

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update August 30 – September 5, 2012

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 including Labor Day 9/3

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 open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov 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. **The roads will be busy this weekend, so please drive with care.**

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 through 9/3. The bus will run on the weekends for the month of September; visit the web at www.yarts.com for more information and a schedule.

Shuttle bus service to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Red's Meadow is in operation through Wednesday, 9/5. Day visitors and hikers must use the shuttle bus, as parking is limited. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for shuttle information, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. Highway 267, between Scotty's Castle and the junction of US Highway 95, is closed due to flash flood damage; no opening date has been established. Know and use **excessive heat** safety tips while driving through Death Valley. Due to extreme heat and remoteness, the Park Rangers recommend travelers stay on the paved roads from June through September. Many back country dirt roads, including the Big Pine road, are closed by recent flash flooding debris. Rangers ask visitors traveling to any remote desert location to check for current road conditions at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center or Scotty's Castle. For comprehensive backcountry road information, check the web site at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit/Things to Do/Outdoor Activities").

WEATHER: Moist, unstable air from the southwest will produce a chance of thunderstorms over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave on Thursday and Friday. Dry conditions are expected by Sunday, with a ridge of high pressure developing over the region through Wednesday, producing warm temperatures and periods of gusty winds. Highs have been in the upper 40s in the mountains, near lower 90s in the Owens Valley and around 120 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the lower 30s in the mountains, to the mid 90s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** sites are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area. Bishop **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/drinking water), Goodale Creek (fee/no drinking water), Horton Creek (fee/drinking water) and Crowley Lake (fee/no drinking water) are open.

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. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows 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. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat, Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. For more park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

Campsites are available throughout **SEQUOIA\KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS** on a first-come/first-served and reservation basis. For recorded information to plan a visit to the park, call 1-559-565-3341 or www.nps.gov/seki.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Mesquite Springs, Texas Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee), Wildrose (water/no fee/no campfires), Thorndike (no water/no fee/no campfires/high clearance vehicles) and Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires/high clearance vehicles). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit the web at www.nps.gov/deva.

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 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

HUNTING: Hunting season for doves opens 9/1. Archery season for quail, chukar and Blue/Ruffed grouse is open in the Eastern Sierra. Archery season for deer is open in zones X-8, X-9a/b/c, X-12 (zones in Alpine, Mono and Inyo Counties east of the Sierra crest). X-10 (the Kern Plateau) is open through 9/2. Archery on the west side of the Sierra Nevada is open in zones D-6, D-7 and D-8. Areas of Kern County (D-9 & D-10) are also open. D-17 opens on 9/1 (parts of San Bernardino counties). Hunters should keep in mind that many people use these areas for other types of recreation, 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. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. **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 significant damage

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! Many trails of the Inyo National Forest, and some areas in Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park, require the use of portable, bear resistant food canisters. 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), White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, 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, including the reservation system, please visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

FIRE DANGER: RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT on the Inyo National Forest, Sequoia National Forest, the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, the BLM lands of the Bishop, Bakersfield and California Desert Districts. Restrictions are also in place on state lands within San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: Grand opening of the **BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST VISITOR CENTER** at Schulman Grove on Saturday 9/1, with music at 1:00pm and the formal ceremony at 2:00pm. Please carpool, as parking is limited. For more information, please call 760-873-2500.

EASTERN SIERRA TRI-COUNTY FAIR - BISHOP - Opens Thursday 8/30 and continues for four fun days through Sunday, 9/2. A real country fair with lots of exhibits and events, including a carnival, live music, great food, rodeo, the always popular destruction derby, arts & crafts and much, much more. For information, call 1-760-873-3588.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW IN BISHOP CITY PARK - 8/31 through 9/3, featuring art, photography, jewelry, weavings, wood carving, ceramics, gourd art, clothing, food and more. On Friday-Sunday, open 9am-6pm and on Monday, open 9am - 1pm. For more information, contact Inyo Council for the Arts at 1-760-873-8014.

43RD ANNUAL MAMMOTH LAKES LABOR DAY ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL - 9/1 through 9/3 - located at Sam's Wood Site on Minaret Road, between Main (Hwy 203) and Meridian Road - from 10:00am to 6:00pm Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00am to 4:00pm on Monday. Featuring over 100 artists, contemporary craftsmen, children's entertainment, food, live music and family fun; for more information, call 1-760-873-7242 or 1-760-937-2942.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm (open 9/3). A history talk is presented daily and 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**. Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm (open 9/3) for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily (open 9/3), 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 (open 9/3). 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**. 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 (open 9/3).

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm (open 9/3). **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 10:00am to 4:00pm (open 9/3).

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. 8/30/12kcw