

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

Recreation Information Update

October 25 - 31, 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 closed due to snow. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) is closed due to snow. These roads may open if weather conditions allow. Weather and road conditions can change rapidly this time of year; mountain passes and roads are subject to immediate controls and/or closures. Drivers headed to the mountains need to be sure their vehicles are equipped with chains, including those with snowtires. 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. Call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237), or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads, for Nevada roads,

The road to the **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow (SR 203) is closed for winter. Wind-fallen trees removal work continues and necessitates the road to be closed to all public use for safety, when logging operations are in progress. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** (on SR 203) for more information on roads, fees, passes, permits, current recreation updates, trail maps 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. Hwy 190, between Cow Creek and Salt Creek, has road striping work. Drivers should expect delays of up to 30 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 and the West Side dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley and the Charcoal Kilns roads are open; high clearance vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County. 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 ("Plan Your Visit/Things to Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: Breezy winds on Thursday and Friday will decrease by the weekend, as high pressure builds over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave. Temperatures should warm to near normal by early next week, with continued sunny days and dry conditions through Wednesday. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, mid 60s in the Owens Valley and lower 80s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the teens in the mountains, to the upper 50s 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, some campgrounds are open. Campgrounds at higher elevations are closing for the winter due to near freezing nighttime temperatures that can damage water systems.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley campgrounds have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through www.recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona (SR 41 south of Yosemite Valley), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, open sites include: Furnace Creek, Sunset, Texas Spring, Stovepipe Wells, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee) and Wildrose (water/no fee). Reservations for Furnace Creek campsites are available 6 months in advance for the period of 10/15 to 4/15, or for group sites, 12 months in advance online through www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777 (and visit www.nps.gov/deva). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort.

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 1-760-376-3781, or visit the web at www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

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: General hunting season for all quail species and chukar is open. Waterfowl season for ducks, common Moorhen, American Coot and geese is open. The late season Buck Hunt in zone X-10 (on the Kern Plateau/G-38) and general deer season in X-9c (primarily Inyo County east of HWY 395 and Mono County east of HWY 6) is open. On the west side of the Sierra Nevada, zones D-6 (north and west of Yosemite National Park) and D-7 (north and west of Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks) are open through 10/28. Zone D-17 (primarily San Bernardino County, including the Mojave National Preserve) is open through 11/4. 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.

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.

THIS WEEK'S FUN: BEATTY DAYS - In Beatty, Nevada at Cottonwood Park - Friday, Saturday and Sunday (10/26, 10/27 & 10/28). Many activities are scheduled, including a parade, live music, car show, bed race, Old West shoot-outs, Tombstone 5K race 2K walk, Dutch Oven cook off, chili contest and much more. For more information, call 1-775-553-2424.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

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

ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST Visitor Center at Schulman Grove is open daily from 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. Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park anytime. For more information and a listing of scheduled events, check at the Interpretive Center, or the web at www.nps.gov/manz.

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.

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.

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.

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. 10/25/12kcw