

SIERRA NEVADA NETWORK LAKE MONITORING DESIGN (3C)

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Sierra Nevada Network parks (Devils Postpile National Monument, and Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks) protect over 4,500 lakes and ponds and thousands of kilometers of rivers and streams that have some of the highest water quality in the Sierra Nevada. High-elevation lakes are critical components of the parks' ecosystems, popular visitor destinations, and habitat for aquatic and terrestrial organisms including declining amphibian species. As part of the Vital Signs Monitoring Program, the Sierra Nevada Network (SIEN) identified lake ecosystems and in particular water chemistry, surface water dynamics, and amphibians as high priority vital signs for long-term monitoring. Lake ecosystems were selected for monitoring because they are 1) valued for their ecological importance, contribution to Wilderness character, recreational opportunities, and importance to regional water supplies, 2) threatened by multiple stressors, and 3) sensitive to environmental change. SIEN recently completed its lake monitoring protocol. The protocol was implemented in summer 2008. This poster highlights the monitoring design.

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