

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update

June 9 - 15, 2010

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 6:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. Monitor Pass (SR 89) is open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi, for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads.

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs Saturday and Sunday from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley; for information and a schedule, visit the web at www.yarts.com.

Roads to **YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK'S** major destinations are open. In the town of Mammoth Lakes, the Lakes Basin road is scheduled to open Friday, 6/11. The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is scheduled to open June 18th. In the White Mountains, the paved road to Schulman Grove in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is open. White Mountain road, the dirt road north of Schulman Grove is open to the turnoff to the Patriarch Grove; at this point the road is closed by snow (1/2 mile south of the Patriarch Grove and 4 miles south of the White Mountain Peak trailhead).

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** safety tips. Father Crowley Vista on SR 190 is closed for site enhancement. Scotty's Castle road is open; expect short construction delays. The Big Pine, Devils Golf Course, Salt Creek, Mahogany Flat, Charcoal Kilns and Lower Wildrose dirt roads are open. The South Saline Valley and Titus Canyon roads are open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The North Pass into Saline Valley is open; high clearance 4x4 vehicles recommended. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. Check the web at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section) for descriptions of backcountry roads, and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: Sunny days and warming temperatures are expected through Thursday as a weak ridge of high pressure persists over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions mid week. A low pressure system will move across the region starting Friday producing unseasonably cool temperatures, gusty winds and a slight chance of showers over the mountains. Cooler temperatures are expected to continue through early next week followed by a warming trend. Highs have been in the lower 30s in the mountains, mid 90s in the Owens Valley and near 110 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 20s in the mountains, to the upper 70s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY, MONO COUNTY** and **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region. **INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, most campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Make sure that all food and trash is properly stored.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41) and Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) are open and have sites available on a reservation basis. In June, you're unlikely to find a first-come, first-served campsite until additional campgrounds open. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

Campgrounds are open in the **SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST** on the Kern River and at Lake Isabella on a reservation, or a first-come/first-served basis. For more information, call 1-760-376-3781 or visit the web at www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Wildrose (water/no fee), Thorndike (no water/no fee) and Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. Visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/deva for information.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and these waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2010 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov. Celebrate the summer fishing season through the month of June in the **BISHOP CREEK CANYON TROUT DERBY**. Contact the Bishop Chamber of Commerce at 1-760-878-8405, for information and a list of participating businesses.

WINTER SPORTS: **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 4 to 7 foot base. For lift operation and snow conditions, visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com or call 1-888-766-9778. Mammoth will be open through July 5th.

WATER SPORTS: **RAFTING SEASON** on the **KERN RIVER** is off to a *fast start* - experience required. Permits and special restrictions are in effect; for information contact the Kern River Ranger Station in Kernville, or call 1-760-376-3781.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with mountaineering gear for snowy/icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. Snow conditions make trails difficult to locate and passes very slick. Mountaineering and navigation skills are required. High water is a challenge this season, hikers should be extremely careful regarding high, *fast* water; creeks may be hazardous to cross. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads - cars must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant vehicle damage.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Mammoth Lakes/Rush Creek trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations including the Visitor Center.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas, permits may be obtained at the InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station during office hours. Reservations for wilderness permits can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514. For information on wilderness permits, please visit the Inyo National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: On Saturday, June 12, the **Annual California Amphibian & Reptile Celebration** will be held at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon. Entertaining presentations and educational displays will take place from 9:00am to 4:00pm informing visitors about the many misconceptions and superstitions surrounding our most interesting, misunderstood, unusual and rarely seen neighbors. For more information, call 1-760-378-2531 or visit the web at www.kern.audubon.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

MONO COUNTY MUSEUM, in Bridgeport is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00am to 4:00pm with great exhibits and photos of old mining days, and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm; the museum is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm. A history talk is presented daily at 10:00am. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are presented Saturday & Sunday at 1:00pm. Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm with displays, information and a film presentation on this WWII historic site. Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park. For information, visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/manz.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**, with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

Visit the **KERN VALLEY MUSEUM** to explore the fascinating history of the Old West through artifacts and memorabilia that make history come alive, in Kernville; open 10:00am to 4:00pm Thursday through Sunday.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" and other tours daily from 9:30am to 4:00pm.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 6/9/10kcw