Take a trip to the 1860s at Whiskey Flat Days

Check out Bishop: The small town with a big backyard! Pages 9-16
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To our readers:
Sierra Views offers a view of the events, activities, and fun up and down the Eastern Sierra and beyond.

On the cover:
A gunfight takes place at last year’s Whiskey Flat Days.
This year’s event, a trip back in time to Kernville’s 1860s roots, is set for Feb. 14 through 17.
Put on your boots, grab your hat and prepare to hit Kernville as the annual Whiskey Flat Days event returns with a plethora of activities Feb. 14 through Feb. 17.

Whiskey Flat Days is held every Presidents Day Weekend. It is a leap back to the good ol’ wild west days when the area was settled by gold miners, cattle ranchers and trappers.

Join the fun when Kernville reverts to its old name “Whiskey Flat” for four nostalgic days of fun for the entire family.

The four-day event features activities such as a parade, the Wild West Daze Rodeo, a Wild West Encampment, carnival rides, frog jumping contests, the Whiskey Flat Mayor contest, food and craft booths, Epitaph, costume and whiskerino contests, line dancing, a pet parade, bluegrass and country western music, an art show, gunfighter skits, kids activities, games and much more.

The fun starts off Friday evening, Feb. 14 with a
street dance at Circle Park, featuring Red Headed Strangers provided live music. This SoCal classic country band will make a night by providing rip-roaring old school country hits and an amazing selection of songs ripe for dancing the night away.

The real fun gets off to a start with the Whiskey Flat Days parade starting at 10 a.m., with Kern County First District Supervisor Mick Gleason serving as grand marshal. The parade starts at 10 a.m.

The Schoepner Amusement Carnival opens, filled with rides and games, opens at noon at Kern River Drive. From noon to 2 p.m. the main stage will feature live music by the band Backflow.

The Whiskey Flat Encampment opens at 1 p.m. on Scodie Avenue and will feature a wide range of vendors and activities that bring the 1860s spirit of the town roaring into the present.

You’ll see history and gunfights all day, along with reenactments of Chuckwagon cooking and coffee, a horse trader and livery. There will be horse shoe’n and horse doctor’n, the Whiskey Flat Saloon, a Justice of the Peace, a saddle maker and leather craft, a bathhouse, beautifier and hygienist, storytellers bringing back the Old West through words, mining and sawmill demonstrations and a Civil War Confederate camp.

At 2 p.m., the first “heat” of the frog jumping contest starts at Piute Road.

From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the main stage on Tobias Road will again feature Backflow.

The fun continues Sunday, Feb. 16, as the Whiskey Flat encampment opens at 8 a.m. for a second day. At 11 a.m., an Old West Church service is scheduled in the encampment.

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the main stage, Tobias Road, the Kern River Band will perform.

The amusement carnival opens up at 10 a.m. on Kern River Drive, and the final heat of the frog jumping contest will be held on Piute Road.

Sign up for an Old West costume contest at 11 a.m. for adults and children; judging is at noon. At 1 p.m., signs up for a whiskerino contest starts, with judging at 1:30 p.m. The pet parade contest sign-ups start at 2 p.m.; judging at 2:30 p.m.

Throughout the entire event, Whiskey Flat mayoral candidates will be out and about, rubbing elbows and schmoozing with people. The three candidates this year are the team Jami Ragland-Ward and Shawn Ward, aka “Skyrocket Jami and Firecracker Shawn” and Chester “Chaps” Chapman. The two mayoral campaigns help serve as a fundraiser for Whiskey Flat Days.

The winner will be announced Sunday be announced at the main stage at 3 p.m.

The Kern River Band will again perform from 4–6 p.m.

For more information, visit https://www.gotokernville.com/whiskeyflatdays

Wild West Daze Rodeo

Day one of the Wild West Daze Rodeo also opens up at 1 p.m. at the John E. McNally Rodeo Arena. The event features open team roping, bull riding, hide racing, open barrel racing, junior barrel racing, a calf scramble, sheep riding and more. The rodeo will enter a second day at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16.

The gates open at noon, and tickets are $15 per spectator, with $5 parking rain or shine.

According to the rodeo description, Cotton Rosser is a name that has become synonymous with quality rodeo production. After a ranch accident in 1956 abruptly ended a promising career as a rodeo contestant, Cotton purchased the Flying U Rodeo Company.

For the past several decades, Cotton and his family have worked to make the Flying U one of the most successful stock contracting firms in professional rodeo. Cotton has long been known for his outstanding rodeo productions, including the flamboyant opening ceremonies presented at the National Finals Rodeo, the Houston Livestock Show and the Grand National Rodeo in San Francisco just to name a few. Rodeo is show business as far as he is concerned.

According to Cotton, “You have to run the show, you can’t let the show run you. If you don’t keep the audience entertained they will go somewhere else.”

The answer is quite simple. The Trona Pinnacles, situated about 23 miles east of Ridgecrest, are a two-hour drive from Victorville, mainly up Highway 395. Believe me when I say they’re well worth the trip to the little town of Trona, located on Searles Lake’s western shore.

The area was once entirely underwater thanks to glacial melting during the last Ice Age that affected the Mojave Desert approximately two million years ago. The lake had a depth, according to some pretty smart geologists, of more than 600 hundred feet.

Through the eons, though, the water slowly dried up, and the lake is now gone. There’s no boating in Trona, which hugs Highway 178.

But, with the lake’s disappearance, many minerals have been mined to give us borax and Epsom salts, to name a couple. It was, and is, a financial boon for the small town in a quite rural section of the Mojave.

We’re not here to discuss cleaning supplies or healing minerals, though. No, this is about Hollywood. (Things seem to always get around to Hollywood, don’t they?)

One glance at the Trona Pinnacles, which are among the National Conservation Lands of the California Desert, and it’s easy to see what has drawn filmmakers in want of a stunningly odd landscape.

The view comes courtesy of more than 500 tufa spires. These are porous rocks formed as deposits when springs interact with other bodies of water.

Say what?

Well, in other words, when calcium-rich groundwater combines with alkaline lake water, these tall tufa spires can be created from the materials found on the lake bottom.

When Searles Lake dried up, some of these tufa spires pushed out of the basin to reach over 140 feet tall. According to geologists, they were formed around 30,000 to 100,000 years ago.

The Trona Pinnacles attract more than 30 film, TV and commercial shoots each year. Many projects are science fiction in nature and fit the seemingly out-of-this-world landscape. Walking around the tufa spires, one can easily see why this desert location is filmed so regularly.

On a recent weekend, Laureen and I decided to venture out to the Trona Pinnacles. A beautiful, clear sky beckoned as we drove through Red Mountain and Randsburg — two Highway 395 locales that are also worth visiting.

We then made a right turn north onto Highway 178 and soon found a desert scene we had never encountered before. The Pinnacles themselves are about 13 miles southeast of Trona, accessible via a BLM dirt road that’s roughly five miles long. As we stared across the flat dirt landscape, it seemed as though we were reaching for the heavens.

“Looks like something from a Sci-Fi movie,” I said.

“It’s hauntingly beautiful,” Laureen observed in return.

As we drove closer, the landscape took on an even stranger appearance, and the tall tufas seemed to be calling out to us to explore them.

It’s an easy drive along the hard-packed dirt road. The only time a 4 by 4 might be necessary is after substantial rain. Of course, if it’s raining hard, a dry lake bed is probably not the place to be.
— unless, that is, if getting stuck in mud were part of the plan.

Our plan was to park and study these natural formations. Standing beside a few of them was a magical experience. They seemed to stretch into space like skyscrapers in midtown Manhattan.

A slight breeze in the area was accompanied by whistling sounds that emanated from some of the holes in the tufas. That added to the mysterious and chilling quality of the pinnacles, and it reinforced why this place has been used so often for filming.

We half expected some other-worldly creature to step from the shadows cast by the pinnacles, but we were alone.

Such a vast and glorious area, riddled with more than 500 majestically crooked spires formed over the course of tens of thousands of years, and we were the only people about.

It was fascinating.

Then the silence was suddenly destroyed. A low-flying plane raced across the desert floor roughly 100 hundred feet above us.

Laureen looked up. “That was loud and unexpected.”

Silence returned in a matter of seconds as we watched the turboprop disappear as quickly as it had arrived.

It appears the military uses the flatness of Searles Lake as a training area. A sign warns of the danger of low-flying aircraft as you approach the site. It didn’t lie.

“That was cool,” I said.

We shared a picnic, discussed what it must be like to film at the Trona Pinnacles and decided to revisit in the hopefully not-too-distant future.

The Trona Pinnacles demand up-close viewing. You have to personally experience them to begin to understand the appeal. The stark beauty of those peculiar towers alone will make the trip worthy of your time.

It’s truly a mysterious place.

Contact John Beyer at BeyersByways@gmail.com.
Lawyer faces battle to change Lone Pine campground’s derogatory name

BY LOUIS SAHAGUN
Los Angeles Times

Storm clouds gathered over eastern Sierra Nevada peaks on a recent weekday when Allen Berrey spotted a modest granite headstone engraved with the name Jose C. Pires.

It was a crummy day to visit Mount Whitney Cemetery, but Berrey had a reason to spend it among hundreds of grave sites decorated with small American flags and flowers.

He stepped up to introduce himself. “Hello there, Joe,” he said, with a toothy smile. “I’m a lawyer, and I’m not going to let folks call you derogatory names anymore.”

Berrey reached into his backpack and pulled out a bottle of port. He poured a little into a paper cup. Raising it, he said, “Salud!”

Lone Pine is an Owens Valley town where Hollywood filmed many of its westerns, including some involving an outsider arriving to take on the powers that be. Berrey could be one of those characters. He has made it his mission to restore honor to Pires, who is memorialized at a Lone Pine campground that was long ago named “Portagee Joe.”

Until he died in 1960, Pires was just one of the many tramps who camped on the western edge of town. Good-natured and hospitable, he had a reputation as a local Robin Hood who stole turkeys from neighboring ranches during Christmas week to give them to needy families.

He became known as Portagee Joe, a slur adopted from a Portuguese character in John Steinbeck’s 1935 novel “Tortilla Flat.”

Apparently, few in Inyo took offense in the 1960s when the county tore down Pires’ crude homestead on Lone Pine Creek and named it Portagee Joe Campground.

California is dotted with numerous racially offensive place names, many of them holdovers from the Gold Rush. Near Sacramento, a group has petitioned to change the name of Folsom’s Negro Bar Recreation Area, sparking debate on whether the name is “out of date” or instead relevant to the site’s history.

In Lone Pine, Berrey has come under personal attack for wanting to rename it for something that is “more respectful and dignified,” as he puts it. In a community where distrust of big change runs deep, many residents and county officials say the existing name captures a moment in history and is appropriate for a local Portuguese man, who, according to some, didn’t seem to mind the moniker.

“We called him Portagee Joe and he liked the attention,” recalled Kathleen New, 75, executive director of the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, who is strongly opposed to the proposed name change. “It wasn’t a derogatory slur to him.”

“Allen Berrey, however, is a moron,” she added. “What right does he have to come into our valley and change our history?”

In New’s corner is Michael Prather, a Lone Pine resident and prominent environmental activist. “The county has many pressing matters more deserving of its attention than this,” Prather said.

Born and raised in Yosemite National Park, Berrey has always stayed close to the high peaks of the Sierra. In Yosemite, his father was a marketing director for a park concessionaire and his mother was a
county is perpetuating a racial slur, under my saddle I want the name to sue.

partment of Water and Power, of his in-campground land, the Los Angeles De-
grip on the region's economic stability, most of the land and water and has a leased campground site is an act of dis-
crimination against a group of persons based on national origin; and it is therefore a violation of the referenced antidiscrimination covenant in the LADWP-Inyo County lease," he wrote, adding that the county's expenditure of funds to operate Portagee Joe Camp-ground is therefore illegal.

In a county where LADWP owns most of the land and water and has a grip on the region's economic stability, the dispute has left Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley, whose district includes Lone Pine, in an awkward position.

With a lawsuit threatened against Los Angeles and the county, I have to be careful," he said. "But I also need more time to deal with this. That's because I have a whole town that wants the name to stay the same."

Racial tensions have long simmered in the 180-mile-long Owens Valley, starting in the 1800s, when U.S. troops were sent to protect settlers and the land and water they had effectively stolen from Native Americans.

In 1863, settlers and soldiers chased 35 Paiute Indians into Owens Lake, just south of Lone Pine, to drown or be gunned down.

About seven miles to the north, in the shadow of Mount Whitney, is the Manzanar internment camp, where U.S. authorities detained thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II.

After the turn of the last century, Pires joined the stream of Portuguese immigrants escaping depressed economic conditions in the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores, Cape Verde and Madeira. Like many others, Pires found his way to the mountain communities of the Sierra Nevada, where sheep and mining industries offered a path toward integration into American society.

Pires died on Dec. 8, 1960, of heart disease. Although locals knew him as Portagee Joe, friends or relatives had the headstone engraved with the nick-name Portuguese Joe, perhaps as a measure of respect.

A six-paragraph obituary in the Inyo Register newspaper offers what little is known about Pires, who was born in 1904 in the town of San Aras on the island of Treseia, off the coast of Portugal. He came to the United States in 1920, and 21 years later settled in Lone Pine.

During the last eight months of his life, it says, Pires attended the Foursquare Church, where he confided during a testimonial service that "he loved the Lord but wasn't sure whether the Lord loved him."

At the conclusion of the funeral service at Mount Whitney Cemetery, the officiating pastor and a resident on guitar sang Joe's favorite song, "This World Is Not My Home," written by Albert Brumley in 1936.

This world is not my home, I'm just passing through,

My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Present at the graveside were his friends, the obit said.

—

After drinking the toast, Berrey lifted his coat collar and adjusted his hat as the cold wind blew.

"I really don't understand the animosity over this — it's not like trying to change the name to Che Guevara," he said, shaking his head.
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At your way through the Eastern Sierra. Good food prepares us, recharges us, and connects us with our family, friends and a community. Bishop is the “small town with a big backyard” and it also has a pretty impressive kitchen.

**Mexican**

**Amigo’s Mexican Restaurant**  
285 N Main St  
(760) 872-2189  
All the great Mexican style dishes you’d expect served to eat in or take out. Try their unique, creative enchilada specialties. Good prices and great portions.

**Astorga’s Mexican Grill**  
2206 N Sierra Highway  
(760) 872-8889  
A family owned and run restaurant with a full bar and tasty Margaritas. The newly remodeled patio where tacos are cooked outside on ‘Street Taco Tuesday’ is a great place for dining al-fresco.

**La Casita Mexican Restaurant & Cantina**  
175 S Main St  
(760) 873-4836  
This spot boasts a restaurant and bar and the Mango Margarita comes highly recommended. The chile verde plate or the chile relleno with or without shrimp is not to miss.

**Mercado Mexico**  
276 South Warren Street  
(760) 873-4546  
This hidden gem is a legit, fresh, Mexican Market that comes with grab and go food options that will not disappoint.

**Rolling Chef 395**  
107 South Main Street  
(310) 570-0041  
Offering you the choice of Mexican, Peruvian and Cuban food. This food truck menu is fun, and service is impeccable.

**Japanese**

**Yamatani Japanese Restaurant and Sushi Bar**  
635 N Main St  
(760) 872-4801  
The establishment is spacious and elegant with a large main dining area, a sushi bar and cocktail bar. Only sushi grade (high quality) fish from around the world, and the same markets that supply LA based restaurants, is served here. Every dish is diligently prepared to the highest standards. It’s a local favorite and a visitor’s delight. Don’t miss the jalapeño boat.

**Italian**

**Pizza Factory**  
970 N Main St  
(760) 873-3800  
Their slogan is “We Toss’em, They’re Awesome.” They do and they are. In addition to great pizza, the menu is packed full of delicious sandwiches, soups, salads and more. The self-serve salad bar is the go to when you need a load of fresh veg!

**International**

**Convict Lake Resort**  
2000 Convict Lake Rd  
(760) 934-3800  
Fine dining in one of the most spectacular settings ever. Sunday brunch during summer is an outing you’ll remember forever. This is pure elegance at altitude.

**Dutch**

**Erik Schat’s Bakkery**  
763 N Main St  
(760) 873-7156  
Erik Schat’s Bakkery commands respect among the travelers of US Highway 395 that runs through town. Breads of all sorts and sizes and a variety of delicious cakes and cookies are baked fresh daily. The trademark loaf is the ‘Sheepherder Bread’ introduced here in 1938. Sandwiches are made to order in the deli and it’s impossible to leave with an empty stomach or empty hands. Eat some here and take some home.

**Chinese**

**Imperial Gourmet**  
930 N Main St  
(760) 872-1144  
This is a spacious, elegant restaurant with a relaxed atmosphere and a full bar. The menu has all the standard dishes we’ve come to expect from a good Chinese restaurant. There are sweet and sour dishes, hot and spicy, chow mein noodles, and regional inspirations such as Mongolian and Szechwan dishes. On the road? Take Chinese to go.

**Coffee Culture**

**Black Sheep Coffee Roasters**  
232 N Main St  
(760) 872-4142  
This local boutique roaster is a source of pride for the Bishop community and is a revered coffee brand in the Eastern Sierra. The coffee is sourced directly from farms in Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador and roasted locally in Bishop. The coffeehouse serves these favorites – pour over, espresso, and a smooth and powerful cold brew coffee. The kitchen rustles up some great quiche, breakfast burritos, sandwiches and light meals.

**Bishop Looney Bean Coffee & Café**  
280 N Main St  
(760) 873-3311  
Specialty coffees are the hallmark of this coffeehouse. Smoothies, frappés, lattés and healthy grab-and-go sandwiches, wraps, bowls and freshly baked goodies will keep you on the go.

**Indy Coffee Roasting Company**  
307 S Main St  
(760) 878-8278  
This European coffee roaster brings full bodied coffee and rich flavor to the Owens Valley. Find it today in Bishop at Manor Market, Blue Lupine and Eastside Guesthouse & Bivy.

**American**

**Aaron Schat’s Roadhouse**  
871 N Main St  
(760) 873-0000  
Serves the classic rotisserie chicken with that all-American side, coleslaw. Burgers come with options for cheese, sauces and toppings as do steaks and sandwiches. Salad choices are a great mix of classic and new age.

**Bishop Country Club**  
1200 US Highway 395  
(760) 873-5828  
In a setting that’s almost second to none, the 19th Hole Bar & Grille is a wonderful spot for a good ol’ American breakfast or leisurely lunch. Stunning views, good food, lively bar, and perhaps a round of golf for good measure. It’s open to the public.
Meet the smoked meats; jerky, hams, to the craft brews, an excellent menu of friendly atmosphere and, in addition own exquisitely crafted beers on tap.

Paiute Palace Casino – Tu Ka Novie Restaurant 2742 N Sierra Hwy (760) 873-4150 Large portions at reasonable prices for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There’s a ‘lite eaters’ option too. Be sure to join the players club and try your luck at the 24-hour Vegas style casino, featuring over 300 of the latest and most popular slot machines and a variety of table game, you never know what day may be your lucky day.

Rock Creek Lakes Resort 1 Upper Rock Creek Rd (760) 935-4170 The Grill at Rock Creek Lakes Resort smokes their own meats, brews and bottles their own BBQ sauce, bakes their own deserts and serves up a mean mountain breakfast. Seasonal: Open May – October.

Rock Creek Lodge 85 Rock Creek Rd (877) 935-4170 Here’s one place you’ll have to visit at least twice – a winter trip and a summer trip. During the winter months you can ski up to the lodge or get a chauffeured ride on a snowmobile to enjoy a four-course ‘prix fix’ menu served family style. It’s quite magical. Breakfast and lunch is served in summer and a hunger-busting burger hits that spot after a day in the mountains.

Tom’s Place Resort 8180 Crowley Lake Dr (760) 932-4239 On the way up to Mammoth Lakes from Bishop is the rustic, mountain restaurant at Tom’s Place. It’s definitely the place for steaks and the prime rib is a specialty. Stop in for breakfast, lunch or dinner and take a seat inside or outside depending on the season and the weather. Plenty of options here.

Whiskey Creek 524 N Main Street (760) 873-7777 Dating back to 1924 this authentic country inn and restaurant has recently been remodeled. It's a wonderful fine dining experience serving fine steaks and other fine American fare. Try lunch on the deck looking out toward the Sierra or sip a cocktail in the saloon. There are great choices for the whole family.

Sweets and Treats

Brown’s Town Café and Country Store Highway 395 and Schober (760) 873-8522 Get a taste of the old-fashioned ice cream fountain, homemade pies and fine candies. Hot and cold sandwiches are available too. While you’re there check out the replica Old West main street museum. Seasonal: Open May – October.

Great Basin Bakery 275-D S Main Street (760) 873-9828 This bakery produces fresh bread, bagels and croissants daily plus a wide assortment of cookies, pies, muffins, scones, cinnamon rolls ... and all manner of delicious treats. The bakery includes a café where their artisan breads and bagels are also made into delicious breakfast items and lunch sandwiches, soups and salads.

Good Earth Yogurt 251 N. Main Street (760) 872-2020 Organic yogurt, pie and wine bar. This entirely different type of eatery allows locals and visitors alike to indulge in a heaping of self-serve frozen yogurt, cheese plates, panini style sandwiches and fresh homemade pies. And since it's an inviting place for the whole family, there's a wonderful selection of California grown wines and local beers on tap.

Lake Sabrina Boat Landing Café Lake Sabrina (760) 873-7425 Open during the summer months this lovely little café perched above the docks at Lake Sabrina serves a full breakfast and lunch. It's worth the drive up to the lake for the spectacular views, the delicious food, but most of all – for the homemade pies and ice cream. Seasonal: Open May – October.

Nightlife

Back Alley Bowl & Grill 649 N Main St (760) 873-5777 Food and fun all rolled into one. Where there's an alley there's bowling. There's league play, regular play and then there's cosmic bowling on Saturday nights. It just so happens to have the best burger and prime rib in town.

McMurtry's Sports Bar 175 N Main St (760) 872-7171 Order a drink, fire up the jukebox, pull out the pool cues or grab the darts and play on. There are plenty of TV's to catch your favorite game too. Good drinks, good games, and good times.
Save the Date for March 14th, 2020

The Blake Jones Trout Derby is one of the largest single-day fishing events in California.

Bishop, CA is a popular fishing destination during the regular open season, the end of April through November 15th. Now, a few more anglers are realizing that the year-round waters are worth the trip, and just require a few more clothing layers and some cold-weather gear. Quiet and uncrowded, Bishop is the place to be.

The highlight of the year-round season is Bishop’s annual Blake Jones Trout Derby. Both the Owens River and Pleasant Valley Reservoir are primed with heavy-weight broodstock and rainbow trout. Grab your warm gear because this derby is off the hook!! Fisherman and women will be vying for their share of more than $10,000 in prizes on March 14th, 2020.

Registration, check in, weigh station, and prize giving is at the conveniently located Tri-County Fairgrounds in downtown Bishop. There is plenty of parking and on-site RV camping may be available - contact Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds at 760-873-3588 for reservations.

The Pleasant Valley Reservoir is a 6-mile drive from downtown Bishop North on HWY 395 to Pleasant Valley Road. Turn right and follow the road to the closure at the base of the dam. Shuttle service will run between the Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds and Pleasant Valley Reservoir all day on derby day.

Online registration for the derby is open now at www.bishopvisitor.com. Fee is only $20 for adults & $10 for kids. You may also call (760) 873-8405 to request a derby entry form by mail.

DON'T MISS THE BISHOP FISHING DERBY!

March 14, 2020

52nd Annual Blake Jones Trout Derby

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

Saturday, March 14 6AM - 3PM

10K + AWESOME PRIZES
Win Cash, Float Tubes, Rod & Reel Combos +

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Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop

Bishop, California

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Organized by Bishop Chamber of Commerce. Co-Sponsored by Inyo County, City of Bishop & many generous prize donors.
OPEN ALL YEAR:

The Owens River runs north and east of downtown Bishop. It's easy to access from HWY 395 by driving a few miles north on HWY 6 or east on Line Street or Warm Springs Road. The gentle flowing and truly scenic Owens River offers great opportunity for any angling pursuit, flies, lure or bait. A favorite spot for fly-anglers is just below Pleasant Valley Campground the fly angler will find a three mile stretch of designated wild trout water. Note: there is a posted barbless, catch & release only area below Pleasant Valley Campground so please check CDFW regulation book.

Pleasant Valley Reservoir is an outstanding year-round fishery, located in a canyon along the Chalk Bluff six miles north of Bishop off Hwy 395. Turn at Pleasant Valley Road and follow the paved road for about 1.5 miles to the reservoir just past the campground. Many anglers drive to the gate then load their bicycles with tackle and pedal up the 2 mile paved road (closed to motor vehicles) that lines the reservoir until they find the perfect spot. Boats are not allowed in PVR, but float-tubing is fine. Pleasant Valley Reservoir is a steady winter and spring producer, with rainbow and brown trout filling the stringers. Fly fisher folks favor the float tube scene, and bait anglers find more than a mile of easy shoreline access.

You may also enter PVR from the north end at Gorge Road, 9 miles north of Bishop, at the bottom of Sherwin Grade on HWY 395. Turn east, drive a short way up to the pipeline then turn right, this will take you to the power plant where there is plenty of parking. Here you will find the Owens River coming out of the power plant and slowly widening into the reservoir. Excellent stream fishing conditions are found here. For a little solitude, head down to the Owens River Gorge. It's a bit of a walk, but worth the journey. There are also some guided float trips on the Owens River near Bishop, so check out the local guiding services at www.bishopvisitor.com.

OPEN LAST SATURDAY IN APRIL UNTIL NOVEMBER 15:

Bishop Creek Canyon is a short drive west of Bishop along State Route 168. The environment changes quickly from high desert sage and arid climate of Owens Valley floor to an alpine wonderland of pine forest, rushing streams and gorgeous deep-blue lakes surrounded by mountain peaks. These lakes and streams are really close - in less than a half hour drive from downtown Bishop, you'll have your line in the water!

Intake II is heavily planted during the season by CDFW with both pan-size rainbows and large trout. This lake is known as a great lake for both shore and float tube fishing. Intake II also provides wheelchair access for fishing with great opportunities for catching a big one!

At nearly 10,000 feet, South Lake offers breathtaking scenes and cold mountain water loaded with quality trout. The road to the lake is lined with pine and aspen and meanders along the south fork of Bishop Creek. South Lake is also popular with hikers, backpackers, horse packers and photographers; it's the trailhead for Bishop Pass leading to hundreds of high-mountain lakes in the John Muir Wilderness.

The north fork of the Bishop Creek road leads to the spectacular beauty of Lake Sabrina. You will find a splendid setting with magnificent fishing and photo opportunities. The north fork of the Bishop Creek Canyon is particularly beautiful in the fall, with its Aspen-lined slopes ablaze with gold, orange and red hues of autumn.

Located at the end of a quite steep and very narrow dirt road, North Lake feels like the backcountry. The road is a bit of a nail-biter for some, but if you go you'll be rewarded with natural beauty and terrific fishing. Float tubers especially love this spot.

Bishop has so much to offer. Whether you're here for a few days or a full week, be sure to stop in the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center for friendly, knowledgeable advice on things to do and places to visit. They're located right next to the beautiful Bishop City Park at 690 N. Main Street. Check out www.bishopvisitor.com for online travel planning resources.
The Eastern Sierra is well known for its mountains and wonderful outdoor adventure activities. Many of these are human powered activities such as: hiking, climbing, cycling, kayaking, fishing, paragliding, skiing and... the list goes on.

There are also many exciting motor powered activities like auto touring, boating, motorcycling, and OHV driving. Then there are a few combination and animal powered activities which include horseback riding, mule pack trains, sailplane flying, water skiing and, well, let’s just focus on one for now. Shall we? Motorcycle riding!

Motorcycle Road Rides

California State Route 168

On a warm, sunny winter day in the Owens Valley, like we often have, one of the sweetest road rides is State Route 168 over the White Mountains.

SR168 was originally conceived as a Trans-Sierra highway to connect Fresno to Bishop, but construction over the rugged Sierra crest was deemed too difficult. Now two congressionally designated wilderness areas prevent motor vehicle passage and the road is separated by the Sierra Nevada into a western section and an eastern section.

The western portion of the road, 70 miles long, has its western terminus at Lake Sabrina (at 9,128’ in elevation high up in the Sierra Nevada) and eastern terminus in Oasis, California (just a few miles from the Nevada state line in Fish Lake Valley). A short section between Lake Sabrina and Aspendell is closed for the winter season, but lower down between Aspendell and Bishop the road is open all year. Icy conditions are prevalent at the higher elevations so save this ride for the warmer months and during fall when the colors will excite you as much as the ride does!

In Bishop SR168 turns south and joins US Highway 395 to run concurrently for 14 miles to just north of Big Pine where it leaves Highway 395 to head east. It snakes over the White Mountains to Oasis, California and this where the real motorcycle fun is to be had.

Westgard Pass

From the junction at Highway 395 just north of Big Pine, SR168 sets out across the valley crossing the Owens River for a 14-mile twisting, turning climb up into the White Mountains to Westgard Pass. Beyond the pass the road bends and curves for 5 miles as it descends toward Deep Springs and then stretches out across the Deep Springs valley for 10 miles. Another climb through the White Mountains for a further 8 miles will deliver you into Oasis, CA.

This is a truly magnificent ride on a nimble sportbike, tourer, dual sport or cruiser. The road surface is excellent and the curves will keep your mind focused and your adrenalin flowing.

If the day is chilly or your time is limited go for a quick out-and-back. Choose a turn around spot at random then head back down and cruise into Bishop for a beer at the Mountain Rambler Brewery.

Deep Springs Valley

With good temperatures and plenty of daylight it is an excellent half- to full-day ride. Loop around the White Mountains, into Nevada on SR264 through Dyer, NV, and return to Bishop on US Highway 6. This loop is 152 miles long and at average cruising speeds takes about 3 hours. However, there may be some slow going and you may (make that definitely) want to stop to admire scenery and take photos. Extend this ride to a full day with a picnic or stop for coffee and snacks at the roadside café in Dyer.

A magic weekend getaway with this ride as the centerpiece of an Eastern Sierra motorcycle adventure begins and/or ends at Benton Hot Springs Inn and Campground. This beautiful little resort has a lovely campground and each
The weekend begins in the company of good friends on a Friday evening with a BBQ and hot soak. Saturday morning starts with a hearty breakfast and another hot soak... warming up those riding muscles. Gear goes on, bike gets started and then its ride time! Many hours later cruise back into your campsite and... you guessed it... hop in the tub for another hot soak. Dinner with a good bottle of wine shared under a most magnificent canopy of stars ends a perfect day. Head home on Sunday after a lazy breakfast and one last dip in the hot, soothing waters feeling relaxed and rejuvenated.

Be aware that after a winter snowstorm there can be icy patches on the road in shaded areas higher up and the cinders used for traction can be rather disconcerting on a motorcycle. It's always prudent to check road conditions with Cal-Trans and at our own Bishop Visitor Center.

Ready to ride? Come ride State Route 168, it's an adventure every time.

Dirt Bike Motorcycle Rides

Poleta Open Area

At the base of the White Mountains, 5 miles from the center of Bishop, is an exceptional off-road motorcycling area. Covering 2,500 acres, the Poleta Open Area is part of an extensive network of over 2,200 miles of OHV trails and roads leading though almost one million acres of the Inyo National Forest.

Most of this larger network comprises double track native surface road, but here on the eastern side of the Owens Valley about 50 miles consists of single-track and ATV trails interspersed within the system. All vehicles are required to stay on designated roads ... except for the Poleta Open Area, which is designated for cross-country and open motorized vehicle travel.

Managed jointly by the Bishop area Forest Service and BLM authorities this open area with its excellent network of trails is linked to the bigger network making the opportunities for dirt bike riding seem almost endless.

The area provides for a wide variety of ATV riding including motorcycles, dune buggies, jeeps and SUVs. There are beginner, intermediate and advanced technical single-track trails as well as 4-wheeled driving routes.

Excellent maps have been produced by the California Trail Users Coalition and are available free of charge at many of the trailheads and, of course, the Bishop Visitor Center.

Please obey posted signage and make sure that all OHVs have a California green or red sticker or be street legal. All vehicles must be equipped with a Forest Service approved spark arrester. Tread Lightly.

Bring Your Motorcycle to Bishop

Whatever you ride and whenever you have the time to get out into Bishop's big backyard you will find so much here to thrill you. There are mountain roads and desert tracks with a variety of surfaces. Whether you're looking to clear your head and blow out the stress or challenge your body and sharpen your skills take a motorcycle ride in the Eastern Sierra. Whatever you do and wherever you go, tell our Bishop business owners that the Chamber sent you. You'll be treated like family!

Choose Your Own Adventure


❖
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All photos courtesy of Inyo Photo Shoot Out/Lone Pine Chamber.
Climbing the desert’s unnamed mountains, AKA chukar hunting

BY JIM MATTHEWS
www.OutdoorNewsService.com

Not surprisingly, I don’t kill many chukar. I never have. It’s not that I don’t go out and run them up nasty hillsides at least a couple of times a season, sometimes a lot more. There have even been years when I could reliably plan to have chukar for dinner after a day hunt up West Ord Mountain or a ridge run on the east or west end of Stoddard Ridge, but those years are few and far between.

And this isn’t one of them. There are certainly more birds this year than the last few, but numbers are still a little off. I still go.

Chukar remain one of my favorite gamebirds simply because of the terrain and country where they live. I like chukar vistas. The long, sometimes miserable, climbs up are always worth it.

I have joked with my hunting buddies that I was going to write a chukar hunting book and call it, “Climbing the Mojave Desert’s Unnamed Peaks.” I’m not sure I’d even mention chukar until the fourth or fifth chapter. Mostly chukar hunting is about long climbs and sleuthing down high ridges with shotguns. It is about wind and loose rocks, and hunting dogs and cactus.

I have a photo of me with my Labrador Duke from a few seasons back near the top of Goat Mountain just off Highway 247 between Lucerne and Barstow. I like the photo because it shows typical chukar country, and I think I have climbed up all the ridges and peaks visible in the photo over the years. If you look hard at the image, my truck is a tiny speck at the base of this hill. We heard chukar up here from the truck, so we climbed up. Then we heard chukar way back down there, obviously on their way to Goat Spring for a drink. The game bag on my bird belt is empty, and it stayed that way — although we did jump a covey just below us from where the photo was taken via a self-timer. The birds flushed wildly out of range and flew out of sight around the side of the mountain a half-mile away.

I turned 66 this past year, and each of the last four seasons — when I have reached the top of the ridge on of that first chukar mountain of the year (whether I’m scouting or hunting) — I have stopped and waited for my breathing and pulse to slow down. Then I’ve looked out across the long vista of desert.

“I guess I can do this one more year,” I say quietly to myself and the dog. I’ve starting saying it every crest of every chukar mountain.

Oh, I go slower, and if my sons are along, both part goat that scamper up to the tops of rocky ridges, while I work the sidehills lower down or follow them down ridges a half-mile behind.

As always, I’ve been exploring country I’ve never hunted before during this season. Our deserts are huge and there is just too much to see to stick to just a few known spots. Since The Lab is getting older, too, and he’s grateful we have been limiting ourselves to one big climb up and a circuitous route back down. The first few trips this season, my legs were burning and I about fell down several times, but the last trips were better for both the dog and me. We didn’t see any chukar this last trip and Duke never even acted birdy. Frankly, we haven’t seen many this whole season — certainly none within shotgun range. Yet.

There is still a month to go in the season, until Jan. 25, and I have at least two more spots that I’ve heard rumors about holding chukar, and I want to check them out this year. I’ve looked at the topographic maps, and one of them looks like a place I can drive to nearly the top of the ridge and then hunt one way down the curving ridge, drop down a not-to-deep saddle and canyon and come back up to the ridge, making a circle. I’m looking forward to the hike.

I guess I can do this one more year.

DFW resumes stocking Crystal Lake

Crystal Lake, located in the Angeles National Forest north of Azusa will be stocked with rainbow trout for the first time in several years by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), its first plant of the year just before Christmas and a second plant slated for next week. The DFW stopped stocking this popular fishing area because years of drought led to low lake levels and poor water quality.

“It’s exciting to be able to bring back this opportunity for anglers in the San Gabriel Mountains,” said Jennifer Pareti, Inland Fisheries Environmental Scientist with the DFW. “Prior to the drought, Crystal Lake was stocked for more than 70 years. People often share with me their memories of catching fish as kids at Crystal Lake.”

Crystal Lake is located in the Angeles National Forest, off of Highway 39, above the City of Azusa. DFW planting information can be found on the DFW stocking page on its website at https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/.

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Deer hunters have until January 31 to report the tag and their hunting results — successful or not — to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. If hunters do not report by that date, they will be penalized when applying for a 20-21 deer tag later this year. The fine for not reporting is $21.60 on top of the cost of the deer tag for this coming fall's seasons.

The first year the mandatory reporting was instituted was 2016. That was the first year there was a penalty applied when applying the following year. Because the DFW did repeated mailings and public relations efforts, a total of 85 percent of deer hunters reported their tags. Since then deer tags sales have remained consistent, but the number of hunters reporting has dropped to just 75 percent. This means that 25 percent of deer hunters are paying the penalty instead of taking a few minutes to mail in the tag or do the on-line reporting (which takes all of about three minutes, start to finish).

The DFW staff is a little baffled as to why about 25 percent of hunters don’t bother to report their hunting results. Most within the agency thought the reporting number would increase a little each year as hunters found out how simple it was and how important the information was to the deer management program.

“We don’t know the motivation of people for not reporting,” said Russ Landers, a data analyst with the DFW in Sacramento. “We don’t know if it is on purpose or if they just forget and decide the fine is not that big a deal.”

Nathan Graveline, the DFW’s deer and elk program manager in Sacramento, said that a lot of hunters are indeed just paying the fine, and that it has been a substantial amount of new money coming into the agency. While the funding is always welcome, Graveline said the agency would rather have 100 percent reporting on deer tags.

“We have to justify [with data] for deer hunting to take place, and this data helps us show that hunting is not having a significant impact on the deer population,” said Graveline. He explained that less hunter harvest data lessens the accuracy of their population estimates, hunter effort data, and age structure of herds, all which could impact the number of tags issued and whether or not a season will be held.

While Graveline didn’t say it, better data gives the agency a solid leg to stand on should hunting seasons be challenged in court, which is increasingly more likely each year.

The bottom line is that they would like to see 100 percent reporting.

Graveline did say the DFW was initiating a much larger deer monitoring program statewide with expanded data collection on all herds in the state. The goal is to have baseline data from all populations so the agency can even better track trends in herds and make better management decisions. Many herds have been managed for years with minimal or old data. The new data collection is going to be done in traditional ways (aerial surveys, ground counts, etc.) but the state is developing new methods that include DNA sampling (from hair traps and other methods), game cameras, and double counting from air and ground. The new data will give the agency far more accurate population data and information on trends.

But to make all of the data come together, one of the biggest components still needed is harvest data from hunters. It is important for all deer tag holders to report, even if they did not hunt or harvest a deer. The physical deer tags may be returned to the DFW at the address on the tag, or a hunter may simply go to the DFW’s website (wildlife.ca.gov). The automated licensing and tag reporting page is linked right off the front page of the website.

The data hunters provide (especially if they were unsuccessful this year) could be the final piece of information the DFW needs to increase a tag quota or add a new deer hunting opportunity.

❖
On Saturday, February 15, 2020, the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound’s Feline Conservation Center will be hosting its “Red Light Tours” special event.

Guided tours will be provided so that guests can view our exhibit area wild cats under cover of darkness, in their nocturnal state. Our tour guides will utilize red “night vision” flashlights to show you the cats, flash photography is not allowed.

Tours begin at 5:00 pm (before it is completely dark) and continue until the last tour departs at 7:00 pm. Tickets are $15 per person. Advance tickets can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com (search for “red light tour”).

EFBC’s Feline Conservation Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of endangered wild feline species. EFBC houses more than 60 rare cats representing 18 wild feline species. Guests can visit EFBC during its regular business hours, daily 10 am to 4 pm (closed Wednesdays) and view large wildcats such as Jaguars and Leopards as well as smaller and lesser known species like Fishing cats, Sand cats and many more.

Since 1977, and through its very successful captive breeding management programs, EFBC has been working with other zoos and facilities worldwide to save endangered feline species from extinction. For more information about EFBC, visiting and directions, please call (661) 256-3793 or visit the website: www.cathouse-fcc.org.
In April, Edwards, California in the Mojave Desert will transform into a cyberpunk and sci-fi wonderland.

The people behind the event of Wasteland Weekend will host Neotropolis, an immersive festival that celebrates its inaugural year April 23-26. Neotropolis is an 18 and over cyberpunk and science fiction desert festival from the same team behind Wasteland World Inc.

It takes place on a large piece of private land in Edwards, CA in the Mojave Desert: Wasteland Valley.

The event requires everyone to be in costume during the whole event. This creates an environment where all attendees are participants and no one is a spectator. How much you want to involve yourself in the world is up to you. Some people come out to party and be part of the atmosphere and some people get fully-involved in the role-play and LARP/lore aspect of the activities.

According to Wasteland World Inc., the event’s creators, Neotropolis is a sci-fi and cyber themed event that “takes place on another planet in a far-flung corner of the galaxy, but one where elements of Earth (and other planets) have been dumped by a mysterious anomaly.”

The event in its first year encourages creativity on what they will come in as characters.

“We'd rather see what YOU come up with rather than give a long list of DOs and DON'Ts for costuming. Some of that will invariably come in year two, once we see what we get out there and who may have pushed things too far in a particular direction,” Neotropolis states on its website.

Of course, there’s a hard and fast rule: No recognizable characters.

Meaning? Leave the Darth Vader mask and lightsaber at home, and no assuming the identity of Blade Runner's Deckard. No Stormtroopers, Starfleet uniforms or Borg implants.

Originality and imagination are the rule here, but “That said, if you want to take inspiration here and there from known properties for your outfit, or even do a full cosplay of a character that fits our theme but isn’t recognizable, that should be fine.”

A backstory will unfold leading up to the event on social media and at its website, but some overall themes for people wanting to start on their costumes and characters early include: space travel, cybernetics, net running, artificial intelligence, robots, big corporations and gritty street level gangsters, aliens, lasers and other energy weapons, space ships and mech suits.

Again, no Darth Vader.

The backdrop takes place in a far-flung outpost on a desert planet, so there will be dirt and distress to outfits.

The event will also encourage participants to form factions with a unique theme and focus. It can be you and a few pals or a large group.

According to Neotropolis, “A faction has a shared identity and story. Individuals who have come together, and go all out with coordinated costumes, a group identity, themed camps/vehicles, and logo or faction I.D. Factions may form alliances and rivalries, opening up a whole range of interaction and games.”

Tickets for the event are $150 through Feb. 14 and $180 after that. Tickets will go on sale at 9 p.m. on Jan. 28, 2020 through its web portal or through Everbrite. The link will be posted at https://www.neotropolis.com/tickets. Major credit cards are accepted. Tickets are nonrefundable.

For more information, visit www.neotropolis.com.
Isabella Lake Fishing Derby is April 4-6

The 31st annual Isabella Lake Fishing Derby returns for the weekend of April 4-6, bringing with a chance to earn money and have some good ol’ fashioned fishing fun.

The 31st Annual Isabella Lake Fishing Derby is shaping up to be a good time this April 4-6, 2020. Our first Trout are being delivered to the fish rearing pens at Red’s Marina in November and will growing fast.

They are fed three times a day by an all volunteer crew organized by Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce and derby committee member Mark Chambers.

“Thank you everyone involved for all the hard work, these fish eat a lot and have to be fed rain or shine, sleet or sun, and it’s getting cold out there! By the time these Trout are released right before the tournament they will all be fat and happy and ready to bite a line,” the event coordinators state on their website.

Early bird registration ends on Wednesday, March 18 by 5 p.m. and online registration closes Tuesday, March 31 by noon. No entries are accepted after 7 a.m. on April 4.

Derby entry costs are $40 for adults and $15 for youth.

For those wanting to enter the tagged trout opportunities, the prize opportunities include 500 tagged trout. Tags will range from $20 to $5,000. That grand prize trout doubles to $10,000 if you purchase an official derby T-Shirt.

The event will include men, women and youth (15 and under) divisions.

The Men and Women Divisions will pay up to $1,000 for first place and the Youth Division will pay up to $1,000 for first place. Note first and second positions in all three divisions pay double if you purchase a t-shirt. Make sure and get yourself one of those 2020 Derby T-Shirts, that’s how you can catch that big one and get the largest prize money possible.

There are also several raffle prizes this year.

First Grand Prize Raffle will be a 2020 BassTracker Classic XL, 50HP Mercury Marine Low emission out-board, Minn Kota Trolling Motor, Lowrance Hook-3x color fish finder, dual batteries, live well and a diamond coat tracker trailer.

Second Grand Prize Raffle will be a Honda Eu2200i, 2200 watt Honda Generator.

Third Grand Prize Raffle is two separate drawings for a $500 cash prize.

Make sure and buy some raffle tickets at Derby Headquarters this year to have a chance at this beauty along with other prizes. Make a note, Derby Headquarters this year is at the Lake Isabella Senior Center, located at 6405 Lake Isabella Blvd, right in the center of town, just make a left at the four-way stop coming off of Highway 178 and go about a half mile it will be on the left.

For more information, visit www.kernrivervalley.com/2020-isabella-lake-fishing-derby.

ININDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
Watering Restrictions
per Ordinance 103

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Questions?
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A good idea for fishing? Hydro-energy company wants to build six new reservoirs in Sierra north of Bishop

BY JIM MATTHEWS
www.OutdoorNewsService.com

A private energy company wants to build a six-lake complex in the Rock Creek watershed. Would it be a boon for fishing and Eastern Sierra recreation – or a boondoggle?

Premium Energy out of Walnut, a private energy development company, has proposed a major hydro-electric project north of Bishop that is being billed as a “Mini June Lake Loop.” The string of six small reservoirs and affiliated pipelines would be built on Lower Rock Creek and on Wheeler Ridge to the west.

Three of the reservoirs are proposed to be built inside the John Muir Wilderness along the top of Wheeler Ridge south of Tom’s Place. The surface acreage of the three proposed reservoirs would total 214 acres. This is more than Gull Lake and Silver Lake combined (157 acres). The proposal also calls for three reservoirs along Lower Rock Creek that would total 146 surface acres. By way of comparison, the surface acreage of Intake II, a popular fishing spot on lower Bishop Creek, is about 12 acres.

Energy would be generated by the “head” created by water flowing downhill in penstocks from the higher elevation reservoirs through the power plants at the lower reservoirs. There would be three penstocks running the four to five miles from the three upper lakes along the east side of Wheeler Ridge to the three lower lakes along Rock Creek. There would be power generation facilities at each lower reservoir. The water is pumped back up to the reservoirs when energy is cheaper during non-peak hours and then released back down to generate energy during peak usage times. The project would also require the building of new roads for the maintenance of the reservoirs in the wilderness and along with three penstocks running downhill to the lower reservoirs.

According to the application submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in late March, 2019, the total electric production capacity of the three power plants would be approximately 5,200 MV (megawatts), or 17,960 GWh (gigawatt hours) per year, enough to power approximately 1,600 homes for a year.

The project is in its first developmental stages, and construction would not begin until at least 2024 if the project is approved, according to Premium Energy’s website.

The hurdles, both environmental and social, the project will have to leap before moving forward are staggering, especially when weighed against the total power generation.

Already there is massive opposition building to this project from a variety of Eastern Sierra Nevada interests.
Just a partial list of objections includes the following:
-- The Inyo National Forest would have to approve a major intrusion into the John Muir Wilderness, and this likely could and would not be granted on a local level (or even federal level without an act of Congress). It would require changing the designation of the Wheeler Ridge area as wilderness. A huge contingent of backcountry users would likely lobby against this change.
-- The capturing of rain water and snow-melt on the top of Wheeler Ridge would very likely impact ground water supplies that feed springs and small streams below the upper reservoirs, especially in Swall Meadows area, but all the way down into Round Valley, and it could also impact the flows in upper Rock Creek upstream of Tom's Place. No hydrology work has been done.
-- There could be impacts to deer migration down into Round Valley caused by the three penstocks, potentially blocking the animals entirely. This is perhaps the most important deer wintering area in the Eastern Sierra.

But there are also some seeing this project as a positive for the region in jobs created, additional clean power, and potential additional outdoor recreation activities. Some in the fishing community are looking at the project and say it could have a positive impact by creating additional fishing opportunities in the area – especially if it were designed with public access and use in mind.

This camp is already pointing out how three small reservoirs on Wheeler Ridge could attract water recreation users, campers, in addition to fishermen. The easily accessible lower reservoirs along lower Rock Creek, ranging in size from 32 to 72 acres could become as popular, or even more popular, than Intake II on lower Bishop Creek.

While FERC initially denied the project in late May, it didn’t shut down the proposal completely by saying it was really three projects instead of one, even though they were clustered together. Premium Energy could easily resubmit this project as three. Eastern Sierra fishermen and recreational users will be hearing a lot about Premium Energy projects in the coming months and years.
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Activities
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