

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update February 16 - 22, 2011

## 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 5:00pm including President's Day (2/21)

**ROADS:** Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are closed for the winter. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) is closed for the winter. South SR 158 is open to June Lake Village. Mono Mills road (SR 120) and June Lake Loop (SR 158) are closed for the winter. Weather and road conditions can change rapidly this time of year; mountain passes are subject to immediate controls and/or closures. Drivers headed to the mountains need to be sure their vehicles are equipped with chains, including those with snowtires. For California highway conditions and construction schedules, call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the web at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov). For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237), or visit the website at [www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads](http://www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads).

SR 270, the **BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** road is closed for the winter. The Lake Mary road is open to Tamarack Ski Center parking area. The Rock Creek road is open to the SnoPark at East Fork. In Bishop Creek, SR 168 is open to Aspendell and the South Lake road is open to Bishop Creek Lodge. The Big Pine Canyon road is open.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. Titus Canyon is open; high clearance vehicles are recommended. The Racetrack road is open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The North Pass road into Saline Valley is closed due to snow and ice. The South Pass road into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County due to snow and ice. 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) for conditions and descriptions of roads ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section).

**WEATHER:** The first of a series of winter storms will move over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions mid week. Skies will clear briefly on Thursday, as another storm is expected to move over California in the early evening. This storm is expected to produce wide spread precipitation which will continue through the weekend. Periods of heavy mountain snow are forecast, along with rain throughout the desert valleys. Temperatures will be below normal, with the snow level dropping to 4,000 feet by Friday night. Showers will be more scattered Sunday, with skies clearing starting Monday. Another storm is forecast for the middle of next week. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, low 50s in the Owens Valley and 70s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from teens in the mountains, to the 40s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds & RV facilities are open throughout the area. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/no water) and the Pleasant Valley Pit (fee/no water) are open. During the summer of 2011, local BLM campgrounds are scheduled for renovation which may necessitate some closures. The schedule for closures has not yet been determined.

**INYO NATIONAL FOREST**, Lone Pine to Lee Vining, most campgrounds are closed for the winter. The following sites are open: Lone Pine (no water/no fee), Bitterbrush in Bishop Creek (no water/no fee) and Holiday in Rock Creek (no water/no fee).

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley has 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 Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For Yosemite National Park information, visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Furnace Creek, Sunset, Texas Spring, Stovepipe Wells, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free) and Wildrose (free). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit the park web site at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva).

**RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK**, on SR 14 south of Ridgecrest, offers great desert camping.

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.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

## Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Fish & Game

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

Mono County

USDA - Forest Service

**FISHING:** The **OWENS RIVER** south of Crowley Lake (including Pleasant Valley Reservoir and Tinnemaha Reservoir) and  **DIAZ LAKE** are open to year-round fishing. Fishing is open in Kern County at Lake Isabella and a four-mile portion of the Kern River upstream from the Johnsondale Bridge. Copies of California fishing regulations are available on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**WINTER SPORTS:** **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 10 to 16 foot base. For daily lift operation and snow conditions, visit the web site at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com) or call 1-888-766-9778. Join a **NATURALIST** for a new look at the Mountain. Tours are provided on Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 10:30am; meet at the bottom of Chair 2 (Stump Alley Express).

**JUNE MOUNTAIN** is open with a 4 to 8 foot base, check the web at [www.junemountain.com](http://www.junemountain.com) or call 1-760-934-2224 for more information. Join a **NATURALIST** for a new perspective of June Mountain. Tours at June are presented at 10:30am and 1:00pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; meet at the bottom of Chair J2.

Many snow-covered roads in Mono County offer a variety of scenery and terrain for X-COUNTRY SKIING, SNOWSHOEING and SNOWMOBILING. **TAMARACK CROSS COUNTRY SKI CENTER** in the Mammoth Lakes Basin is open with 19 miles of set track; call 1-760-934-2442 for more information. Join a **NATURALIST** for a free Nordic ski tour from the Ski Center on Friday, Saturday and holiday Sundays at 11:00am, or a snowshoe tour at 11:00am Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The **SNOPARK IN ROCK CREEK** at East Fork is open for the winter. Self-issue parking permits are available on site, or can be purchased (for the day or season) in advance at many locations. New in 2011, SnoPark permits may be purchased online at [www.ohv.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ohv.parks.ca.gov).

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for current snow conditions, trail maps and avalanche risk; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm or call 1-760-924-5500. The **EASTERN SIERRA AVALANCHE CENTER (ESAC)** offers avalanche advisories and an on-line discussion center for the region. For information, check the web site at [www.esavalanche.org](http://www.esavalanche.org).

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy/icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. **WILDERNESS PERMITS** are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are no longer in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas. Self-issue permits can be obtained in the night boxes at the following locations: InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station after 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. The Whitney zone permit lottery for 2011 is accepting applications through March 15th (fax applications will not be accepted). Day use in the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is included in the Whitney Zone quota; apply in the lottery. For more information on wilderness permits, including an application form and fees, visit the Inyo National Forest web site at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo).

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:** The Annual **WHISKEY FLAT DAYS - February 18th to 21st: "Goin' To The Dogs"** in Kernville, celebrates the local gold rush days of the 1860's. A parade, rodeo, Whiskey Flat Encampment, carnival rides, frog jumping contests, food, art show, gunfights, costume contests, kids activities, tours, games and lots of music are just a few of the many events planned; for more information call 1-760-376-2629, or visit the web [www.kernvalley.com/news/whiskey.htm](http://www.kernvalley.com/news/whiskey.htm).

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** is open daily 10:00am to 3:00pm (open 2/21). Visitors must use over-snow transportation to access the park. Bring drinking water, food and plenty of warm clothes for a winter visit to Bodie.

**EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM** in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily (open 2/21), 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 4:30pm (open 2/21). Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz) for more information.

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 (open 2/21).

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER** at Furnace Creek is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm (open 2/21). Ranger talks and other interpretive programs are presented daily. An evening program is presented at 7:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and "Underground Mystery Tours" daily. Lower Vine Ranch walking tours are presented on Wednesday and Saturday; call 1-760-786-2392 for information and reservations (recommended).

**BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY** is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance (open 2/21). The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

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.

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 (open 2/21). 2/16/11kcw