

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update July 7 - 13, 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: Eastern Sierra roads are open including US HWY 395. Ebbets Pass and Monitor Pass will be temporarily closed on Saturday morning and early afternoon for the Alpine County "Death Ride" bicycling event. For California highway conditions and construction schedules, call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi. Visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads or call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) for Nevada roads.

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

In the White Mountains the paved road to Schulman Grove, in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, is open. White Mountain road, the dirt road north of Schulman Grove, is open to the White Mountain Peak trailhead. Access to the Patriarch Grove is limited by a snow drift at the turnoff with White Mountain road, leaving a 1/2 mile hike to the grove.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** travel safety tips. Dante's View road is closed due to flood debris; opening not yet established. Racetrack and 20 Mule Canyon roads are closed until further notice, due to flood debris. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Upper Wildrose dirt roads are open. Natural Bridge road is open Friday through Sunday; otherwise closed for re-construction. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County (4x4 high clearance vehicles recommended). 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 (Plan Your Visit/Things To Do) and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: Moist, unstable air flow into the southern Great Basin and the Mojave Desert from Arizona will produce the potential of daily afternoon thunderstorms over the Eastern Sierra, through Saturday. Drier air from the west will lower the chance of thunderstorms starting Sunday. Drier conditions are expected early next week. Highs have been in the 40s in the mountains, mid to upper 90s in the Owens Valley and around 110 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the upper 20s in the mountains, to the upper 80s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. 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.

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.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Crane Flat have 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. Tuolumne Meadows estimated opening is 7/15; sites may be reserved now. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Tamarack Flat and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. On Friday and Saturday nights, you're unlikely to find a first-come, first-served campsite until additional campgrounds open. Camping is permitted only in designated sites. For more park information, visit the website at www.nps.gov/yose.

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 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 these waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

Celebrate summer fishing during the "**How Big Is Big**" Fishing Derby, sponsored by the communities of Walker, Coleville, Topaz and the Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce. During the entire month of July, catch the biggest fish from the West Walker River and you can win a great prize. There is no entry fee -- and the West Walker will be stocked with extra fish for the event. Just bring your fish into the Walker General Store and your catch will be weighed and recorded (prizes will be mailed at the end of the derby). For information, call 1-530-495-2911.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: The Mammoth Mountain Bike Park offers some of the world's best mountain biking. The Panorama Gondola is open daily for scenic rides, as well as bike transport. Trails accommodate all skill levels - from first timers to the best "air" artists. Call 1-760-934-0706 for information, or visit the web at www.mammothmountain.com.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared 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 high, fast water; creeks may be hazardous to cross. The snow level on the Whitney region is approximately 11,000 feet (lower on north facing slopes). In Yosemite National Park, the current snow level is approximately 9,000 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.

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).

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 area). 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 MUSEUM**, in the historic Emmet Haden Cabin, and discover Mammoth Gold Rush Days. Exhibits and many photos give life to those exciting times; the museum is open daily, 10am to 6pm Mon - Thurs & 10am to 5:30pm Fri - Sun.

ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST Visitor Center at Schulman Grove is open daily from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

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 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at 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.

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. 7/7/11kcw