

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update October 4 - 10, 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

**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. *Slow for the Cone Zone*, while traveling through construction work zones. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://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](http://www.nevadadot.com).

SR 203, the road to the **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is open (recreation fee area). The Inyo National Forest is proceeding with the removal of the wind-fallen trees in the Reds Meadow area. Visitors should expect traffic delays of up to thirty minutes, as a result of the removal work. 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.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** travel safety tips. Hwy 190, between Salt Creek and the Furnace Creek Inn, has road paving work. Drivers should expect delays of up to twenty minutes on Monday - Friday. Hwy 267, east of Scotty's Castle to the junction of US Highway 95, is closed. Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and the Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley road is open; high clearance vehicles required. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County due to rock fall which is blocking the road. The Big Pine Road is closed due to flood damage. 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/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current information.

**WEATHER:** The high pressure ridge over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave will diminish this weekend, resulting in cooler temperatures. Unsettled conditions are forecast for early next week, with partly cloudy skies, below normal temperatures and a chance of showers over the Sierra crest and Great Basin mountains. Highs have been in the 30s in the mountains, 80s in the Owens Valley and near 110 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 20s in the mountains, to the 70s 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), Crowley Lake (fee/no drinking water) and the Pleasant Valley Pit (fee/no water) are open.

**INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. Campgrounds at higher elevations are closing for the winter due to near freezing nighttime temperatures that can damage water systems. **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, Crane Flat (closes 10/9) and Hodgdon Meadows (for reservations through 10/15) have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, for a one month block through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona (SR 41 south of Yosemite Valley), Porcupine Flat, Tamarack Flat and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded information, or visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

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/4x4 high clearance vehicles) and Mahogany Flat (no water/no fee/no campfires/4x4 high clearance vehicles). Reservations for Furnace Creek campsites are available six months in advance for 10/15 to 4/15 and for group sites 12 months in advance through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov), or by calling 1-877-444-6777. 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](http://www.nps.gov/deva).

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

**HUNTING:** General hunting season for Mountain Quail is open in the Eastern Sierra. Blue/Ruffed Grouse is open through 10/8. General deer season is open in zones X-8 (primarily eastern Alpine County) through 10/7. Zones X-12 and X-9a/b (primarily Mono and Inyo Counties east of the Sierra Escarpment) is open through 10/8. Zone X-10 (the Kern Plateau) is open. Deer season, west of the Sierra Nevada crest, is open in zones D-6 (generally north and west of Yosemite National Park), D-7 (primarily Madera and Fresno Counties), D-8 (primarily Tulare County), D-9 (northern Kern County) and D-10 (Kern County). 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. Hunting regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy/icy terrain, freezing temperatures and sudden weather changes. **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. Hikers should be aware hunting season for upland game birds and deer is open in the Sierra Nevada (except National Parks) and Eastern Sierra. In areas open to hunting, it's a good idea to wear bright 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! 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](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo).

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

**THIS WEEK'S EVENT: The 23rd ANNUAL LONE PINE FILM FESTIVAL - October 5, 6 & 7 - LIGHTS!**

**CAMERA! ACTION!** Lone Pine and the Alabama Hills have been a favorite movie location for Hollywood since the 1920s. A great variety of activities are scheduled to highlight this remarkable film history, including location tours, panel discussions, live music, a parade and of course movies! For information, visit the web site [www.lonepinefilmfestival.org](http://www.lonepinefilmfestival.org) or call 1-760-876-9909.

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 Thursday, at 7:00pm Friday and Saturday, and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. The museum is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Visitors should bring warm clothing, drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six foot 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.

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.

**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 more information.

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER** at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Reservations for tours are on the web at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov).

Discover the natural and cultural history of the MOJAVE DESERT at the **MATURANGO MUSEUM AND NORTHERN MOJAVE VISITOR CENTER OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY** in Ridgecrest; open daily 10:00am to 5:00pm.

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. 10/3/12kcw