

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update

April 13 - 19, 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

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. June Lake Loop (SR 158) is closed for the winter. Mono Mills road (SR 120) is open. 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. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237), or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads.

SR 270, the **BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** road is closed for the winter. Rock Creek road is open to East Fork parking area. In Bishop Creek, SR 168 is open to Aspendell and the South Lake road is open to Bishop Creek Lodge. In the White Mountains, the road to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is open to Sierra View. Whitney Portal and Onion Valley roads are closed due to rocks and snow. Horseshoe Meadow road is closed at the Carroll Creek gate.

Highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. The North Pass and the South Pass roads into Saline Valley are 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 for conditions and road descriptions ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section).

WEATHER: Dry conditions with periods of gusty winds are forecast for the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave through Thursday, as weak high pressure builds over the region. A Pacific storm is expected to move over Northern California early Friday, producing a chance of showers over the Sierra crest, with partly cloudy skies over the desert. A second system could bring the chance of precipitation early next week, primarily to the mountains. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, 60s in the Owens Valley and mid 80s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from teens in the mountains, to the upper 50s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds & RV facilities are open throughout the area.

The Bishop Field office of the **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds: Tuttle Creek (no drinking water/fee area), Goodale Creek (no drinking water/fee) and the Pleasant Valley pit (no drinking water/fee) are open. This summer local BLM campgrounds will be renovated which necessitates some closures. Goodale will be closed starting 5/2, with Tuttle closing on 5/9.

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 (no water/no fee) and Holiday in Rock Creek (no water/no fee). Lower Grays Meadow on Independence Creek is open for the early fishing season (no water/reduced fee).

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley has sites open and reservable. 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 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.

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.

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.

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 southwest Inyo County (Independence Creek south to the county line, with US 395 on the east and the Sierra Crest to the west). Fishing is open year-round in Lake Isabella and on the Kern River from Lake Isabella to the Johnsondale Bridge. California fishing regulations are available at sporting good stores selling fishing licenses, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is now available throughout the region.

WINTER SPORTS: **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 14 to 24 foot base. For daily lift operation and snow conditions, visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com or call 1-888-766-9778. **JUNE MOUNTAIN** is open with an 8 to 12 foot base. For June Mountain information, check the web at www.junemountain.com or call 1-760-934-2224.

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.

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.

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 not in effect this time of year in 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 is closed; any remaining spaces will open for reservations, starting on April 20th for trips starting in May, June and July. Day use in the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is included in the Whitney Zone quota. For more information on wilderness permits, including an application form and fees, visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

THIS WEEK'S EVENT: Join the fun at the **22nd ANNUAL LAKE ISABELLA FISHING DERBY** - April 16, 17, & 18. The "world's largest amateur trout derby" - with lots of prizes! This event is sponsored by the Kern River Chamber of Commerce. For information call 1-760-779-5236, or visit the web at www.isabellafishingderby.com.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 10:00am to 3:00pm. 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.

Remember the days of the "Slim Princess"! Visit **LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE**, four miles north of Bishop on HWY 6, to learn of early days in the Owens Valley. Laws is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm.

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 4:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for more information.

The **SOUTHERN INYO MUSEUM** in Lone Pine opens for the season on Thursday April 14th. The New Coso Heritage Society operates this facility with its collection of artifacts, which were originally displayed in the Darwin Museum. The museum has a great collection of mining equipment, local history memorabilia and the one-of-a-kind "Bug Room." The museum is open Thursday through Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm through October. It is located at 127 West Bush Street (two blocks north of the only traffic light in Lone Pine).

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 (temporary) at the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Ranger talks and other interpretive programs are presented daily. An evening program is presented at 7:30pm in a variety of locations near Furnace Creek. Check at the Visitor Center, or www.nps.gov/deva for information. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and "Underground Mystery Tours" daily. Reservations for Scotty's Castle tours are now available on the web at recreation.gov.

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. 4/13/11kcw