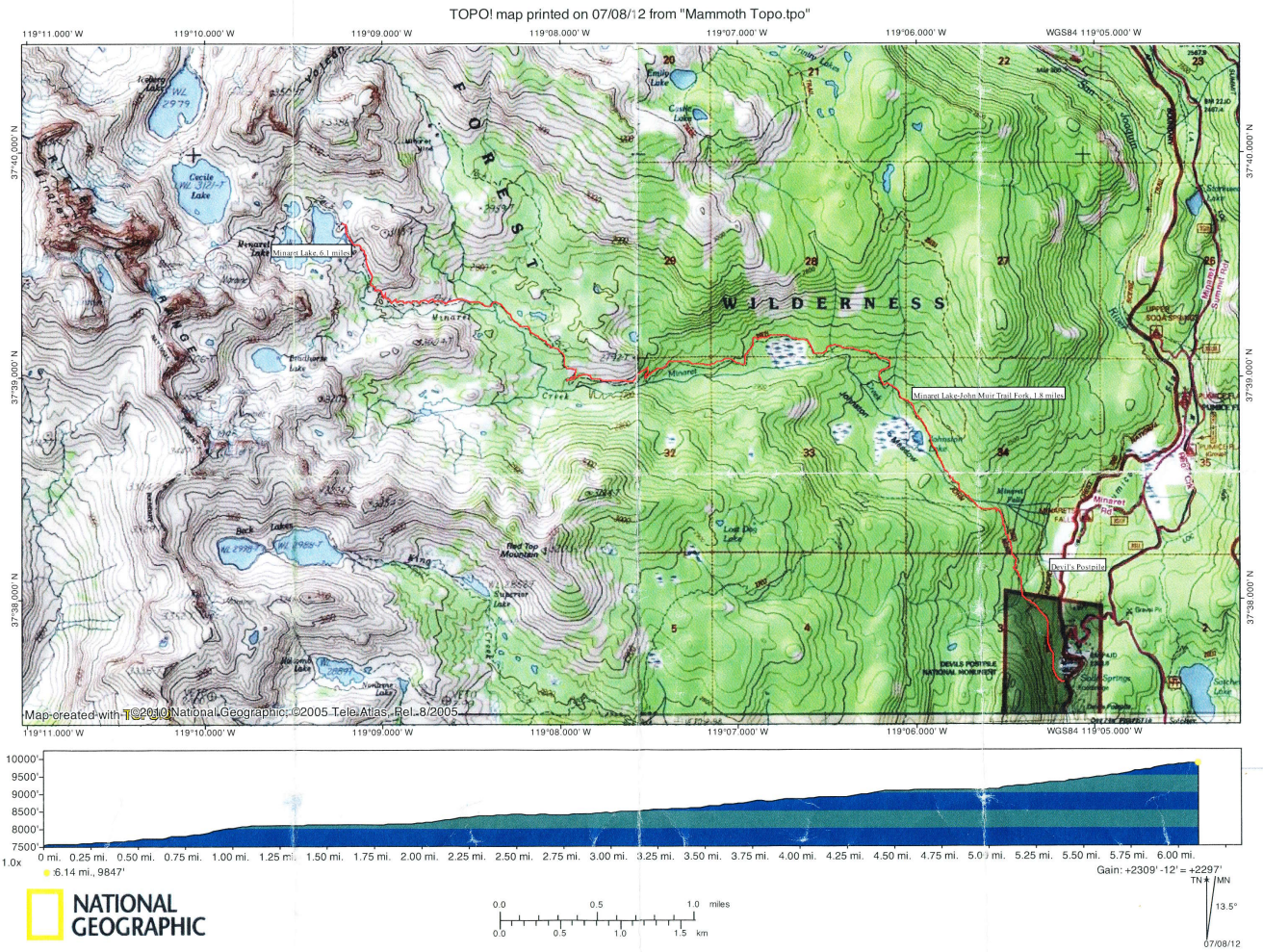


# MINARET LAKE, MAMMOTH

TOPO map of the route:



We hiked over to the Devil's Postpile before starting on the Minaret Lake trail:



There is a lot of nice scenery in this area:



The Minaret Lake trail gains elevation rather quickly at the beginning, then levels out as it enters a valley and follows the Minaret Creek.



As we hike up the valley, we start to catch glimpses of the Minarets in the distance:



As we near the lake, we are hiking along Minaret Creek; it's a very nice creek, but there are numerous mosquitoes:



The lake is a welcome sight after the hike up here:



There is a trail which takes off to the north when hiking around the lake; I'm not sure if it's a shortcut to the Minaret Mine, or if it just leads to some more campsites:



Looking back across the lake and out towards the valley where Deadhorse Lake is located:



Another panorama of the lake (note the overlap at both ends of the panorama):



We decided to hike all the way around the lake and look at a potential route over to Cecile Lake, and on to Iceberg Lake; we had heard that a loop hike is possible and wanted to check it out for future reference:



Another view back across Minaret Lake from its northwestern end:



Looking up at the Minarets:



There are many nice spots to stop for lunch around the lake:



This is where the trail ends and one must do some scrambling and route-finding to continue around the lake—but it's not at all difficult:



Here the water appears to be seeping right out of the rock face:



This is probably where one would start on the route over to Cecile Lake; we didn't have time to do the loop hike on this day:



Looking down at the northwestern part of Minaret Lake from atop the rock mound that needs to be climbed to continue around Minaret Lake:



Looking across the lake at where the main trail first reaches the lake; it's (very) easy route-finding to hike around the lake to the right:



The only tricky spot is descending from this rock ledge, and requires some care:





Panorama of the lake from here:



This seemed to be the best view looking down the valley; it's taken from near the outlet of the lake. There is so much interesting hiking around here:



One last look back across the lake, at the route over to Cecile Lake, and the Minarets:



This photo of Minaret Creek was one of the first successful HDR photos I took:

