

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update

April 20 - 26, 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. 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. The June Lake Loop (SR158) is open. Rock Creek is open to the pack station. 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. Big Pine and Onion Valley roads are open. Whitney Portal road is closed due to rocks and snow. Horseshoe Meadow road is closed at the Carroll Creek gate.

Major roads through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Upper Wildrose dirt roads are open. The North Pass road into Saline Valley is open; 4x4 recommended (carry chains). The South Pass road into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County due to washouts. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a 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: Unsettled weather mid week will continue into the weekend over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave region, as several storm systems are expected to move over Northern California through late Saturday, resulting in periods of cloudy skies, gusty winds and a chance of scattered showers over the mountains. The snow level is forecast for approximately 6,500 feet by the weekend. High pressure is expected to begin to build on Monday, producing fair and warm weather for next week. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, mid 70s in the Owens Valley and mid 90s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the teens in the mountains, to the upper 60s in Death Valley.

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

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, the following Bishop Field office campgrounds are open: Tuttle Creek (fee area/no drinking water), Goodale Creek (fee/no drinking water) and the Pleasant Valley pit (fee/no drinking water). This summer local BLM campgrounds will be renovated which necessitates some closures. Goodale Creek will be closed starting 5/1 with Tuttle closing on 5/8. Crowley Lake campground will open on Friday, April 29, with Horton Creek scheduled to open Friday, May 13.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST, Lone Pine to Lee Vining, most campgrounds are closed for the winter. Open sites include: Lone Pine (water/fee), Grays Meadow (water/fee), Bitterbrush (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 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.

Camping sites are available year round in the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** at Hole-In-The-Wall and Mid Hills on a first-come/first-served basis. For more information call 1-760-252-6108, or visit the website at www.nps.gov/moja. Black Canyon Equestrian & Group Campground (across from Hole-In-The-Wall) is open with reservations required, call 1-760-928-2572.

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: General trout season opens next Saturday, 4/30, in the Eastern Sierra. 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). 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 12 to 21 foot base - great spring conditions. 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 information, check the web at www.junemountain.com or call 1-760-934-2224. June Mountain will close for the season Sunday, April 24th.

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 27th for trips starting in August, September and October. 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.

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.

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located 1 mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, is open 8:00am to 5:00pm, Thursday - Monday for information, a film presentation and displays.

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.

NEW EXHIBIT: *Presents photographs of Edward Curtis and Andrew Forbes* - Examine the different perspectives of these remarkable images that document the changing West including Native American communities and cultures at the turn of the 20th Century.

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. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at 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.

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

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 through Saturday, 4/23. An evening program is presented at 7:30pm in a variety of locations near Furnace Creek (ending 4/23). 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. Scotty's Castle is shifting its tour to summer hours on Sunday, from 9:30am to 4:00pm.

Information on the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** can be obtained daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the **Kelso Depot Visitor Center** (off I 15 at Baker or off I 40 on Kelbaker Road). The Visitor Center features exhibits, an orientation film, an art gallery and bookstore. The historic lunch counter known as "*The Beanery*" is open daily. Kelso Depot ranger talks are offered Monday-Friday at 11am and 2pm. The Kelso Dunes interpretive walk is offered on Saturdays at 11am. The **Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center** is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00am 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. 4/20/11kcw