



Interagency News Release

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Celebrating Federal Lands, Wilderness Act 50th at Bishop Mule Days

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), and the US Forest Service are attending Bishop Mule Days to share the opportunities that federal lands offer for residents and visitors.

One of the many attractions of Bishop, the Eastern Sierra, and the environs is the multitude of recreational opportunities on public land that attract visitors worldwide.

Employees from the Bishop Field Office, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Death Valley National Park, and Inyo National Forest will be staffing booths at the fair grounds to highlight some of the special features of these lands. Among the activities:

- Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Eastern Sierra is home to premier Wilderness areas that attract backpackers, hikers, packers, and mountaineers to experience the rugged beauty, solitude, and adventure in these mountain and desert areas.
- Participate in activities that teach children and adults alike about how to be responsible stewards of public lands through *Leave No Trace* methods as well as understanding the skills required to care for and pack stock animals. The Inyo National Forest is a Region 5 Pack Stock Center of Excellence that is dedicated to maintaining the traditional role of pack stock on federal lands and passing this skill onto the next generation.
- Smokey Bear and the Inyo National Forest's fire prevention staff will be on hand to help you be safe with fire both at home and on camping trips.
- WildCorps crew members from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and BLM's Seymour Pronghorn will share ways to enjoy BLM lands in the eastern Sierra.
- Rangers from Death Valley National Park and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will have activities highlighting the various species of wildlife that are found in the parks. Some of the species that will be featured are owls and bighorn sheep. Often people think they can identify animals by their tracks. Stop by the NPS booth to test your skills.

Come visit the booths at the fairgrounds to learn a little more about your public lands and the opportunities they provide, including family friendly activities such as picnicking, fishing, and short hikes, to encourage children of all ages to explore the great outdoors.