

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update

July 28 - August 3, 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:** Eastern Sierra roads are open including US Hwy 395. Trans Sierra roads are open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov), for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, visit the web at [www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads](http://www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads) or call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237).

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

Shuttle bus service to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is in operation. Day visitors and backpackers must use the shuttle bus, as access and parking is limited. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for shuttle information, current recreation conditions, trail maps, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** safety tips. The Big Pine, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Salt Creek, Mahogany Flat and Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. Titus Canyon road is open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The North Pass into Saline Valley is open, high clearance 4x4 vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley road is open but very rough; high clearance vehicles recommended (watch for rocks). 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 website at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://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 with breezy afternoon conditions are expected to continue over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions into early next week. A chance of isolated thunderstorms, for the mountains and desert is in the forecast through Saturday. Temperatures are expected to be near normal. Highs have been in the upper 40s in the mountains, near 100 in the Owens Valley and around 115 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 30s in the mountains to the low 90s 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 FORESTS**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, for a one-month block through [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov); or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat, Bridalveil Creek (on Glacier Point Road), Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley, one-half of Crane Flat and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. Call 1-209-372-0200 for Yosemite information, or visit the park web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

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

Campsites are available throughout **SEQUOIA\KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS** on a first-come/first-served and reservation basis. For recorded information to plan a visit call 1-559-565-3341, or check the web at [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

## 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 its 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. The Mono County website at [www.monocounty.com](http://www.monocounty.com) has fishing reports for many of its lakes and streams. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads - vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant 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. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the website at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo). Reservations for these permits (except Whitney) 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.

**THIS WEEK'S FUN: 7TH ANNUAL SAGEBRUSH GHOSTS OF THE MONO BASIN TOUR** presented by the Mono Basin Historical Society occurs on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. This year's tour will focus on the history in the year 1940. The event kicks off Friday night with a dinner and dance at the Community Center. For more information and/or tickets, check at the Old Schoolhouse Museum in "downtown" Lee Vining or call 1-760-647-6431.

**WHITE MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION OPEN HOUSE, SUNDAY, AUGUST 1:** Visit Pace Laboratory, the high altitude research facility at Mt Barcroft, operated by the University of California, in the White Mountains. Short lectures and research information will be presented from 10:30am to 4:00pm. The gate to Barcroft opens at 6:30am and closes at 6:00pm; bring water, lunch and sturdy shoes. Car pooling is recommended, as parking is limited. Interpretive programs and natural history walks will also be provided at Schulman Grove, open daily 10:00am to 5:00pm.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**MONO COUNTY MUSEUM**, in Bridgeport, is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am 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 8:00am to 6:00pm; the museum is open from 9:00am 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 food and several layers of clothes 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 daily at 10:00am, 1:00pm and 6:00pm. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot near the south shore of Mono Lake (recreation fee). Check at the Visitor Center for a complete list of activities on this remarkable lake, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open 8:00am to 5:00pm Sunday through Thursday and from 8:00am to 7:00pm Friday and Saturday.

**MONO BASIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM** in Lee Vining's Old School House (at Hess Park) is open Thursday through Monday 10:00am to 4:00pm (except Sunday 12:00pm to 4:00pm) with photos and displays on the history of the Mono Basin and Bodie.

The **2010 MAMMOTH LAKES MUSIC FESTIVAL** continues through August 6th. A series of concerts at the Cerro Coso College featuring the Felici Trio and world-renowned guests! For information call 1-760-934-7015 or visit the web at [www.chambermusicunbound.org](http://www.chambermusicunbound.org).

**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. Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park anytime.

Visit the **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**, with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. A special orientation film is available on request. 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.

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

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. 7/28/10kcw