

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

Recreation Information Update

September 29 - October 5, 2004

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of HWY 395 & 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6223

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm

Roads: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open. 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 web at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada road conditions, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the website at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads.

The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow (SR 203) is open. Under the Reds Meadow Recreation Fee Program, all visitors will be charged a user fee. More information may be obtained at the **TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES & MAMMOTH LAKES RANGER DISTRICT VISITOR CENTER**; 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 rough - high clearance vehicles recommended.

Most major roads through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. SR 190, from Furnace Creek to DV Junction, is closed due to flood damage. Highway 178 from Furnace Creek is open to Badwater. The Lower Wildrose, Charcoal Kilns, the Racetrack, Mustard Canyon and Titus Canyon dirt roads are open. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, be prepared for the unexpected and obtain a good backcountry road map. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, chains, extra gas, food and water. Check at www.nps.gov/deva ("in depth" section) for standard road descriptions, and the Morning Report for current conditions.

Weather: A low-pressure system is slowly moving across Southern Nevada resulting in a chance of isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms over the mountains through Thursday. High pressure is expected to build over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave over the weekend, resulting in sunny days and warming temperatures. Highs have been in the upper 60s in the mountains, lower 80s in the Owens Valley, and upper 90s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the upper 20s in the mountains to the mid 60s in Death Valley.

Campgrounds: **INYO COUNTY, MONO COUNTY** and **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** sites are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area.

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. Campgrounds at higher elevations are starting to close for winter due to near freezing nighttime temperatures that can damage water systems. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable through the National Recreation Reservation System at 1-877-444-6777; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley campgrounds, Hodgdon Meadows 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; call 1-800-436-7275. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona, Porcupine Flat, Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded Yosemite information, or visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, sites open include: Furnace Creek (fee) Emigrant (fee), Mesquite Springs (fee), Wildrose (non-potable water/free), Thorndike (no water/free) and Mahogany Flat (no water/free). No campfires are allowed at Wildrose and Thorndike due to high fire danger. RV Hookups are available at Stovepipe Wells Village and Furnace Creek Ranch. For more information, call 1-760-786-3200, or visit the web site at www.nps.gov/deva.

Camping sites are available year round in the **MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE** at Hole-In-The-Wall and Mid Hills. For more information, call 1-760-733-4040, or visit the web site at www.nps.gov/moja.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County	California - Department of Transportation	Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service	California - Department of Fish & Game	Mono County
City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power		USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: General trout season is open and waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at many sporting good stores and on the web site at www.dfg.ca.gov.

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

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared for all kinds of weather including snow. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must **not** be left with any food or scented items, including trash, attracting these animals. Hikers should be aware hunting seasons for deer and upland game birds are 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 must be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use approved portable, bear-resistant food canisters on the Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long; permits can be obtained at ranger stations in Lone Pine, Bishop, Mammoth, Lee Vining (Mono Basin Visitor Center) and Bridgeport. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas. Reservations for wilderness permits can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone (1-760-873-2483), fax (1-760-873-2484), or mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. The Whitney Zone permit lottery was completed in February - check the website for a list of any spaces remaining. Visit the Inyo National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo for more permit information.

FIRE DANGER: RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT for the Inyo National Forest, the BLM Lands of the Bishop Field Office, Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, the Bridgeport and Carson Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and BLM lands in Kern and Tulare counties due to very dry conditions. Detailed information is available at all Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: 11th ANNUAL FALL COLOR CRUISE AND CLASSIC CAR SHOW: October 1, 2 and 3 in Bishop at the Tri-County Fairgrounds sponsored by the Owens Valley Cruisers Car Club; great cars, parade fine art show, and a 50s/60s dance are some of the activities scheduled. Call 1-760-873-3060 for more information.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 8:00am to 6:00pm; the museum is open from 9:30am to 5:00pm. A history talk is presented daily at 10:00am, with a video presentation at 12:15pm in the theater for free. Interpretive programs are presented daily; check at the museum for more information. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie.

Interpretive activities are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are offered on weekends at 1:00pm. Meet at the South Tufa parking area 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 9:00am to 4:30pm daily for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

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.

Support the Laws Railroad Museum & Historic Site by shopping at the **CHOO-CHOO SWAP MEET** on Saturday, 10/2 in Bishop at the Tri-County Fairgrounds - 8:30am to 1:00pm. Call 1-760-873-5950 for information.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 4:00pm, Wednesday to Sunday, with exhibits on the natural and cultural history of Inyo County, including a significant collection on **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**.

The **ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST** Visitor Center at Schulman Grove is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm (as of 10/1).

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Ranger programs will be presented on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday this week; check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for times. Water, sunglasses and sunscreen are a must!

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 at Furnace Creek is open daily from 8:00am to 6:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 5:00pm daily.

Schedules of activities and information on points of interest throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available at the Visitor Center.