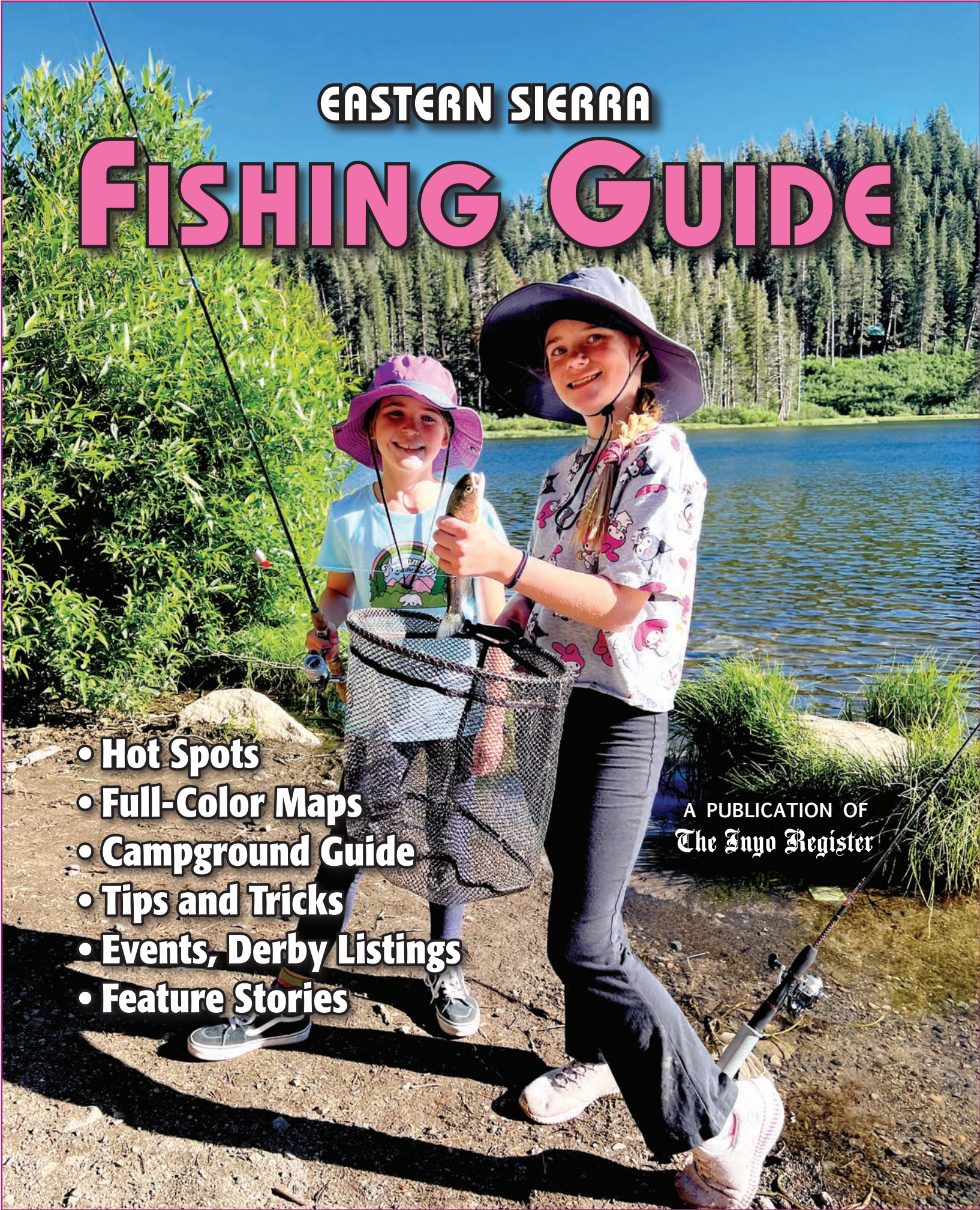


EASTERN SIERRA FISHING GUIDE

- Hot Spots
- Full-Color Maps
- Campground Guide
- Tips and Tricks
- Events, Derby Listings
- Feature Stories

A PUBLICATION OF
The Inyo Register



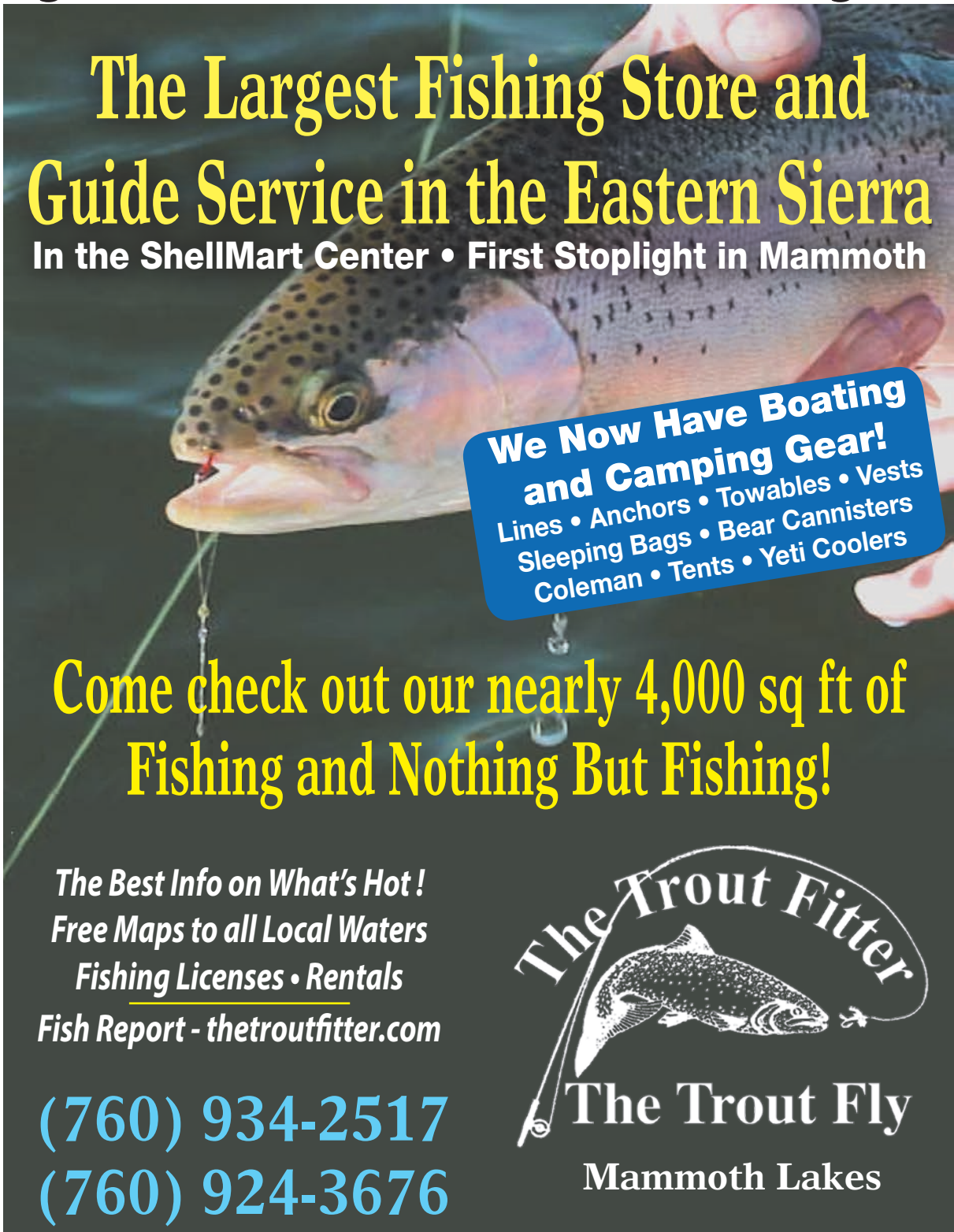
• Sage • Winston • Orvis • Simms • Patagonia •

Echo • Columbia • Scientific Anglers • Airflo • TFO • Scott • Rio

Galvan • Ross • Tibor • Loon • G. Loomis • Lamson • Outcast • Yeti

The Largest Fishing Store and Guide Service in the Eastern Sierra

In the ShellMart Center • First Stoplight in Mammoth



We Now Have Boating and Camping Gear!
Lines • Anchors • Towables • Vests
Sleeping Bags • Bear Cannisters
Coleman • Tents • Yeti Coolers

Come check out our nearly 4,000 sq ft of Fishing and Nothing But Fishing!

The Best Info on What's Hot!
Free Maps to all Local Waters
Fishing Licenses • Rentals
Fish Report - thetroutfitter.com

(760) 934-2517
(760) 924-3676



• Daiwa • Shimano • Abu Garcia • Berkeley • Abel •



Convict Lake Resort

Open Year Round

PH: 760-934-3800

www.convictlake.com

stay, dine, adventure

FINE DINING

The Restaurant at
Convict Lake



MAINS

New Zealand Rack of Lamb

Marinated with heirloom garlic, fresh herbs, grilled and accompanied by a cilantro mint sauce

Beef Wellington

Filet mignon and wild mushroom duxelle in puffed pastry, with a bourbon glaze de veau

Long Island Duck

Seared crispy skin breast, leg confit, with a Grand Marnier, orange zest and blackberry jus lié

HORSEBACK RIDING



2-HOUR GUIDED RIDES

Open Spring to Fall

LODGING YEAR ROUND



MARINA RENTALS



Hours of Operation:

Sunrise to Sunset.
Fishing Opener
to Nov. 15.

THE ASPEN GRILL

Open:
Fishing season, for
breakfast & lunch!

Grilled cheese,
filet mignon sliders,
fish tacos and more.



“We don’t have just four or five lakes, creeks, or rivers to brag about; we have hundreds. Yes, you heard that right, hundreds.”

Angle for adventure in the Eastern Sierra

There are a lot of regions touting great fishing opportunities that would consider themselves well-blessed to have four or five high-quality streams, lakes or creeks to boast about.

And then, there is the Eastern Sierra.

We don’t have just four or five lakes, creeks, or rivers to brag about; we have hundreds. Yes, you heard that right, hundreds.

Now it’s true that some of them, such as our multitude of teal-blue high Sierra backcountry lakes, take a little bit of a walk – or a long bit of a walk – to get to, but that still leaves dozens and dozens of our best high-quality fishing lakes, streams and ponds, along with dozens of resorts, campgrounds and hotels and other amenities – right off the pavement.

So yes, we are pretty proud of our fishing here in the Eastern Sierra.

To show you how proud, we’d like to share some of it with you here in this 2024 Fishing Guide, starting from the very northernmost end of the Eastern Sierra at Topaz Lake, then heading down south to Lone Pine. Along the way, we’ll highlight success stories, like how one of the rarest trout in the world is making a comeback in a magical valley, and hand out fishing tips only the locals know. We’ll highlight places like the sparkling Twin Lakes out of Bridgeport, the stunning June Lakes loop area, the aspen-lined shores of turquoise Convict Lake, the bustling marina of Crowley Lake and so much more. We’ll then head south for a rousing adventure chasing a legendary fish that most people thought didn’t exist, before plunging south toward Bishop and the still waters of Pleasant Valley Reservoir and the Owens River, before heading up Bishop Creek for some of the most famous fishing in the region.

Along the way, we’ll show you the way to all of our campgrounds, resorts and much more.

So, we hope you’ll join us for a grand adventure fishing in the Eastern Sierra. You’ll be glad you did – and so will we!

2024 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide

Editor
TERRANCE VESTAL

Advertising
ED GALANSKI

Maps
OLIVIA SYMANOVICH

Composition
JULIE GARRISON

Contributors
TERRANCE VESTAL
KRISTINA BLUM
JUSTICE
FRED ROWE
LORI ‘FISH STORY
LORI’ CARNAHAN
WENDILYN
GRASSESCHI
GAYE MUELLER
JAIME LOPEZ
WOLTERS

Press Operations
PUBLICATIONS
PRINTERS CORP.
Denver, Colorado

**Editorial/Licensing
Office**
THE INYO REGISTER
407 W. LINE ST., STE. 8
BISHOP, CA 93514

The Eastern Sierra Fishing and Vacation Guide is an April 2024 publication of Horizon California Publications, dba The Inyo Register. All contents, including the fisheries maps, are the property of The Inyo Register and may not be reproduced in any manner without the expressed written consent of the publisher.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ADVERTISERS!

To become part of the
72nd Annual Eastern Sierra
Fishing Guide in 2025

Contact **Ed Galanski**
at (805) 739-2226

or via email:

egalanski@inyoregister.com
egalanski@mammothtimes.com



ON THE COVER:

Emma, 8, and
Preslee, 10, from
Menifee, California,
enjoying a fun day
of fishing in Mam-
moth Lakes.

Photo by
Brian Gordon

Design by
Julie Garrison

Special thanks to
the veteran anglers
and sporting goods
stores that once
again offered their
expertise and
advice in the
production of
this guide.

contents

2022 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide

fishery spotlights

- 60 Big Pine
- 16 Bridgeport
- 47 Crowley Lake
- 18 June Lake Loop
- 28 Mammoth
- 52 Pleasant Valley
- 8 Topaz Lake

- 53 Bishop Creek Canyon
- 49 Convict Lake
- 61 Independence
- 63 Lone Pine
- 24 Owens River Gorge
- 10 Tioga Pass
- 10 Walker

quick reference

- 6 2024 License Fees
- 24 Regs for Mono County
- 25 Regs for Inyo County
- 31 Hot Spots of Mono County
- 46 Hot Spots of Inyo County
- 57 Fish of the Eastern Sierra
- 81 Advertisers Index
- 78 Campground Guide
- 82 Guides and Pack Stations



features

- 12 Kids Fishing Festival turns 35
- 20 Lower Owens River Project
- 23 Pioneers set stage for angling paradise
- 27 Tips for new trout anglers
- 51 LADWP promotes healthy fisheries
- 65 Camping and fishing go hand in hand
- 67 Fishing etiquette
- 68 Backcountry fishing
- 71 Safety first
- 74 Fish Eastern Sierra waters year round

Educate. Inspire. Explore.

Educating and inspiring people for 50 years about Eastern Sierra public lands through interpretive products at 17 locations, exhibits, and programs.



50th
Anniversary
1970-2020

ESIAonline.org

@ESIAonline

VISIT US ACROSS THE EASTERN SIERRA

Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Visitor Center • Bridgeport Ranger Station • Devils Postpile National Monument
Eastern Sierra Visitor Center • Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center • Manzanar National Historic Site
Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center • White Mountain Visitor Center

Official partner of:



Photo by Don Chambers

License fees in 2024

Don't forget the most important thing in your tackle box By Register Staff

Fishing licenses aren't known for being inexpensive, and generally increase in price by about 50 cents each year. But, when viewed as an investment – in hours and days of invaluable recreation, in quality time with the family, in respite outdoors in the Eastern Sierra – they're actually one of the best values around.

Revenue from California fishing licenses also helps ensure there will be trout to catch in fisheries around the state. For every sport fishing license sold, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is required to plant at least 2.75 pounds of fish.

And, should any of us be caught fishing without a license, it's a mini-

mum \$100 fine (\$25 if that person can provide proof of a license in court) – which makes that \$54.00 sound like a pretty good deal.

Licenses are required for all anglers age 16 or older except on California's two free fishing days: Saturday, July 6 and Saturday, Aug. 31, in 2024. The general Eastern Sierra trout season runs from the last Saturday in April through mid November. Southern Inyo waters – south of Independence and west of U.S. Highway 395 – open for fishing in March. Various other fisheries in Inyo and Mono counties are open year-round, which is good because fishing licenses are valid from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

ANNUAL

Resident, Sport Fishing – \$61.82

Required for a resident 16 years of age or older to take fish, mollusks, crustaceans, invertebrates, amphibians or reptile in inland or ocean waters.

Nonresident, Sport Fishing – \$166.89

Required for a nonresident 16 years of age or older to take fish, mollusks, crustaceans, invertebrates, amphibians or reptile in inland or ocean waters.

Reduced-Fee Sport Fishing License - Disabled/Recovering Veteran – \$9.53

Available for any resident or nonresident honorably discharged disabled veteran with a 50 percent or greater service-connected disability. After you pre-qualify for your first Disabled Veteran Reduced Fee Sport Fishing License, you can purchase disabled veteran licenses anywhere licenses are sold.

Reduced-Fee Sport Fishing License - Recovering Service Member – \$9.53*

Available for any recovering service member of the U.S. military.

Reduced-Fee Sport Fishing License - Low-Income Senior – \$9.53*

Available for low-income California residents, 65 years of age and older, who meet the specified annual income requirements.

Free Sport Fishing License - Low-Income Native American – NONE*

Available for any American Indian or lineal descendant whose household income does not exceed federal poverty guidelines.

Free Sport Fishing License - Mobility Impaired, Blind or Developmentally Disabled – NONE*

Available for a person who is blind, developmentally disabled, or mobility impaired. Your first Free Sport Fishing License must be obtained from the CDFW License and Revenue Branch. Subsequent licenses may be obtained from any license agent. See application for details.

* Must be purchased at a CDFW office

SHORT-TERM

One-day Sport Fishing License – \$20.26

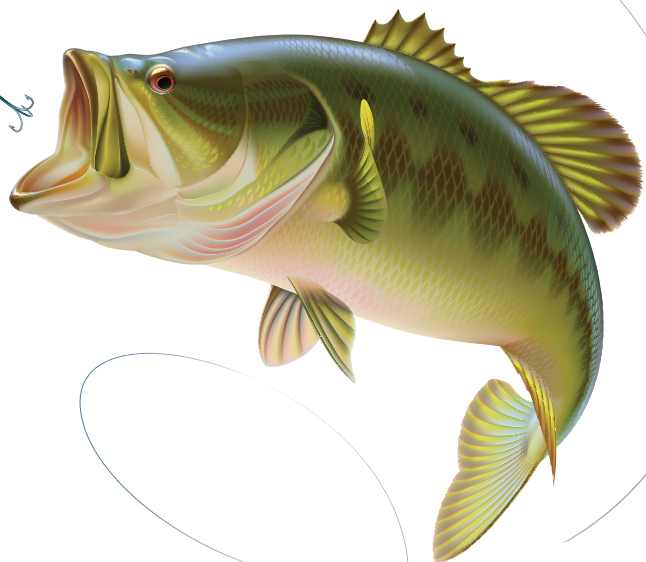
Allows a resident or nonresident to fish for one specified day. One-day sport fishing licenses are exempt from the Ocean Enhancement Validation requirement.

Two-day Sport Fishing License – \$31.06

Allows a resident or nonresident to fish for two consecutive days. Two-day sport fishing licenses are exempt from the Ocean Enhancement Validation requirement.

Ten-day Nonresident Sport Fishing License – \$61.82

Allows a nonresident to fish for ten consecutive days.



LIFETIME

Ages 0-9 – \$679.75

Ages 10-39 – \$1,112

Ages 40-61 – \$1,001.75

Ages 62-plus – \$679.75

Available to residents of California. Lifetime fishing licensees receive an annual sport fishing license each year for life. Lifetime Fishing Packages must first be purchased from a CDFW License Sales Office. See Lifetime License Information for more details.

Fishing Privilege Package – \$459.25

Includes a Lifetime Second-Rod Stamp, Ocean Enhancement Stamp, North Coast Salmon Report Card and Steelhead Report Card.

"My spouse and I are in our 40's, and it took us a long time to get a will and trust in place. We give what we can to public interest organizations now, so it makes sense to do that as a final act in life. Designating a legacy gift to a cause like that of Friends of the Inyo feels really good, and we won't have to spend a dime in our lifetimes." - Ellen Wehr

Make this your *Legacy*

You, too, can protect the Eastern Sierra through your will or trust and leave a legacy of conservation by becoming a Friends of the Inyo Legacy Gift Donor!

Our endowment honors legacy donors' wishes by investing contributions from their estate, including real estate or cash assets (like a portion of a 401k or IRA account), in the protection and care of the Eastern Sierra for generations.

Visit FriendsoftheInyo.org/legacy
or write to info@friendsoftheinyo.org
include "Legacy Giving Program" in the subject line,
and let us help you set up your legacy gift today.



760.873.6500

621 W. Line Street, Ste 201
Bishop, CA 93514
FriendsoftheInyo.org



TROPHY TROUT

**TROUT FISHING • 10 LAKES
MODERN HOUSEKEEPING CABINS
STORE • RESTAURANT
SHOWERS • ROW BOATS
CAMPGROUND**

Our store carries
groceries, beer & wine,
fishing tackle (no licenses) and bait

**Lodge Open**

6:30am-7pm daily

Except Tuesday 6:30am-12noon

Restaurant Open

7am-5:30pm daily

Except Tuesday 7am-11am

**HC 62 Box 1065
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(760) 647-6484**

Between Bridgeport
and Lee Vining off
Conway Summit & U.S. 395

www.virginalakesresort.com



The treasure of Topaz

Lake holds abundance of trout, bass and carp

By Register Staff

As U.S. Highway 395 climbs through the final miles of the Eastern Sierra in Mono County, it passes one last shining gem – Topaz Lake. Nestled at the northernmost edge of Mono County, Topaz Lake is both in Nevada and California, it is legal to fish Topaz with a license from either state. This warm-water fishery is home to monstrous rainbow and brown trout, as well as smallmouth bass.

Because the lake crosses a state line, it has slightly different regulations. Topaz has an unusually long fishing season, making it a perfect destination for early season fishing. Opening day for the lake is the first day of January and the fishing season ends on Sept. 30. Legal fishing times for Topaz are from one hour before dawn to two hours after dusk.

The lake is heavily stocked with trophy trout. The Nevada Department of Wildlife alone plants 40,000 rainbow trout and an additional 2,000 tagged trophy trout when the season ends in October.

Anglers who catch a tagged trout may call the Nevada Department of Wildlife phone number, which will be on the tag.

Daily and possession limits are five trout, 10 mountain whitefish, and 15 warm-water game fish, of which no more than five may be black bass.

The lake remains busy until closing in late September, but becomes especially busy during summer holiday weekends like Independence Day. Topaz also is a popular destination for jet skiers and recreational boaters.

While Topaz is heavily stocked in October, the fish always are hungry when the season opens Jan. 1, but the weather can be bitter cold. It's not an uncommon sight for anglers to cast their line, put their fishing pole in a holder, then sit in their cars with the heater running full blast.

The lake is home to a large minnow population, which means streamers and Panther Martins are good for trolling.

In the warm summer months, the trout are likely to head for deeper, cooler waters. Anglers should sink their bait to a depth of about 34 feet to find the fish. At its deepest point, Topaz reaches a depth of 92 feet.

One of the popular trout holes on Topaz is on the north-east corner of the reservoir. It's a good place to float to with purple or black woolly buggers or prince nymphs with an intermediate sink line.

Trout fishing remains strong throughout the year, but Topaz offers a couple options for anglers. Bass fishing takes off as the weather begins to warm up. The record smallmouth bass for the lake is in the six-plus-pound range.

Anglers who are looking to hook a bass should try a crawdad pattern from shore.

Another emerging trend on Topaz is carp fishing.

Because carp spawn twice a year, laying thousands of eggs, they are abundant in Topaz. They're also big and strong and will put up a fight. Carp also pose a new challenge for seasoned anglers, because they're reclusive, skittish fish. But on the up side anyone, whether fishing with a fly or bait, from the shore or the bank, can try their hand at catching a nice sized carp.

With the surge in interest in carp fishing, the lake has seen an increase in bow fishing, with clubs making special trips to the lake during spawning season to hunt carp.

Access to Topaz Lake is excellent for all types of vehicles. From Carson City, travel south on U.S. Highway 395 for approximately 40 miles. Turn east on Topaz Lake Park Road to reach the Douglas County Park at the far east end of the reservoir or turn east on Mark Twain Avenue (just past Topaz Lodge and Casino) and follow the road to Topaz Marina. Shore access is available along Topaz Lake Park Road, within Douglas County Park, and farther south on U.S. Highway 395 in California.

Walker River – ‘How Big is Big’

River’s east, west forks offer angling adventure By Register Staff

The sister forks of Walker River may flow through some of the most beautiful portions of the Eastern Sierra, but the rivers also are home to year-round fishing that is sure to keep anglers coming back time and time again. Designated as a trophy trout water in 2007, the East Walker River, flowing east from Bridgeport Reservoir, has the reputation as being a premier fly fishing stream.

Catches of trophy class brown trout, judged by pounds not inches, make a season long showing. Anglers will find more than five miles of easy-to-access roadside waters.

A favored location for consistently producing heavyweights is the “miracle mile” section of

water directly downstream from the dam.

The river is governed by special regulation. Angling is restricted to barbless hook lure or fly – no bait. From Opening Day to the final day of the season possession limit is one fish, minimum size 18-inches. From the close of the general season (Nov. 15) to the next season Opening Day, possession is zero.

Fifteen miles north of Bridgeport, U.S. Highway 395 crosses the West Walker River. The river was designated a year-round water in 2014. The new regulation allows for bait fishing from Opening Day to the Nov. 15 closing with no tackle restrictions along with a five fish possession limit.

From Nov. 16 to the next season opening day angling is restricted to barbless hook or fly with zero possession.

The river is on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Mono County trophy trout program during the regular season.

Historically productive locations have been a short distance up and downstream from the U.S. Highway 395 bridge crossing and the slower waters near the downstream town of Walker.

Highlighting the summer season, is the “How Big is Big” derby. Sponsored by the communities of Walker, Coleville and Topaz, and the Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce, the How Big is Big Fishing Derby runs for the entire month of July. No entry fee – just bring your fish in to the Walker General Store, and your catch will be weighed and recorded. There will be lots of prizes. Email the Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce, info@northernmonochamber.com, for more information.



A fly fisherman shows off his beautiful East Walker River catch before releasing it back into the channel. The East Walker is one of six fisheries in the Eastern Sierra that’s open year-round. A section of the river just below the reservoir that’s particularly fruitful is known as “The Miracle Mile.”

Photo courtesy Pat Jaeger/Eastern Sierra Guide Service

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR MARINA AND CAMPGROUND



Launch Ramp • Boat Rental • Dock Slips
RV Park • Pull-Through • 50-30 Amp
Tent Cabins • Tent Camping • Showers

1854 HWY 182, BRIDGEPORT CA 93517

760-932-7001

www.BridgeportReservoir.com

Operated under a lease agreement -
Walker River Irrigation District

Taking time to explore Tioga Pass

Alpine fishing rivals world-famous scenery By Kristina Blüm



Ellery Lake can be found adjacent to Tioga Pass, also known as the gateway to Yosemite. The lake is not only easily accessible and scenic, it receives regular plants of catchables from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Photo by Martin Strelneck

While Tioga Pass may be known by adventurers from around the world as the spectacular eastern portal to Yosemite National Park, for anglers, the canyon is more than just a scenic getaway.

Ellery and Tioga lakes hold a lot of put-and-take Department of Fish and Wildlife rainbows and a healthy supply of browns, many of which have been growing, just waiting for the skilled angler.

The locals claim that a fly-and-bubble combo is a good choice. But when the bugs start buzzing and the mosquitoes come out, traditional favorites like PowerBait and worms also provide promise.

For wild browns, anglers should head on to Saddlebag Lake. At about 340 acres, this high-elevation water is generally open by Memorial Day. The lake also offers a marina with boat rentals and a store with supplies and advice.

Saddlebag also is a launching point for the 20 Lakes Basin, a grouping of high country waters brimming with brookies and even the elusive golden trout, California's state fish.

However, 20 Lakes Basin does not include road access, so a short hike will be in order.

The creek flowing from Saddlebag Lake is a popular fly fishing destination, with 8- to 12-inch browns caught regularly.

Lee Vining Creek also flows out of Ellery Lake and offers more great fly opportunities in the warm summer months. A section of the creek is catch and release, and is heavily stocked with rainbows. Locals say the open meadows in Lee Vining Canyon are a great place to find 12- to 15-inch lunkers.

Below the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power intake at Mono Lake, wild browns are available. However, there is a two-fish limit and no stocking.

Ellery, Tioga and Saddlebag lakes each have campgrounds and creek-side camping is available in Lee Vining Canyon, accessible just before the ascent to Tioga Pass, near the Forest Service Ranger



Gateway to the East Walker River

- Fly Fishing Specialists
- Fishing Tackle
- Hardware
- Guns
- Ammo
- Gift Shop



www.kenssport.com

760-932-7707

258 Main Street, Bridgeport, CA 93517



Saddlebag Lake with North Peak and Excelsior Peak to the right.

Photo by Craig Jackson

Station.

A short, though strenuous, one-mile hike to the Gaylor Lake Basin offers outstanding fishing for wild brook trout. The four small lakes in the basin are within Yosemite National Park, with the trail located near the entrance station.

These waters are governed by California

Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations and there are no special park rules.

When it comes to the high-elevation lakes in the Tioga Pass area, weather plays a huge part in the fishing action. In heavy snow years, Tioga Pass, which is State Route 120, may not open until May.

The highway links the east and west sides

of the Sierra and provides access to Yosemite. But for fishermen, the opening of the highway is the opening of Ellery and Tioga lakes, the high-country lakes with scenery that rivals the catching.

When accessing Tioga from U.S. Highway 395, be sure to stop in the community of Lee Vining to stock up on supplies.

**"Hands down.
THE BEST BBQ
place in California.
IF not period."
- Rich V.**

**"Honestly was
one of the best
burgers I've
ever had."
- V. F.**

**"Hidden gem on
the way to
Yosemite!!!"
- Rohit K.**

**"This place is
so good!
Highly recommended!"
- Jeff W.**

**"Amazing Food,
service and
prices."
- Jeff S.**

Kids Fishing Festival turns 35

Event continues to grow as family-friendly event By Register Staff

2024 marks the celebration of 35 years for the Kids Fishing Festival, held in Mammoth Lakes on July 27th at the lovely SnowCreek Resort's 2 ponds, located on Old Mammoth Road. Always the last Saturday in July from 8am- 1pm, this fun and educational kids fishing festival welcomes kids 14 and under FREE fishing while providing rods & reels plus Power Bait. There are many educational booths by the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), Berkley/Pure fishing, and the Big Horn Sheep Foundation.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes is proud to bring this free event to visitors and locals alike. There is no need to pre-register but we ask our guests some quick questions to gauge our marketing efforts. The line forms at 7:30am with kids and families hoping to catch the big one. Kids can line up to grab a loaner fishing rod & reel from 2 booths, then go to the Berkley booth for Power Bait and any tips. We have experienced guides for those that have never fished before from local guides, Berkley guides and NRVP guides (CDFW's volunteers). We want all our kids to catch a trout! And our trout bite all day!

Speaking of trout, the Town of Mammoth Lakes works with Desert Springs Trout Farm out of Oregon to source rainbow trout and they range from 1 1/2 pounds on up! It's so cool to see a little person with a really big fish! These trout are very special in that they taste



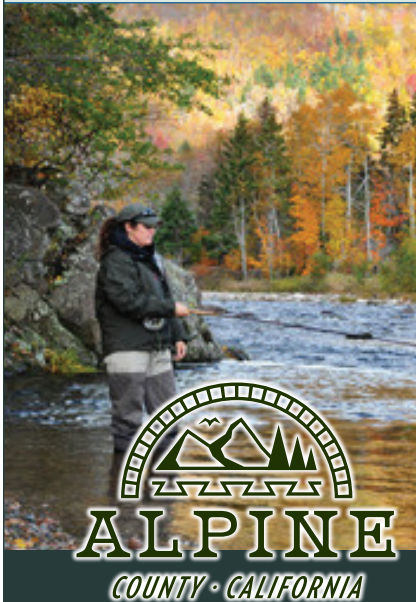
The Kids Fishing Festival held in Mammoth Lakes celebrates 35 years. Sponsored by Berkley, the event is geared to introducing youth to the sport of fishing.

Photo submitted

Visit Alpine County

Inspiring Fish Tales since 1844

Bear Valley | Hope Valley | Kirkwood | Lake Alpine | Markleeville | Woodfords



726 Square Miles
60+ Lakes and Streams
7,800 feet in elevation
2 people per square mile
....and you!

For events and Fish Plant information, please visit website Alpinecounty.com

Information:
Alpine County Chamber of Commerce
3 Webster Street
Markleeville, CA 96120
(530) 694-2475



WWW.ALPECOUNTY.COM (530) 694-2475



really good due to the food that they get out of the Hatchery. You can taste this trout at the event! Yes, the kids can catch dinner for the family as we clean your catch for you!

The director, Gaye Mueller, has been spearheading this event since 2010. What makes it work so well is that after every one, we all get together and brainstorm on how to make it better. This means learning from Berkley and CDFW's Fishing in the City program how to make a wonderful kids fishing event from the experts. We get a lot of kids in 5 hours so the event needs to run smoothly. The kids can catch 1 fish in 30 minutes of fishing. If they are having problems, we have lots of guides who can advise, educate, and step in. Then there are other programs to get them interested in the outdoors and the beauty of the Eastern Sierra.

CDFW has been bringing their wonderful educational programs to this event! The kids can learn the anatomy of a trout through watching dissection and see what a trout eats as the staff gathers aquatic insects before the event. Hot Creek Hatchery brings their Living Stream Aquarium truck and fills it with a wide range of trout species and sizes. They also hand out a kids activity

See FISHING FESTIVAL, pg. 14



The festival also includes many informational booths from different organizations and agencies, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Photo submitted

Boat & Dock Rentals - Weekly Trout Stocking - Honda Marine Dealer



**Book your boat now
@ junelakemarina.net or call 760-648-7726**



The Kids Fishing Festival has become a tradition for generations of families in the Eastern Sierra and around the region.

Photo submitted

FISHING FESTIVAL, from pg. 13

booklet to keep the kids busy on the drive home! They will receive information on the life of a hatchery trout along with a special coloring book and a junior fishing license.

The Game Wardens will be there with their recruitment trailer filled with taxidermy fish, birds and wild animals. They would love to see the kids become game wardens! CDFW's Hunter Safety Ed Program brings archery equipment and offers lessons with target practice. And there is also a casting booth so the kids can practice casting techniques, sometimes under the supervision of Mammoth Mountains's mascot, Wooly!

This event is an amazing photo op with picturesque Mammoth Mountain forming the backdrop. We line up the kids with their catch and photos abound creating great memories. Mammoth Mountain Ski Association sends their mascots Wooly and Bucky from June Lake plus the Mammoth Lakes Fire Dept. brings Sparky! The mas-

cots really liven up the festival!

We don't want you to go hungry! The Mammoth Lakes Lions Club offers free donuts, coffee and sdfsdforange sdjuice. Plus the Latin Market has their lunch truck so you can purchase their great Mexican food, drinks and ice cream. This all ends at 1pm when the event is over. However, now we need to get the fish out of these ponds. So we open the fishing up to anyone who has a license (remember the game wardens are here!) and gear to keep fishing. We call this the Father's Fishing Festival after the Kids Fishing Festival!

Special thanks goes out to the Town of Mammoth Lakes for funding this festival and helping with the marketing. Also to SnowCreek resort for letting us use their beautiful ponds. We could not do this without the immense help from the CA. Dept of Fish & Wildlife and our Berkeley boys who do these events around the State! They have helped make the Kids Fishing Festival one of the top kids fishing

Rainbow Ridge Vacation Rentals

Houses Condominiums Fishing Cabins Studios

Located in Beautiful June Lake CA

Website: rainbowridgereservations.com Phone: 1-800-462-5589

Let us help make your next vacation a memorable one



Members of the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department pose with Mammoth Mountain mascots at the Kids Fishing Festival. Youth can learn about more than just fishing at the event.

Photo submitted

events in California!

This weekend is a family friendly weekend in Mammoth Lakes with 3 FREE festivals to attend.

VillageFest has 3 evenings of free music and the world's highest rib cookoff. MLFD's Picnic on Sunday at Shady Rest Park has lots

of fun kids activities and free hot dogs.

For more information and to see photos from last year's event, go to KidsFishFest.com. You can reach out to Gaye Mueller at (760)937-2942 or EasternSierraArtist@gmail.com. We'd love it if you would want to volunteer, we can always use more guides!

- ESTABLISHED 1916 -
The Oldest Resort in the Eastern Sierra
A complete summer resort located on the north shore of Silver Lake along the June Lake Loop
Lovingly operated by the Jones Family

- Housekeeping Cabins**
- Full Hook-up RV Park**
- Home Style Café**
- Country Store**
- Unique Gift Shop**
- Fishing Tackle**
- Beer & Liquor**
- Camping Supplies**
- Boat & Kayak Rentals**

PO BOX 116
 JUNE LAKE, CA 93529

760-648-7525 www.SilverLakeResort.net



Sierra Wave is your one stop shop for the best souvenirs & gifts in the loop!! You will find a huge variety of stickers, t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, jewelry, memorabilia, home decor and so much more!



2616 Highway 158
June Lake, CA 93529
(760) 648-7161
sierrawavetshirt.com

Fun, festive and delightfully fishable

Bridgeport region is the land of lunkers By Kristina Blüm

Bridgeport, the county seat of Mono County, is not just home to some of the quaintest, most old-fashioned festivals in the Sierra, it's also home to record-breaking, trophy-trout fishing.

Twin Lakes, which is not far from the mountain community of Bridgeport, has produced a record-shattering 26-pound, 8-ounce brown trout – and there are plenty more record-setters in these northern Mono County

waters.

Twin Lakes is only one of the many fishing options. The Bridgeport area is home to the spacious Bridgeport reservoir, Virginia Lakes, Big Virginia Lake, Red Lake, Trumbull Lake and many more. Each has proven to be a productive body of water for lunkers.

Bridgeport Reservoir is a 2,913-acre lake that is filled with about 40,000 acre-feet of crisp alpine water. While there is ample room

for anglers to fish from shore, many recommend boat fishing on the lake as the best way to catch a lunker.

For those who prefer to cast from solid ground, the reservoir has 13 miles of fishable shoreline with popular spots like Rainbow Point and the Swauger and Buckley creek outlets located on the south side of the lake.

Just below the dam, anglers will find a spot the locals refer to as the “Miracle Mile,” the

We Have A Lot and Little of Everything!



- Souvenirs
- Fishing Tackle
- Auto Supplies
- Groceries
- Snacks
- Deli Section
- Beer and Wine Selection
- Camping Supplies


Fully Stocked Hardware Store!

Drop in and tell us your Fish Story!



JUNE LAKE GENERAL STORE
 2740 Highway 158, June Lake, CA 93529
 760-648-7771 • Cell 760-914-3755
 luis.curiel@hotmail.com


Remember to always think safety first!



The Mono County Sheriff's Office operates patrol boats across all major waterways throughout Mono County.

We are there to enforce all boating laws and ensure safety!

Enjoy yourself and good luck catching “The Big One!”



first stretch of the Walker River, which produces great stringers year-round.

Bridgeport Reservoir is sometimes compared to Crowley Lake, because of its size and reputation as home of massive trout.

However, there is at least one notable difference; Bridgeport Reservoir is not prone to the big crowds that are common on Crowley. At 5,600 feet, Bridgeport Reservoir is at a lower-altitude than Crowley and has shallower waters.

One reason the trout grow so big in Bridgeport is because there is a healthy population of callibaetis, hironomid and damsel flies that allow the fish to gorge during the summer.

As far as technique, still-water nymphing is a safe bet during the spring, when the trout are migrating to the cooler waters flowing out of the creeks.

During the fall, streamer fishing from float tubes has been known to bring in 10-pounders for those angling for browns or rainbows.

The reservoir's marina and boat launch are located off State Route 108, just past the Bridgeport airstrip.

There are RV parks along the shoreline as well as public launch ramps.

State Route 108 exits U.S. Highway 395

south of Bridgeport, heading towards Yerington, Nevada.

In addition to the popular reservoir, the Bridgeport area's other premier fishing holes include Twin Lakes (though, it's a different set of Twins than can be found in the Mammoth area).

The Twins can be found southwest of Bridgeport by taking State Route 182 West. The shoreline is rocky and steep, but the water is deep and turns out some monster brown trout each year.

Robinson Creek flows through the Upper and Lower Twin lakes, then heads east to Bridgeport Reservoir. Below Lower Twin Lake, there are several creekside campsites that make for convenient angling opportunities.

The action doesn't stop there. The mountains that rise from the valley are a tangle of streams and creeks ripe for the plucking. North of Robinson Creek, anglers will find Buckeye Creek and its two tributaries.

To the south (and across State Route 182) are Green and Virginia creeks, with access located roughly five miles south of Bridgeport.

For the latest updates on the local hot spots and recommendations on bait and tech-

niques, check in with the folks at Ken's Sporting Goods in Bridgeport.

The Bridgeport Valley also is home to the Virginia Lakes, a chain of 10 lakes located between 9,500 and 10,200 feet in elevation, accessed just six miles east of U.S. Highway 395. All 10 lakes lie within a mile and a half of the Virginia Lakes Resort.

This chain of lakes was first stocked in the 1800s, and continue to be stocked with rainbows.

Three of the 10 are accessible by car and most are home to native brooks and browns that are ready to feast on natural baits like nightcrawlers and crickets.

The 26-acre Big Virginia Lake is fed by underground streams and by Blue and Red lakes.

The north shore cove is home to small browns and rainbows while the east shore is known for its brooks and rainbows.

The bigger trout can generally be found on the south side of the lake. However, the east shore slopes to a big drop-off where brookies are known to feed.

The lowest of the chain of waters is the 10-acre Trumbull Lake. Little Virginia also is a small, 11-acre productive lake with a depth of about 20 feet at its deepest point.



35th Anniversary Kids Fishing Festival

Saturday, July 27th, 2024
8am - 1pm Mammoth Lakes, CA
Snowcreek Resort Ponds on Old Mammoth Rd.
FREE FOR KIDS 14 & UNDER
Fishing Rods, Reels & Tackle Provided... or Bring Your Own!
Educational Activities! Catch Huge Trout! DFW Kids Programs!

Sponsors



For Information on Lodging Contact:
Visit Mammoth.com or MonoCounty.org
Call: 760-937-2942 or www.KidsFishFest.com

The love of the Loop

June Lake Loop offers abundant fishing options

By Register Staff

The June Lake Loop, with its many lakes and streams, is fondly called the “Alps of the Sierra,” by some locals because of its sheer granite peaks, lush aspen and pine forests and of course, its fishing.

The 22-mile loop begins and ends on U.S. Highway 395. The loop is home to Grant, Silver, Gull and June lakes, as well as a number of streams and tributaries that offer their own unique angling opportunities.

Grant and Silver lakes are known for legendary catches for brown trout. Fishing for these trophy browns is best in the fall, towards the end of fishing season.

The habits of the various fish found along the Loop can vary depending on the season, temperature and body of water they are swimming in; it's always a good idea to check in at a local tackle shop to see what's biting and where. For a more localized perspective, check in with fellow anglers before hitting the water.

In general, Sierra Slammers, Berkley trout worms and Panther Martins are popular on Gull Lake, and at Silver the regulars tend to go with a bubble and flies or Woolly Buggers, trout traps, Panther Martins and Rooster Tails.

Another popular bait for big brown hunters are Tasmanian Devils. Anglers report that Rapalas, Lucky Craft Pointers and Kastmasters are smart options.

The June Lake Loop begins at the junction of U.S. Highway 395 and State Route 158, heads west to June Lake, a 160-acre spring-fed lake preferred by trollers and bait fisherman due to its deep waters. Float tubing gets good results along the western edge and northern shoreline, where anglers will find tule beds and a shelf that drops into the depths. Fish tend to circumnavigate the lake along this shelf, making it an ideal location to drop some bait.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks June, and supplemental trout are provided through a private trout farmer and rainbows reared at the marina.

Just beyond June Lake, anglers will reach Gull Lake, set among a pine forest and a serene setting. Gull is popular among fly fisherman and bait fishers alike. At 64 acres, Gull is the smallest of the June Lake Loop waters but that doesn't stop the angling action. Like June, Gull's tule beds along the northern shoreline draws float tubers who say damsel



June Lake, part of the June Lake Loop, is sometimes referred to as the “Alps of the Sierra” for good reason.

File photo



Are you hitting the outdoors at the crack of dawn? Don't forget to fuel your adventure at Mammoth Coffee Roasting Co.! We're your one-stop shop for a delicious pre-dawn pick-me-up.

Grab and Go Goodness:

- **Freshly Brewed Coffee:** Mammoth Coffee boasts the finest specialty grade 1 beans, roasted to perfection. Choose from a variety of bold and smooth brews to jumpstart your day



- **Delectable Donuts:** Our house-made donuts are legendary. They're the perfect pairing for your coffee, offering a delightful flavor and energy.



- **Quick Bites:** In a rush? We offer a selection of easy grab-and-go breakfast options to keep you going until that big catch.



COME VISIT US

436 Old Mammoth Rd
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Franchise Opportunities Available

nymphs and calibaetis nymphs bring results. Others recommend tugging streamers between the big rocks and aspens along the western shoreline. Gull is generally known as a haven for rainbows in the 10- to 14-inch range, with a few odd trophy-sized Alpers trout to be found.

Farther west along the loop, anglers will find June's fly fishing haven – the 80-acre Silver Lake. Boat traffic on Silver is limited to 10 mph, which makes for an awesome opportunity for kayaks and float tubes.

Silver Lake is linked to Gull by Reverse Creek and to Grant by Rush Creek. A popular spot for anglers is at the Rush Creek outlet. This area really takes off as larger rainbows begin spawning.

Another hot spot is the drop-off along the southern shoreline, which is another productive fishing hole in the early summer months.

For those of the fly fishing persuasion, note that Silver Lake often experiences chironomid hatches throughout the season, which can make for great opportunities.

The largest of the Loop's lakes is Grant Lake, reached just before the Loop reconnects with U.S. Highway 395. Grant Lake is a massive 1,100-acre body of water popular with trollers who report great action in the early mornings and late afternoons.

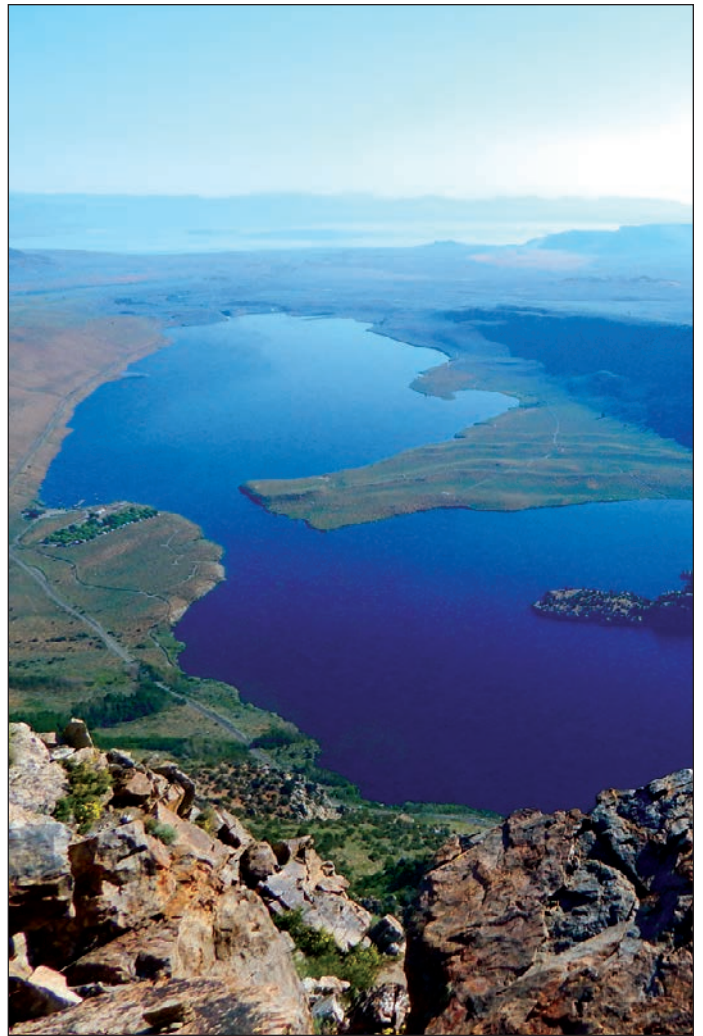
Experts say late fall is best for float tubing, as the big browns are coming up from the depths to feed along the shoreline before the winter freeze. During late spring spawning, those big browns can be found at the Rush Creek inlet.

In addition to its drive-to lakes, the Loop serves as a launching point for more secluded high-elevation lakes. A gravel road about a mile north of Grand Lakes leads to a trailhead to Parker and Little Walker lakes. Parker is known for its population of wild browns in the 5-pound range.

Another trailhead located near Silver Lake leads to Agnew and Gem lakes and a plethora of wild brooks and rainbows.

For a prolonged trip, the nearby Frontier Pack station provides trips to more distant backcountry destinations like Alpers and its golden trout.

Each lake in the Loop boasts its own Forest Service campground and there are plenty of other accommodations to be had in the area.



The view down at Grant Lake from Parker Bench shows the lake at its fullest.

Photo by Craig Jackson

An advertisement for Empeiria High Sierra Hotel. The background features a close-up of a fish's scales on the left and right sides. In the center, a rainbow trout is shown leaping out of the water, creating a splash. Above the fish, a fly is depicted in flight. The text is arranged as follows: 'EH' in large red letters, 'EMPEIRIA' in brown, and 'HIGH SIERRA HOTEL' in smaller brown letters below it. To the right, the address '3228 Main St Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546' and phone number '760-924-1234' are listed. Below that is the website 'www.EmpeiriaHighSierraHotel.com' and a list of amenities: 'WIFI*Breakfast*Parking*Pool*Hot Tub*Mini Fridge'.

The Lower Owens River Project

Reflecting on a human-altered riverscape By Jaime Lopez Wolters



The Lower Owens River, east of Lone Pine, showing a section of the intended Owens River Water Trail.

Photo by Jaime Lopez Wolters

For thousands of years, the Owens River flowed through Payahuunadu (Owens Valley) and into Patsiata (Owens Lake), receiving water from streams bringing snowmelt down from the Sierra Nevada. The abundance of water and the ever-changing flow rates created a riparian landscape rich with trees, plants, birds, mammals and fish.

This all changed when the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), through deceptive means, acquired the land and water of the Owens Valley in the early 1900's and diverted the

Owens River into the L.A. Aqueduct, north of the town of Independence. This act transformed the Lower Owens River (LOR), from the aqueduct intake to Owens Lake, into a dry channel with almost no water for a hundred years.

By the 1970's Los Angeles had grown so much that it needed more water than the surface water flows of the Owens River and downstream creeks alone could provide. To satisfy Los Angeles' growing thirst, LADWP drilled wells throughout Payahuunadu and started pumping the ancient groundwater beneath our feet.

Immediately, springs dried up and vast areas of groundwater-dependent vegetation died, destroying critical habitat of plants and animals that relied on the abundant water for their survival.

Lawsuits followed and progressed slowly while the landscape suffered.

It wasn't until 1991 that Inyo County and LADWP signed the "Long-Term Water Agreement," (LTWA), requiring LADWP to mitigate the destruction caused by pumping and lowering groundwater tables, among other things.

One of these mitigation projects is the

Lower Owens River Project (LORP), which, as described on the Inyo County Water Department's website, aims to establish a healthy, functioning Lower Owens River riverine-riparian ecosystem, for the benefit of biodiversity and threatened and endangered species, while providing for the continuation of sustainable uses including recreation, livestock grazing, agriculture, and other activities.

Although the plan to restore the river was conceived in the early 1990's, it took more lawsuits and 15 years for LADWP to finally begin releasing water back into the Lower Owens River in 2006. Since then, a sustained flow of 40 cubic feet per second (cfs) and seasonal habitat flows of up to 200 cfs have been hydrating the LOR. The Owens River Delta, near Owens Lake, is being managed to maintain and enhance various wetland and aquatic habitats. A 1,500-acre off-river area receives seasonal flooding and land management to benefit wetlands and waterfowl. And several off-river lakes and ponds are maintained.

While releasing water into the LOR has brought life back to a previously parched riverbed, several challenges remain and the goal of "establishing a healthy, functioning Lower Owens River riverine-riparian ecosystem" has yet to be achieved.

The water in the river and several ponds and lakes suffers from low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels, leading to stressed fish and at times fish kills, as observed in 2010, 2014 and 2017. According to the Lower Owens River Project 2023 Draft Annual Report, it appears that "changes in flow can mobilize sediments, increasing biologic oxygen

See LORP, pg. 22



The Owens River at the L.A. Aqueduct Intake structure, where the river has been prevented from following its natural course for 100 years.

Photo by Jaime Lopez Wolters



www.mammothlakes.com
800-321-3261

CENTRAL RESERVATIONS
 OF MAMMOTH

The BEST nightly rentals in Mammoth Lakes.
Let us assist in finding you the perfect place to stay.

If you need help planning your trip, give us a call at **800-321-3261** or email us at reservations@mammothlakes.com. We're happy to point you in the right direction for the perfect Eastern Sierra adventure!



There Is No Place Like It
 Helping Visitors Stay & Enjoy The Mammoth Resort Area Since 1981

demand from aerobic microbial decomposition of suspended sediments and release of hydrogen sulfide from disturbed channel-bed muck.” This increased biological oxygen demand, especially during periods of elevated water temperature, can lower DO in the water column to critical levels.

Tree recruitment has been another major challenge for the LORP. In the project’s design, it was predicted that tree woodland would expand with rewatering of the LOR, with willow and cottonwood trees taking root in the river floodplain, providing rich and diverse habitat.

The reality, however, was that total tree cover declined with aggradation (increased land elevation due to sediment deposition) in the floodplain, and increases in marsh at the expense of tree stands.

Efforts are being made to understand the dynamics at play in the establishment and survival of tree seedlings, but these studies have not yet provided any conclusions or led to new management practices to encourage tree recruitment.

The potentially positive impact on recreational opportunities was imagined at the onset of the LORP, particularly for anglers, (by enhancing warm water fishing opportunities of largemouth bass, bluegill, catfish, bullhead, and carp), and for hikers and birdwatchers, (by improving bird habitat along the river at Blackrock and at the Delta). In reality, however, providing access to the river has proven challenging due to the excessive growth of cattails and bulrush (together referred to as tules).

The Owens River Water Trail, proposed by Inyo County Water in 2015, aims to provide better access to the LOR by opening up more than 6 miles to kayaks, canoes, and other paddlecraft.

From 2016 to 2019, Friends of the Inyo held annual three day-long volunteer events to perform tule control work in the river.

Manual removal of the tules proved to be hard and dangerous work, and the tules grew back quickly. Since then, Inyo County Water’s focus has shifted to doing the tule removal work by mechanical means but momentum on the project has stalled due to LADWP’s reluctance to provide a 20-year lease, jeopardizing grant funds that Inyo County Water has been seeking for the project since 2015.

Like many of the mitigation projects throughout Payahuunadu that were mandated by the Inyo County/Los Angeles Long-Term Water Agreement, the LORP has suffered from LADWP’s and Inyo County Water’s tendency to reduce the parameters of the projects once challenges were encountered. Instead of finding creative ways to manage these challenges, or investing more resources to achieve the desired results, the response has been to settle for ecosystems of diminished vitality. This has been done with little input from the public. As a result, many decades after the signing of the LTWA, the ecosystems of Payahuunadu have not been restored to mandated levels.

A new collaboration, including Friends of the Inyo, the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission and the Sierra Club, aims to change this dynamic and has recently hired a Water Justice Organizer.

The goal of this new group is to bring water issues to the fore, including the LORP, and to hold institutions accountable and mobilize communities to stand up for water justice for people and the environment, now and for future generations.

To learn more, visit Friendsoftheinyo.org and subscribe to our newsletter.

(Jaime Lopez Wolters is the Desert Lands organizer for Friends of the Inyo. He may be reached at jaime@friendsoftheinyo.org.)



— DEVILS CREEK DISTILLERY —

BOURBON

MADE *in* MAMMOTH LAKES

*Small Batch · Barrel-Aged Spirits
Distillery Tours & Tastings*

OPEN FRIDAY & SATURDAY 3PM-6PM
SUNDAY-THURSDAY BY APPOINTMENT
760-279-3670 · 120 COMMERCE DRIVE

www.DevilsCreekDistillery.com  

Pioneers set stage for angling paradise

19th century planting efforts created fisheries now held dear By Dave Babb

The Eastern Sierra region of Inyo and Mono counties, with its 900 miles of streams and scores of lakes, ponds and reservoirs, attracts anglers from throughout the state and beyond.

Seasonal fishing for several species of trout is a rewarding experience in the area lakes and streams, while the Owens River in Inyo County is open to year-long fishing. A warm-water fishery is also available at several ponds in Owens Valley, offering such species as catfish, bass, bluegill, crappie and other sunfish. In all, more than a dozen species of game fish can be found in the waters of the Eastern Sierra – but this has not always been so.

In the early days of settlement in Owens Valley, there were only four species of native fish – the Owens Pupfish, Owens Tui Chub, Speckled Dace and the Owens River Sucker – inhabiting the Owens River and its tributary streams. Although these fish were small, they occurred in numbers large enough to contribute to the diet of the Native Americans. In the Mono Basin, however, the streams were barren.

OFF TO A HEALTHY START

Details of the earliest trout planting in the Mono Basin are sketchy, but it is reported that the first trout (probably cutthroat) came into the Basin as a result of the diversion of water from Virginia Creek to Mill Creek in Lundy Canyon by a mining company in 1867. It is believed that shortly thereafter, trout were transplanted into Rush and Lee Vining creeks. Other recorded plantings occurred in 1895, 1898 and 1903. In 1911, thousands of rainbow, brook and brown trout were stocked in the streams, as well as in Gem, Agnew, Walker and Parker creeks.

The effort to develop a fishery in the Owens River drainage met with varying degrees of success, a few failures and an occasional controversy. Trout did not appear in Owens Valley until 1872, when J.W. McMurry, a pioneer of Big Pine, brought two dozen rainbow trout from the Kings River and planted them in reservoirs on his property at Fish Springs.

Planting of Owens Valley streams began in earnest in late spring of 1873, when A.B. Kitchen

planted about 60 small rainbow trout in Little Pine Creek (now known as Independence Creek). The excitement of the prospect of establishing a trout fishery in Owens Valley led to the following announcement in the Inyo Independent of July 26, 1873:

“It is hoped that for the next two years any individual disturbing them (the trout) will be immediately reduced to bait for the benefit of the fish remaining.”

In August 1873, rainbow trout from the south fork of the Kings River were planted in Big Pine Creek. These trout were also planted by Mr. Kitchen, who brought 200 fish by pack trail some 58 miles over the Sierra, with 80 fish surviving the trip. Mr. Kitchen was paid \$1 for each fish. In the fall of that year, additional rainbows were brought from the Kings River and planted in Baker, Birch, Tinnemaha, Red Mountain, Oak, Independence, Shepherd, Bairs and Georges creeks. Many of the fish planted in the latter four creeks were lost in the 1890s due to heavy runoff

See PIONEERS, pg. 26

KITTRIDGE sports
GUIDE SERVICE
 SINCE 1965

PHOTO: Jeff Simpson, Mono County Tourism

like us on:
 Facebook
 Instagram

Experience some of the most beautiful country in the Eastern Sierra while learning to fly fish with confidence.

OFFERING

- Complete Fishing Tackle Shop
- Fishing Guide Services
- Fly Walk & Wade Trips
- Boat Trips
- Tube & Wading Gear Rentals
- Rod & Reel Rentals
- Seasonal Clothing



Kittredge Guides are equally serious as they are talented. The Eastern Sierra provides us with a multitude of water types and locations to help fulfill your goals. All skill levels are welcome.

We supply you with the gear needed for each adventure.

FREE
 monthly promos
 for our 60th
 anniversary.

CALL THE SHOP TO BOOK YOUR TRIP!
www.kittredgesports.com • (760) 934-7566

Full-service
 fishing shop

3218 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
 (Between Chevron and the Fire Station)

Regulations for Popular Mono County Fishing Destinations

BODY OF WATER	FISHING REGULATIONS	DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT
Rock Creek Lake	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
Rock Creek	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15.	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Rock Creek <i>continued</i>	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Crowley Lake	Last Saturday in April through July 31.	5 trout
Crowley Lake <i>continued</i>	August 1 through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures may be used. Minimum size limit: 18 inches total length. Closed Nov. 16 through the last Friday in April.	2 trout
McGee Creek downstream from Hwy. 395	Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Sept. 30. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
(A) Upper Owens River from Benton Crossing bridge (on Benton Crossing Road) upstream to Big Springs	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
(B) Upper Owens River from Benton Crossing bridge (on Benton Crossing Road) downstream to Crowley Lake	Last Saturday in April through July 31.	5 trout
(B) Upper Owens River from Benton Crossing bridge (on Benton Crossing Road) downstream to Crowley Lake <i>continued</i>	August 1 through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures may be used. Minimum size limit: 18 inches total length. Closed Nov. 16 through the last Friday in April.	2 trout
Convict Lake	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
Hot Creek	All year. Only artificial flies with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Lake Mamie, Lake Mary, Lake George, Twin Lakes	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
June Lake, Gull Lake, Silver Lake, Grant Lake	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
Rush Creek between Silver Lake & Grant Lake	Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Sept. 30. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
Lee Vining Creek from Lee Vining conduit downstream to Mono Lake	Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Sept. 30	2 trout per day, 4 in possession
Lee Vining Creek from Lee Vining conduit downstream to Mono Lake <i>continued</i>	Oct. 1 through the Friday preceding Memorial Day. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Lee Vining Creek from Lee Vining conduit upstream	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15.	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Lee Vining Creek from Lee Vining conduit upstream <i>continued</i>	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Ellery Lake, Tioga Lake, Saddlebag Lake	Open all year	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Lundy Lake	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
Upper & Lower Virginia Lakes	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
Upper & Lower Twin Lakes - Bridgeport	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
Robinson Creek from US Forest Service boundary downstream to Upper Twin Lake, and between Upper and Lower Twin Lake	Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Sept. 30. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
Robinson Creek all other sections	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15.	5 trout
Robinson Creek all other sections <i>continued</i>	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Bridgeport Reservoir	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year.	5 trout
East Walker River	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Closed the rest of the year. Artificial lures only. Minimum size limit: 18 inches total length.	2 trout
West Walker River	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15.	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
West Walker River <i>continued</i>	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Topaz Lake	Open all year	5 trout per day, 10 in possession

CALIFORNIA FISHING REGULATIONS: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland>
 SMARTPHONE FRESHWATER REGULATIONS MAP: <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/sportfishingregs/>

Regulations for Popular Inyo County Fishing Destinations

BODY OF WATER	FISHING REGULATIONS	DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT
Diaz Lake	Open all year.	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Cottonwood Creek – and all tributaries upstream from the confluence of the main stem Cottonwood Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek, including the unnamed tributaries flowing through Horseshoe Meadow (Inyo Co.)	Year-round. Only artificial lures may be used.	2 trout
Cottonwood Creek – and all tributaries downstream from the confluence of the main stem Cottonwood Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek (Inyo Co.)	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Cottonwood Creek – and all tributaries downstream from the confluence of the main stem Cottonwood Creek and Little Cottonwood Creek (Inyo Co.)	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Tuttle Creek, Lone Pine Creek, George Creek, Independence Creek, Goodale Creek, Taboose Creek, Tinemaha Creek, Birch Creek	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Tuttle Creek, Lone Pine Creek, George Creek, Independence Creek, Goodale Creek, Taboose Creek, Tinemaha Creek, Birch Creek	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Tinemaha Reservoir	Open all year.	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Big Pine Creek, Baker Creek, Bishop Creek	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Big Pine Creek, Baker Creek, Bishop Creek	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
South Lake, Sabrina Lake	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15	5 trout
South Lake, Sabrina Lake	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Closed to fishing.	0 trout
North Lake, Intake 2	Open all year.	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Pleasant Valley Reservoir	Open all year.	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Owens River – Five Bridges Road to LADWP pumpback station at Owens Dry Lake	Open all year.	5 trout
Owens River – Footbridge at lower end of Pleasant Valley Campground east (downstream) to Five Bridges Road	Wild Trout Section – Open all year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Owens River – Pleasant Valley Dam downstream to footbridge at lower end of Pleasant Valley Campground	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15	2 trout per day, 4 in possession
Owens River – Pleasant Valley Dam downstream to footbridge at lower end of Pleasant Valley Campground	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Owens River Gorge – Crowley Lake Dam downstream to Pleasant Valley Reservoir	Open all year.	5 trout
Rock Creek	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15	5 trout per day, 10 in possession
Rock Creek	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
Rock Creek Lake	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15	5 trout
Rock Creek Lake	Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Closed to fishing.	0 trout

CALIFORNIA FISHING REGULATIONS: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland>
 SMARTPHONE FRESHWATER REGULATIONS MAP: <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/sportfishingregs/>



An angler shows an impressive catch from the Eastern Sierra circa 1956. Because trout are not native to the region, this fish must have been a hold-over from a plant of local waters.

File photo

PIONEERS, from pg. 23

conditions. To the north, Bishop Creek was stocked with rainbow trout from the Carson City area. Fish were later captured in Bishop Creek and used to stock Horton and Pine creeks.

THE 'GOLDEN' YEARS

By the fall of 1874, Thomas Bell of Big Pine had raised thousands of rainbow trout from an original stock of 10 trout brought from the Kern River the previous year. Mr. Bell was at that time building another reservoir (covering more than three acres) to be used for breeding more trout. A similar program was started by Steve Gregg, but on a smaller scale. Also in 1874, Mr. A. Thompson brought rainbow trout from the Walker River and planted them in the upper Owens River in Long Valley.

In 1875, J.W. McMurry brought some 400 catfish from Reno and planted them in the Owens River near Big Pine. At the same time, the Carson & Colorado Railroad Company was planting 500 trout in the river near Laws.

On Jan. 22, 1876, the Inyo Independent reported that several months earlier, Mr. J.M. Hutchings, of Yosemite, had discovered a new fish at the headwaters of the Kern River at an altitude of 10,500 feet. He named the fish the "Golden Trout."

During the period 1877-78, rainbow trout were again captured in Bishop Creek and taken north to be planted in Rock, Hilton, McGee, Convict, Laurel, Sherwin and Mammoth Creeks. Also in those years, brown trout were planted in several area lakes. In 1878, the Inyo Independent called for more planting of catfish in the Owens River. Mr. T.F.A. Connelly offered to bring several hundred catfish and perch for planting in the river if his expenses were paid.

In 1879, Col. Stevens, of Lone Pine, planted Cottonwood Creek with golden trout taken from Mulkey Creek near Monache Meadows. Rainbow trout finally arrived in Lone Pine Creek in 1880, being taken from Oak Creek and planted by E.H. Edwards.

Although not considered a welcome addition to the fishery by today's fishermen, it is of interest to note that in 1881, Thomas Jones of Round Valley, brought thousands of carp from San Bernardino to stock local ponds. Carp were originally introduced into California in 1872, when five individuals were imported from Holstein, Germany, to Sonoma County. The species was to be raised in large numbers for food. This was the thinking behind Mr. Jones' purchase. By 1882, the carp had grown from 6 inches to 18 inches in length and many were planted in ponds in the Bishop area – with nearly 80 being released into the lower elevations of Bishop Creek. Mr. Jones said he would supply the whole county with fish by the following year.

SETBACKS AND SAWDUST

In 1884, the Owens River fishery suffered a minor setback when it was found that very few fish remained in the river south of Bishop due to large amounts of alkali in the water. To compensate for this loss, G. T. Mills, representing the Nevada Fish and Game Commission, planted 6,000 brook and rainbow trout in the river near Bishop. Also in that year, Charles Wonnacott stocked several local lakes with trout from the San Joaquin River.

Another loss of fish occurred in early 1887, when reports were received that catfish in some sloughs near Big Pine were dying by the thousands. The cause was unknown. Water in the river had a red tinge but the fish in the river itself were not affected. In May, Phil Keough transplanted 700 catfish from the affected areas to Fish Slough, eight miles north of Bishop.

The Nevada Fish and Game Commission returned to Owens Valley in 1888 and planted 7,000 brook and rainbow trout in Big Pine Creek. This planting met with little success, however. Because of the high runoff conditions that year, and the poor condition of the planted trout, the fish did not do well at all. Few of the brook trout were ever caught and all were gone from the stream within a few years.

A situation arose in 1889 that caused concern throughout the state – namely, the loss of fish due to sawdust in streams below lumber mills. The State Legislature made it illegal to empty sawdust into any stream and violation of the new law would bring heavy penalties to mill owners.

See PIONEERS, pg. 72

Tips for new trout anglers

A look at the basics – from rods, lures and more

By Fred Rowe

More than 40 years of living and fishing in the Eastern Sierra have allowed me to observe classic mistakes of first-time trout anglers. Learn from these mistakes to make your fishing experience successful and enjoyable.

Too much equipment for the quarry is the most obvious mistake. I've seen lots of bass and saltwater outfits brought to the Eastern Sierra in pursuit of trout.

Trout rods should be 5 to 7 feet in length and light to ultralight in action. Open-faced spinning reels that hold a minimum of 100 yards of four-pound line are the best option. I'm a big advocate of you get what you pay for. If you're in the market for an outfit, stop into any of the Eastern Sierra tackle stores to get the best outfit you can afford.

Lures, hooks, and bait need to match the quarry. Trout have small mouths compared to bass and ocean fish.

Rapala, Panther Martins, Rooster Tails, Mepps, Kastmaster, Thomas Bouyant, tube jigs and Sierra Slammers are successful Eastern Sierra trout lures. One or two of these lures should be in the tackle box of every trout angler. As a generality, smaller lures for streams and larger lures for lakes.

Trout baits can be categorized as natural or artificial. Salmon eggs, worms, grass hoppers and crickets are common natural baits. Powerbait, Zekes Sierra Gold, Mice Tails, nuggets, trout worms, Gulp, marshmallows, and Velveeta cheese are artificial baits. These baits can be bought in tackle stores, grocery stores or harvested in the wild.

Terminal tackle (hooks, sinkers, and tippet) is the most overlooked gear in a novice Eastern Sierra trout angler's arsenal.

Hooks need to match the bait. Size 16 or 18 curved hooks or salmon egg hooks are perfect for worms, salmon eggs and Mice Tails. Bait hooks in size 8 or 10 are perfect for grass hoppers, night crawlers and crickets. Size 16 or 18 treble hooks are perfect for soft baits like Velveeta cheese, Powerbait, and marshmallows.

The right type and weight of a sinker is critical to successful trout angling. Split shot, egg sinkers and water-filled plastic bubbles will get your bait and lures to the level that the trout are feeding in.

The right size line matters when it comes to fooling wary trout. Four-pound test line on the reel is standard.

For the wariest of trout, you can use two-pound test monofilament for a tippet.

Staying in one spot all day without success is a big mistake. Not all water is created equal when looking for trout.

Do not be afraid to change your fishing location. The next hole, 10 feet up or down the lake shore line can be the difference between success or failure.

Local knowledge is critical to success. Ask the guys at the tackle store what to use. If you witness a successful angler on the stream or lake ask him if he wouldn't mind helping you.

Everyone makes mistakes in their Eastern Sierra fishing experience. Applying these simple fishing observations will make you a successful Eastern Sierra angler.

(Fred Rowe owns Sierra Bright Dot Fly Fishing Specialty. He teaches fly fishing and fly tying, is one of the original fly fishing guides in the Eastern Sierra. When he's not out fishing the waters of the Eastern Sierra from Bishop to Bridgeport, he is an avid hunter who loves to hunt birds, especially waterfowl. Fred can be reached at (760) 920-8325 or at roweboat5@verizon.net. Find out more about the services Fred offers at sierrabrightdot.com.)

2024 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide (Maps on pages 32-45)

A HOME FOR YOUR LIFESTYLE



Lindal
CEDAR HOMES

**Traditional and
Modern Designs
Lifetime**

Structural Warranty

Over 50,000 Homes Worldwide

Independently distributed by:

**High Country
Cedar Homes**

Gary Rainwater

760-872-2809 • 805-443-6065

Lindal.com/dealer/highcountry
highcountrycedarhomes@msn.com

The Mammoth catch awaits

Lakes Basin offers shorelines aplenty By Kristina Blüm

Mammoth Lakes is known for its world-class skiing during the winter, and as the gateway to Reds Meadow, Rainbow Falls and Devil's Post Pile National Monument and the Ansel Adams Wilderness – but on the back side of the mountain lies Mammoth Lakes Basin. With its series of seven lakes just outside of town, the Lakes Basin area is an angler's playground.

The main lakes, which are accessible by paved roads, are home to rainbows, brooks and browns.

One of the most popular is Lake George, the third largest of the basin's great lakes, which is 38 acres in size. Local experts say that fishing the back-side of the lake, where the water is deepest, is generally the best spot.

The largest of Mammoth's lakes, Lake Mary, is 140 acres, providing plenty of room for boats and shore fishing. Mary also boasts campgrounds and other facilities. The locals say the hot spots are near the outlet at the northern end of the lake, and the inlet on the western side.

Next up is Twin Lakes, which is actually a set of three waters connected



Frankie, left, and Sonny, right, are pictured with their dad, Dean Mele, of Wrightwood, holding a beautiful trout caught while fishing Lake Mary.

Photo by Tim Schuler

Stroud Tackle

... serving San Diego since 1970 ...

- Fly Fishing Gear • Flies •
- Fly Tying Materials •
- Fly Rod Blanks and Components •

(619) 276-4822

www.stroudtackle.com

1457 Morena Blvd, San Diego, CA 92110

**Your source for
Eastern Sierra and
Southern California
fly fishing gear**

by Mammoth Creek. The lakes, along with the waterfall that feeds them are the first lakes that are visible from Lake Mary Road, located just across the street from the Tamarack Lodge. Locals say the hot spot is at the inlet of Upper Twin, the northern-most lake. The Twin Lakes are generally accessible on the Opening Day of the fishing season, depending on how much snow Mother Nature dumps on the region.

Lake Mamie is located just south of Twin Lakes. This water has been proven to deliver for eager anglers looking to land that trophy-sized trout. A good place to start is in the deeper waters on an early morning.

Horseshoe Lake, a 53-acre lake at the end of the paved road, contains no fish. While Horseshoe isn't a fishing hole, it is a popular swimming hole for anglers taking a break from a day of fishing.

All the lakes, except Horseshoe, are stocked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and receives healthy summer plants from private hatcheries.

Anglers looking to stretch their legs and take in some of Mammoth's famous mountain air and breathtaking Sierra vistas can lace up their boots and head for McLeod and Crystal lakes, located just a short hike away from the paved roads. And for the more adventurous angler, there are plenty of opportunities farther into the backcountry.

Access to all Mammoth Basin waters is available through the town of Mammoth Lakes, located just a short drive west on State Route 203 from U.S. Highway 395.



Ventura resident Gavin Gordon, who was 10 at the time, helped his grandmother Jane Gordon land this 2.5-pound rainbow while fishing on Lake Mamie.

Photo by Brian Gordon

760-935-4301

crowleylakefishcamp.com



**Cabins -RV Sites- Lakeside Camping
Pontoon and Fishing Boat Rentals
Tackle Shop and Grill**

BIH ✈️ SFO ✈️ DEN

FLY to Bishop Airport!



DEATH VALLEY • LONE PINE • INDEPENDENCE
BISHOP (BIH) • TECOPA • SHOSHONE • BIG PINE

FROM -282' TO 14,505'

InyoCountyVisitor.com @[exploreinyocounty](https://www.instagram.com/exploreinyocounty)

Hot Spots of Mono County

A quick guide to popular fisheries By Register Staff

Mono County has no shortage of fishing “hot spots,” whether anglers are looking for calm fly fishing streams, rugged backcountry

lakes teeming with feisty fish or sprawling waters perfect for trolling. California Department of Fish and Wildlife planting schedules, including exact locations, are subject to change.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR

Travel U.S. 395 to S.R. 182 at the south city limits of Bridgeport and continue for approximately three miles to the lake.

BUCKEYE CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to the west end of Bridgeport and turn south at Twin Lakes Road. Continue for about eight miles and turn right on Buckeye Creek Road located at Doc and Al's Resort. Proceed for another four miles to where the road crosses the creek. Trout are planted from this location upstream.

CONVICT LAKE AND CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to 10 miles south of Mammoth Lakes and turn west on Convict Lake Road. Continue approximately two miles to the lake.

CROWLEY LAKE

The most popular Eastern Sierra fishing lake, Crowley is located 25 miles north of Bishop just off U.S. 395. Turn east at the Crowley Lake sign to enter at the south end of the lake. Drive farther north on U.S. 395 to Benton Crossing Road. Turn east and follow road to the north lake entrance.

DEADMAN CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to nine miles north of Mammoth Lakes junction. Turn west on White Wing Camp Road and drive six miles to Deadman Campground. The creek is planted in the campground area.

ELLERY LAKE

Drive U.S. 395 to one-half mile south of the town of Lee Vining and turn west on S.R. 120, Tioga Pass Road. The lake is located about 12 miles away on the south side of the road.

GLASS CREEK

Drive 10 miles north of Mammoth Lakes on U.S. 395 and turn west on the road located across from Crestview Maintenance Station. Continue for one-half mile to the creek crossing.

GRANT LAKE

Turn west off U.S. 395 onto the June Lake Loop Road, north. Continue to the lake.

GULL LAKE

Turn west off U.S. 395 onto the June Lake Loop Road, south. Continue through June Lake Village to Gull Lake.

JUNE LAKE

Turn west off U.S. 395 onto June Lake Loop Road, south. June Lake is approximately one mile from the turnout.

KIRMAN LAKE

From Bridgeport, head north on U.S. 395 for

about 17 miles. Turn left on S.R. 108 heading west toward Sonora Pass for about 2 miles. Off of the south shoulder and before the Sonora Bridge Campground will be a parking area leading to the Kirman Lake trailhead.

LAKE GEORGE

Drive on U.S. 395 to the Mammoth Lakes turnout and continue on Main Street (Lake Mary Road) and continue past Twin Lakes and bear right at the fork in the road to Lake Mary and follow the Forest Service signs to Lake George.

LAKE MAMIE

Drive on U.S. 395 to the Mammoth Lakes turnout and continue on Main Street (Lake Mary Road) past Twin Lakes, turning right where Lake Mary Road splits. Go straight.

LAKE MARY

Drive on U.S. 395 to the Mammoth Lakes turnout and continue on Main Street (Lake Mary Road) past Twin Lakes and bear left at the fork in the road to Lake Mary.

LAUREL CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to four miles south of the Mammoth Lakes turnout. Turn west on Sherwin Creek Road and continue a short distance to the first stream crossing.

LEE VINING CREEK

Drive one-half mile south of the town of Lee Vining on U.S. 395 and turn west on S.R. 120. Access to the creek is available via campgrounds on the south side of the road and via Poole Power Plant Road.

LEE VINING CREEK, SOUTH FORK

Travel one-quarter mile south of Lee Vining on U.S. 395 and turn west on S.R. 120. Continue on S.R. 120 for 15 miles to just past Ellery Lake. The creek is planted from the west end of Ellery Lake to Tioga Lake.

LUNDY LAKE

Turn west off U.S. 395 at Lundy Lake Road, located seven miles north of the town of Lee Vining. Continue west on Lundy Lake Road to the lake.

MAMMOTH CREEK

Drive on U.S. 395 to S.R. 203 (the road to the town of Mammoth Lakes), and turn west. Drive to Mammoth Lakes and turn left on Old Mammoth Road. Continue to Mammoth Creek Road just before the bridge and turn left. The creek is planted at access points from the bridge downstream to Old U.S. 395.

MCGEE CREEK

Drive 28 miles north of Bishop on U.S.

395 and turn west on McGee Creek Road. Continue one-quarter mile south on Old U.S. 395 to McGee Pack Station Road. The creek is planted off access roads from Old U.S. 395 to Upper Campground.

OWENS RIVER, SECTION I

Drive 35 miles north of Bishop on U.S. 395 and turn east on Benton Crossing Road. Continue on Benton Crossing Road to the bridge.

OWENS RIVER SECTION IV

Drive U.S. 395 to approximately eight miles north of the Mammoth Lakes turnout and turn east on Big Springs Road. Continue for five miles and then turn north at the Big Springs Campgrounds turnout.

REVERSE CREEK

Take U.S. 395 to the June Lake Loop Road, south, and turn west. Continue past June and Gull lakes to the point where the road crosses the creek.

ROBINSON CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to Twin Lakes Road at the north end of Bridgeport and turn south. The creek is planted at access points all along Twin Lakes Road to Lower Twin Lakes.

ROCK CREEK

From U.S. 395, turn west at Tom's Place located 23 miles north of Bishop (Rock Creek Road). The creek parallels the road – first on the south, then the north and then south again – all the way to the outlet at Rock Creek Lake, and is planted at various points along the route.

ROOSEVELT LAKE

From Bridgeport, head north on U.S. 395 for about 17 miles. Turn left on S.R. 108 heading west. Just across from the Marine Corps Training Center is the trailhead through Leavitt Meadow to both Lane and Roosevelt lakes after 3.2 miles. Check special regulations.

RUSH CREEK

Drive on U.S. 395 to the June Lake Loop Road, south and turn west. Continue to Silver Lake. The creek is planted at access points from the Southern California Edison power plant bridge, north to the lake, and in Silver Lake Campground located north of the lake, and for approximately one-quarter mile north of the campgrounds.

SADDLEBAG LAKE AND CREEK

Drive U.S. 395 to one-half mile south of the town of Lee Vining and turn west on S.R. 120. Continue for approximately 16 miles to the Saddlebag Lake turnout and drive to the lake at the end of the dirt road.

SHERWIN CREEK

Drive on U.S. 395 to S.R. 203 (the road to the town of Mammoth Lakes), and turn west. Drive to Mammoth Lakes and turn left on Old Mammoth Road. After the bridge, take a left on Sherwin Creek Road and drive three miles to Sherwin Creek Campground. The creek is planted from access roads on both sides of Sherwin Creek Road at Sherwin Creek Campground.

SILVER LAKE

Turn west off U.S. 395 at the South June Lake Loop Road and continue past June Lake and June Lake Village to Silver Lake.

SWAUGER CREEK

Drive to the dirt road located nine miles north of Bridgeport and turn east. The creek parallels U.S. 395.

TIOGA LAKE

Travel U.S. 395 to one-half mile south of the town of Lee Vining to S.R. 120, the Tioga Pass Road. Turn west and continue for 18 miles to the lake, located just outside the entrance to Yosemite National Park.

TOPAZ LAKE

The lake is located in northern Mono County on the California-Nevada border just off U.S. 395.

TRUMBULL LAKE

Drive U.S. 395 to the top of Conway Summit, 17 miles north of the town of Lee Vining, and turn west on Virginia Lakes Road. The lake is on the right side of the road near Virginia Lakes Resort area.

TWIN LAKES BRIDGEPORT

Turn south off U.S. 395 onto Twin Lakes Road located at the north end of Bridgeport and continue to the lakes.

TWIN LAKES MAMMOTH

Drive U.S. 395 to Mammoth Lakes Road (S.R. 203), 12 miles north of Crowley Lake, and turn west. Twin Lakes are about seven miles up the road.

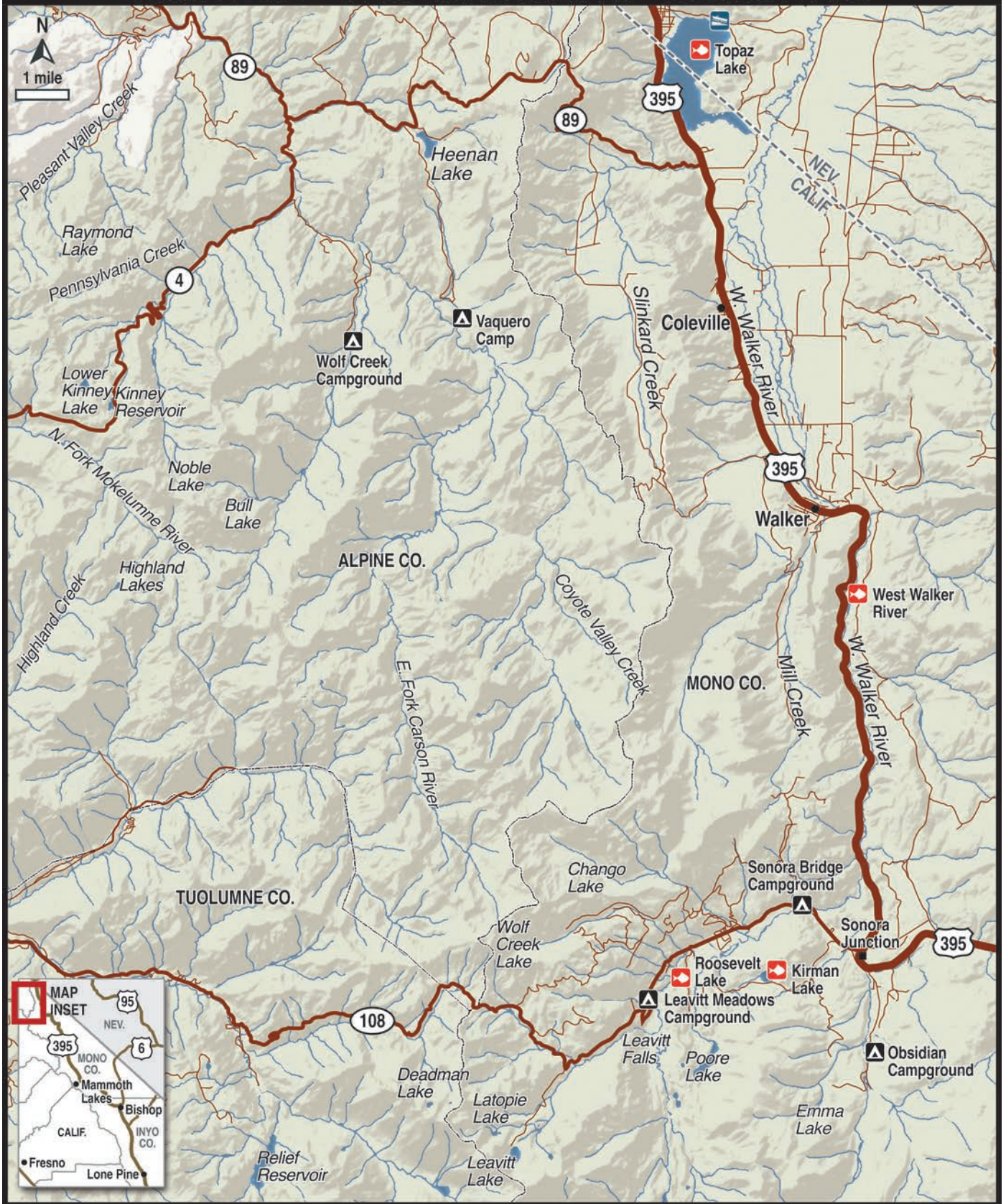
VIRGINIA LAKES AND CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to the top of Conway Summit, 17 miles north of the town of Lee Vining, and turn west on Virginia Lakes Road. The lakes are at the end of the road; the creek follows the road.

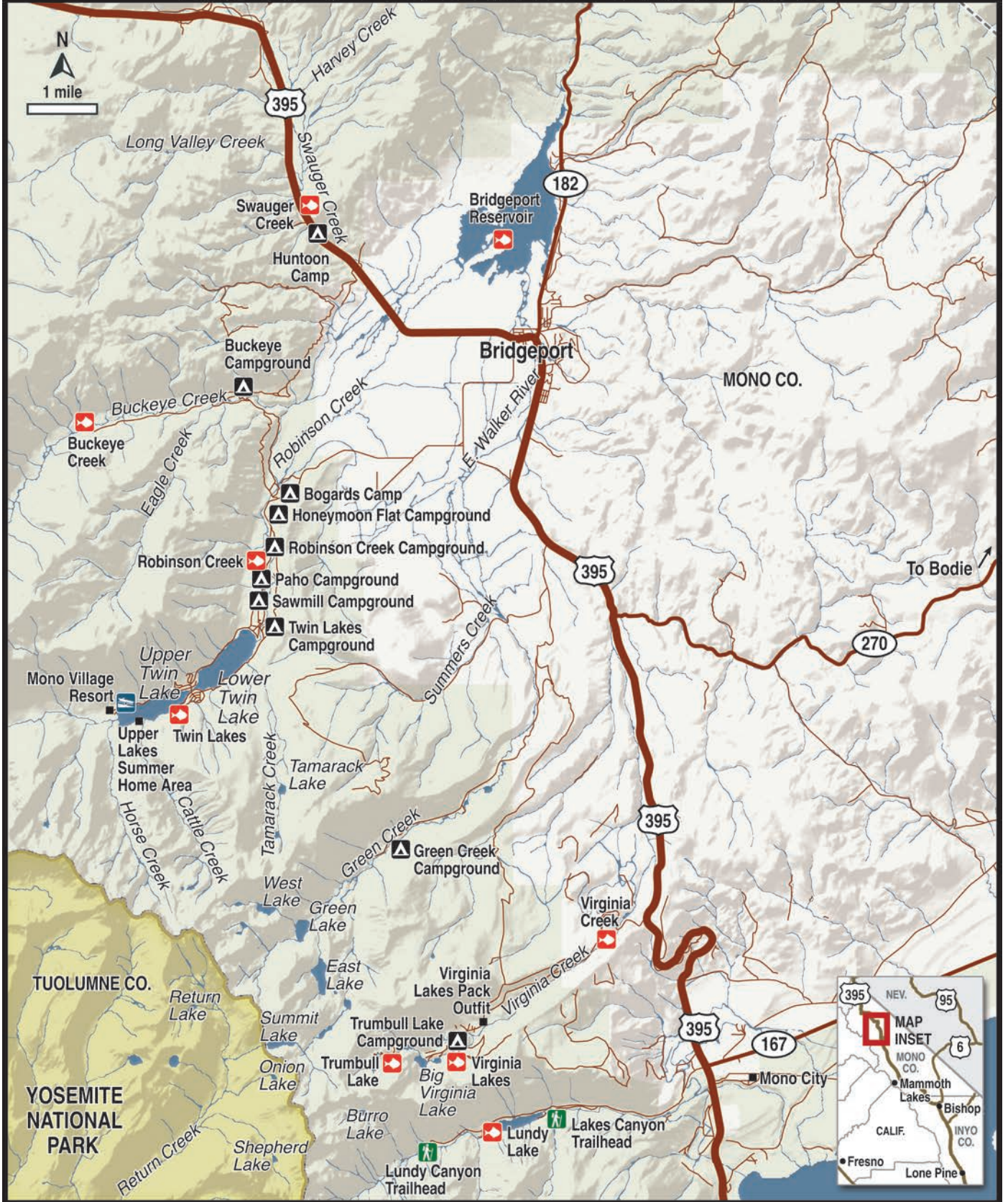
WEST WALKER RIVER

Begin at Leavitt Meadow and on S.R. 108 and continue north along U.S. 395 through the canyon. Access the river from the bridges at “The Lanes”: Eastside Lane, Larson Lane, Cunningham Lane and Topaz Lane all located off U.S. 395. Please respect the ranchers and stay below the high water line along the river.

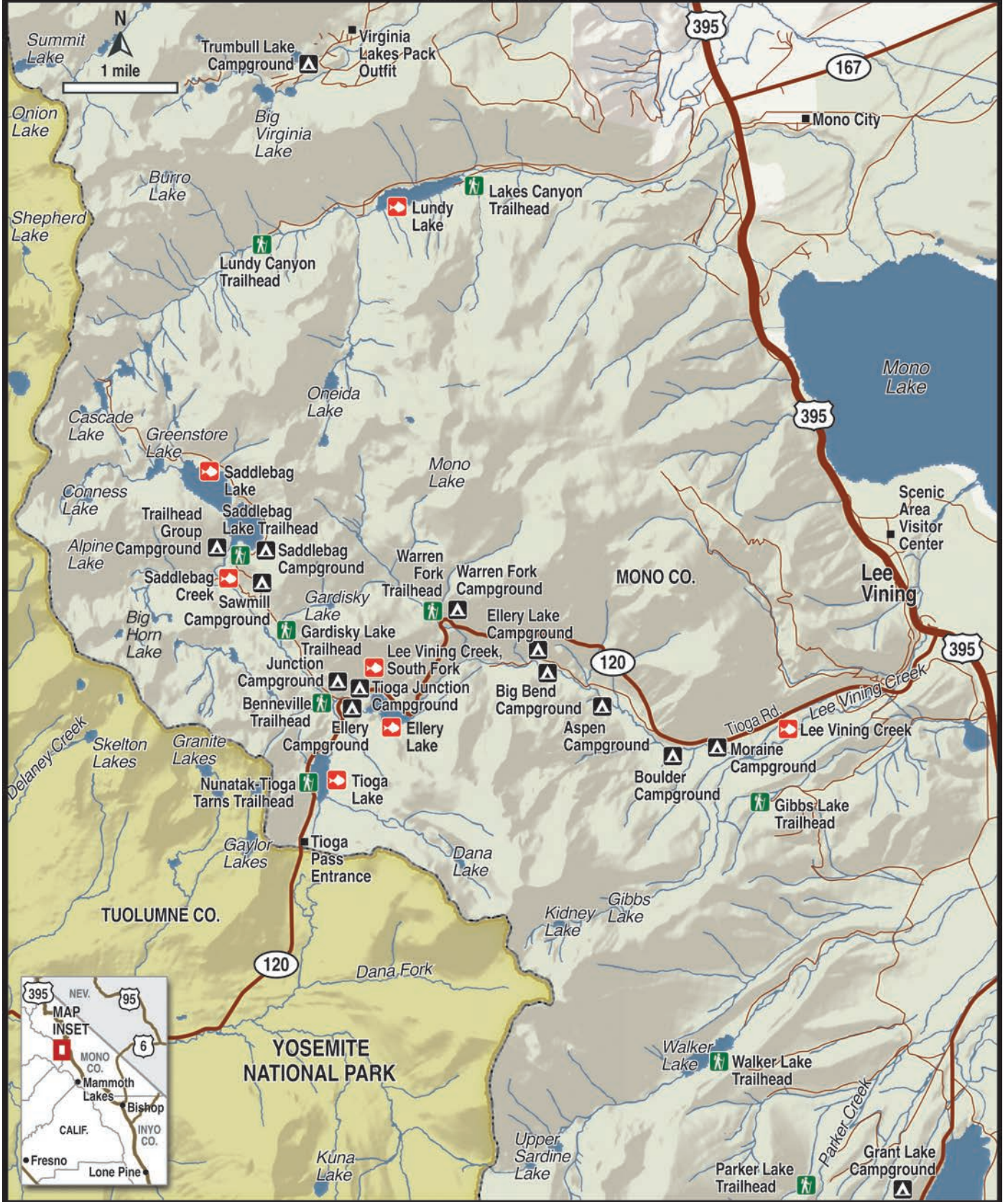
TOPAZ LAKE – WEST WALKER RIVER – SONORA PASS



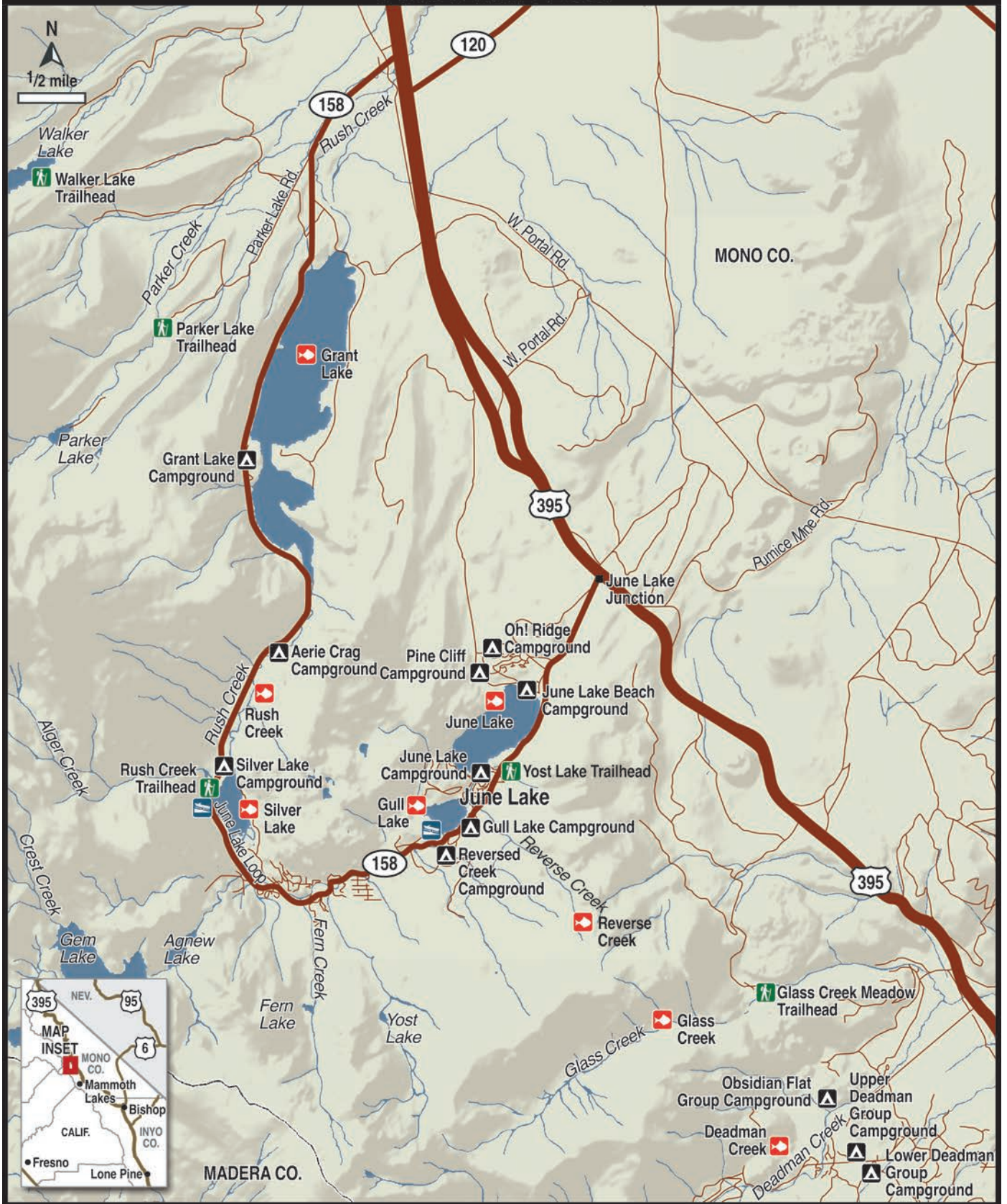
BRIDGEPORT – TWIN LAKES – VIRGINIA LAKES



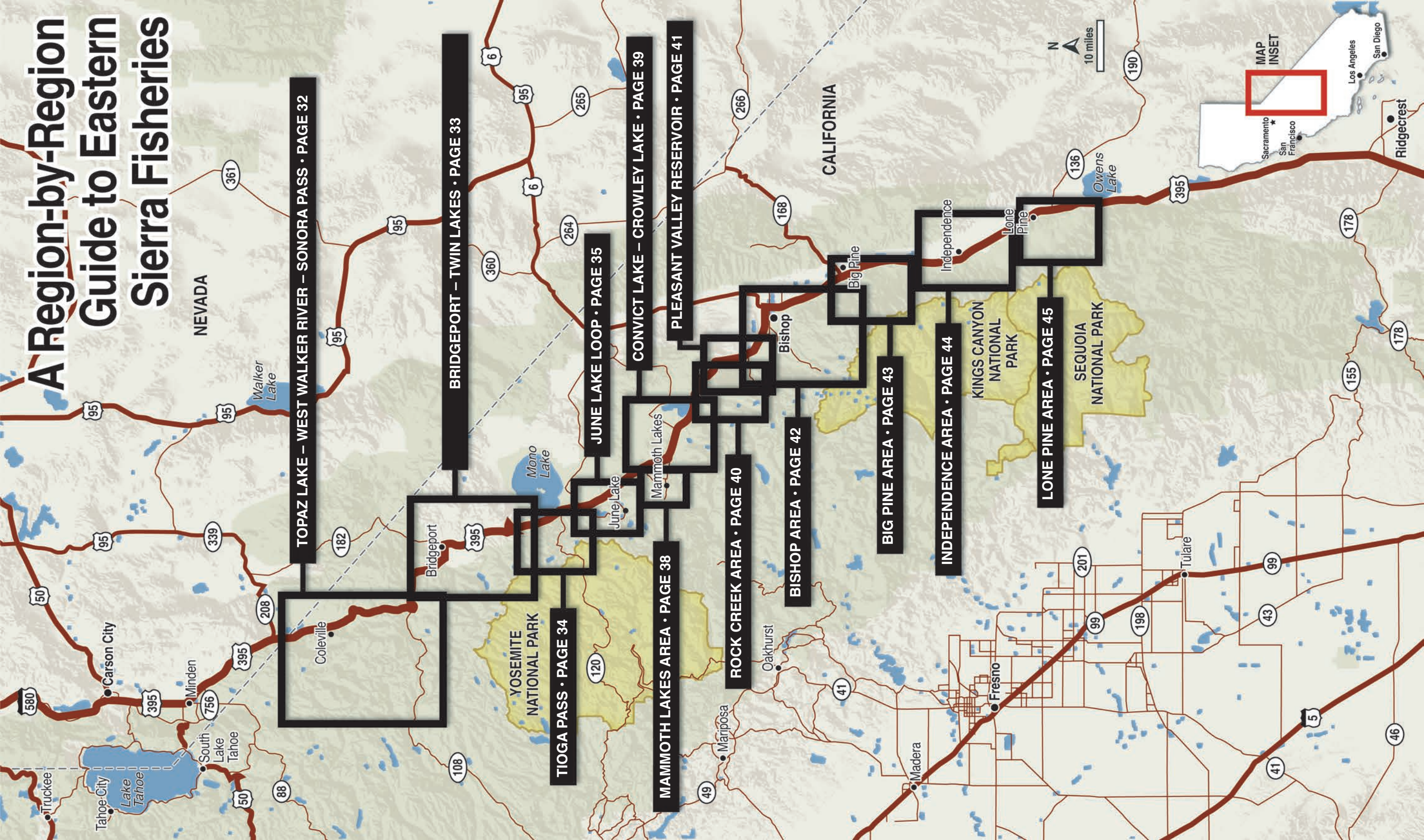
TIOGA PASS



JUNE LAKE LOOP



A Region-by-Region Guide to Eastern Sierra Fisheries



TOPAZ LAKE – WEST WALKER RIVER – SONORA PASS • PAGE 32

BRIDGEPORT – TWIN LAKES • PAGE 33

JUNE LAKE LOOP • PAGE 35

CONVICT LAKE – CROWLEY LAKE • PAGE 39

MAMMOTH LAKES AREA • PAGE 38

ROCK CREEK AREA • PAGE 40

BISHOP AREA • PAGE 42

BIG PINE AREA • PAGE 43

INDEPENDENCE AREA • PAGE 44

LONE PINE AREA • PAGE 45

TIOGA PASS • PAGE 34

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

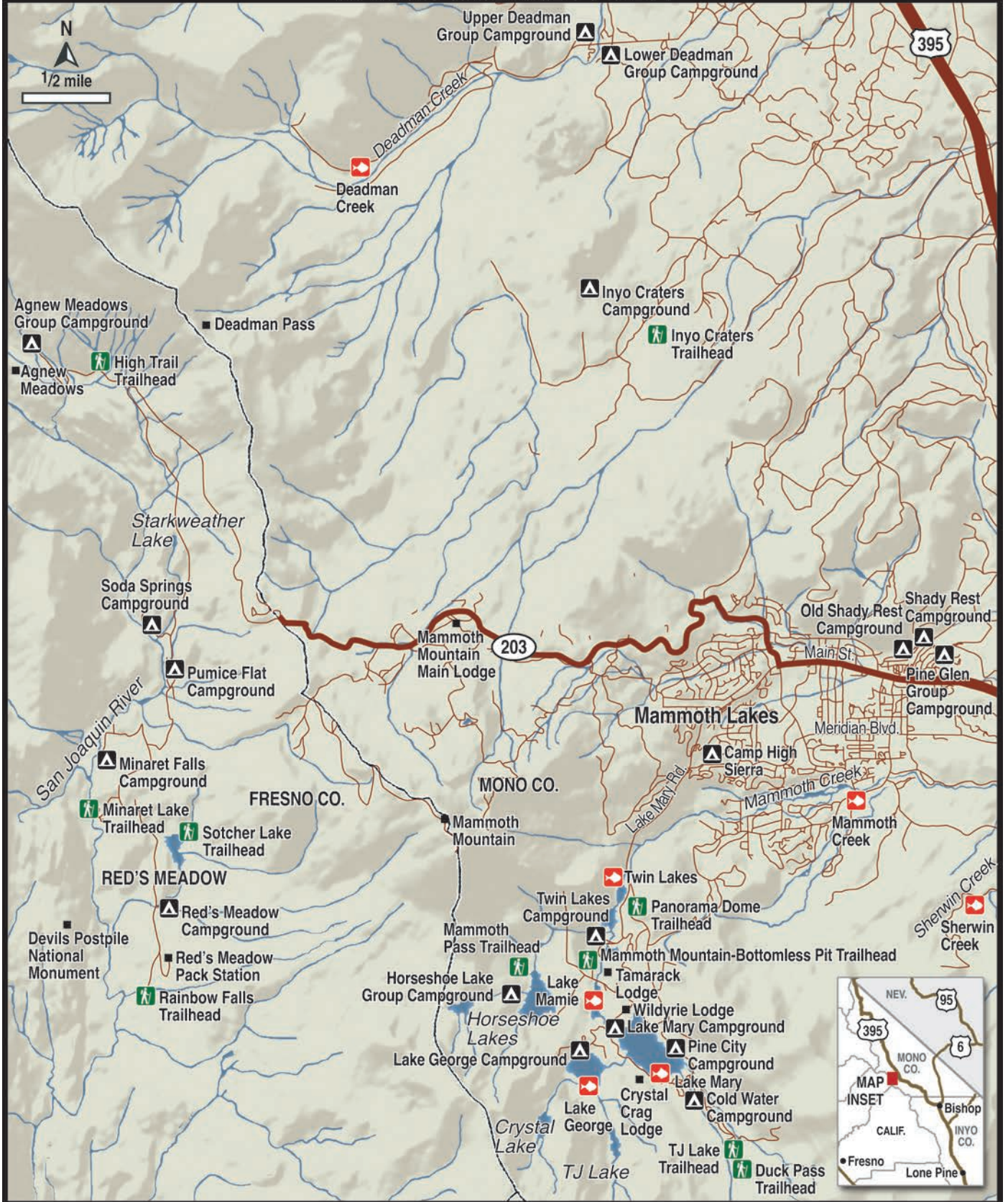
KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

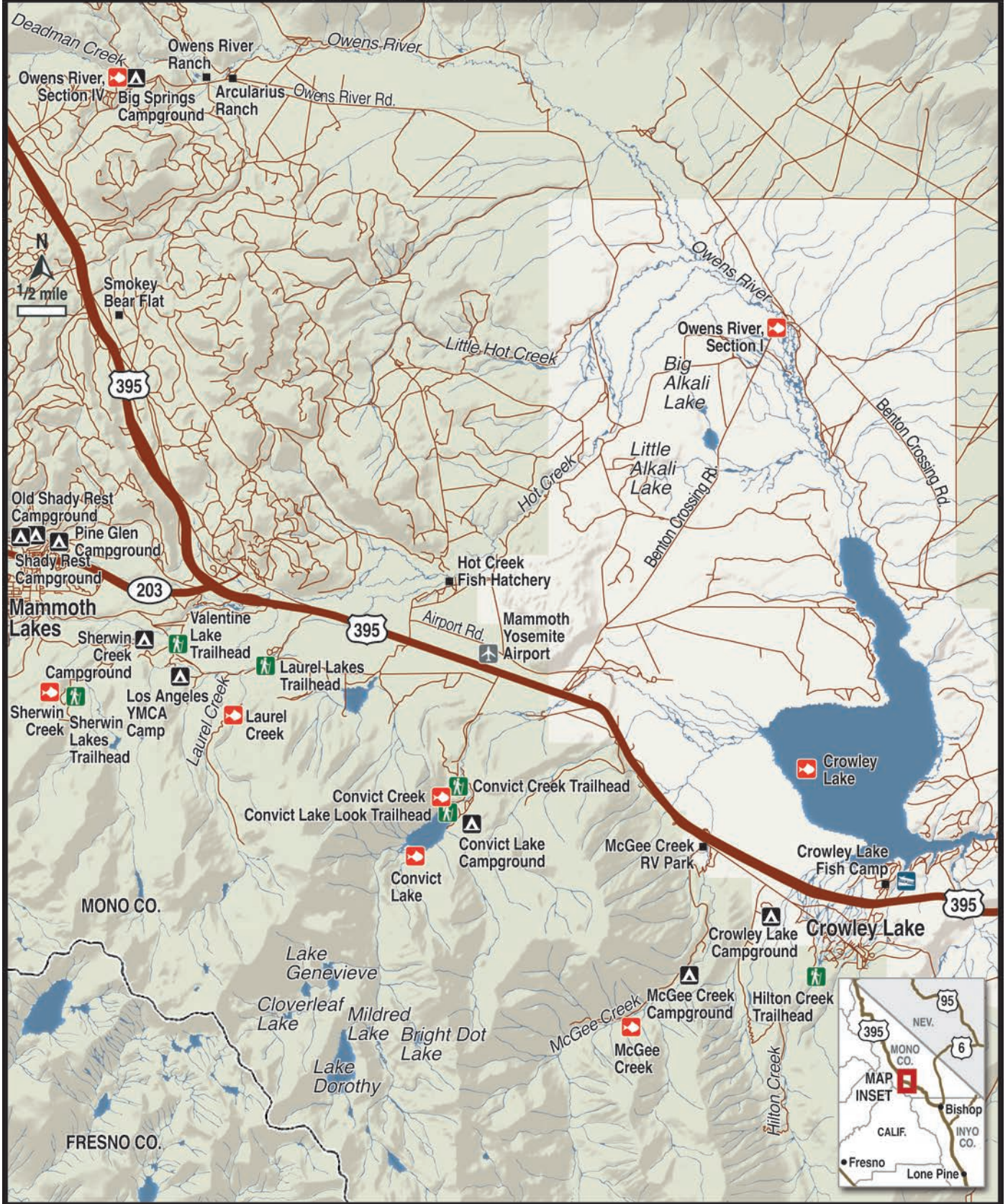
MAP INSET

10 miles

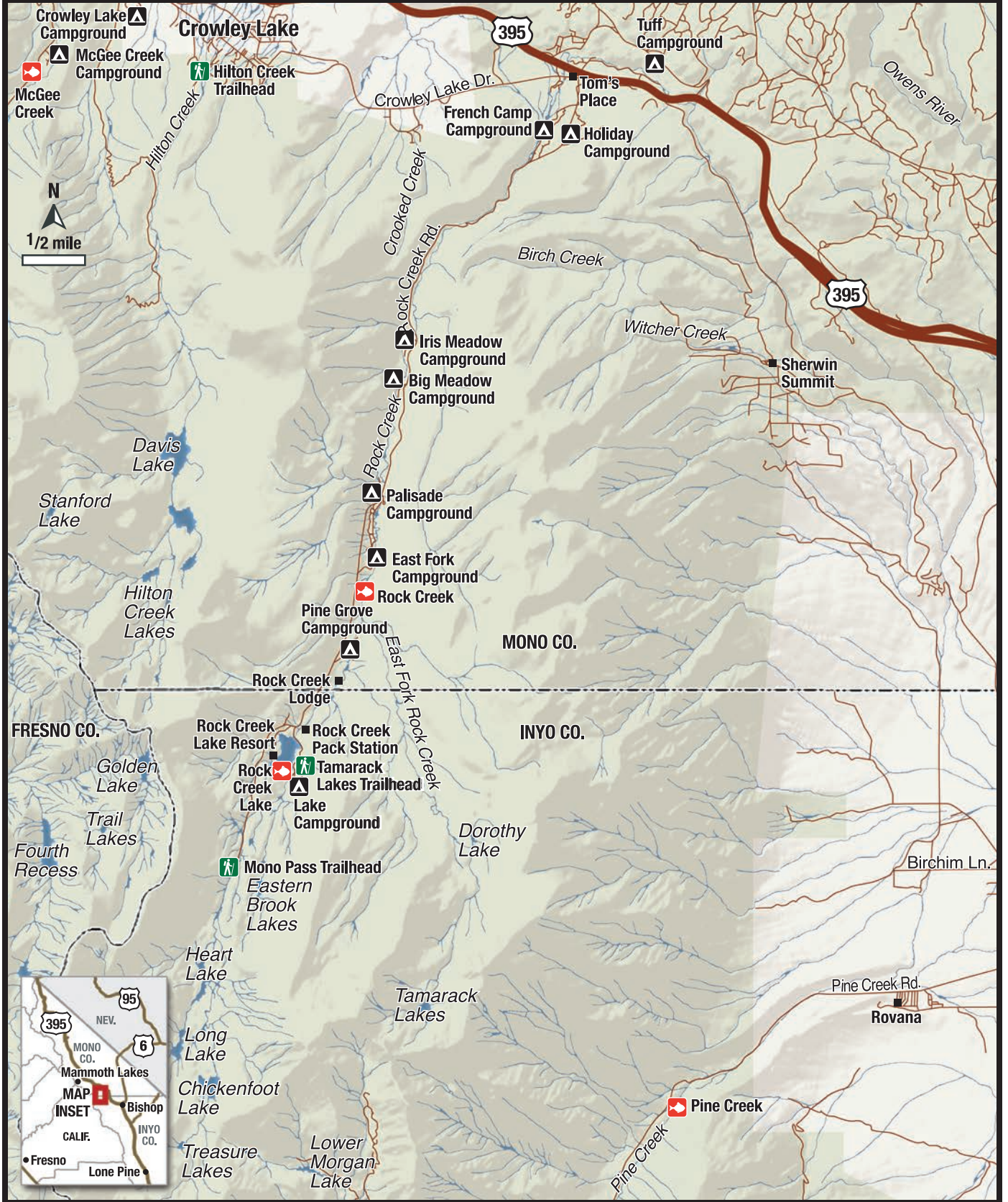
MAMMOTH LAKES AREA



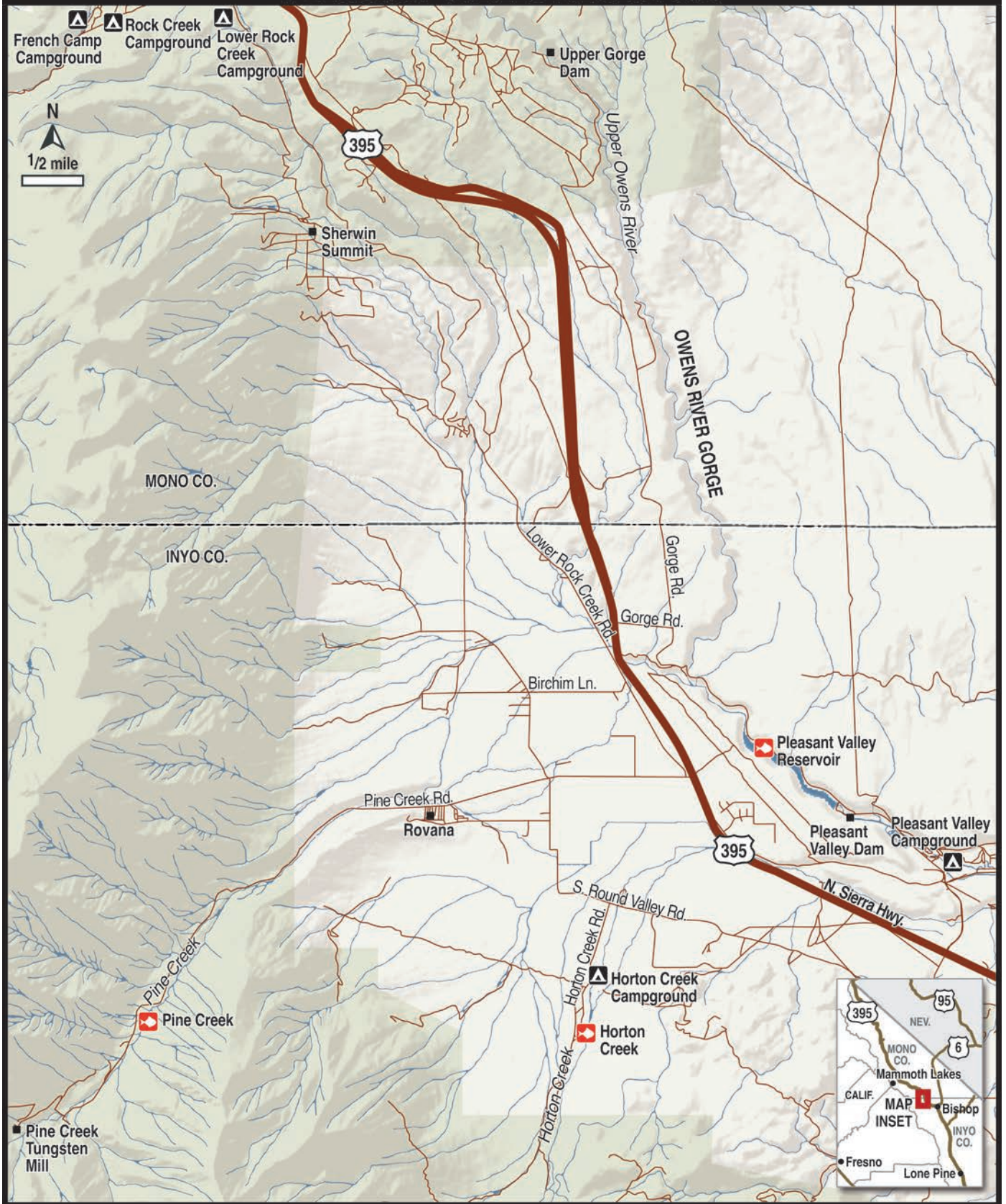
CONVICT LAKE – CROWLEY LAKE



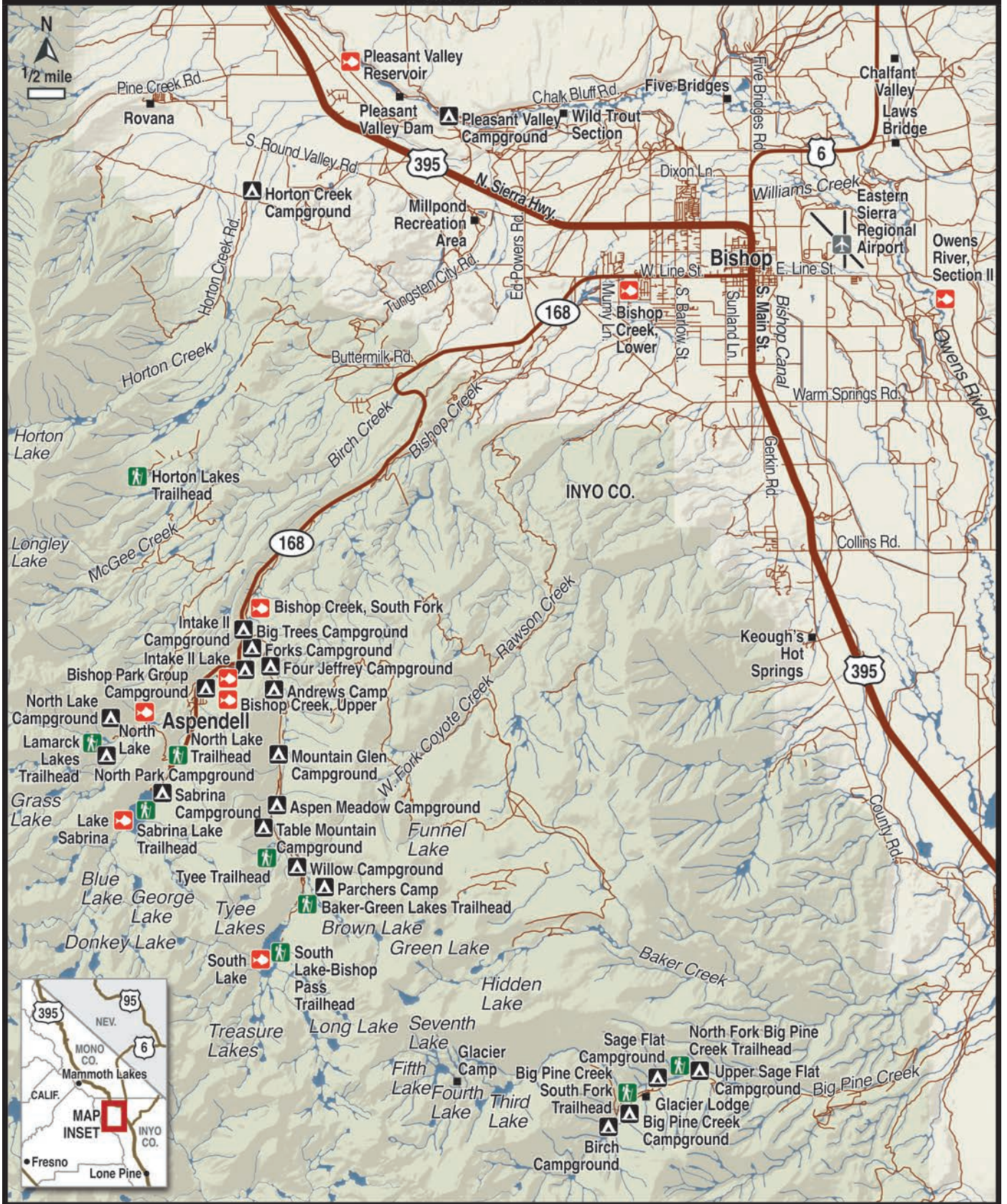
ROCK CREEK AREA



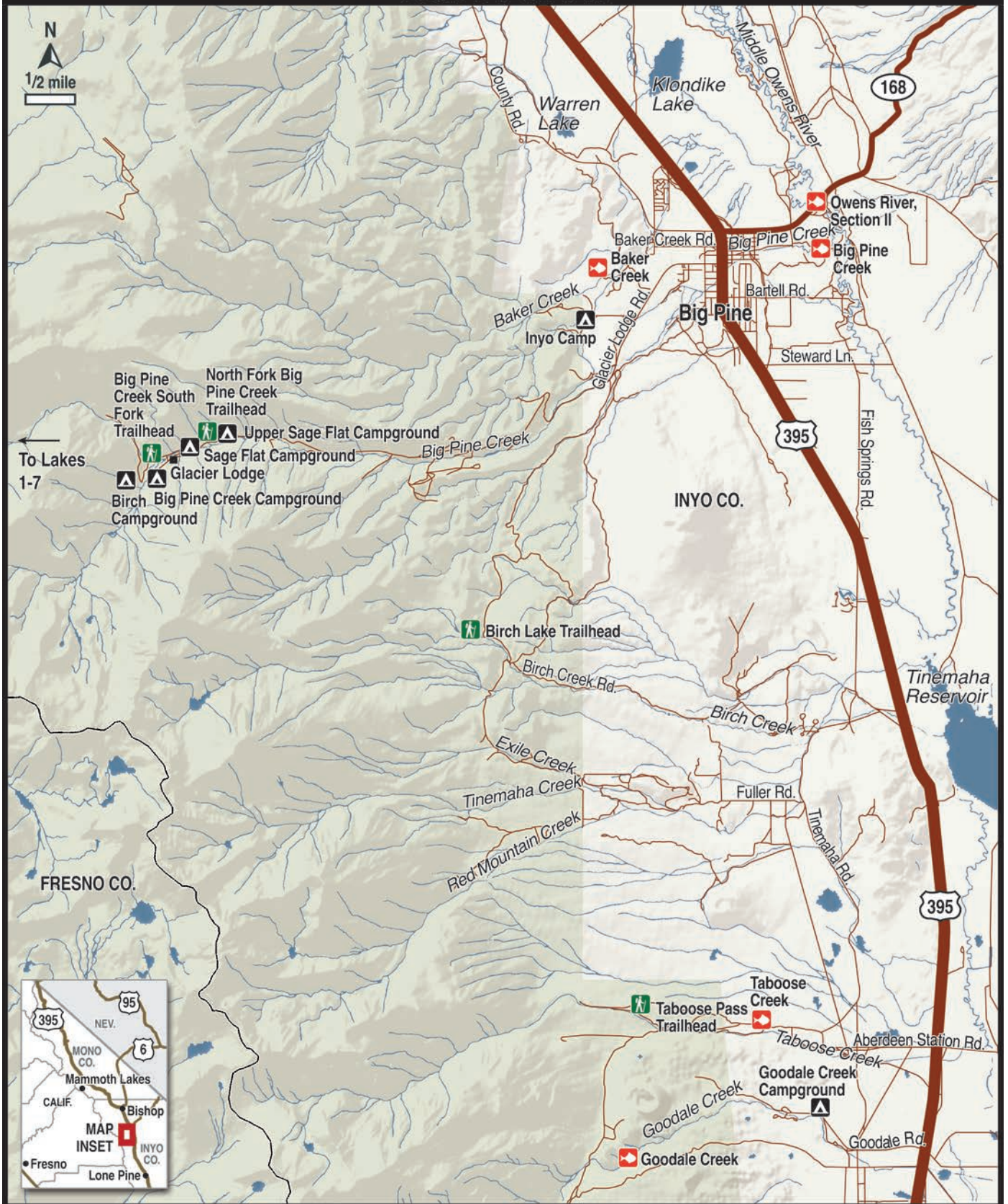
PLEASANT VALLEY RESERVOIR



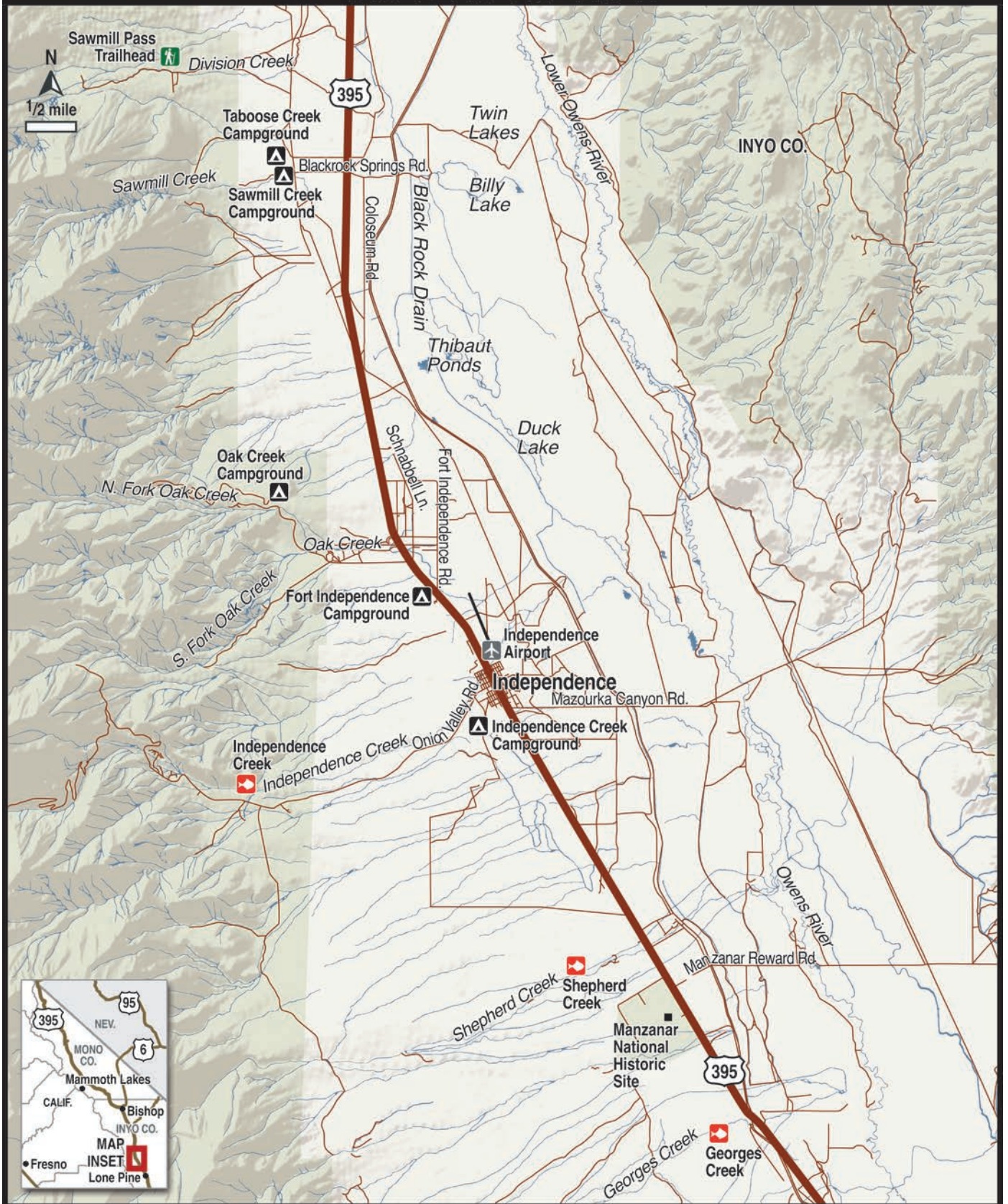
BISHOP AREA



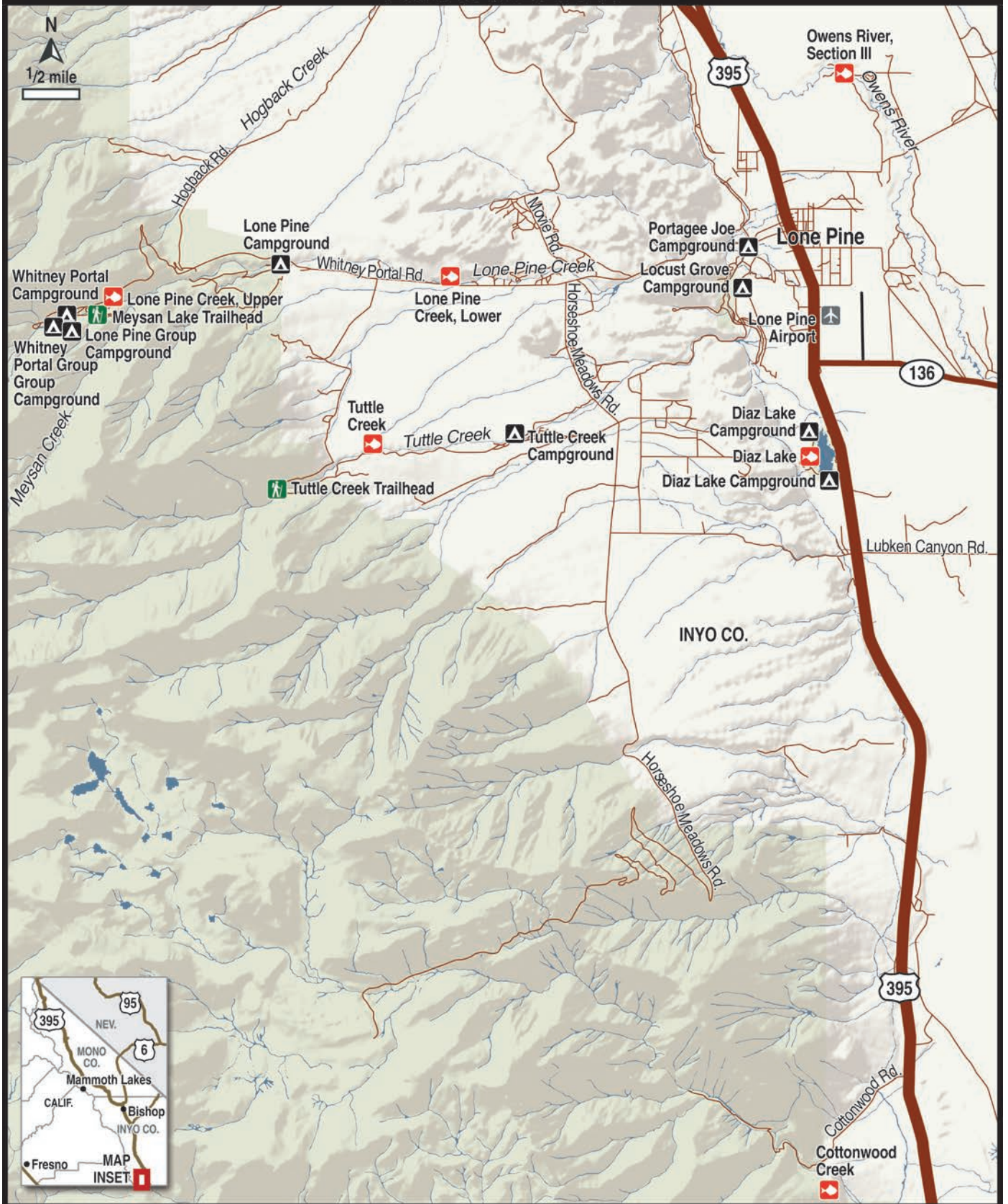
BIG PINE AREA



INDEPENDENCE AREA



LONE PINE AREA



Hot Spots of Inyo County

A quick guide to popular fisheries By Register Staff

From Cottonwood Creek south of Lone Pine, to Rock Creek Lake north of Round Valley, Inyo County is home to dozens of

angling "hot spots." Here's a look at some of the most popular, and how to get there. California Department of Fish and Wildlife planting schedules, including exact locations, are subject to change.

BAKER CREEK

Take U.S. 395 to the north end of Big Pine. Turn west on Baker Creek Road just north of the ballfield in Big Pine and travel one mile to the campgrounds. Fish are planted in the campground area.

BIG PINE CREEK

Turn west off U.S. 395 on Crocker Street in Big Pine and continue to the top of the grade. The creek is planted from Sage Flat Campgrounds to Glacier Lodge.

BISHOP CREEK, LOWER

Take U.S. 395 to the town of Bishop. Turn west on W. Line Street and continue to Elks (Bulpitt) and Isaak Walton parks. Plants are made upstream from Elks Park to the Powerline Road.

BISHOP CREEK, UPPER

Turn west on W. Line Street in Bishop and continue 15 miles to Intake II. Trout are planted from Intake II to Cardinal Lodge and from Lake Sabrina downstream to the North Lake turnout.

BISHOP CREEK, SOUTH FORK

From Bishop turn west on W. Line Street and continue to the South Lake turnout just below Intake II, and turn at the fork. The creek is planted at access points from Creekside RV to the U.S. Forest Service Campgrounds, and from Parcher's Resort to Weir Lake.

COTTONWOOD CREEK

From U.S. 395 turn south at the Cottonwood Power House turnout located about eight miles south of Lone Pine. Keep to the left as you cross the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The creek is planted from the campgrounds at the power house intake to the end of the road.

DIAZ LAKE

Located on the west side of U.S.

395, two miles south of Lone Pine.

GEORGES CREEK

About seven miles south of Independence on U.S. 395 turn south on the small road located one-quarter mile northwest of the Los Angeles Aqueduct crossing. The fish are planted at the sand trap.

GOODALE CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 14 miles north of Independence and turn west at the Goodale Creek campground sign, then go two miles to campground. The creek is stocked from the campground to Aberdeen.

INDEPENDENCE CREEK

Turn west off U.S. 395 on Market Street next to the Post Office in Independence. Trout are planted from Independence Campground, located one-half mile west of Independence, to where the main road crosses the creek above Seven Pines Village, a distance of about seven miles.

INTAKE II

Turn west at W. Line Street (S.R. 168) in Bishop, and go about 13 miles until you see signs for Intake II.

LONE PINE CREEK, LOWER

From U.S. 395 turn west at the traffic signal located in the center of Lone Pine (Whitney Portal Road). The creek is planted at access points from the Los Angeles Aqueduct to Lone Pine Campgrounds.

LONE PINE CREEK, UPPER

Travel U.S. 395 to Lone Pine. Turn west at the traffic signal located in the center of Lone Pine (Whitney Portal Road), and continue up the grade for 13 miles. Fish are planted at the campgrounds along the creek from this point to the pond at Whitney Portal store.

NORTH LAKE

From U.S. 395 turn west on W. Line

Street in Bishop and continue up the grade for approximately 16 miles. Turn right at North Lake sign.

OWENS RIVER, SECTION II

In the Bishop area, turn east from U.S. 395 on E. Line Street, U.S. 6, Warm Springs Road or Collins Road. Trout are planted from Laws Bridge on U.S. 6 to Collins Road. In the Big Pine area travel east from U.S. 395 on Westgard Pass Road (S.R. 168). The river is planted here.

OWENS RIVER, SECTION III

Accessed via various dirt roads east of U.S. 395 from 10 miles south of Big Pine to just south of Boulder Creek RV Park. To get to "High Banks," turn east on Mazourka Canyon Road, south of Independence. Along the way as the road parallels the river; scout out your own personal spot for future reference. To get to the pools north of the pump-back station, drive to the south end of Lone Pine to Boulder Creek RV Park, then take a left on the long, straight dirt road leading east to the terminus of the river and the pumpback station. From there, another dirt road on the east side of the river leads north to the pools.

PLEASANT VALLEY RESERVOIR

From Bishop, take U.S. 395 as it curves northwest toward Mammoth Lakes. About 10 miles later, a few miles past the Bishop city limits sign, there will be a turn-off on the right. Pass through the campground to the reservoir.

PINE CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to approximately 10 miles north of Bishop. Turn off on Pine Creek Road and drive west to where the road crosses the creek.

ROCK CREEK LAKE

From U.S. 395, turn west at Tom's Place located 23 miles north of Bishop (Rock Creek Road) and pro-

ceed west up the canyon for about 10 miles. Just beyond Rock Creek Lake Resort, a spur to the left leads to the lake; staying on Rock Creek Road bypasses the lake.

LAKE SABRINA

Drive to Bishop on U.S. 395 and turn west on W. Line Street. Follow the signs to the lake which is located approximately 17 miles southwest of Bishop.

SHEPHERD CREEK

Turn east at the road with a cattle guard located approximately five miles south of Independence on U.S. 395. Follow this road until it ends at the Los Angeles Aqueduct. Turn right and continue to the creek. Trout are planted at the sand trap where the road meets the creek.

SOUTH LAKE

Travel to Bishop via U.S. 395 and turn west on W. Line Street (S.R. 168). Continue for approximately 13 miles to the South Lake Road turnout. Turn left and drive for another six miles to the lake.

TABOOSE CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to 14 miles north of Independence and turn west at the Taboose Creek Campgrounds sign. Turn left at the first road past Old U.S. 395 and continue to the stream. The creek is stocked in the campgrounds from Old U.S. 395 to one mile upstream.

TUTTLE CREEK

Travel U.S. 395 to Lone Pine and turn west at the traffic signal in the center of town. Continue up the road (Whitney Portal Road) for three miles to Horseshoe Meadow Road and turn left. Drive for about two miles to the Tuttle Creek Campgrounds. The creek is planted at access points in the campgrounds.

The Crowley tradition

Nothing quite like it during the early season

By Register Staff

When it comes to lake fishing in the Eastern Sierra, Crowley Lake is king, both for its size and reputation for being home to the lunkers. Crowley has long been known as one of California's best fishing destinations and it continues to deliver on its long track record of great catches.

The massive lake, located just north of U.S. Highway 395 north of Tom's Place, is one of the region's most popular early-season destinations. It is a great place to spend Opening Day, especially for anglers who enjoy socializing with other fish enthusiasts.

Crowley features a variety of bays and inlets as well as its outlet to the Owens River on the south side. At 12 miles long and five miles across at its widest point, there's plenty of elbow-room on Crowley, and even more opportunities for a trophy-sized catch.

With so much room for the fish to swim, Crowley has a reputation as home to some truly massive fish, with the largest on record weighing in at a whopping 26 pounds.

Experts explain that Crowley's catches grow so large thanks to a midge-fly-based food chain that provides summertime feasts for the fish. The fish also gorge themselves on Sacramento perch fry.

The lake features a boat launch and rentals, available at the Crowley Lake Store, along with information on what's biting and where anglers are having the best luck.

Access to Green Banks near the old North Landing can be reached off Benton Crossing
See CROWLEY LAKE, pg. 48



Plenty of Bishop residents – armed with locals' knowledge of the sweet spots and best baits – join the throngs of visitors flocking to Crowley on Opening Day. On a recent Opening Day, Haidon Brooks landed this lunker on Crowley while fishing with his mother, Lilly Brooks, and friend, Felicity Sharp.

File photo



**Rock Creek Lakes
Resort**
*The Heart of California's
Eastern Sierra*



- Cabin Rentals
- Boat & Kayak Rentals
- Fishing Tackle
- General Store
- Grill & Cafe



rockcreeklakesresort.com

760.935.4311

CROWLEY LAKE, from pg. 47

Road (north of the Crowley Lake turnoff and identifiable by the historic Green Church at the turn-off from U.S. Highway 395). The key at Green Banks is trolling over the deeper water of the Owens River Channel where some of the lake's bigger browns will wade deep, waiting for food to flow out of the Owens and into the lake.

Those who continue past Green Banks on Benton Crossing Road will cross the Owens River and find the eastern shores of the lake's inlet, which features popular fishing holes like Layton Springs and Alligator Point. No, there are no actual alligators at Alligator point, but the fish may be just as hungry as a 'gator. Both Layton Springs and Alligator Point have a reputation for delivering early-season limits with plenty of action all summer long. They also are accessible by boat.

For those trolling the waters of Crowley, minnow imitators, Cultiva's Rip'n Minnow and Mira Shad, Rapalas and Yo Zurls are a safe bet.

Local sportsmen also recommend needlefish, Lucky Craft Pointers and other options.

Don't be afraid to ask around to find out what's working best and the folks over at the Crowley Lake Fish Camp are always ready to help.

Crowley also is a popular destination for fly fishing, with many hitting the lake in float tubes, or plying the shores. As always, fishing with flies can be a tricky business and the proper fly will change with the season, temperatures and other conditions. Anglers say midge and caddis imitators and streamers resembling perch fry are a good bet if all else fails.

Crowley Lake is named after Father John J. Crowley, who was a Catholic priest and served the Eastern California area in the 1920s and '30s.

Father Crowley was indefatigable in his efforts to attract tourists to the Owens Valley. Each year on Opening Day of trout season – which he managed to have declared a county holiday – he blessed fishing equipment. In another publicity effort, on Sept. 14, 1934, he climbed Mt. Whitney and became the first priest to celebrate Mass on the summit. Pictures of the Mass appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

The priest's flair for publicity paid off. Tourists began to flock to the valley, and the once-hostile residents began to welcome them. Using constant media pressure, Father Crowley finally secured a hearing with commissioners of Los Angeles regarding the plight of the Owens Valley. At one point, Father Crowley actually locked Chief Water Engineer

H.C. Van Norman in a meeting room until the exasperated engineer conceded to requests to build a new dam that would restore water to the impoverished desert.

While returning from a publicity trip to San Francisco in September 1940, Father Crowley struck a steer that had wandered onto the highway. His car was forced into the path of an oncoming truck and he was killed instantly.

When the new Long Valley Dam was completed, the reservoir it created was named Crowley Lake in honor of the desert priest. It remains a popular fishing spot today, attracting thousands of people each year for trout season. It is interesting to note that 78 years after his tragic accident, Father Crowley remains a legendary figure, recognized as the visionary leader who saw the potential for the region, and as a man of faith who dedicated his life to helping its inhabitants.



Tim Carnahan is pictured with a nice catch from Crowley Lake.

Photo by Lori Carnahan

**Cabins • General Store • Cafe
Woodfired Pizza**

760-873-4789

321 Cardinal Road • Bishop, Ca 93514
www.CardinalVillageResort.com

Convict Lake

One of Mono's deepest lakes

By Register Staff

It is a place with a legendary past, set back in time when the West was wild and the land even wilder, but while time has moved on, Convict Lake's fishing remains the stuff of legends.

Tucked just off U.S. Highway 395 south of the turn-off to Mammoth, Convict Lake is considered by the locals to be one of the most beautiful destinations in the beauty-filled Eastern Sierra, and the road goes right to the shoreline. For anglers, the lake offers more than just spectacular scenery.

Convict Lake features a loop trail that provides almost 360 degrees of shore access and the Convict Lake Resort, founded in 1929, offers virtually every kind of amenity, from boat rentals to lodging to tackle and supplies and horse-back rides. Convict Lake Resort also promotes a number of fishing derbies throughout the year, offering anglers ample opportunities to win prizes like tackle and gear.

Though the angling is good across the lake, experts say the best option is to hit the water on a boat. From shore or from a boat, some of the best angling action can be found at the inlet, located on the west side of the lake. Garlic-flavored PowerBait of any color is one of the recommended tools, but worms and crickets also are a favorite.

As the weather warms up in the summer, trollers tend to work well on the lake, beating out shore anglers for some of the larger catches. Seasoned anglers say the trick to netting the trophy-sized trout is to get the bait at a depth of 30-40 feet, where the trout linger to avoid the heat of the day.

As with most Eastern Sierra waters, the best bet is to hit the waters early in the day or late in the afternoon.

Stream fishermen and women also have the option of heading down to Convict Creek, located on the east side of the lake. The lower creek runs past a number of Forest Service campgrounds, giving those who have acclimated to the altitude an opportunity to walk from water to water.

For more secluded angling opportunities, hit the trail to the upper creek. The trail begins at 7,580 feet and provides access to a number of great fishing holes.

The truly hardy can keep going, hitting Mildred Lake at about 9,760 feet.

To reach Convict Lake, take the Convict turnoff from U.S. Highway 395 near the Mammoth Yosemite Airport.

For information about Convict Lake, call the resort at (800) 992-2260 or (760) 934-3800 or visit www.convictlake.com.



A group of fishing buddies show off their catch from Convict Lake.

File photo

FIGURE IT OUT.

INYO-MONO TITLE COMPANY'S
FISHERMAN'S LANGUAGE

Hiyamac. Lobuddy.
Binearlong? Cuplours.
Ketchanenny?
Goddafew.
Kindarthy?
Bassencarp.
Enysizetoum?
Cuplapowns.
Hittinard? Sordalite.
Wachoozin?
Gobbawurms.
Fishanonboddum?
Ryddonnaboddum.
Igoddago. Tubad.
Seeyaround.
Yeahtakideezy. Guluk!

If you think this is confusing, imagine examining the chain of title for a piece of property here since the 1800s when Mammoth Lakes was just a small mining town. Bringing all that history and information into one title report is what Inyo-Mono Title Company does with each title search. Our experts leave no stone unturned. We make sure there are no outstanding claims or persons who may have an interest in the piece of property you are purchasing. We have the only complete title plant in both Inyo and Mono Counties with records on every parcel of land dating back to 1860! Inyo-Mono Title Company can figure it out. Specify Inyo-Mono Title Company. There *is* a difference.

INYO-MONO TITLE CO.

Inyo-Mono Title is
locally owned and operated.
Serving Inyo and Mono counties
since 1913

Mammoth Lakes
218 Sierra Park Rd.
(760) 934-3302

Bishop-Title Dept.
873 N. Main St.
(760) 872-4741

Bishop-Escrow Dept.
873 N. Main St.
(760) 873-5821

www.inyomonotitle.com

Rockin' at Rock Creek

Canyon offers lake, stream fishing and great views By Register Staff

Rock Creek Canyon has long been known as a hiker's paradise, with nearly countless species of wildflowers lining easy trails that lead to spectacular alpine lakes – but the canyon also is home to beautiful as well as easily accessible fishing holes.

To reach Rock Creek Lake and Rock Creek, head west at the Tom's Place turnoff on U.S. Highway 395 (at the top of Sherwin Grade). From there, the road winds to a myriad of backcountry angling opportunities.

Rock Creek Lake is one of the smaller lakes that are easily accessible in the Eastern Sierra. Due to its high elevation, if the conditions are right, Rock Creek Lake is a great place to go ice fishing early in the season. Conditions for ice fishing depend on the previous winter.

However, the benefits of the lake's elevation affords the angler more than a chance for ice fishing. Temperatures on the Owens Valley floor will almost always hit triple digits in the summer. When that happens, Rock Creek Lake and Rock Creek can be a much-needed

sanctuary from the 100-plus degree heat. The odds of nabbing brooks and 'bows is said to be best during these times.

Veteran anglers swear by the fly bubble combo when it comes to fly fishing Rock Creek Lake. As for bait, many anglers swear by the traditional nightcrawler.

Rock Creek Pack Station is only a short distance from the lake. Their specialty is backcountry excursions, which will expose anglers to many lakes teeming with wild brook, rainbow and golden trout. Half, full and multiple day adventures can be arranged through the pack station.

Mosquito Flats is located just up the road from Rock Creek Lake. Despite its name, Mosquito Flats is a wonderful place to start a backcountry fishing excursion; Little Lakes Valley is among the most beloved and popular hiking trails in the region because of its spectacular scenery and gentle slope. The trailhead lies at the far end of the Mosquito Flat parking lot.

The trail is surrounded by wildflowers in

the springtime. The trail forks into the Morgan Pass and Mono Pass trails not far from the trailhead. To reach the Little Lakes Valley, take the Morgan Pass trail to the left.

The Mono Pass trail ascends steeply up the western side of the canyon while the Morgan Pass trail meanders through the lush meadows of Little Lakes Valley for three miles before ascending to Morgan Pass.

In Little Lakes Valley, there is a series of small lakes and streams, including Serene, East Brook, Mack, Heart, Hidden and Gem lakes. Mostly brook trout are found here, with an occasional heavyweight brown making an appearance.

When fishing Rock Creek, black ants or green body mosquitoes are recommended, as both are natural fare for the creek's trout. Stream anglers will find the water stocked with CDW rainbows. Look for the rainbows in the open, easy-to-reach locations, especially adjacent to campgrounds. For the sneaky fisherman, wild brown trout are there for the taking in the brush-lined, hard to reach spots.

Forest Service campgrounds are located along Rock Creek and on the lakeshore.

For those looking for more refined accommodations, modern cabin rentals are available at Rock Creek Lake Resort. About a mile downstream more options are available at Rock Creek Lodge.

Rock Creek Lake Resort features a well-stocked general store, home-cookin' with a nightly dinner special as well as rental boats. Rock Creek Lake Resort also serves up smoked barbecue as well as cobbles.

Just a ways down the road is historic Tom's Place. There you'll find good hamburgers and maybe a fishy tall-tale or two around the famous horseshoe bar.

Lower Rock Creek, south of Tom's Place, is an often overlooked stretch of the creek that produces a lot of trout. Watch for the turnout for Lower Rock Creek Road, less than a mile south of Tom's Place, on the southbound side of the U.S. Highway 395.

Anglers may want to start with the traditional PowerBait and salmon eggs when fishing this portion of the creek.

If that doesn't produce easy results, switching to the mosquitoes and ants recommended for the upper stretch of the creek may be the ticket.

A popular hiking and mountain biking trail follows the course of the creek down the canyon.



Rock Creek and Rock Creek Lake offer unique opportunities and environs for anglers.

Photo submitted

LADWP promotes healthy fisheries

Utility leases land for hatcheries By Register Staff

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power owns approximately 315,000 acres in Inyo and Mono counties, and keeps nearly 75 percent of that private land open for public recreational uses.

This open space not only benefits the community by contributing to the beauty of the environment, but it also bolsters the local economy. Fishing, for example, is one of the Owens Valley's greatest tourist attractions and LADWP plays a vital role in ensuring fishing activity remains a healthy component of the local economy. In partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife LADWP works to enhance the local economy by promoting healthy fisheries within the waterways of Inyo and Mono counties. Fish and Wildlife is in charge of stocking the fish, while LADWP maintains the stream flows when water is available to keep the fish in good condition in all streams on LADWP property.

Because of LADWP's extensive landownership and ownership of water rights, the department's ongoing operations activities in area

waterways ensure that local fish habitat is in good condition. LADWP promotes the health and vitality of Owens Valley waterways through conducting flow management and land management practices. These efforts include controlling livestock grazing patterns and timing water diversions and flows according to fish lifecycles, where possible.

In addition to watershed protection efforts, LADWP has restored approximately 10 streams to healthy fisheries in Inyo and Mono counties. The department also leases land to Fish and Wildlife for three local hatcheries – Hot Creek, Black Rock and Fish Springs hatcheries – and supports hatchery operations by providing water to the facilities.

LADWP spends millions of dollars each year to ensure the protection of the local watershed, which in turn keeps the local fishing economy afloat. While maintaining local fishing is not LADWP's primary driver, it is a good side effect of promoting healthy watershed and one the department takes seriously



A day of catch-and-release fishing at the Fish Springs Ditch is likely to land the angler everything from a beautiful, wild brown trout to a rainbow that's escaped the hatchery. LADWP leases land to the DFW for three local hatcheries, including Fish Springs Hatchery.

File photo

Fishing Live Bait Ammo



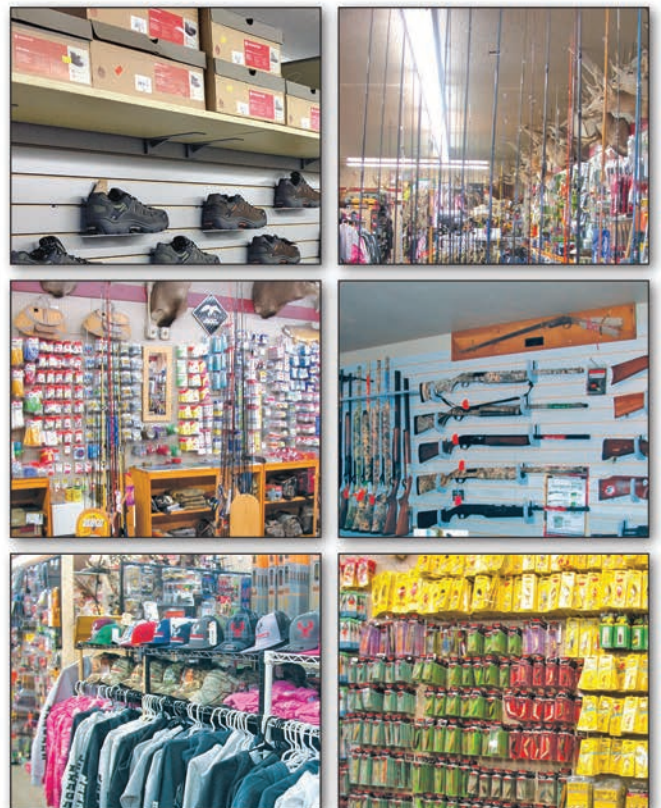
Hunting Archery Apparel

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

(760) 872-3000

963 N. MAIN STREET • www.hunt-fish-sierra.com

WE SELL LICENSES!



Roots of the Gorge and the Reservoir

Classic spots for Eastern Sierra fishing By Jarett Coons

Long before we were here the Owens River was.

It began its life from the melting snow and ran unchecked to Owens Lake being joined by many streams along the way. It must have been a sight to see it during a good runoff without any dams or reservoirs to impede its rage. It flowed over the volcanic tablelands (Bishop Tuff) created by the Long Valley Caldera and over time carved the jagged canyon we call the Gorge.

Today a steady flow is maintained through the canyon by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and we are left with a great trout fishery.

It can take a little rock climbing to get to the good places but it is worth the work. The steady flow makes fishing consistently good any given day.

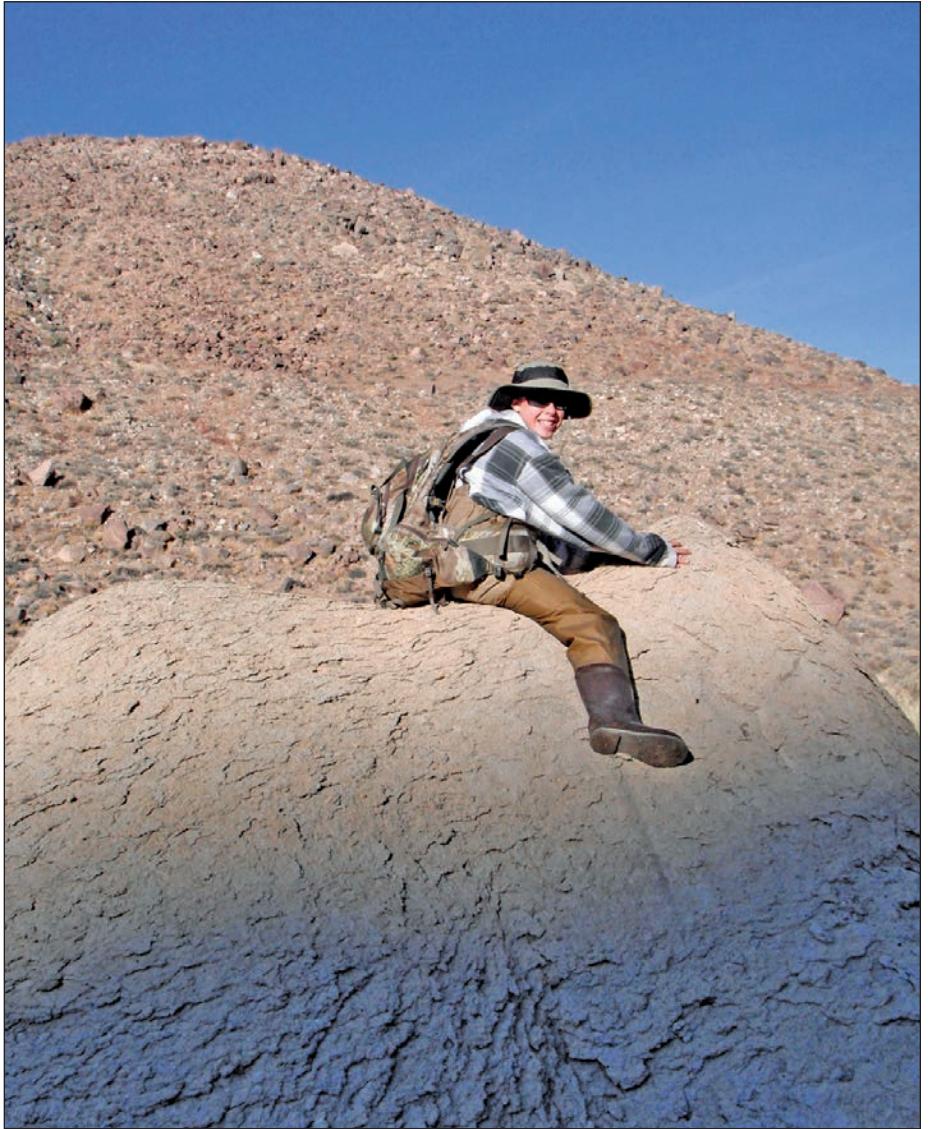
The brown trout that live here average around 12 inches and will give you a good fight, often leaping like rainbows. They are opportunistic and can be drawn up by most dry flies. Some of my favorites are Royal Wulff's, Elk Hair Caddis and Stimulators. Hanging a nymph off that dry fly is a great idea here as these trout also take attractor nymphs like Copper Johns, Prince Nymphs and Bead Head Pheasant Tails. The bottom of the Gorge is thick with tules, willows and nettles so be careful when trekking upstream and be careful on those big boulders because some of them are loose.

Pleasant Valley Reservoir

At the lower end of the Gorge there is another dam sealing up the canyon and creating another fishery, Pleasant Valley Reservoir.

This place has very easy access you can park at the top or bottom of the reservoir and with a short walk down a paved road be fishing in minutes. The easy walk makes it a great place to pack in a float tube and fish more water.

This reservoir contains brown and rainbow trout as well as Sacramento perch and large-mouth bass. Stripping streamers and Midging are two productive ways to fly fish PVR. If you are going after big trout, large streamers that resemble young trout, bass, perch and crawdads fished on a sink line is a good way to go. Hanging nymphs and baitfish patterns under an indicator is another productive method. It works well in a float tube as you can check your depth and know your flies are on the bottom. At certain times of the year the perch move in near shore to spawn and several fish can be caught. I remember early summer afternoons when I was a kid, my dad would take us and we would catch more than



If the fishing isn't that exciting, youths, such as Zenneth Coons, seen here, could always have a rock-climbing adventure at the Owens River Gorge.

Photo courtesy Jarett Coons

100 perch in an afternoon. It was a blast!

The Gorge has more than 10 miles of stream and a reservoir at the bottom end to fish. It has something for everyone no matter what your skill level or ability. It is a great place for kids to fish and if they get bored, it is always fun to climb around on the big rocks.

If you needed more convincing it also is open to fishing all year long and the fishing in the fall

and winter is the best if you ask me.

(Jarett Coons was born in Bishop and spent the majority of his life fishing and hunting from Lone Pine to Bridgeport. When his father took him to Intake II, Coons got his first trout on a dry fly, and he, too, was hooked. In January 2010, he started Sierra Mountain Trout Guide Service with the goal of recreating that moment on Intake II for his clients all over the Eastern Sierra.)

Bishop Creek Canyon

'My favorite destination' By 'Fish Story' Lori



The Bishop Creek Canyon area not only provides some fantastic fishing opportunities but some of the most spectacular scenery in the Eastern Sierra.

Photo by Lori Carnahan

Heaven on Earth are the only words that come to mind when I describe or think about Bishop Creek Canyon. It is a paradise, a photographer's wonderland and one of the most beautiful places you can see in all of California. It's a 20-minute drive from Bishop with snow covered 13,000-foot peaks. It's absolutely breathtakingly gorgeous with magnificent indescribable beauty.

Bishop Creek was named after an Owens Valley settler, Samuel Addison Bishop.

Bishop Creek Canyon has so much to offer the outdoor adventurer. You can go hiking, boating, float tubing, kayaking, fly fishing, shore fishing, creek fishing, horseback riding or you can even try a backcountry pack train.

There are many lakes in this area. Many of these lakes you can hike to using one of the canyons five trailheads that lead hikers along some of the most scenic hiking trails in all of the Sierra.

Bishop Creek Canyon area is approximately 17 miles west on Line Street from downtown Bishop. Take State Highway 168 (West Line Street) from Bishop. Head west toward the mountains. Bishop Creek Canyon has five hydroelectric plants. It has three forks: North Fork, Middle Fork and South Fork and offers miles and miles of creek access with incredible fishing opportunities of a lifetime.

There are a wide variety of trees and wildlife, which include bears, mountain lions, deer, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, marmot, bald eagles,

golden eagles, osprey, stellar Js, woodpeckers, many ducks, mountain chickety with its sweet little call, migrating birds and countless beautiful wild flowers.

The creeks and lakes of the area offer several trout species – rainbow trout, brown trout, brookie trout and some golden trout.

Fish are planted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The lake resorts and lodges together with Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce get together to plant trophy trout throughout the canyon and lakes. If you have never hooked into a trophy trout it is an awesome experience and one you will never forget.

The lakes you can get to by vehicle

South Lake: Elevation 9,768' feet, 170 acres. This spectacular scenic lake is ultimately my favorite lake to fish. There really is no where else my husband and I would rather be. South Lake is well stocked weekly with rainbow trout. The lake has a variety of wild trout species. My personal best rainbow trout caught was at this lake. It was 8 pounds, caught on a small single hook with 4# test line and a nightcrawler. It required a perfect netting job by my husband, Tim. To this day it is one of the most exciting catches of my life.

South Lake Boat Landing offers fishing, kayak and pontoon boat rentals

See BISHOP CREEK, pg. 54

BISHOP CREEK, from pg. 53

depending on the water level.

They have a store stocked with tackle, worms, snacks, beverages and clothing too.

Call Parchers Resort to reserve a boat. (760) 873-4177

Weir Pond: Elevation 9,600 feet. Weir Pond is just below the dam at South Lake. Weir Pond is legendary for fly fishing. In the fall it becomes one of the most photographed color shots in the canyon. Aspen trees next to the pines turn bright yellow with shades of orange. On a morning when the water is glassy the high country majestic peaks are mirrored in the Weir providing incredible depth making it some of the finest scenery in the Bishop Creek Canyon.

Lake Sabrina: Elevation 9,128 feet, 180 acres; pronounced "Sah-bry-nuh."

Here you will find incredible scenery that will take your breath away. There are massive granite cliffs with magnificent views that surround it.

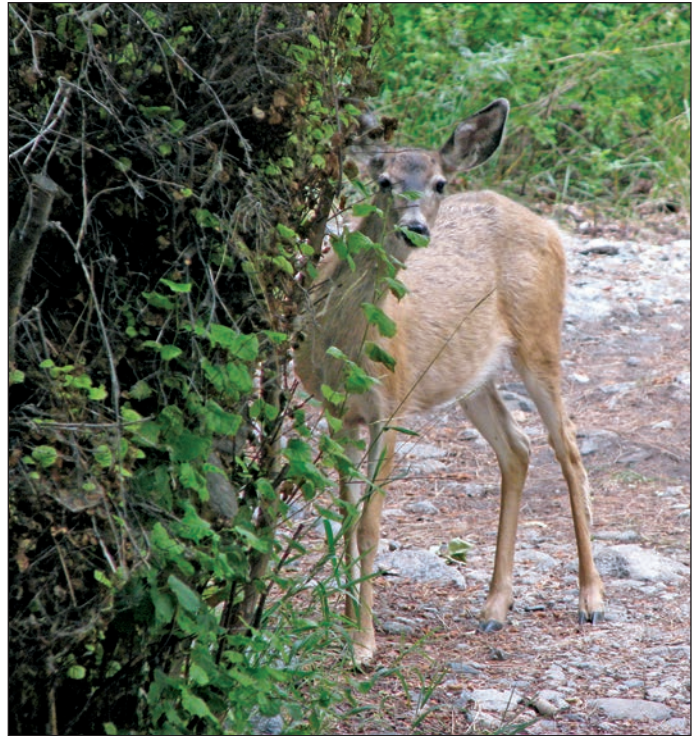
Lake Sabrina Boat Landing and Café offers fishing, kayak and pontoon boat rentals, free boat launching, fish cleaning facilities, tackle, bait, beer, wine, snacks, clothing and souvenirs. While eating breakfast or lunch at the café a must-have is my friend Patti's homemade, mouth-watering fruit pie topped with her homemade ice cream. Patti also makes her famous yummy castrated brownie pie. Try a piece of any of her pies or take home a whole pie for later. **Store hours:** 7 a.m.-7 p.m. **Café hours:** Breakfast, 7 a.m.-11 a.m., lunch, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; (760) 873-7425 www.lakesabrinaboatlanding.com

North Lake: Elevation 9,350 feet. I caught a 7-pound rainbow from this lake a few years ago. It is located at the end of a steep, narrow dirt road (proceed with extreme caution). It is a very small lake with a natural beauty all its own and since there are no motor boats on this lake it is calm and peaceful, the perfect lake for float tubing. It is one of the most photographed lakes in the fall. The beauty of North Lake is so incredible that Apple used a photograph of North Lake as the default background for all Mac computers operating on the latest software called "macOS High Sierra." It was also on the cover of "Sunset" magazine last year.

Intake II: Elevation 8,103 feet. It is heavily planted with rainbow trout during the fishing season. Southern California Edison manages this lake, which is the lowest lake in elevation in Bishop Creek Canyon. The lake is easy to fish with wheelchair access giving greater opportunity for the disabled to catch the trophy trout! It has a lot of great areas to shore fish and is the perfect lake for fly fishing, float tubes or canoes.

Resorts and Lodges in Bishop Creek Canyon

Bishop Creek Lodge: Café, bar and store. The continental breakfast is



Beyond catching fish, anglers and visitors to the Bishop Creek Canyon area might also catch sight of the abundant wildlife in the area.

Photo by Lori Carnahan

a perk for their cabin guests, but it may be purchased for a small price. It includes: cereal, bagels, cinnamon rolls, muffins, coffee, hot chocolate and juices. Dinner they serve a variety of hamburgers, steaks, shrimp, chicken, lamb shank, hearty chili, veggies, sides and salads for the hungriest of fishermen. For the kids they offer chicken tenders and grilled cheese. Their pizza has become a favorite of many. Dessert is seriously something not to be missed! The bar is fully stocked cocktail bar with a wide variety of domestic and import beers; they also serve local Mammoth brews. If you don't feel like a beer, stop by and have one of their famous Bloody Marys or the new Duck Fart! They have TV for all your sports needs including college football, baseball, professional football and any other sporting event that you can't live

High Sierra Outfitters

All Your Outdoor Needs
A Friendly Family-Owned Operation

LONE PINE • CALIFORNIA
130 South Main Street
P.O. Box 628 • 93545
(760) 876-9994

Camping • Fishing • Hiking

- Fly Rods, Spinner Rods & Reels
- Bait & Tackle, Fishing Licenses
- Large Selection of Buck Knives
- Hiking Boots and Shoes
- Trekking Poles & Crampons
- Bear Canisters & Back Packs
- Outdoor Apparel

NEW!
*Sterling
Silver
Jewelry*

without. **Spring and fall hours:** Monday and Tuesday café closed, store and bar open 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday-Sunday café open 4 p.m.-8 p.m., dinner only. **Summer hours:** (Memorial Weekend - Labor Day Weekend), Monday and Tuesday café closed, store and bar open 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wednesday-Sunday café open 4 p.m.-8 p.m., store and bar open 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; (760) 873-4484, bishopcreekresort@gmail.com

Cardinal Village Resort: Elevation 8,500 feet, 17 miles southwest of Bishop. It is located just above the community of Aspendell. Aspen groves cover the canyon. You can rent cabins here. Several cabins are historic and date back to frontier mining days. The resort maintains a pond stocked with rainbow trout and is a great place for kids to fish. Bishop Creek and its tributaries flow around the lodge giving anglers the opportunity to explore the area's waters and discover notable historic features associated with the famous Cardinal Mine operated by Gaylord Wiltshire in the early 1900s. Family dogs are welcome. **Cardinal Café and General Store:** Open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. They continue to serve one of the best hot breakfasts on the mountain and burgers that'll make you say "WOW." Not to mention the best coffee this side of Seattle! And views that can't be beat! They serve all-you-can-eat outdoor wood fired pizza in the summer - 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays; (760) 873-4789 - info@cardinalvillageresort.com

Creekside RV Park: Elevation 8,300 feet; free Wi-Fi is now available for park guests!

The park is open from the last Saturday in April through early November, offering full RV hook-ups. It now offers more sites for RVs over 40 feet with five sites that have True 50 amp hook-ups, as well as tent sites, rental trailers, a country store and showers. Enjoy the convenience of fishing the creek or their pond right in the RV park.

Along with the RV park and trailer rentals, they offer facilities to serve you with a country store, fishing tackle, worms, souvenirs, ice, restrooms, showers, groceries, beer, wine and self-serve food. Enjoy great drinking water from their artesian well.

Family dogs are welcome; (760) 873-4483, - www.bishopcreeksidervpark.com

Parchers Resort: Elevation 9,290 feet; cabin rentals, store and breakfast buffet. An easy 30-minute drive southwest from Bishop, the resort lies on a pine-sheltered bench between two beautiful mountain streams, the lively Bishop Creek and the more placid Green Creek. The resort is an ideal location for the small family or a large group. Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis so it's always best to plan early. They have cabins that are perfect for couples, families, hiking groups or fishin' buddies.

Family dogs are welcome.

Parchers has three full-hookup RV sites available as well as a well-stocked country store carrying the basic foods, snacks, beverages, supplies and fishing tackle you will need on your vacation.

The variety of outdoor activities that bring visitors to the Bishop Creek Canyon and the scenic outdoor setting make Parchers Resort an ideal location for group events including company retreats, club events, and church groups.

Parchers Resort has a great selection of collectibles, gifts, souvenirs, professional Sierra photography, hats, books and custom clothing available; (760) 873-4177 - www.parchersresort.net

Campgrounds: There are wide ranges of campgrounds to choose from basic tent camping to RV camping with full hook-ups.

Here are few basic rules to know and follow when camping in the Bishop Creek Canyon area: Camp only in designated camping areas. Bear boxes are provided in each campsite. Use them.

Pets must be on a leash at all times. Overnight wilderness trips require a wilderness permit. Day hikes in the area do not require permits but should you need a permit for overnight wilderness trips you have to go down to the U.S. Forest Service office located on Main Street in Bishop.

In the high country be prepared for dramatic seasonal weather patterns such as warm temperatures to very cold, rainy and even snowing conditions. The weather in the Eastern Sierra can change quickly so be prepared. Be sure to bring your California State fishing license.



Fish Story Lori Carnahan shows off two trophy trout she caught at South Lake.

Photo courtesy Lori Carnahan

Things to bring with you on your fishing adventure: Lunch, snacks, drinks and lots of water to keep hydrated. It is very dry up there and especially in the higher elevations you must drink a lot more water. Good polarized sunglasses are a must. Be sure to bring a hat and sunscreen and insect repellent.

Dress in layers with comfortable clothing. A creel bag, fishing vest, or small tackle box are great ways to carry your fishing gear. My very favorite is the waist pack so you can access everything through the zipper compartments without taking it off. Some anglers just put a few hooks and weights in their pocket with a rag, needle nose pliers and bait. You should use good shoes or hiking boots. (Some of the terrain is pretty rough.) Hip waders can come in handy. Don't forget a nice net for good luck.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are NO gas stations in Bishop Creek Canyon.

Fill up before you drive up!

For more information you can contact us: Fish Story Lori P.O. Box 981 Rancho Mirage, CA 92270 (760) 218-9489 email address: fsl@fishstorylori.com web site: www.fishstorylori.com

Fish of the Eastern Sierra

Try for golden trout, brookies, perch and more By Martin Strelneck

There's no shortage when it comes to variety on the Eastern Sierra fishing scene. Throughout Inyo and Mono counties, rainbow, brown, cutthroat, brook and golden trout inhabit local waters.

And for a change of pace, there are non-trout species. Bass, catfish and bluegill can be found in the warmer waters of the Owens Valley. Sacramento perch have become the target of choice for a growing clan of anglers taking to the waters of Crowley Lake and Bridgeport and Pleasant Valley reservoirs.

Habitat range covers the spectrum, from the lower elevation

waters in the Owens Valley to backcountry waters above 10,000 feet. It all depends on your choice of target.

Remember: many locations throughout the Eastern Sierra are governed by special regulations – barbless hooks, lures or flies only, limited or no fishing during certain periods and possession limits ranging from 0-15, depending on location, to mention a few. Before taking to the waters of a chosen location, check the CDFW regulation book – or else face the possibility of a confrontation with a friendly game warden.

Here's what is available in the Eastern Sierra ...

GOLDEN TROUT

High-elevation Eastern Sierra waters are the home of California's state fish, the golden trout. You won't find "goldens" inhabiting roadside, easy-to-access waters. The majority of prime locations call for considerable, strenuous legwork, or making use of the services offered by local pack stations and horse-generated power. Golden trout can be found in countless backcountry waters stretching from Southern Inyo County to Northern Mono County.

This is a cold-water species. Golden trout are early-season spawners. Anglers in the know hit the locations shortly after ice-out when the fish are in an aggressive state of mind. However, because of the high-elevation cold temperatures, it is commonplace that many locations are ice-bound until late June and early July.

The one exception providing fairly easy access is the Horseshoe Meadow area high above Lone Pine. This is a drive-to location on the Horseshoe Meadow road, with steep grades. Look for the road to open usually around Memorial Day, earlier if it's a dry winter.

When in the spawning mode, goldens inhale just about any offering. On the bait side, worms, grubs, ant eggs and grasshoppers are good producers. Later in the season with the insect hatchings, small flies are favored, along with small red and gold lures. The majority of golden trout waters are governed by special restrictions – check the Department of Fish and Wildlife regulation booklet to avoid a confrontation with a game warden.



BROWN TROUT

Anglers looking for a heavyweight catch suitable for hanging on the den wall target brown trout. What defines heavyweight? The state record is 26 lbs., 8 oz. taken in 1987 from Upper Twin Lake, with a recent season trophy coming in at 20 lbs., 8 oz. from Rush Creek. In 2013, Lower Twin Lake registered 15 brown trout running from 10 to 17 lbs.

Crowley Lake has produced a handful of browns over the 10-lb. mark. June Lake has weighed in its share of brown trout over the 15-lb. mark. Pleasant Valley Reservoir has been a steady producer of catches over the 10-lb. mark. Bottom line is, just about any water has the potential for producing a trophy-class brown.

Brown trout are on the top of the list when it comes to predatory feeders. Smaller fish are a favored diet. The majority of catches are taken trolling with large minnow imitation lures. However, there's always the exception. A 20-lb. Grant Lake catch went for Sierra Gold dough bait, and back in 1986, Gull Lake kicked out a 17-lb. brown that inhaled a marshmallow dressed with a salmon egg.

CUTTHROAT TROUT

This is the only native species found in local trout waters. Waters from Conway Summit north were the historic habitat, however, recent years have seen the species expanding its range throughout Mono County and a few locations in Inyo County, inhabiting primarily roadside waters. Top producers are Crowley and June lakes, along with Bridgeport Reservoir and the Upper Owens River, with catches ranging to the 10-lb. class not unusual.

Trolling a variety of flashy lures produces the lion's share of catches. Fly anglers score impressive catches on Crowley Lake with the trout residing in the same habitat with rainbow and brown trout. Kirman Lake in Northern Mono County is a favored float tube cutthroat location, with catches ranging to around the 5-lb. mark.





◀ *Fish Types, continued from pg. 56*

BASS, CATFISH, BLUEGILL

Warm-water species – large- and smallmouth bass, catfish and bluegill – can be found in waters from Bishop south to Owens Lake. Popular locations are the renovated Buckley Ponds near

◀ Bishop, Tinnemeha Reservoir and Twin and Goose lakes a short distance south of Big Pine and Billy Lake east of Independence. In addition, there are a good number of other small lakes and ponds throughout the Owens Valley. And the entire length of the Owens River from Bishop south to Owens Lake hosts a population of warm-water species. Good advice is to pick up a topographical map of the area.

Sizewise, bass catches range to heavier than 5-lbs. The majority of the catfish are yellow and brown bullheads up to around the 1-lb. mark and bluegill at some locations reach hand size and better. Nightcrawlers and worms are productive baits for the catfish and bluegills. On the bass scene, a variety of crank baits and spinner baits, along with imitation and live nightcrawlers, all will produce – depending on conditions. Spring months, fly anglers score respectable bass catches off the dam at Tinnemeha Reservoir working large streamers.

Many locations throughout the Eastern Sierra are governed by special regulations – barbless hooks, lures or flies only, limited or no fishing during certain periods and possession limits ranging from 0-15, depending on location, to mention a few.

SACRAMENTO PERCH

Originally called a “trash fish,” Sacramento perch are now in second place behind the trout population. Making an initial showing in Crowley Lake (source unknown) in the late ‘50s, the slab-sided panfish can now be found in waters of the Pleasant Valley and Bridgeport reservoirs. It has become the fish of choice for an increasing number of high-country anglers.

Perch catches weigh in from around 1 to 3 lbs., with the Crowley Lake state record coming in at 3 lbs., 10 oz. Every season there are unverified reports of larger fish making a showing, but usually ending up in the fry pan rather than on the scales.

Around mid-May the perch move into shallower waters to spawn. Small jigs, 1/16th to 1/8th ounce, are top producers, especially when dressed with a small piece of worm. Once the fish are located, the catching can be nonstop. Early July, the fish move back into deeper water with trollerscoring with small crank baits, or worms worked off the bottom. Because past years saw catches numbering more than 100, CDFW has now set the limit at 25.

When the “bite is on,” it’s not uncommon to see the cleaning tables at Crowley Lake elbow to toolbox, with anglers working their filet knives. The white meat filets are outstanding table fare fried, in fish tacos or as a shrimp-style cocktail.

See *Fish Types*, pg. 58 ▶



Reserve your space now for the 2025 72nd edition of the EASTERN SIERRA FISHING GUIDE

For the past 71 years the Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide has been the key publication that fishermen from Southern California to Nevada rely on for the latest information regarding regulations and fishing up and down the Eastern Sierra corridor.

- 40,000 Copies printed
- 150 locations from Walker to Mojave
- Including several Southern California sports shops and welcome centers.
- Reach potential customers and clients for your business

Next years Fishing Guide will come out in the first quarter of 2025 just in time for the early season openers and trade shows, and redistributed in April right before “*Fishmas*” here in the Eastern Sierra.

To reserve your space for the 72nd edition of the Fishing Guide, Contact Ed Galanski

O: (805) 739-2226 • C: (805) 598-4670
or email: egalanski@inyoregister.com
egalanski@mammothtimes.com

A publication by

The Inyo Register

BROOK TROUT

◀ *Fish Types, continued from pg. 57* "Brookies" are the target for anglers favoring relatively short hikes into the backcountry. They rarely show up on stringers in lower elevation, roadside waters. The colorful species inhabits countless lakes throughout the Sierra and is known for its lack of inhibition when it comes to inhaling a worm, lure or fly. With a few exceptions, they are not heavyweights. Trophy-class brook trout do make an occasional showing coming from a few waters high in the Bishop Creek drainage and Mono County's Kirman Lake.

They have a tendency to overpopulate their habitat. Because of the breeding excesses, the species is subject to a liberal limit, 10 fish under 10

inches in addition to the regular five-fish limit.

During the fall spawning season, taking a limit could be classified as a "no-brainer." When

it comes to table fare, brookies are at the top of the list. Dusted with flour and cornmeal and crisply fried in hot butter, over a campfire or in the kitchen, brook trout are hard to beat.

A goal for many dedicated trout anglers is scoring a "Sierra Grand Slam," catching one of each species on the same outing.

It's definitely a challenge, but possible depending on the degree of pre-fishing homework.



RAINBOW TROUT

Rainbow trout are the bread-and-butter fish of the Eastern Sierra. They inhabit virtually all roadside lakes in Inyo and Mono counties, along with more than 900 miles of roadside streams. Last season saw the State Department of Fish and Wildlife plant local waters with right around 900,000 pounds of "catchable" rainbows, along with several thousand pounds of heavyweight broodstock running 4 lbs. and better with the same amounts on the menu for this season.

In addition, groups such as the now-defunct Inland Aquaculture have been stocking trophy-class rainbows in area lakes for years. (The torch has now been passed to Desert Springs Trout Farm out of Oregon.)

These fish, better known as Alpers rainbows, are the product of former trout rancher Tim Alpers who began rearing the heavyweights back in the early '90s. Back a few years, a 13-pounder came from the Owens River with speculation it was a holdover Alpers fish that survived a few seasons.

Rainbow trout are willing to take just about any bait, lure or fly. Over the past few years, PowerBait has been the top producer, with nightcrawlers and salmon eggs runners-up. And the new breed of imitation worms and lures are making a good showing. Gold and red is the favored lure color combination. During the warmer months, when insect hatches are prevalent, fly anglers score on a variety of patterns, dry and wet.

Rainbow trout like colder water and take to more aggressive feeding early in the season. During the summer months, the feeding pattern swings to early morning and late evening. And days with a slight breeze seem to be a better producer rather than a flat, calm, glassy surface.



OWENS VALLEY PAIUTE - SHOSHONE CULTURAL CENTER

2300 West Line St. Bishop, CA • (760) 873-8844

MUSEUM • NATIVE GARDENS • GIFT SHOP - LOCAL NATIVE AMERICAN CRAFTS

SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION (APR - SEPT)

Tuesday - Friday: 10am to 6pm / Saturday & Sunday: 10am to 3pm / Closed Monday

WINTER HOURS OF OPERATION (OCT - MAR)

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am to 4pm / Closed Sunday & Monday

PUBLIC WELCOME

OPEN YEAR ROUND

ADMISSION BY DONATION





VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS

TRICOUNTYFAIR.COM



Big Pine offers it all

Area offers easy access to streams, variety of fishing opportunities

By Register Staff

Big Pine offers an almost-endless variety of opportunities for stream fishing year-round, all within easy access.

As one of the lesser-crowded fishing destinations in the region, Big Pine is the perfect spot for anglers who are looking to find a new fishing destination.

The small community of Big Pine is known as the portal to Palisade Glacier, the southernmost glacier in the northern hemisphere, and the ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, the oldest living trees in the world.

But the fishing is just as noteworthy.

Big Pine Creek, which flows down from the glaciers and the Sierra high country, offers excellent stream fishing without the crowds.

While Big Pine Canyon is one of the few canyons in the area that does not have a paved road leading to lakes, it does offer stream access near Glacier Lodge.

There are alpine lakes, accessible by a short hike or trail ride from Glacier Pack Station.

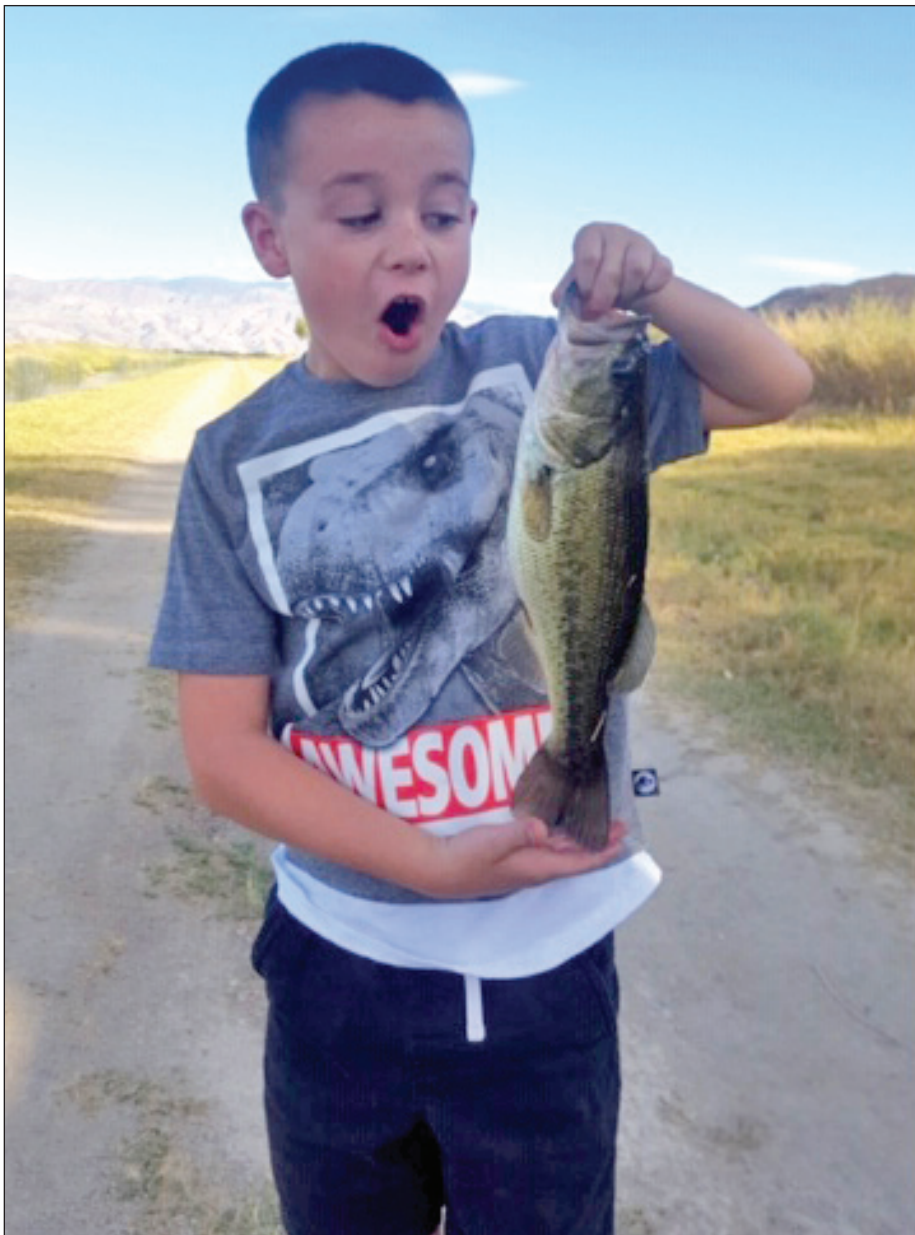
The road to the Glacier Lodge crosses the creek at a point where the water flows rapidly, but there are many other places along the stream where the water slows.

There also are beautiful hikes along historic trails that lead to even more alpine fishing destinations along the streams and lakes of the Sierra backcountry. Big Pine Canyon is accessed by Crocker Street in downtown Big Pine. There is an excellent access point for Big Pine Creek just past the first big curve in the road, just before the road begins to gain altitude.

Baker Creek Campground, which is open year-round, is the perfect base camp for a fishing adventure, especially for families. Baker Creek pools in several places, including in and within walking distance of the campground, offering a peaceful fishing spot.

Some of the best fishing in Big Pine is along the Owens River, off U.S. Highway 168 East. The turnoff is just north of town, right next to the Glacier View Campground. U.S. Highway 168 crosses the Owens River, and continues up into the White Mountains towards the Bristlecone Pines. There is a well-maintained dirt road that follows the river, offering several different access points for anglers.

Tinnemaha Reservoir, located south of Big Pine, and east of U.S. Highway 395, is another great fishing spot. The reservoir can be challenging to reach, due to the brush and reeds that line the shores, but the fishing experience



Ryder is in awe of the bass that he caught while fishing a canal in the Big Pine area.

File photo

is worth the brush-wading. Several different species of fish inhabit the reservoir, including small-mouth bass – a fun change to the trout-fishing routine.

Little Fish Springs, which is located near

Fish Springs Hatchery, is another great fishing option.

Goodale and Taboose campgrounds are located south of Fish Springs, and offer stream access for anglers.

A paradise for creek fishing

Independence is the spot for warm, cold water angling *By Register Staff*

Independence, the earliest Anglo settlement in the Eastern Sierra, is one of the region's most peaceful destinations for early and late season stream fishing. Opportunities for camping, hiking, fishing and hunting accompany spectacular stargazing and remarkable historic structures.

Extensive hiking and backpacking trails go throughout the Sierra from trail heads at Onion Valley, Shephard Pass and Baxter Pass. There are several campgrounds in the vicinity of Independence and abundant trout fishing in the local creeks.

East of Independence the Owens River and off-channel lakes, ponds, and ditches offer warm water fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, bluegill and catfish.

The Independence area is known for having some of the best creek fishing east of the Sierra. This area is not nearly as frequented as some of the more popular fishing spots in Bishop or Lone Pine. That means there are a lot of fish and not as many anglers, making Independence as quiet and peaceful as it is serene.

The Onion Valley area, which is west of Independence via Onion Valley Road, offers a campground and a pack station.

There also is a trailhead access to several alpine

lakes, perfect for anglers who want to go fishing in the backcountry. This is one of the highest trailheads in the Sierra. Maps and detailed lake access information is available at any local visitor center.

Onion Valley Road is a windy, paved mountain road that offers spectacular views of the entire Owens Valley.

Independence Creek is perfect for stream fishing. This creek runs roughly parallel to Onion Valley Road, and is easily accessible and excellent for fly fishing.

Shepherd's Creek has its own unique fishing history. During World War II, when Japanese Americans were interred at the nearby Manzanar relocation camp, some of the internees would sneak out of the camp just to go fishing in Shepherd's Creek, as well as some of the other creeks near the internment camp.

Manzanar is now a national historic site, and the story of the Japanese American fishermen is featured in the film "The Manzanar Fishing Club," which can be found at the museum.

The film is a must-see for anyone who loves the fishing lifestyle, as the film celebrates the spirit of those courageous fishermen.

Several of the streams in the Independence area are excellent for smallmouth bass fishing, as well as

bullhead catfish and bluegill. There are several small ponds east of the town of Independence that are home to these species.

These ponds, along with the Owens River, can be accessed by Mazurka Canyon Road, then by various dirt roads. For detailed instructions, stop by one of the local visitor centers, or contact a local fishing guide service or sporting goods store.

There also are carp in the Independence area, which is the only type of fish in California that is legal to hunt with a bow and arrow.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife reminds anglers that the arrow must be attached to the bow or a fishing reel.

Independence also has a fishing derby each year, on the Saturday before Father's Day in June. This year, the derby will be held on June 20.

The Independence area has a long history and a proud fishing tradition. The Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery, now a museum, was instrumental in saving California's state fish, the golden trout. This beautiful facility still stands as a monument to the history of fishing in the area. The hatchery's front pond is a beautiful place to have a picnic after a morning of fishing.

Championship 18-Hole Golf Course
Restaurant, Bar, Banquet Facilities
Seasonal Lighted Driving Range
PGA/LPGA Professionals
Full-Service Pro Shop

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
(760) 873-5828
www.bishopcountryclub.com

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT 'TIL FISHMAS



Fun, Family Oriented Fishing Derbies

There are many places to fish in the Owens Valley and Eastern Sierra all year long, but what many anglers look forward to are the trout derbies! So why not plan your trip to your favorite honey hole around this year's Inyo County Fishing Derbies - Bishop Trout Rodeo, Blake Jones Trout Derby, Lone Pine Early Opener, Father's Day Fishing Derby and Big Pine Derby.



» Highlight:

The Blake Jones Trout Derby is the largest single day Blind Bogey fishing event in California and has been celebrated for more than 50 years. Named after the late Blake Jones, he invented the modern cheese bait like Powerbait, back in the late 1950s. With his charismatic personality, Blake Jones became a spokesman for Bishop and the Eastern High Sierra, helping to turn Bishop into a year-round California fishing vacation destination. Maybe this year it will be you, vying for a share in over ten grand in prizes?

Check out dates for these regional fish derbies on bishopvisitor.com/events.



Learn more about
Bishop's favorite fishing holes

#RecreateResponsibly
#PackOutALLtrash

bishopvisitor.com @visitbishop (760)8738405

Fishing Independently

Wild West town reels in adventure By Register Staff

By Register Staff

Take a stroll into the wild west in Lone Pine – but be sure to bring a fishing pole because the angling opportunities are about as spectacular as the scenery.

Fishing season in Lone Pine starts with the Early Opener Trout Derby, hosted by the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, the first Saturday in March each year. This derby is very family friendly and is more about fishing than winning.

All children receive prizes for every fish they catch, regardless of the weight or size of the fish.

The main derby is held at Diaz Lake but once participants have registered, they can fish anywhere from Lone Pine to Independence as long as they stay west of the U.S. Highway 395.

Diaz Lake was formed during a massive earthquake in 1872. This small lake is heavily stocked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and by the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce.

Diaz is best fished by boat but shore fishing works well, too. There is a fishing platform, which is accessible for the disabled, that also is ideal for young children who are learning how to fish.

There is a marina for boat launches, however, boats cannot be left in the water overnight.

See **LONE PINE**, pg. 64



Bill Gilbert of Lone Pine holds a 2.74-pound trout that won him first place in the adult division of an Early Opener Trout Derby.

File photo

Celebrating

55

years of
Family Owned
& Operated

Meat . Produce
Natural & Organic
Foods Wine . Beer
Local Seasonal
Produce
24 hour Gas &
Diesel

3100 W. Line St. Bishop, CA
760.873.4296



Wray Knierim of Lone Pine used chunky cheese to land this 2.3-pound trout while fishing from the shore of Diaz Lake.

File photo



Anissa Rave from Ridgecrest holds a fish she caught from Diaz Lake.

File photo

LONE PINE, from pg. 63

Local bait-fishing anglers swear by rainbow PowerBait for Diaz, but worms, jigs and the usual trout favorites work well, too.

All of the water west of U.S. Highway 395, south of Independence, is open for fishing on the first Saturday in March, giving anglers the opportunity to enjoy the water two whole months before general fishing season opens throughout the rest of the state.

Whitney Portal Road ends at the base of Mt. Whitney, the tallest mountain in the continental United States. Here, the parking lot gradually loops around a beautiful, easily accessed fishing pond, which is heavily planted throughout the summer months. This is another perfect option for children. The pond is perfect for young families looking for an alpine fishing experience without a backcountry hike. There is even a large waterfall just past the western end of the parking lot. The Whitney Portal store is famous for its pancakes but be sure to ask where Humphrey Bogart's famous death scene from "High Sierra" was filmed. Whitney Portal usually remains open into early November, weather permitting.

Another easily accessed fishing spot in the Lone Pine area is the "Sandtrap." The Sandtrap is located right above the spillway where Lone Pine Creek emp-

ties into the Los Angeles Aqueduct. All the fish from Lone Pine Creek end up pooling in the Sandtrap, making it an easy spot to catch a limit stringer.

Hogback Creek is accessed from Moffet Ranch Road from U.S. Highway 395. The road is a well-maintained dirt road north of Whitney Portal Road. There are areas along the creek that are nicely shaded by large cottonwood trees

Tuttle Creek, south of Whitney Portal Road, is another popular fishing creek in the area, as well as the Lower Owens River.

If the fishing is slow, there are lots of unique opportunities in the Lone Pine area.

Start at the Museum of Western Film History, located on the south end of town. Here, you can learn about where film legends like John Wayne and Hopalong Cassidy made some of their movies. Scenes from movies like "The Lone Ranger," "Star Trek" and "Ironman" also were filmed in the area. Ask the museum staff how to find these filming locations.

From the museum, take Whitney Portal Road west to Movie Road and explore the Alabama Hills. The road is a well-maintained dirt road and there are several hikes, arches and rock formations to explore.

Camping and fishing go hand in hand

Bureau of Land Management oversees many areas By Register Staff

Did you know the Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Field Office manages campgrounds along U.S. Highway 395 providing direct fishing access to campers and day-use recreation?

Tuttle Creek, Gooddale Creek and Horton Creek campgrounds are located on waterways that have both stocked rainbow and natural reproducing trout species like German brown, brook and golden trout. Crowley Lake and Pleasant Valley Pit campgrounds are only a short distance from some of the area's premier fishing destinations.

Tuttle Creek Campground

Tuttle Creek Campground is located west of Lone Pine in the shadow of Mt. Whitney. Nearby attractions include the Alabama Hills, Whitney portal and Horseshoe Meadows. Tuttle Creek itself intersects the campground with a central bridge providing access to either side. Tuttle Creek is a narrow stream with areas of dense willows and small openings leading to fishable pools. Other fishing access points are located along the paved road before entering the campground. The creek is stocked with rainbow trout regularly and opens with the early southern fishing opener. Tuttle Creek Campground is open year-

See **CAMPING AND FISHING**, pg. 66



Tuttle Creek intersects the Tuttle Creek Campground providing access to either side of the creek.

Photo by Dave Kirk

Wye Road Feed

Owens Valleys largest selection of feed, tack, and supplies to meet your pet, livestock, and garden needs!

Now in Lone Pine
202 N Main St. Lone Pine
760-915-4329



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

1260 N. Main St.
on Hwy 6 in Bishop
760-872-8010





NAME BRAND PRODUCTS
INCREDIBLE VALUE
KNOWLEDGEABLE SERVICE

- COOKWARE • BAKEWARE
- COOKBOOKS • CUTLERY
- COOKING TOOLS
- GADGETS • TEXTILES
- CANDLES
- GOURMET FOODS



336 N. MAIN ST.,
BISHOP, CA
760-872-4433

WWW.ANNEMARIESHOMEBOUTIQUE.COM

CAMPING AND FISHING, from pg. 65

round with 83 campsites, vaulted restrooms, drinking water and an RV dump station.

Goodale Creek Campground

Traveling farther north on U.S. Highway 395, visitors will find Goodale Creek Campground tucked into the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Range along a volcanic rock flow. From the highway turn west onto Goodale road passing the community of Aberdeen. Goodale Creek is stocked regularly and is open to fishing during the general fishing season. Visitors should remain aware of rapidly rising water flow and flooding from spring run-off and summer thunderstorms. If you are not staying in the campground there is parking near the campground entrance. Goodale Creek Campground has 43 campsites and vaulted restrooms but no potable water. Taboose Creek and Tinemaha Reservoir are short drives from the campground.

Horton Creek Campground

North of Bishop, Horton Creek Campground provides opportunities to fish for rainbow, brook and brown trout. The campground sits at the base of Mt. Tom with views of Wheeler Crest and across the Volcanic Tableland. Day-use visitors can access Horton Creek anywhere along the campground road, just be careful to allow overnight campers access to campsites. Horton Creek is another narrow creek flanked by tall willows and birches. Creek crossings provide the most open spots to cast a line. The persistent angler will find other suitable areas upstream from the campground. For visitors interested in camping, Horton Creek Campground has vaulted restrooms, potable water and an RV dump

station. Visitors can also learn more about Horton Creek and the local area by taking a walk along the interpretive trail located within the campground. Students from Round Valley Elementary school created various interpretive panels along the trail.

Pleasant Valley Pit Campground

Just north of Bishop is the Pleasant Valley Pit Campground (also known as the PV Pit). The campground was created to accommodate the influx of recreational climbers to the area. The Pit provides reasonable camping rates and quick vehicle access to popular fishing destinations. The Lower Owens River, the Pleasant Valley Reservoir and the Owens River Gorge are only short drives from the Pit. The campground is open year-round with basic amenities of two vaulted restrooms and no potable water. The Pit will be open for this year's Blake Jones Derby.

Crowley Lake Campground

Farther north into Mono County, BLM's Crowley Lake Campground is located between the communities of Crowley Lake and McGee Creek. Overlooking the lake, the campground provides the overnight visitor fishing access to nearby Crowley Lake marina, Convict Lake, Hot Creek and the Upper Owens River. The campground opens for the fishing season on the last Saturday in April and remains open until Oct. 30 depending on the weather. Forty-seven campsites are available in the campground as well as vaulted restrooms, potable water and an RV dump station. BLM also has camping and access to the several fishing areas near the town of Bridgeport. Campground sites are available seasonally along Virginia Creek on BLM and U.S. Forest Service land.



Tuttle Creek Recreation Site, west of Lone Pine, is open throughout the year.

File photo

Fishing Etiquette

Unwritten laws of life you won't find in the regulations By Jarett Coons

For a society to function it must have rules, these laws are chiseled in stone and enforced by might. But what is fascinating is we also have rules that are not written and yet enforced not by anyone in a uniform, but by the people. These laws exist in every aspect of life, right is right, and unless you are overtaken by greed, impatience, or insecure narcissistic arrogance, things run smoothly. The same goes with fishing. As a guide I spend a ton of time on the water every year and get to witness all kinds of chaotic behavior; don't be one of these people.

Give people space

This should go without saying but it is mind boggling how many people will just walk up and start fishing right next to you, even when there is plenty of empty places to fish. Don't do this! People come to the Sierra to experience the solitude and beauty of the outdoors, not to have you stand on their rod while they try and fish. If on the river, give them a couple bends, go around the corner out of sight. It is often I plan on fishing a certain hole only to find someone there when I arrive, oh well, that's fishing, and you will have to adapt. Who knows? You may find an even better spot than you intended, it has happened to me. I know it is not always easy and on a crowded day you might have to combat fish next to someone but always give everyone as much space as you can.

Don't block the boat ramp

Ahh, the boat ramp. If you want to see something hilarious just hang around a marina or boat launch and you are almost guaranteed to see something go down, especially if there is a jet ski there! Whether at the marina, or a put-in/take-out on the river your only concern should be quickly backing your trailer to the water, launching your boat and getting out of the way so the next guy can do it, that's it! Have everything ready BEFORE you get to the ramp! Don't start loading the boat while your trailer is in the water or walk away and go use the restroom, other people are waiting on you to launch their boats.

If you are on the Lower Owens consider any road that gets near the bank of the river a boat ramp. Driftboats and duckboats run the river and use these places to launch, even if the boat must be pushed a little way. Usually, we try and keep our trailers out of the way where we plan to take out so if you see a vehicle with a boat trailer parked at a spot, they are likely planning on taking out there at the end of their drift. Sometimes trips can run short due to unseen circumstances, or god forbid an emergency forces you to take out anywhere you can. Most of these places have plenty of room for you to park close to the river and still leave room for a trailer to get to the water. It's just common courtesy and can save precious seconds in an emergency.

You are a guest here, act like it

I guess you could say I saved the best for last and this one goes for on and off the water, especially off the water. I was born here in Bishop and am of Paiute decent, so I am very protective of my home. I was taught that when you go to another town or place you are a guest in someone else's home, and you need to respect it as such. It sometimes seems along the lines this ideology was lost and even reversed with some people. Littering is an actual law and I can't believe I even have to say it but please don't throw your trash or dump your ashtray out on the ground. You wouldn't do that in your own home, or, maybe you would. Either way don't do it here.

The world doesn't revolve around you. We are all SUPER impressed you are from Southern California, drive an Escalade, and have a YELP account but it doesn't give you a free ticket to give the waitress a bad review because she wouldn't book your hotel room for you. Our local merchants and service people are very friendly, patient and love to go the extra mile for you. But don't be disappointed when the local bookstore owner won't go outside and check your oil.

It seems that unwritten laws could be chalked up to common courtesy and common sense. These are just a couple of the biggest offences I see on a regular basis. Most people abide by this and understand the concept but sadly the percentage of those who don't is growing.



2750 N. Sierra Hwy • (760) 872-1224



- Hot & Cold Drinks
- Friendly Service
- Propane • Snacks



180 N. See Vee Ln • 760-784-9716

Welcome Fishermen!

Escape the beaten path

Backcountry fishing offers the rare and beautiful By Wendilyn Grasseschi

Anglers and fish enthusiasts looking for something different and unique will hit the jackpot when they hit the 395 and head up into the high Sierra lakes and streams that tumble down the steep eastern escarpment.

The rarest trout in the world, the wily, wild, Paiute cutthroat trout, lives in these waters and is making a comeback.

One of the most beautiful trout in the world, the aptly named golden trout, also lives in the high Sierra range, where its unique golden color reflects back the sunlit waters it evolved in millions of years ago and to this day, still calls home.

Although not as rare as the Paiute, the golden is still a fish that takes a bit of extra effort to find and catch, making it all the sweeter when the lightning-fast fish takes the line.

Then there are the more “ordinary” trout that fill so many of the rest of the Sierra’s high country lakes and streams with non-Native but now truly wild trout which haven’t seen the inside of a hatchery in dozens of generations; the rainbows and brook and browns, all ready to give the adventure-some angler a run for their money and time.

Add to that the fact that the lakes and streams themselves are located in some of



Fishing in the Eastern Sierra backcountry makes for less-crowded shorelines and spectacular scenery, as well as rare trout species.

Photo by Wendilyn Grasseschi



LIVE CRICKETS!!!!

www.macssportinggoods.com

760-872-9201

425 N Main St. Bishop CA

the most beautiful mountains in the world, and it's a winning combination.

Even better, this summer looks like the weather will cooperate, after two big, very wet and snowy winters that cut off access to all but the lowest lakes in the Eastern Sierra until well into July.

"This is this is a weird winter," said California Fish and Wildlife Department fisheries biologist Jim Erdman. He knows the Sierra backcountry better than most and despite the "weird winter," he thinks access this year will be better than in many past years.

"I have been in Bishop for 30-plus years and after two big winters ... this summer, I hope it is a normal, May 15 access, where I can get in there, then we have a normal four to five months," to fish and get into the backcountry, he said, noting last summer, there was so much snow, the backcountry wasn't accessible until after July 1.

That said, it does take just a little bit more effort than a drive to a paved parking lot and a two-minute walk to a lake or stream to backcountry fish.

It's worth it.

Imagine catching a fish that looks more like spun gold than fish. Imagine getting a glimpse of the world's rarest fish. Imagine turquoise waters clear as a bell surrounded by snow-covered peaks, fed by a silver river. Imagine the sound of perfect silence, broken only by the whoosh of your line, the light and delicate sound of the hook hitting the water.

What is backcountry fishing, say as compared to the kind of fishing an angler can do within a few minutes of your car, commonly called front-country fishing?

Any body of water more than a few minutes' walk from the car qualifies as a backcountry lake or stream.

To guide the angler to the Eastern Sierra's backcountry lakes and streams, Erdman has surveyed over 3,000 lakes, then written a digital guide (see link to the pdf version below) that is broken down into types of fish, conditions of lakes, directions, and more. Easily available at the link below, Erdman, who has been tromping these mountains for decades, throws in a bit of natural history to show why the Sierra is so full of trout-supporting backcountry lakes and streams.

"Geology and climate created the magic; shaping the high mountain lakes during the Pleistocene Age, where, from two million to 10,000 years ago, glaciers periodically covered the high country," he said in the guide. "They carved out cirque valleys and shallow basins that would later fill with snowmelt to become the lakes you see today."

Backcountry lakes and streams not only harbor rare, Native fish, like the golden, but also the more common, non-Natives like the rainbows and brook, which over time have become wild and self-sustaining in many lakes within a mile or more from a paved road.

For example, backcountry fishing can be as easy as a short stroll to the flat country right behind Saddlebag Lake, which is a short drive off the Tioga Pass Road.

There, the department gives nature a hand, stocking many of the lakes back there with fingerling-sized trout via helicopter drops.

Other lakes don't need the help, and now hold their own self-sustaining rainbow and brook populations. The golden trout noted above, while rare, can also often be accessed on a reasonable hike into the high country, Erdman said. While some golden populations are still managed by the department; a

See BACKCOUNTRY, pg. 70



Photo by Wendilyn Grasseschi



THE HIGHLANDS
RECREATION VEHICLE PARK

SHADED SITES SIT IN A PEACEFUL TRANQUIL SETTING

- Open Year-Round
- Full Hook-up Park
- Sparkling Restrooms with Showers
- 24-hour Laundry Facilities
- Pets Welcome
- Fish Cleaning Facilities
- Propane
- Digital Cable TV
- Free Wi-Fi



RV'S

2275 N. SIERRA HWY.
BISHOP, CA

760-873-7616

BACKCOUNTRY, from pg. 69

carefully guarded and cherished resource, still pure and wild, then stocked in places where the hike in is short enough to give enough anglers access to put a strain on the fishery without human intervention, such as the goldens flitting through the clear waters of the aptly named Crystal Lake above Mammoth Lakes.

Other lakes, like the high and lonely Red and Anna and Amy and Starr and Rust lakes, or the lakes above Piute Pass in the Humphrey's Basin, take a bit more effort.

It's still worth it, Erdman said.

"Goldens are not raised in a hatchery, they are a 'wild fish'," he said, noting that although the department helps the process by maintaining brood stock in the Cottonwood Lakes Basin, goldens throughout the Sierra stay wild, with only short stint in the hatcheries to gain weight.

"We hike into the lakes, we pack out the eggs, we raise them to a fingerling size, he said, then release them. They are never spawned, there is no domestication, no hatchery adaptations, they are all truly wild fish."

He noted that often, being in a hatchery "will shift when a fish spawns, because fish are sensitive to periods of day or temperatures." For example, he said, "as soon as temperatures hit above 40 degrees in the wild, fish begin spawning ... but in a hatchery, the temperatures never varies, so fish adapt to this. But wild fish, it is more variable. For example, we have big winter of 2016-17 the other big winter of 2018-19, where we could not get up to Cottonwood Lakes at all, until after they spawned,

because of the snow up there. For example, last year, we could not get there until July 1 so we are hoping to get up there this year, and plant them this year in the backcountry."

For the most challenging, a longer hike leads to even more rewards. "Many of the Golden lakes are self-sustaining now," he said, most notably those in the French and Piute creek drainages. "They can get up a good spawn, there are not a lot of fishing pressure, we do not stock them," he said. "It takes a while to get to them but once there, there are plenty of golden to be caught."

The Paiute trout, even rarer than the golden, was until recently, only found in pure form in four miles of creek in the mountains above the little town of Walker, south of Topaz. In the years since, biologists have been working to clear the nearby creeks of non-Native brooks and rainbows, hoping to reintroduce the Paiute before it goes extinct.

"Not since the early 1900s have genetically pure Paiute cutthroat trout occupied the 11-mile stretch of Silver King Creek between Llewellyn Falls and Snodgrass Creek that represents almost the entirety of the fish's historic range," said the Fish and Wildlife Service in a recent news release regarding the re-introduction of the fish back to their original habitat.

As of last summer, that changed, when the department and many other cooperating agencies released a new generation of Paiutes back to the wild.

"This is a lifetime achievement for those working to recover the rarest trout in North

America," said Lee Ann Carranza, acting field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Reno office. "This remarkable partnership has allowed Paiute cutthroat trout to be returned to their entire native range without threat from non-natives."

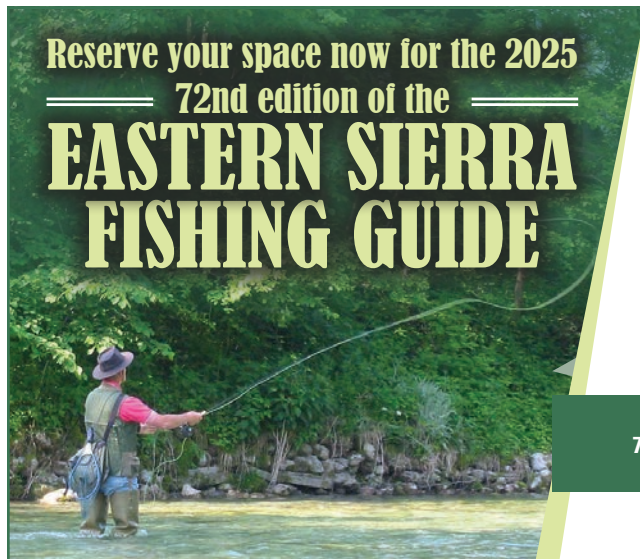
She noted the Paiute cutthroat trout was one of the first animals in the nation listed as endangered in 1967 under the federal Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, now known as the Endangered Species Act. "Only a fortuitous turn of events saved the species from disappearing altogether," she said. "In the early 1900s, Basque shepherders moved some of the fish outside of their native range, upstream of Llewellyn Falls. The waterfalls served as a barrier to the non-native trout below and safeguarded a genetically pure population of Paiute cutthroat trout above the falls, providing government agencies and advocates the chance to recover the species in the future."

Last summer, they finally did so, planting the trout in a few creeks in the Carson Iceberg Wilderness, where Silver King Creek, rising from the snow-capped peaks above Sonora Pass, nurtured the wily fish in its last refuge.

Though the fish are still too few in numbers to be fished, the hope is down the road, the Paiutes will once again roam the waters of the Sierra. They are uniquely adapted to the more arid Eastern Sierra waters than non-Native trout and Erdman and others hope that the Paiute can add diversity and resilience to the Sierra fishery over time.

So go on.

Get out there and fish.



Reserve your space now for the 2025
72nd edition of the
EASTERN SIERRA
FISHING GUIDE

For the past 71 years the Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide has been the key publication that fishermen from Southern California to Nevada rely on for the latest information regarding regulations and fishing up and down the Eastern Sierra corridor.

- 40,000 Copies printed
- 150 locations from Walker to Mojave
- Including several Southern California sports shops and welcome centers.
- Reach potential customers and clients for your business

Next years Fishing Guide will come out in the first quarter of 2025 just in time for the early season openers and trade shows, and redistributed in April right before "Fishmas" here in the Eastern Sierra.

To reserve your space for the 72nd edition of the Fishing Guide, Contact Ed Galanski

O: (805) 739-2226 • C: (805) 598-4670
or email: egalanski@inyoregister.com
egalanski@mammothtimes.com

A publication by **The Inyo Register**

Fishing is fun – but safety first

Things to keep in mind while out on the water By Register staff



Keep safety in mind while fishing the waters of the Eastern Sierra.

File photo

Know the weather and local conditions:

Fishing is an activity done outdoors at all times of the year and fishermen are often exposed to extreme weather. Temperatures may be very hot or very cold – sometimes both at different times of the day. There may be violent storms, lightning, high winds and even the possibility of floods.

Protect your head and body: Wearing a Western-style hat with a broad brim that helps shade your face and neck is a good idea, as is a good pair of sunglasses, preferably polarized sunglasses preferred by most fisherman. Glasses also protect the eyes from blowing dust or an errant fish hook.

Light, loose clothing that covers the arms and legs are best and add protection from the negative effects of the sun on the skin as well as provide some protection to the arms and legs if you travel through thickets and brush. Camouflage clothing helps to “blend in” to the environment for more productive fishing.

Wear sturdy shoes: Fishermen often do a lot of walking, so a good pair of shoes or sturdy boots are essential. If you walk into the water, it is a good idea to always wear footwear to protect your feet from sharp sticks, rocks, lost fishing

hooks and broken glass.

Fishing with kids: Bring plenty of extra fishing tackle. Establish rules such as no running, always wearing shoes in or out of the water, always walking with the fishing rod pointing to the sky and never casting without looking behind you first. Never let children wander off alone unsupervised and always use the buddy system.

Young children should always wear a personal flotation device (i.e., life jacket) in or around water.

Respect the outdoors: Remember that whatever you pack in – pack it out. Don't leave trash and garbage behind that threatens wildlife and ruins the outdoor experience for others. Empty soda or beer cans, bottles, food wrappers, fishing line, fishing tackle and bait packaging and containers all degrade the environment.

And finally, protect yourself from your fellow man: Be polite and considerate! Don't allow young children to throw rocks or sticks in the water or create unnecessary splashing around other fishermen.

Try not to be loud and obnoxious yourself. Aside from just being rude, it ruins both yours and their fishing experience.



GLACIER LODGE

Saturday night BBQ and group campfire.

- Overnight hiker parking \$10 per vehicle.
- John Muir Trail, Palisades Glacier, Temple Crag
- Back Country Fishing & Camping
- Fully Equipped Cabins, Tent & RV Sites
- Beer and Wine
- General Store Serving Meals Daily
- “Kids fish first” trout pond
- New kids playground
- Weddings Welcome
- Paid WiFi available \$7 per device.

Visit us on Instagram  Facebook 

Glacier Lodge

100 Glacier Lodge Road, Big Pine, CA 93514

Reserve online at: glacierlodge395.com
Email us at: glacierlodge395@aol.com

Glacier Lodge is a permittee of the Inyo National Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service

760-938-2837

FOR INFO & RESERVATIONS

PIONEERS, from pg. 26

Locally this did not appear to be much of a problem – but, in May of 1889 the Inyo Independent reported that in some parts of Long Valley, the waters had become so filled with sawdust that the cattle would not drink it. Over the next five years, complaints were received that trout had been killed by sawdust in the Big Pine Canyon area and in Mammoth Creek. In the latter case, however, it was later discovered that the dead fish were actually above the lumber mill and the cause was cyanide from mine tailings.

THINKING BIG

The turn of the century saw increasing talk about stocking largemouth bass in local waters. For several years, “talk” is about all that happened, but the talk did prompt an officer of the Fish and Game Commission to advise Owens Valley citizens against the planting of bass in the Owens River because of the probability that they would clean out the existing trout and catfish – and even carp.

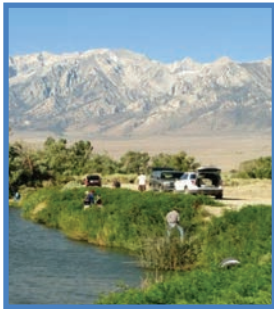
In 1906 something did, in fact, clean out most of the fish in a 10-mile stretch of the Owens River south of the Laws bridge. The cause, however, was said to be from a “black barnyard ooze” seeping from the river banks.

The valley citizens finally got their way in 1908 when shipments of largemouth bass arrived. It was hoped by many that the bass would indeed “clean out” the carp. Actually, one of the most intensive programs of fish planting



A circa 1956 pack train makes its way through the McGee Creek area, where rainbow trout had first been planted in 1877-78 after being captured in Bishop Creek.

File photo



Visit Independence, CA on Father's Day Weekend for the **INDEPENDENCE FISHING DERBY**

Saturday, June 15, 2024

Weigh-in from 10:30 a.m.-3:00 pm at Dehy Park

Awarding of Prizes begins

at 4:00 p.m. at Dehy Park

This is a **FREE** Blind Bogey Event...

Music at the Weigh-in

Fishing Fun for the Whole Family!!

There will be food available for purchase starting at 11:30 am

Sponsored by: COUNTY OF INYO

For more information, contact (760) 614-0044, or kellyreade@gmail.com

yet seen in Owens Valley occurred during 1908. The year began with reports that trout appeared to be thinning out in all the local streams, especially in Bishop Creek – apparently due to the construction of hydroelectric facilities. In the summer of that year, all of the local streams were stocked with three varieties of trout from the Sisson Hatchery.

In September, Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner Shaeffle met with valley citizens and a program was formulated to bring a carload of new fish to the Valley each year; plant largemouth bass to compete with the carp; and stock local lakes with brown trout, streams with brook trout, the river with rainbow trout, and the sloughs (especially Fish Slough) with bass.

Cans of bass arrived in October, and fish were planted in Fish Slough, Klondike Lake, Fish Springs Lake, Diaz Lake, and in the Owens River near Independence. The next shipment of bass arrived in November but the cans were almost empty (one can marked “500” contained only 26 fish and another only 80). The total shipment yielded only 400 fish to be planted from Fish Slough to Lone Pine. Shipments of bass continued into the fall of 1909.

A LEGACY TAKES HOLD

About that time, officials in both Inyo and Mono counties began to request that a fish hatchery be built to be able to supply the growing needs of fishermen in the eastern Sierra. In May 1910, the State Fish & Game Commission reached the conclusion that a fish hatchery would not work in Inyo County. But after much discussion on the matter, the State received land on Oak Creek, north of Independence, in November 1915, and the Mt. Whitney Hatchery was constructed.

Soon, the hatchery was producing more than three million trout annually to be planted in eastern Sierra waters, and by the late 1920s additional rearing ponds were constructed at Hot Creek in Mono County – where the trout grew twice as fast as those at any other facility.

In 1930, new species of fish (bluegill and crappie) were introduced into Owens Valley at the request of the Big Pine Chamber of Commerce.

News of the tremendous Eastern Sierra fishery spread rapidly and the region began to boom as a recreation center. In fact, to promote tourism in the region, the Owens River gorge was dubbed “The Grand Canyon of California.”

By the early 1940s two more hatcheries were operating in Inyo County (at Blackrock and Fish Springs) and, as a result of the extension of the Los Angeles Aqueduct into the Mono Basin, Grant Lake and Crowley Lake reservoirs were constructed and a new fish hatchery was built at Hot Creek.

The dream of a few pioneers had finally become a reality when nation-




Mrs. J.E. Morhardt fishes one of the few stillwater “runs” in the Owens River Gorge north of Bishop, circa 1956. At the time, the stream produced fighting rainbow and Loch Leven trout, averaging 2-3 pounds. Trout did not appear in Owens Valley until 1872 when they were planted in the Big Pine area. The subsequent effort to develop a fishery in the Owens River drainage met with varying degrees of success, a few failures and an occasional controversy.

File photo

ally known guide Morris Harlen announced that fishing in the Owens River country was now “the best on the continent.”

(Dave Babb, a retired wildlife biologist, spent 35 years studying the Owens Valley. He is the author of “101 Moments in Eastern Sierra History” and “The Life and Times of Rev. Andrew J. Clark: The True Founding Father of Bishop.” Source material for this article came from archived issues of the Inyo Independent and The Inyo Register.)



42 Beautifully Appointed Rooms


Some Have

- Whirlpool Tubs
- ADA Accessibility

“Ask about our Historic Dow Hotel”




Western Gateway to Death Valley National Park



Friendliest Place to Stay ~ Family owned & operated since 1957

Adjacent to The Grill Restaurant

Center of Lone Pine • Pool Spa • Additional Parking Golf, AAA & Senior Discounts Free Wi-Fi 100% Smoke Free Large Flat-Screen TVs Coffee, Micro & Fridge

310 S. Main Street • Lone Pine • www.dowvillamotel.com • (760) 876-5521 or (800) 824-9317

Fish Eastern Sierra waters year round

Season doesn't have to end in November By Register Staff

Increasing numbers of anglers are realizing there's more to the Eastern Sierra fishing scene than a visit to the high country between the last Saturday in April and the Nov. 15 closing of the general trout season.

Both Inyo and Mono counties host year-round open waters offering challenges for any angler's pursuit: bait, lure or fly. On the plus side, the crowds are down, providing a refreshing break from the freeway trout fishing environment.

Between storms, weather conditions can be ideal. However, realize it's colder at Bishop in February than it is in July – come prepared.

BISHOP – Bishop area wintertime and spring anglers focus on Pleasant Valley Reservoir on the downstream Owens River. On the catching menu is a combination of stocked CDFW rainbows along with wild brown trout.

For the fly angler, directly below Pleasant Valley Reservoir there are more than three miles of Owens River designated wild trout water. Governed by special regulations – catch and release barbless hooks and no bait – this section of water has become recognized as one of the premier fly fishing locations in the state. The majority of hook-ups are brown trout running to around the



The Owens River offers fishable waters throughout the year.

Photo by Fred Rowe

COTTONWOOD PACK STATION

Serving the Golden Trout Wilderness,
Cottonwood Lakes Basin, Sequoia National Park and Kern River!



Located at
Horseshoe Meadows
near Lone Pine, CA

For information on reservations: Call (760) 872-8331 or visit us at: www.cottonwoodpackstation.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Permit holder of Inyo National Forest and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park.

15-inch class.

Below the wild trout area, general regulations apply on the Owens River. Stocked rainbow trout make up the majority of catches, but the river also holds a healthy population of wild brown trout.

Highlight of the year-round season is Bishop's annual Blake Jones Trout Derby in the spring. On the calendar early in March, both the Owens River and Pleasant Valley Reservoir are primed with heavyweight CDFW broodstock and privately funded Alpers rainbows with catches to the 10-lb. mark making a yearly showing.

Pleasant Valley Reservoir is a steady winter and spring producer, with rainbow and brown trout filling the stringers. Fly fishers favor the float tube scene, and bait anglers find more than a mile of easy shoreline access. Boating is not allowed on the water.

If a little solitude is on the agenda, the Owens River Gorge, beginning directly above the reservoir, is the answer. The small stream is populated with a thriving, small brown trout population (8 to 12 inches). It's a rare occasion if you encounter another angler on this water.

Access from the LADWP aqueduct road is easy going downhill into the Gorge, but definitely on the strenuous uphill side coming out.

BIG PINE SOUTH TO LONE PINE – The Owens Valley year-round waters focus on the Owens River, Tinnemeha Reservoir and a handful of small lakes. Owens River waters host a mixed population of trout and bass.

Trout are the dominant fish from Big Pine south to around Tinnemeha Reservoir. Favored locations, stocked by CDFW, are the

area of the bridge crossing on State Route 168 and directly below Tinnemeha Reservoir. However, respectable-size largemouth bass catches are not unusual on this stretch of river.

Tinnemeha Reservoir is primarily a bass and catfish water. Boating and float tubing is not allowed. Spring months produce a good number of largemouth bass – 5-lb. class and better – for anglers fishing off the face of the dam.

Below the reservoir, largemouth and smallmouth bass are the target for anglers working the river and small lakes. Several years back saw the river re-watered along its length to Owens Lake south of Lone Pine, providing right around 62 miles of additional bass fishing possibilities.

Small lakes throughout the southern Owens Valley east of U.S. Highway 395 offer bass and respectable-size bluegill for the angler willing to do a little exploring. With the exception of the Owens River drainage, trout may not be taken from these waters until the opening of the general season, the last Saturday in April. The majority of these waters are prime candidates for float tubing, with shore access difficult because of dense tule growth.

Diaz Lake, located a few miles south of Lone Pine, is a popular late fall, early winter and spring roadside fishing hole for mainly stocked rainbows on the menu. It's not unusual for a heavyweight largemouth bass to make a showing.

March 1 marks the opener of the southern Sierra trout season. In addition to the open year-round waters, the small streams on the west side of U.S. Highway 395, flowing east from the Sierra from Independence Creek south, are on the angling agenda with stocked

See YEAR ROUND, pg. 76



Diaz Lake, located south of Lone Pine, is popular in the late fall, early winter and spring for anglers and campers alike.

File photo

**BOULDER
CREEK**
R.V. RESORT



- Full Hook-Ups • Pool • Spa • Laundry
 - Showers • Cable TV • Mini-Mart
 - Playground • Clubhouse • Propane
 - Ice • BBQs • Golf nearby
 - Free Wi-Fi • Dog Park
- Call us at: (760) 876-4243**

2550 S. Hwy. 395 • P.O. Box 870
Lone Pine, CA 93545

www.bouldercreekrvresort.com
bouldercreekrv@yahoo.com



Independence Creek is one of many small water ways in the southern Sierra that open for fishing in March.

File photo

YEAR ROUND, from pg. 75

CDFW rainbows the target.

The same day, the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Southern Inyo Early Opener Trout Derby headquartered at Diaz Lake. Local waters are primed with stocked rainbows, with the lake water receiving a bonus plant of heavyweight Alpers rainbows.

MONO COUNTY – Four waters are open year round in Mono County: Hot Creek, Upper Owens River, East Walker River and, effective March 1, West Walker River. On the menu includes wild brown, rainbow and cutthroat trout, with many catches definitely in the heavyweight class, 5 lbs. and better.

Hot Creek and the Upper Owens River are located near Mammoth Lakes. The East Walker River is located near Bridgeport with the West Walker River in Northern Mono County near the town of Walker.

These waters are governed by special regulations during the off season – catch and release, barbless hooks, lure or fly only, no bait. Weather conditions can vary from bright, sunny days to blizzard conditions. Always call ahead for an update.

For a new fishing experience, check out the guided float trips on the Owens River near Bishop. Local guide services are available for the trout waters in both counties. Be prepared for changing weather conditions. If the southern Owens Valley is the target, pick up a topographical map covering the area.

Always check the CDFW regulation book before fishing year-round open waters. Many locations are governed by special regulations that differ from regulations applicable during general season, running from the last Saturday in April to Nov. 15.



Greg Mobley of Berkley with 2024 Blake Jones Trout Derby Grand Prize Winner Tom Thrasher. The derby is a major draw to the Bishop area in March for generations of anglers.

Photo by Gayla Wolf



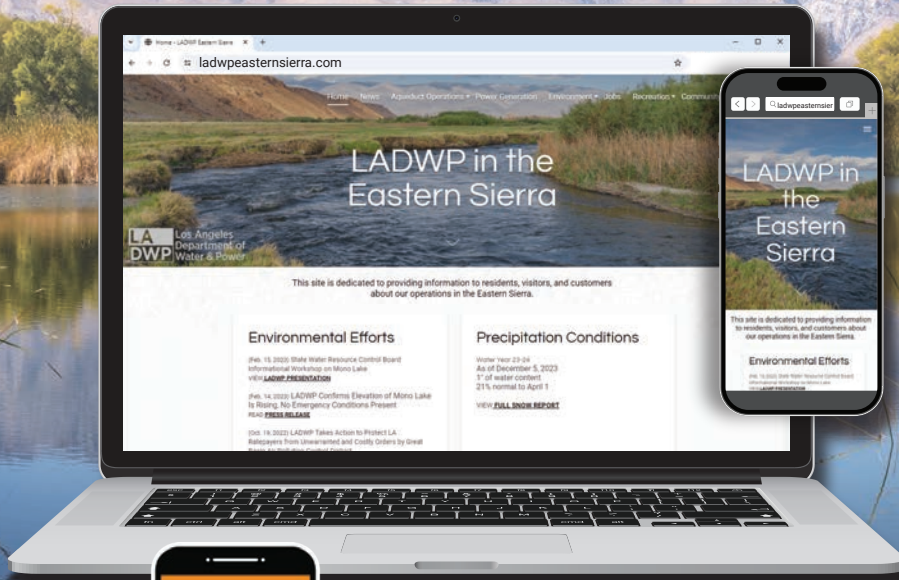
Best Western®

**GATEWAY TO
DEATH VALLEY &
MT. WHITNEY**

1008 South Main
Lone Pine, California 93545
(760) 876-5571
Fax (760) 876-5357

**The right place in
Lone Pine!
We're Pet-Friendly**

LADWP in the Eastern Sierra



Subscribe today for community news and updates!

Guide to Eastern Sierra Campgrounds

The Campground Guide is intended to provide vacationers to the Eastern Sierra with a general overview of the campgrounds available in Inyo and Mono counties. **Fees and other applicable information are always subject to change.** The fee and other information included here was the most current data available when the Fishing Guide went to press.

As a general rule, most campgrounds open with

the spring thaw and close before the first winter storm in the fall. Some of the campgrounds located at lower elevations and those privately or county-owned are open year round. Tuttle Creek Campground, managed by the BLM, is open year-round.

It is always recommended that visitors contact the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500, or the BLM at (760) 872-5008, for the most up-to-date information as the summer camp-

ing season draws near.

Visitors may also call the ranger districts at the phone numbers provided below, or visit the following websites, for up-to-date information:

- www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/campgrounds.shtml
- www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bishop/camping/index.html
- www.inyocountycamping.com

Key:
C – Concession; **R** – Reservations; **DS** – Dump Station (\$6 donation); **A** – Handicapped Accessible; **B** – Bear Boxes Available; **S** – Sewer; **E** – Electricity; **V** – Vault Toilets; **F** – Flush

Campground & Information Number	Sites	Details	Elevation	Water	Fee	Max. stay
LONE PINE AREA – (760) 876-6200						
<u>Horseshoe Meadow</u>						
Cottonwood Pass Backpacker (walk-in)	18	B/V	10,000	piped	\$6	1
Cottonwood Lakes Backpacker (walk-in)	13	B/V	10,000	piped	\$6	1
Horseshoe Meadows (equestrian)	10	B/V	10,000	piped	\$12	1
<u>Lone Pine Creek</u>						
Lone Pine	43	B/R/V	6,000	piped	\$26	14
Lone Pine (group)	1	B/R/V	6,000	piped	\$70	14
Whitney Portal	43	B/R/V	8,000	piped	\$28	7
Whitney Portal (group)	3	B/R/V	8,100	piped	\$70	7
Whitney Trailhead (walk-in)	25	B/V	8,300	piped	\$18	1
<u>Independence Creek</u>						
Lower Grays Meadow	52	B/R/V	6,000	piped	\$25	14
Upper Grays Meadow	35	B/R/V	6,200	piped	\$25	14
Onion Valley	29	B/R/V	9,200	piped	\$25	14
<u>Other Campgrounds</u>						
Diaz Lake (Inyo County)	200	C/R	3,700	piped	\$14	15
Independence Creek (Inyo County)	25		3,900	piped	\$14	15
Tuttle Creek (BLM 760-872-5008)	83	DS/A	5,120	none in winter	\$5 per night/\$5 for 14 dump station/horse corrals	14
Goodale Creek (BLM)	43		4,000	none	\$5	14
Portagee Joe (Inyo County)	15		3,800	well	\$14	14
BISHOP AREA – (760) 873-2500						
<u>Big Pine Creek</u>						
Big Pine Creek	30	B/R/V	7,700	piped	\$21	14
Sage Flat	28	B/V	7,400	piped	\$25	14
Upper Sage Flat	21	B/R/V	7,600	piped	\$25	14
Palisade Glacier (group no. 518)	1	B/R/V	7,600	piped	\$70	14
Clyde Glacier (group no. 518)	1	B/R/V	7,600	piped	\$70	14
<u>White Mountains</u>						
Grandview	23	V	8,560	none	donation	14
Ferguson (group)	3	V	7,200	none	\$35	14
<u>Bishop Creek</u>						
Big Trees	16	B/F	7,500	piped	\$30	7
Bishop Park (group)	1	B/R/V	8,200	none	varies	14
Bitterbrush	35	B/V	7,350	piped	\$27	14
Forks	21	B/F	7,800	piped	\$30	7
Four Jeffrey	104	R/DS/F	8,100	piped	\$28	14
Intake II	13	B/F	8,200	piped	\$30	7
Mountain Glen	5	B/V	8,200	none	\$25	7

North Lake (no trailers/RVs)	11	B/V	9,500	pipied	\$27	7
Sabrina	19	B/V	9,000	pipied	\$30	7
Willow	8	B/V	9,000	none	\$25	7
Table Mountain (group)	1	B/R/V	8,500	pipied	\$70	
<u>Rock Creek</u>						
Big Meadow	11	B/F	8,600	pipied	\$29	7
East Fork	133	B/R/F	9,000	pipied	\$29	14
French Camp	86	B/R/DS/F	7,500	pipied	\$29	21
Iris Meadow	14	B/F	8,300	pipied	\$29	7
Palisade (Group)	5	B/V	8,600	yes	\$70	7
Pine Grove	11	B/V	9,300	yes	\$22	7
Rock Creek Lake	28	B/F	9,600	yes	\$29	7
Tuff	34	B/R/V	7,000	yes	\$27	21
Upper Pine Grove	8	B/V	9,400	yes	\$29	7
Holiday	35	V	7,500	pipied	\$29	14
Aspen (group)	1	B/R	8,100	yes	\$70	14
Mosquito Flat Trailhead (walk-in)	10	B	10,100	none	none	1
Rock Creek Lake (group)	1	B/R	9,700	yes	\$70	14
<u>McGee Creek</u>						
McGee Creek	28	B/R	7,600	pipied	\$27	14
<u>Other Campgrounds</u>						
Tri-County Fairgrounds (State of Calif.)	42	R/S/E	4, 140	yes	\$25	30
Millpond Recreation Area (private)	60	C/E	4,444	pipied	\$20-25	14
Brown's Town Campground (private)	100	C/E	4,147	pipied	\$20-27	14
Glacier View Campground (private)	40	C/E	3,985	well	\$12-17	15
Pleasant Valley (Inyo County)	200		4,300	yes	\$14	14
Pleasant Valley Pit – Winter (BLM)	75		4,300	none	\$5	60
Baker Creek (Inyo County)	70		4,159	none	\$14	15
Tinnemaha Creek (Inyo County)	55			well	\$14	15
Taboose Creek (Inyo County)	50		3,897	none	\$14	15
Horton Creek (BLM)	49	DS/A	4,975	yes	\$5 per night/ \$5 for dump station	14
MAMMOTH LAKES AREA – (760) 924-5500						
<u>Convict Lake</u>						
Convict Lake	85	B/R/F/DS	7,600	pipied	\$29	7
<u>Mammoth Village Area</u>						
New Shady Rest	92	B/R/DS	7,800	pipied	\$23	14
Old Shady Rest	47	R	7,800	pipied	\$23	14
Sherwin Creek	85	B/R	7,600	pipied	\$23	21
Pine Glen (overflow)	10		7,800	pipied	\$22	14
Pine Glen (group)	7	B/R	7,800	pipied	varies by size	14
<u>Mammoth Lakes Basin</u>						
Coldwater	77	B/R	8,900	pipied	\$24	14
Twin Lakes	92	B/R	8,600	pipied	\$24	7
Lake George	16	B	9,000	pipied	\$24	7
Lake Mary	46	B	8,900	pipied	\$24	14
Pine City	10	B	8,900	pipied	\$24	14
<u>Reds Meadow Area</u>						
Agnew Meadows (Equestrian and group sites)	Under Construction	B	8,400	pipied	\$23 \$24	14
Minaret Falls	24	B	7,600	pipied	\$23	14
Red's Meadow	56	B	7,600	pipied	\$23	14
Pumice Flat	17	C	7,700	pipied	\$23	14
Upper Soda Springs	29	C/A	7,700	pipied	\$23	14
Pumice Flat (group)	4	B/R	7,700	pipied	varies by size	14
<u>Other Campgrounds</u>						
Crowley Lake (BLM)	48	DS/A	9,200	yes	\$5	14
Devil's Postpile (Nat'l. Park Service)	21		7,679	pipied	\$16	14
Mammoth Mountain RV Park	179	C/DS/S/E/R	7,800	yes	\$27-\$50	n/a

LEE VINING/JUNE LAKE AREA – (760) 647-3044

Crestview Area

Big Springs	26		7,300	none	none	14
Deadman, Lower	15		7,800	none	none	14
Upper Deadman	15		7,780	none	none	14
Glass Creek	50		7,600	none	none	14
Hartley Springs	20		8,400	none	none	14
Obsidian Flat (group)	1	B/R/V	7,800	none	varies	14

June Lake Loop

Aerie Crag (RVs only/overflow)	10	V	7,200	none	\$14	3
Gull Lake	11	B/F	7,600	pipied	\$23	14
June Lake	28	B/R/F	7,600	pipied	\$23	14
Oh! Ridge	144	B/R/F	7,600	pipied	\$27.50	14
Reversed Creek	17	B/F	7,600	pipied	\$23	14
Silver Lake	63	B/R/F	7,200	pipied	\$23	14

Lee Vining Area

Lower Lee Vining	53	B/V	7,300	none	\$14	14
Moraine	20	V	7,350	none	\$14	14
Aspen Grove	56	B/V	7,490	pipied	\$14	14
Big Bend	17	B/V	7,800	pipied	\$22	14
Ellery Lake	21	B/V	9,500	pipied	\$22	14
Junction	13	B/V	9,600	none	\$17	14
Sawmill (walk-in)	12	B/V	9,800	none	\$17	14
Tioga Lake (small trailers/RVs)	13	B/V	9,700	pipied	\$22	14
Saddlebag Lake (small trailers/RVs)	19	B/V	10,000	pipied	\$22	14
Trailhead Group (@ Saddlebag Lake)	1	B/R/V	10,000	pipied	varies	14

Other Campgrounds

Lee Vining Canyon (Mono County)	182		6,800	none	\$7	none
Lundy Canyon (Mono County)	54		7,800	none	\$7	none

BRIDGEPORT RANGER DISTRICT – (760) 932-7070

Bridgeport Campgrounds

Honeymoon Flat	47		7,000	yes	\$17	
N. Robinson Creek	54		7,000	yes	\$20	
Paha	22		7,000	yes	\$20	
Crags	27		7,100	yes	\$20	
Lower Twin	15		7,000	yes	\$20	
Buckeye	65		7,000	yes	\$17	
Green Creek	11		7,500	yes	\$17	
Trumbull Lake	45		9,500	yes	varies by size	
Obsidian	14		7,800	no	\$12	
Sonora Bridge	23		6,800	yes	\$17	
Leavitt Meadows	16		7,000	yes	\$17	
Chris Flat	15		6,600	yes	\$15	
Bootleg	63		6,600	yes	\$20	
Desert Creek	13		6,300	no	none	
Green Creek (group site 1)	25		7,500	yes	\$52	
Green Creek (group site 2)	30		7,500	yes	\$65	
Crags (Group)	45		7,100	yes	varies by size	

CARSON RANGER DISTRICT – (775) 882-2766

Carson Campgrounds

Lookout	22		6,700	no	\$6	
Mt. Rose	24		8,900	yes	\$15	
Crystal Springs	22		6,600	yes	\$14	
Markleeville	10		5,500	yes	\$14	
Kit Carson	12		6,900	yes	\$14	
Hope Valley	20		7,300	yes	\$14	
Silver Creek	22		6,800	yes	\$15	
Hope Valley (Group)	3-16 PAOT			yes	\$25	
Lookout (Group)	1-30 PAOT			no	\$25	

Index of Advertisers

Automotive Services

Yuhubi Nobi Gas Station Inside 2

Entertainment/ Recreation

Bishop Country Club..... 64
 Devils Creek Distillery22
 Independence Fishing Derby72
 Kid's Fishing Festival 17
 Tri-County Fair & Event Center.. 59

Gas/Markets

Bishop Paiute Gas Station 67
 Manor Market63
 Yuhubi Nobi Gas Station
 & Market Inside 2
 June Lake General Store 16

Guides/Marinas/ Pack Stations/

Bridgeport Reservoir 9
 June Lake Marina 13
 Rock Creek Pack Station.....74
 The Trout Fly and
 Trout Fitter..... 2

Lodging

Best Western Plus..... 76
 Cardinal Village Resort..... 48
 Central Reservations
 of Mammoth..... 21
 Empeiria High Sierra Hotel..... 19
 Convict Lake Resort..... 3
 Crowley Lake Fish Camp 29
 Dow Villa Motel 73
 Glacier Lodge71
 Rainbow Ridge
 Vacation Rentals..... 14

Rock Creek Lakes Resort47
 Silver Lake Resort 15
 Virginia Lakes Resort.....8

Miscellaneous

Alpine County Chamber..... 12
 Bishop Chamber of
 Commerce 30 & 62
 Friends of the Inyo 7
 Los Angeles Department of
 Water & Power.....
77 & Back Cover
 Mono County Sheriff's Dept. ... 16
 Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone
 Cultural Center58

Real Estate

High Country Cedar Homes.....27
 Inyo Mono Title, Bishop 49

Restaurants

Bishop Country Club..... 64
 Cardinal Village..... 48
 Erick Schat's Bakkerly 83
 Mammoth Coffee Roasting
 Company18
 Mountain View BBQ..... 11

Retail

Anne Marie's
 Kitchen & Bath66
 High Sierra Outfitters54
 Sierra Wave T-Shirt 15
 Wye Road Feed & Supply.....65

RV Parks/ Campgrounds

Boulder Creek RV Resort 75
 Bridgeport Reservoir 9

Cardinal Village..... 48
 Highlands RV Park69

Sporting Goods

High Sierra Outfitters54
 Ken's Sporting Goods 10
 Kittredge Sports23
 Mac's Sporting Goods..... 68
 Reagan's Sporting Goods..... 51
 Stroud Tackle 28
 The Trout Fly and
 Trout Fitter 2

Visitor Centers

Eastern Sierra Interpretive
 Association..... 5

**THANK YOU
 TO ALL OUR
 ADVERTISERS!**

To become part of the
 72nd Annual Eastern Sierra
 Fishing Guide in 2025

Contact **Ed Galanski**
 at (805) 739-2226
 or via email:
egalanski@inyoregister.com
egalanski@mammothtimes.com



In-the-field guidance

Fishing guides and pack stations here to enhance your experience

Not everyone is lucky enough to live in the Eastern Sierra full-time, and for these people, it's important they make the absolute most of their time here in Inyo and Mono counties.

There are also longtime locals wanting to approach one of their favorite pastimes from a fresh perspective, or learn new and better techniques,

or explore areas of their big backyard they've only seen in photographs.

For all of these folks, the services offered by local fishing guides and pack stations are invaluable. And luckily, the Eastern Sierra is flush with both – willing, ready and eager to educate, broaden horizons and add an element of adventure to angling excursions.

Following are some of the guides and stations here to help ...

FISHING GUIDES

The Angler's Edge
1506 Hwy. 395,
Gardnerville, Nev.
www.theanglersedge.com

CPR (Catch Photograph
Release) Guide Service
(760) 784-1524

Dan's Guide Service
(661) 478-0036
facebook.com/dansguideservice

Eastern Sierra Guide Service
(760) 872-7770
www.jaeger-flyfishing.com

High Sierra Outfitters
130 S. Main St., Lone Pine
(760) 876-9994
(See ad on pg. 79)

Hot Creek Fly Fishing Ranch
Mammoth Lakes
(760) 924-5637
<http://hstrial-hotcreekranch.homestead.com>

Ken's Sporting Goods
258 Main St., Bridgeport
(760) 932-7707
www.kenssport.com
(See ad on pg. 13)

Kevin Peterson's Fly Fishing
Adventures
85 Hot Creek Hatchery
Rd.,
Mammoth Lakes
(760) 937-0519
www.kevinpetersonflyfishing.com

Kittredge Sports
Mammoth Lakes
(760) 934-7566
www.kittredgesports.com

Mammoth Flyfishing
Adventures
(760) 937-5680
www.mammothflyfishingadventures.com

Oasis Fly Fishing
P.O. Box 7765,
Alhambra, CA 91802
(626) 219-2999
www.oasisflyshop.com

Performance Anglers Guide
Service and Outfitters
P.O. Box 1688, Mammoth
Lakes
(818) 288-0584
www.performanceanglers.com

Performance Guide Service/
Rick's Sports Center
3241 Main St., Mammoth
(760) 914-0730
www.performanceguideservice.com

Sierra Bright Dot Guide
Service
Fly Fishing Specialist
1509 Lazy A Dr., Bishop
(760) 873-3948

Sierra Drifters Guide Service
Mammoth Lakes
(760) 935-4250
www.sierradrifters.com

Sierra Fly Fisher Tours
P.O. Box 631, Bass Lake, Calif.
(559) 683-7664
www.sierraflyfisher.com
Sierra Fly Guide
2806 Boulder Dr., June Lake
(760) 209-3260

Sierra Guide Group
P.O. Box 451, Bishop
(760) 872-9836
www.sierraguidegroup.com

**Sierra Mountain Trout
Guide Service**
(760) 263-5013
www.facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Mountain-Trout-Guide-Service/106914379349120
(See ad on pg. 27)

Sierra Trout Magnet Fly Shop
2272 N. Sierra Hwy., Bishop
(760) 873-0010
www.sierratroutmagnet.com

**The Troutfitter/The Trout
Fly**
2987 Main St.,
Mammoth Lakes
(760) 924-3676
www.thetroutfly.com
(See ad on pg. 2)

The Trout Scout
(760) 872-9836
troutscout@verizon.net

Daniel Merrero from Glendora shows off this 20-plus-inch brown trout caught with the help of Dan's Guide Service

Dan's Guide Service



PACK STATIONS

Agnew Meadows Pack
Station
P.O. Box 395, Mammoth
Lakes
(760) 934-2345
www.redsmeadow.com

Bishop Pack Outfitters
Bishop
(760) 873-4785

Cottonwood Pack Station
Lone Pine
(760) 878-2015

Frontier Pack Station
Winter: 1012 E. Line St.,
Bishop
Summer: P.O. Box 656,
June Lake
(888) 437-MULE (toll-free)
<https://sites.google.com/site/frontierpacktraindot.com/home/about-us>

Glacier Pack Train
Big Pine
(760) 938-2538

Kennedy Meadows Pack
Station
Sonora Pass
Summer: (209) 965-3911,
(209) 965-3900
Winter: (209) 965-3900,
(209) 928-1239
www.kennedymeadows.com

Leavitt Meadows Pack
Station
7386 S.R. Hwy. 108,
Bridgeport
(530) 495-2196
www.leavittmeadows.com

Mammoth Lakes Pack
Outfit
Lake Mary Road, Mammoth
(888) 475-8747
www.mammothpack.com

McGee Creek Pack Station
2990 McGee Creek Rd.,
Crowley Lake
(800) 854-7407
www.mcgeecreekpackstation.com

Mt. Whitney Pack Trains
Mt. Whitney
(760) 872-8331
www.rockcreekpackstation.com/goldentrouinfoptop.shtml

Pine Creek Pack Station
Bishop
(800) 962-0775

Rainbow Pack Station
Bishop
(888) 873-8877
<http://rainbow.zb-net.com/>

Red's Meadow Pack Outfit
P.O. Box 395,
Mammoth Lakes
(760) 934-2345
www.redsmeadow.com

Rock Creek Pack Station
Bishop
(760) 872-8331
www.rockcreekpackstation.com

Sequoia Kings Pack Trips
Independence
(800) 962-0775

Virginia Lakes Pack Outfit
Bridgeport
Summer: (760) 937-0326
Winter: (925) 349-5074
www.virginalakes.com
(See ad on pg. 11)



**HOME OF THE
ORIGINAL
SHEEPHERDER
BREAD®**

763 N. Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514
760-873-7156 • FAX: 760-872-4932

email:

info@schatsbakkery.com

BISHOP • CALIFORNIA • USA

Friendliest Motorhome Parking Lot in Town

DIESEL PUMPS • PROPANE • FISHING GEAR • BEER • ICE • SODA • SNACKS



180 N. See Vee Lane, Bishop

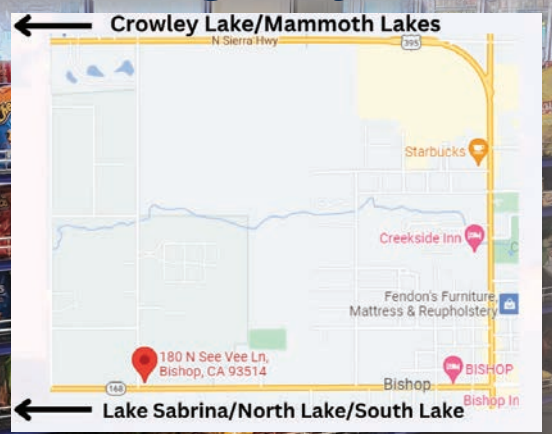


Store Hours: 6am - 10pm

Easy Access to/from
State Route 168W
& Highway 395

LOWEST GAS PRICES AROUND

Grab -N- Go Deli 7am - 3pm
Breakfast • Lunch
Dine In/Takeout



DISCOVER

LADWP IN THE EASTERN SIERRA



Recreation

All lakes and streams on LADWP-managed land are open for trout fishing beginning the last Saturday in April through November 15. Pleasant Valley Reservoir and Owens River are open and stocked year-round.

Discover more recreation activities at LADWPEasternSierra.com/recreation

