



## **2007-2008 County of Inyo Community Project Sponsorship Program Grant Recipients**

Created in 2007, the Community Project Sponsorship Program provides an opportunity for the County of Inyo to help sponsor, in the form of a financial contribution, specific events or projects undertaken by non-profit organizations in Inyo County communities. The events and programs can either enhance in-county or out-of-county visitation to the community, or provide for the cultural or recreational enrichment of the citizens of Inyo County. Thus, the program provides a source of support for events that attract visitors, while also helping keep alive traditional, small-town events and celebrations for county residents.

Since initiating the program, the County of Inyo has awarded 21 separate grants totaling \$135,000 to help support existing and new events staged by local non-profit organizations. There have been three rounds of grant awards. The following is a list of the organizations that received Community Project Sponsorship Program grants, and a brief description of the programs or events that benefited from the county's grant funds.

### **Death Valley Chamber of Commerce**

Received \$9,840 to help pay for construction of an all-weather informational kiosk located in Shoshone. The kiosk provides information about local attractions, details the stories of such local legends as Marta Beckett and the Amargosa Opera House, and describes local attractions such as the Old Spanish Trail, the China Ranch Date Farm, the Amargosa River and other desert delights.

Received \$3,000 to help buy equipment for the successful and popular Night Sky Program, which allows visitors to enjoy the stars shining in the desert's crystal-clear skies. The program is a partnership between the chamber, Death Valley National Park and the Furnace Creek Inn.

### **Southern Inyo Community Foundation (Lone Pine Film Festival)**

Received \$8,700 to print 10,000 copies of the Movie Road Map, which directs drivers to the many movie locations in the Alabama Hills, west of Lone Pine, where hundreds of movies, television shows and commercials have been shot, and are still being shot.

Received \$9,000 to augment the advertising and promotional budget for the 2008 edition of the world-renowned Lone Pine Film Festival. The multi-day event celebrates the many movies made in the Lone Pine region, Death Valley and Inyo County. It

features appearances and panel discussions by actors, stuntmen and others involved in Lone Pine film history, in addition to showing a diverse array of movies “starring” the Alabama Hills or other locations in Inyo County.

### **Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce**

Received \$8,500 to advertise its “Catch the Gold” backcountry fly-fishing promotion, which has lured anglers from across the nation to venture into the high country and catch and release a California Golden Trout. Anglers receive a certificate documenting their Golden Trout experience.

Received \$10,000 to ensure the first-ever Inyo County Visitors Guide was printed on quality paper and widely distributed. The Guide, a joint effort involving the county’s Coalition of Chambers of Commerce, is a slick, four-color magazine-style visitors guide that highlights all the communities and attractions throughout the entire county.

Received \$5,000 for Cowboy Up in Lone Pine, a celebration of the American Cowboy on, what else, the National Day of the Cowboy. The community event features a community barbeque, a country-western dance, rides in a horse-drawn wagon, and screening of classic Western films (many shot in the nearby Alabama Hills) at the Beverly and Jim Rogers Museum of Lone Pine Film History.

### **Inyo Council for the Arts – Millpond Music Festival**

Received \$6,000 to help update promotional material (rack cards, brochures) and increase advertising for the Millpond Music Festival, a multi-day musical event set against a stunning Sierra backdrop at Millpond Park, north of Bishop, that attracts some of the nation’s top folk, blues, bluegrass and world music performers.

### **Bishop Historical Society – Laws Museum**

Received \$3,000 to help defray the costs of a fundraising concert that was also part of the yearlong celebration marking the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the train rolling into the Laws station, outside of Bishop. Noted cowboy singer Dave Stamey and local fiddler Pete Watercott performed.

Received \$1,400 to help promote Good Old Days, an annual community event featuring music, a day at the museum and community groups raising funds through such events as a homemade pie sale and a barbeque dinner.

### **Independence Chamber of Commerce**

Received \$5,600 to help the Chamber of Commerce and the Independence Volunteer Fire Department pay for the annual Independence Day in Independence fireworks show, which is enjoyed by residents of Independence and Lone Pine and visitors who also enjoy the parade, barbeque and other events during the day.

### **Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery/Independence Civic Club**

Received \$5,600 for the annual Independence Father’s Day Trout Derby. Volunteers and the Independence Civic Club pitched in to make the one-day derby enjoyable for anglers from Inyo County and Southern California. Cash prize were awarded, and merchandise prizes, many donated by local businesses and other sponsors, are also awarded in a number of categories, from largest fish to heaviest stringer, etc.

### **Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center**

Received \$10,000 to help enhance the experience of the 300-plus contestants and their families who come to Bishop for the California High School Rodeo State finals. The Chamber puts on numerous events for the contestants and their families, provides information and “goodie bags,” and works with community groups to make the high school athletes and their families feel welcome and want to come back.

Received \$6,800 to host the annual Blake Jones Trout Derby, at Pleasant Valley Reservoir. The Derby is one of the first of the trout-fishing season, and draws thousands of anglers from across the state in search of a good day of fishing, fun and prizes.

Received \$4,260 for the Trout Opener Press Reception, wherein members of the media from across the state are treated to a fine meal, plenty of local lore, some new angling gear, and a few stories and fishing tips on the Friday evening before the opening of the general fishing season.

Received \$6,000 that was used to supplement the usual fall and winter season trout stocking programs in local streams and entice anglers to come to Inyo County in the “off season,” not just in the summer.

Received \$3,800 for the Fabulous Fall Fun promotion, a joint effort between the Bishop Chamber, the Town of Mammoth Lakes and Mono County to promote the High Sierra's stunning display of fall colors and the many events in both counties during the fall season.

Received \$10,000 to start a new trout derby, named the Bishop Creek Drainage Summer Classic. The derby runs for the entire month of June, features plenty of fish, cash prizes for anglers landing tagged trout, and many other prizes for anglers enjoying the fishing in the scenic and serene creeks and lakes in the Bishop Creek drainage.

Received \$8,000 to keep the fishing fun going with the Bishop Creek Drainage Fall Classic fishing derby. Same theme as the summer event, but this derby runs for a month in the fall and entices anglers to make more than a trip or two to try and land a prize fish or just a prize or just a nice day of fall fishing.

Received \$6,000 for advertising that will emphasize the Fabulous Fall Fun campaign. The ad campaign comes on the heels of a successful summer advertising effort for Bishop, and keeps visitors inquiring about all the fall fun in the Bishop area, Inyo County and the Eastern Sierra.