

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update

February 21 - 27, 2013

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 for the winter. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) is closed for the winter. South SR 158 is open to June Lake Village. Mono Mills (SR 120) and June Lake Loop (SR 158) roads are closed for the winter. Weather and road conditions can change rapidly this time of year; mountain passes 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 web at www.dot.ca.gov. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237), or visit the website at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads.

SR 270, the **BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** road is closed for the winter. The Lake Mary road in Mammoth Lakes is open to Tamarack Ski Center parking area. The Rock Creek road is open to the SnoPark at East Fork. In Bishop Creek, SR 168 is open to Aspendell and the South Lake road is open to Bishop Creek Lodge. Big Pine Canyon is open.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course and the West Side dirt roads are open. The North Pass into Saline Valley is open; high clearance 4x4 required. The South pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County due to washouts and snow; high clearance 4x4 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 web at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit/Things to Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: A weak storm system is expected to move over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave on Thursday, producing gusty winds, cold temperatures and a chance of snow over the mountains. Unsettled weather is expected through the middle of next week, with intermittent gusty winds and partly cloudy skies. Precipitation is forecast to be generally low, with the greatest amount confined to the Sierra Crest. Highs have been in the upper teens in the mountains, lower 50s in the Owens Valley and mid 60s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from single digits in the mountains, to the 40s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds at Tuttle Creek (fee/no water) and the Pleasant Valley Pit (fee/no water) are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds & RV facilities are open throughout the area.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST, Lone Pine to Lee Vining - the following campgrounds are open: Lone Pine (no water/no fee), Bitterbrush (no water/no fee) and Holiday in Rock Creek (no water/no fee).

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 six 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. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/deva.

RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK, on SR 14 south of Ridgecrest, offers great desert camping.

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.fed.us/r5/sequoia.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Wildlife

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The **OWENS RIVER** south of Crowley Lake (including Pleasant Valley Reservoir and Tinnemaha Reservoir) and **DIAZ LAKE** are open to year-round fishing. Fishing is open year-round in Lake Isabella and on the Kern River from Lake Isabella to the Johnsondale Bridge. Copies of the California fishing regulations are on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

WINTER SPORTS: **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 7 to 15 foot base of packed powder and machine groomed snow. Ski and ride with care. For daily lift operation and snow conditions, visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com, or call 1-888-766-9778. Join a **NATURALIST** for a new look at the Mountain. Tours are provided on Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 10:30am; meet at the bottom of Chair 2 (Stump Alley Express).

Many snow-covered roads in Mono County offer a variety of scenery and terrain for **SNOWSHOEING, CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING** and **SNOWMOBILING**. **TAMARACK X COUNTRY SKI CENTER** in the Mammoth Lakes Basin is open with 19 miles of set track; call 1-760-934-5293 for more information. Join a **NATURALIST** for a Nordic ski tour or a snowshoe tour from the Ski Center on Friday, Saturday and Sundays at 11:00am. The **SNOPARK IN ROCK CREEK** at East Fork is open for the winter. Self-issue parking permits are available on site, or can be purchased (for the day or season) in advance at many locations, including the Visitor Center. SnoPark permits may be purchased online at www.ohv.parks.ca.gov.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for current snow conditions, trail maps and avalanche risk; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500. The **EASTERN SIERRA AVALANCHE CENTER (ESAC)** offers avalanche advisories and an on-line discussion center for the region. For information, check the web site at www.esavalanche.org.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy/icy terrain, freezing temperatures and sudden weather changes. Recent snow makes trails difficult to locate and passes very slick. Many roads to trailheads are closed for the winter. **WILDERNESS PERMITS** are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are no longer in effect for Eastern Sierra wilderness areas. Self-issue permits can be obtained in the night boxes at the following locations: InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) and Bridgeport Ranger Station after office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the Mt Whitney lottery, please visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 3:00pm. Visitors must use over-snow transportation to access the park. Bring drinking water, food and plenty of warm clothes for a winter visit to Bodie.

Visit the Mono Lake Committee & Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce Information Center, located in the center of town, open daily 9:00am to 5:00pm for information on the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/MONO LAKE TUFA STATE RESERVE**.

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 4:30pm. Self-guided walking and auto tours make it easy to explore the park. Check at the Interpretive Center, or the web at www.nps.gov/manz, for more 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.

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. Reservations for the Spring Petroglyph tours are open; for more information call 1-760-375-6900, or visit the web at www.maturango.org.

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 the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Ranger talks and other interpretive programs are presented daily. An evening program is presented at 7:00pm in a variety of locations. Check at the Visitor Center, or www.nps.gov/deva for information. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 4:00pm and "Underground Mystery Tours" daily. Reservations for Scotty's Castle tours are available on the web at recreation.gov, or call 1-877-444-6777.

FULL MOON FESTIVAL - February 23, 24 & 25: Join a Ranger to experience the wonder of a full moon in Death Valley from a variety of sites in the park. Check at the Visitor Center, or online more information

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 2/21/13kcw