

**Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert  
Recreation Information Update  
September 28 - October 4, 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 4:30pm**

**ROADS:** Major Eastern Sierra roads are open including US Hwy 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) is open. 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). Call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at [www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads](http://www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads), for Nevada roads.

SR 203, the road to the **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is open (recreation fee area). Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** (on SR 203) for more information on fees and passes, permits, current recreation updates, trail maps, wilderness conditions and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

In the White Mountains, the paved road to the **ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST AND SCHULMAN GROVE** is open; the dirt road to the Patriarch Grove is open.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** travel safety tips. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side, Charcoal Kilns and Mahogany Flat dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles required. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County (4x4 high clearance vehicles required). 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 website at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section) and the Morning Report for current information.

**WEATHER:** A high pressure ridge over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave will produce fair weather, with well above normal temperatures, through Thursday. The ridge will shift east Friday allowing a weak disturbance to move into Central California, resulting in a chance of thunderstorms over the Sierra Nevada through Sunday. Cooler temperatures and breezy conditions are forecast for early next week. Highs have been in the upper 40s in the mountains, lower 90s in the Owens Valley and over 110 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 30s in the mountains, to the 80s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Crowley Lake, Horton Creek and Goodale Creek are closed for renovations. The Tuttle Creek campground is tentatively scheduled to open October 8th.

**INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. Campgrounds at higher elevations are starting to close for winter, due to near freezing nighttime temperatures that can damage water systems. Onion Valley campground, west of Independence, is closed for the winter. **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 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 Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek (weekends only) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. Tuolumne Meadows is closed for the season. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded information, or visit the web at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Texas Springs, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Wildrose (water/no fee/no campfires), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires) and Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires). Visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) for more information. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort.

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](http://www.nps.gov/moja).

**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 its 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](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**HUNTING:** General hunting season for Mountain Quail and Blue/Ruffed Grouse is open in the Eastern Sierra. General deer season for the Eastern Sierra is open in zones X8 (primarily Alpine County), X-12 (generally northern Mono County), X-9a/b (Mono and Inyo Counties along the Sierra Escarpment) and X-10 (the Kern Plateau). On the west side of the Sierra Nevada, zones D-6 (north, west of Yosemite National Park), D-7 (north, west Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks), D-8 (Sequoia National Forest, north Hwy 178) and D-9 (Sequoia National Forest, south Hwy 178) are open. Hunters should keep in mind many people use these areas for other types of sports; it's much safer to avoid hunting near developed sites, roads and trails. Hunting is not permitted in National Parks.

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes, including snow. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in major damage. Hikers should be aware hunting season for deer and upland game birds is open for many locations in the Sierra Nevada (except National Parks). In areas open to hunting, it's a good idea to wear brightly colored clothes and stay on the trails.

**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 many trails of the Inyo 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. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo). Reservations for permits (except Whitney) 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.

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: FALL COLORS CAR SHOW: Friday - Sunday, 9/30, 10/1 & 10/2** in Bishop at the Tri-County Fairgrounds, sponsored by the Owens Valley Cruisers Car Club. Great cars, parade, raffles, pancake breakfast, awards, vendors, Poker Run and 50's dance are just some of the activities scheduled. For information, call 1-760-873-5367 or visit the website at [www.owensvalleycruisers.com](http://www.owensvalleycruisers.com).

**CHOO CHOO SWAP MEET: Saturday - October 1**, Tri-County Fairgrounds - Bishop's biggest semi-annual swap meet. Proceeds benefit Laws Railroad Museum, call 1-760-873-5950 or visit website at [www.lawsmuseum.org](http://www.lawsmuseum.org) for information.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** is open daily 9:00am to 5:00pm starting 10/1. Check at the museum for a listing of activities. The museum is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water, food and warm clothing for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

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

**MONO BASIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM** in Lee Vining's Old School House (at Hess Park) is open Thursday through Monday, 10:00am to 4:00pm (Sunday opening at noon), with photos, displays and artifacts on the history of the Mono Basin.

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.

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.

**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.

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). Kelso Depot ranger talks are offered daily at 11:00am and 2:00pm.

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. 9/28/11kcw