

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update June 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 6:00pm

**ROADS:** Major Eastern Sierra roads are open. Trans Sierra roads - SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) and SR 108 (Sonora Pass) are open. SR 120 (Tioga Pass) will open at 8:00am on Saturday, 6/18. 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](http://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](http://www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads).

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs Saturday (6/18 east bound only from Yosemite) and Sunday from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley and back during the month of June. For information and a schedule visit the web at [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com).

In the town of Mammoth Lakes, the Lake Mary road to the Lakes Basin is open (limited parking). The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is closed due to snow; it is scheduled to open July 1<sup>st</sup>. In the White Mountains, the road to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is open to Schulman Grove. The dirt road north of Schulman Grove is open to its junction with Wyman Canyon road. Silver and Wyman Canyon roads are open; high clearance 4x4 vehicles required.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** safety tips. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Upper Wildrose dirt roads are open. Natural Bridge road is closed for road work. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County. 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. For descriptions of backcountry roads, check the web at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) (Plan Your Visit/Things To Do) and the Morning Report for current information.

**WEATHER:** Sunny days and near normal temperatures are expected through the weekend over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions. A low pressure system will move across the West this weekend, producing slightly cooler temperatures and local gusty winds. High pressure will start to build early next week, resulting in a warming trend through mid week. Highs have been in the 30s in the mountains, mid 90s in the Owens Valley and near 120 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 20s in the mountains, to the 90s 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 (fee area/no drinking water) at Horton Creek and Crowley Lake are open. Tuttle Creek and Goodale Creek are closed for renovations; for information regarding this project, check the web at [www.blm.gov/ca/bishop](http://www.blm.gov/ca/bishop).

**INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, many 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.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley sites, Wawona (SR 41) and Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) are open and have sites available on a reservation basis. Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows will open later in the summer (estimated opening 7/15); sites may be reserved now. 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 Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For park information, visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://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 1-760-379-5646 or visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Texas Springs, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/free), Mahogany Flat (no water/free) and Wildrose (water/free). 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](http://www.nps.gov/deva) for information.

## 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 general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The **BISHOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has fishing reports for many locations in the area: call 1-760-873-8405 for more information. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**WINTER SPORTS:** **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 6 to 12 foot base. For information, visit the web site at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com) or call 1-888-766-9778.

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy and icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. Snow conditions make trails difficult to locate and passes very slick. High water is a challenge. Hikers should be very careful with fast high water; creeks may be hazardous to cross. The snow level on the Whitney region is approximately 10,000 feet (lower on north facing slopes). In Yosemite National Park, the current snow level is approximately 6,500 feet. **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 Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

**WILDERNESS PERMITS** are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) 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. The Whitney zone permit lottery is closed; any remaining spaces are available now for reservations (check the web). For information on permits, including an application form and fees, visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo).

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:** **10th ANNUAL MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA:** Lee Vining - June 17, 18 & 19. An extensive schedule of seminars, field trips, evening presentations, art, music and, of course, great birding are planned for the weekend! For information call 1-760-647-6595, or visit the web site [www.birdchautauqua.org](http://www.birdchautauqua.org).

In Bishop, **CALIFORNIA STATE HIGH SCHOOL RODEO FINALS CHAMPIONSHIP:** Thursday and Friday at 7:00pm at the Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds. These students represent the best! For information, call 1-760-873-8405.

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

Nature walks at South Tufa are presented on Saturday & Sunday in the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** 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.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** (located on HWY 203 just east of town) for current recreation conditions, trail maps, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

**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. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz) for 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.

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. **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. 6/16/11kcw