Little Yosemite

Adult/Child	2 x \$15.00	\$30.00
Reservation Fee	1 x \$6.00	\$6.00
Amount Due		\$36.00

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