

CALIFORNIA's



EAST SIDE

Photographed by Jack McBride



*One of the biggest mistakes a photographer can make is to look at the real world and cling to the vain hope that next time his film will somehow bear a closer resemblance to it.....
If we limit our vision to the real world, we will forever be fighting on the minus side of things, working only to make photographs equal to what we see out there, but no better.*

Galen Rowell in “Mountain Light”

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*Cover Photo
Owens River Sunrise II
(INYO-054).*

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THE EAST SIDE & HIGHWAY 395:

South of Carson City, Nevada the California State Line veers eastward and U.S. Highway 395 comes back into California. This is where the East Side begins along the West fork of the Walker River north of Bridgeport. From there Highway 395 follows the eastern slope of the Sierras down into the Mojave Desert and over the San Gabriel Mountains to East Los Angeles as Interstate 15. Here's a summary of the sites along that route that are covered in this book.

Traveling from north to south, Bodie, southeast of Bridgeport is the largest and best preserved ghost town from the mining era. Just beyond Conway Summit you'll find the road leading up into Lundy Canyon with its beaver ponds. A short way further on is Mono Lake and the back door to Yosemite National Park. South of Mammoth Lakes, side roads lead up to Convict Lake, McGee Canyon and Rock Creek Canyon.

The town of Bishop offers easy access to three Alpine lakes all above 9,000 feet. And the gravel roads north and east of town provide access to what remains of the Owens River.

The most remarkable and distinctive location comes next: the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. It's in the White Mountains directly east of Bishop between 11,000 and 12,000 feet. Here they have the oldest living trees on earth, some more than 4,000 years old.

The final place worth stopping on Hwy. 395 is Lone Pine. It's adjacent to the Alabama Hills, a rock strewn wilderness area that's famous for being the recognizable home of many Hollywood Westerns. Lone Pine is also the starting point for hikers who want to climb the tallest peak in the continental U.S., Mt. Whitney at 14,494 feet.

Death Valley, America's largest National Park, is about eighty miles southeast of Lone Pine over the Panamint Mountain Range. In the winter months this area can be quite enjoyable.

Today all of the water rights from the alpine lakes and streams that flow into this valley and what remains of the Owens River, as well as most of the land around it, is owned by the Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power (DWP). The water is piped over the mountains to feed the LA basin.

Due to pressure from conservationists, the DWP has kept their land open to hikers and fishermen, maintained reasonable water levels, restricted real estate development and limited livestock access. The U.S. Forest Service and the Federal Bureau of Land Management control most of the remaining land above the valley floor.

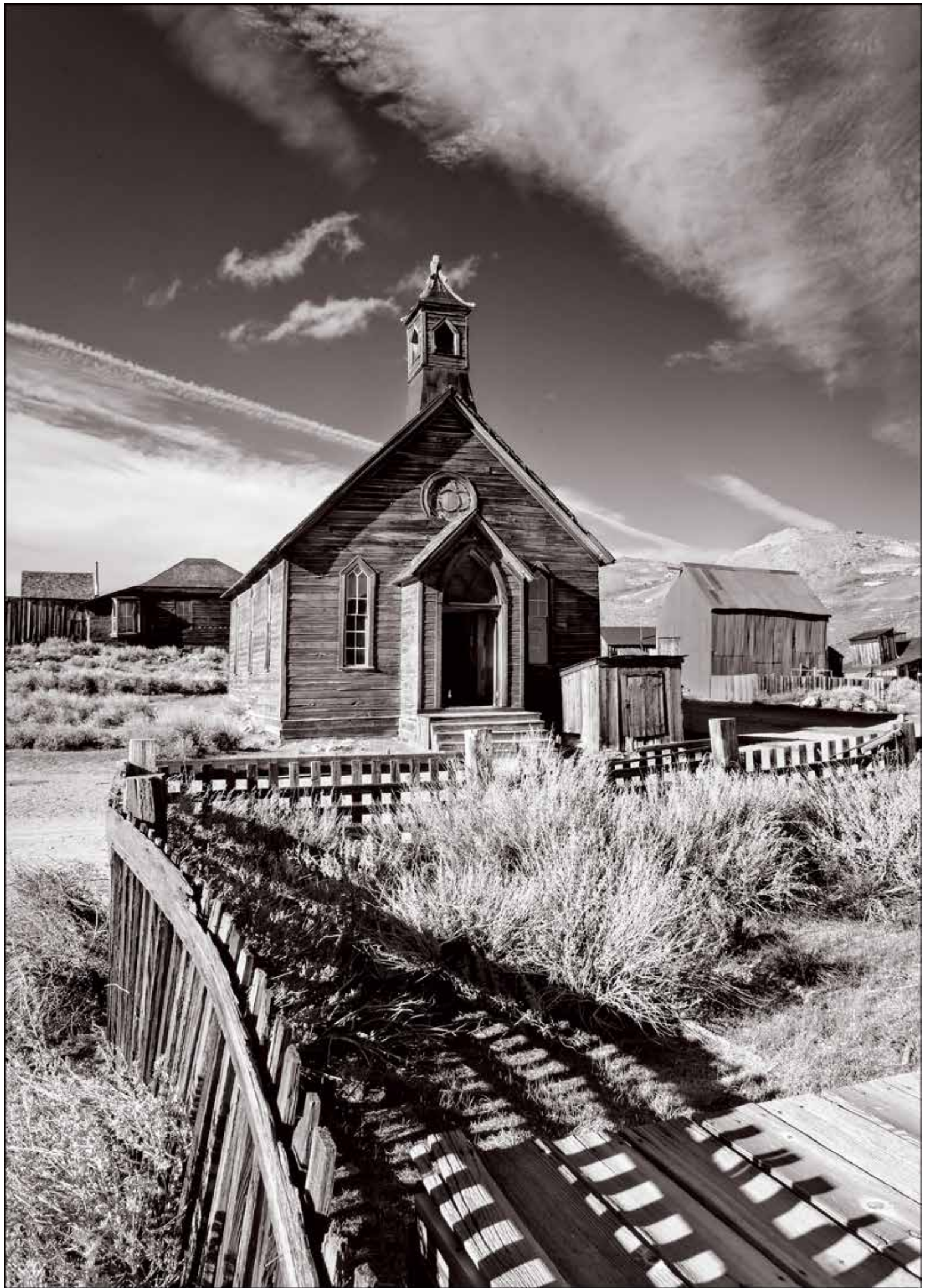
All of this makes the EAST SIDE the most interesting area of California to me. Plus my dog loves it too, because even where the rules forbid it, he can walk off-leash with me because there is seldom anyone on "watch".

BODIE STATE PARK

At the peak of the gold and silver mining boom in 1879, there were 8,500 people living in this remote location at 8,375 feet. Today only 10% of the original town still stands in a “state of arrested decay” protected by resident CA Park Rangers.



*Bodie State Park Overview
(BODE-002).*



*Methodist Church, Bodie
State Park(BODE-018).*



*Boone General Store,
Bodie State Park (BODE-017).*



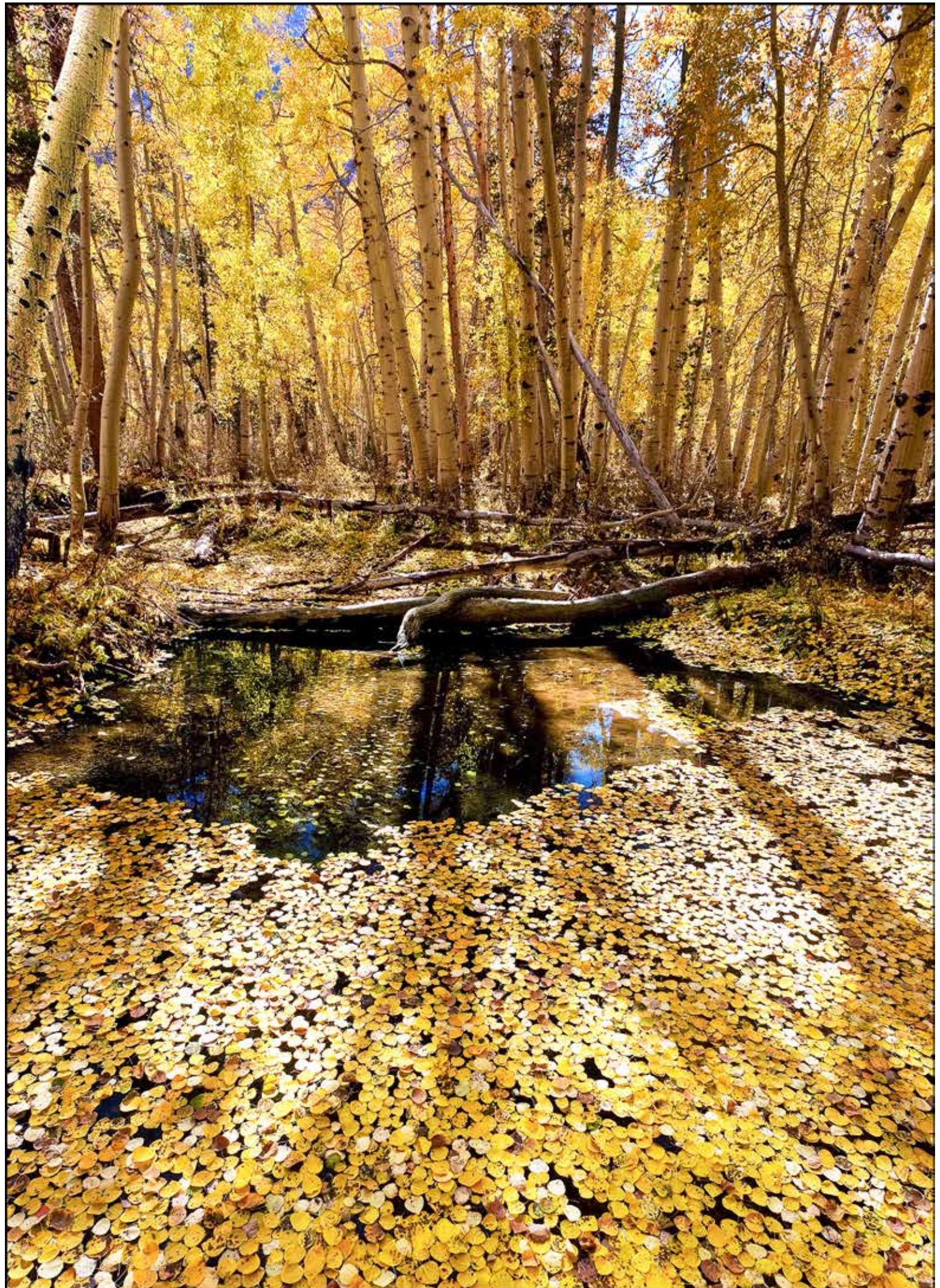
*Swazey Hotel, Bodie
State Park (BODE-003).*

LUNDY CANYON

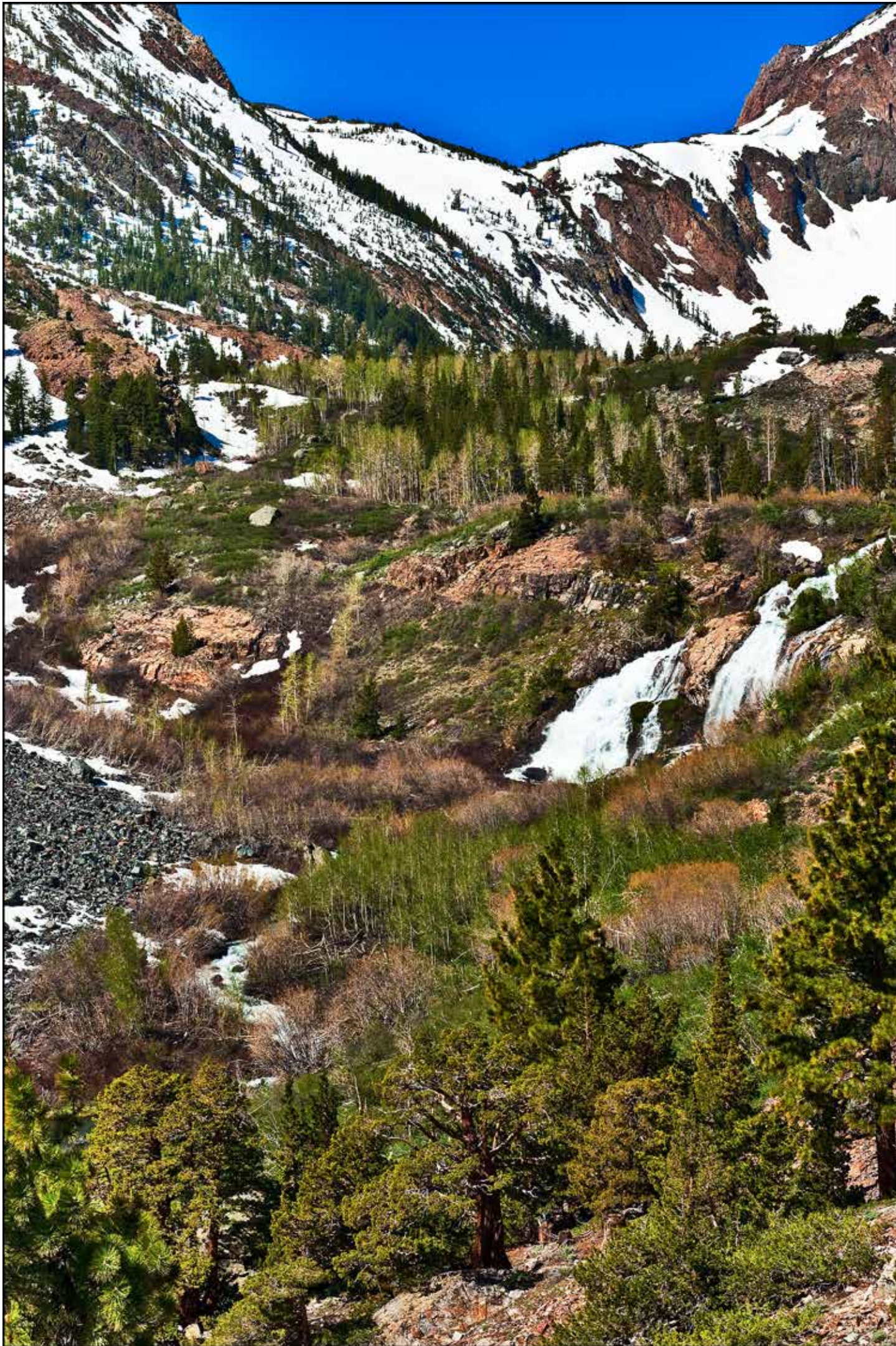
A side road just north of Lee Vining leads up to the beaver ponds and trail head for Lundy Canyon. This is part of the Hoover Wilderness area on the Northwest border of Yosemite NP.



*Lundy Canyon Beaver Pond
(MONO-021)*



*Aspens, Hoover Wilderness
(MONO-025).*



*Mill Creek Falls, Lundy Canyon
(MONO-017).*



*Beaver Dam, Mill Creek Falls
(MONO-022).*

MONO LAKE

Mono Lake is 760,000 years old and was sixty times larger during the last ice age. Today the lake covers 66 square miles and has no outlet, so as the water flowing in evaporates it leaves behind minerals and salts.

The tufa towers are composed of calcium from the fresh water flowing in and up from underground springs combining with the carbonate-rich lake waters to form the distinctive knobby limestone spires in and around the lake.



*Tufa Palace, Mono Lake
(MONO-006).*



*Mono Lake Tufas
(MONO-009).*



*Mono Lake Sunset
(MONO-007).*



*Mono Lake Sunrise
(MONO-031).*



*McGee Canyon
(MONO-014).*



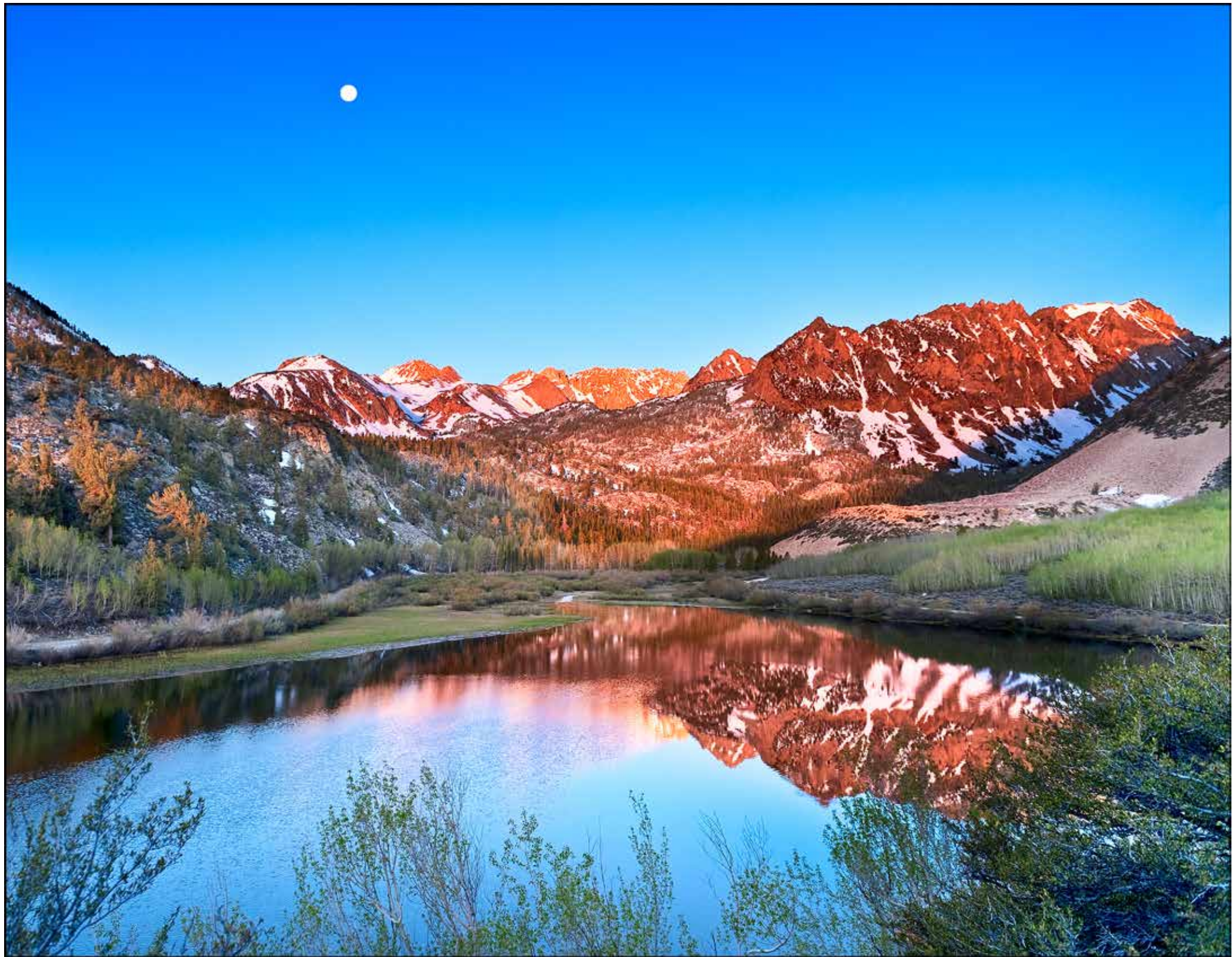
*Convict Lake
(MONO-002).*



*Mt. Abott & Box Lake,
Little Lakes Valley (INYO-060).*



*Buttermilk Road Sunrise
Bishop (INYO-032).*



*North Lake Sunrise II,
Bishop (INYO-040*



*North Lake Sunrise III,
Bishop (INYO-065).*



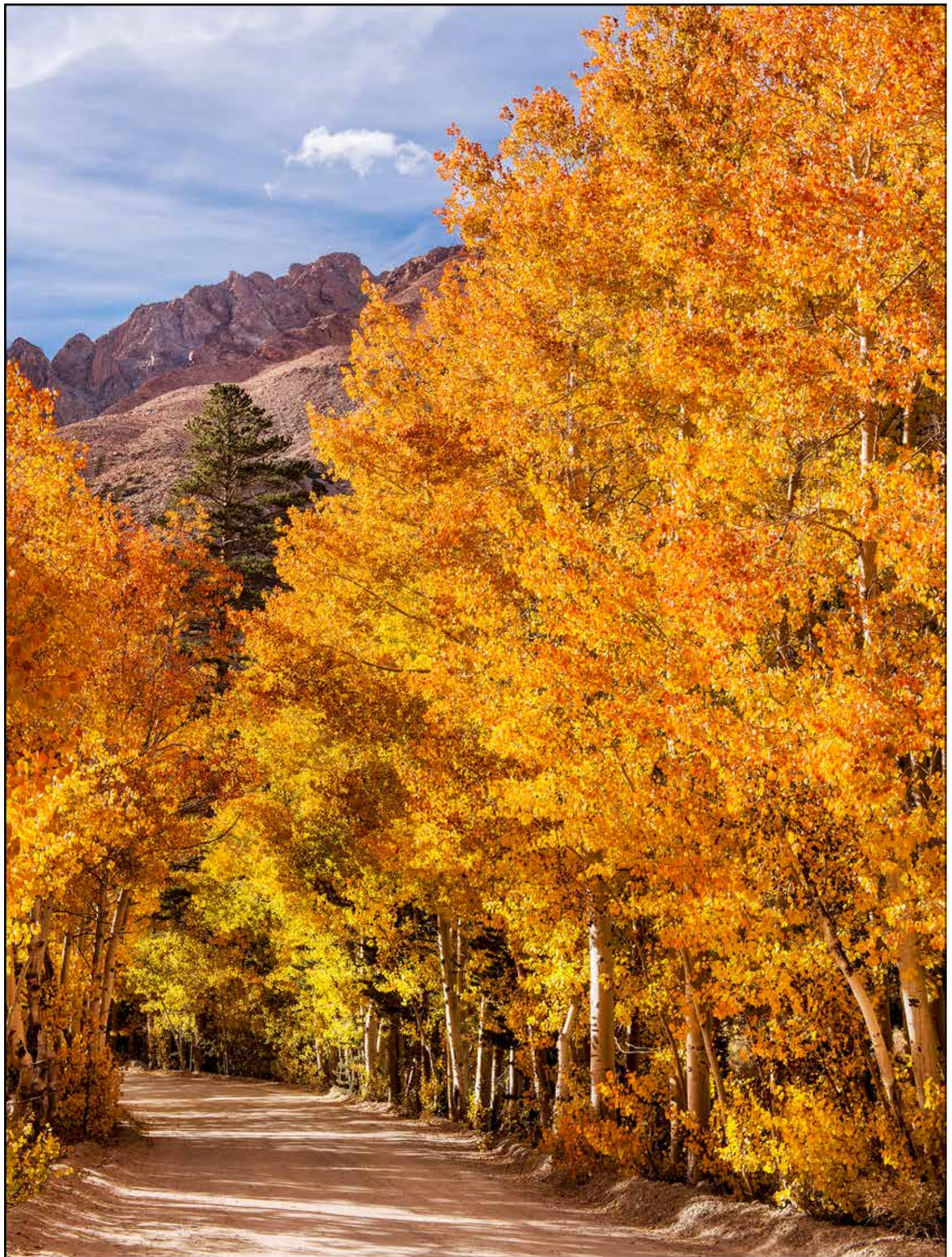
*First-Freeze on Lamark Creek,
John Muir Wilderness, Bishop (INYO-003).*

*Right: North Lake Road,
Bishop (INYO-055).*





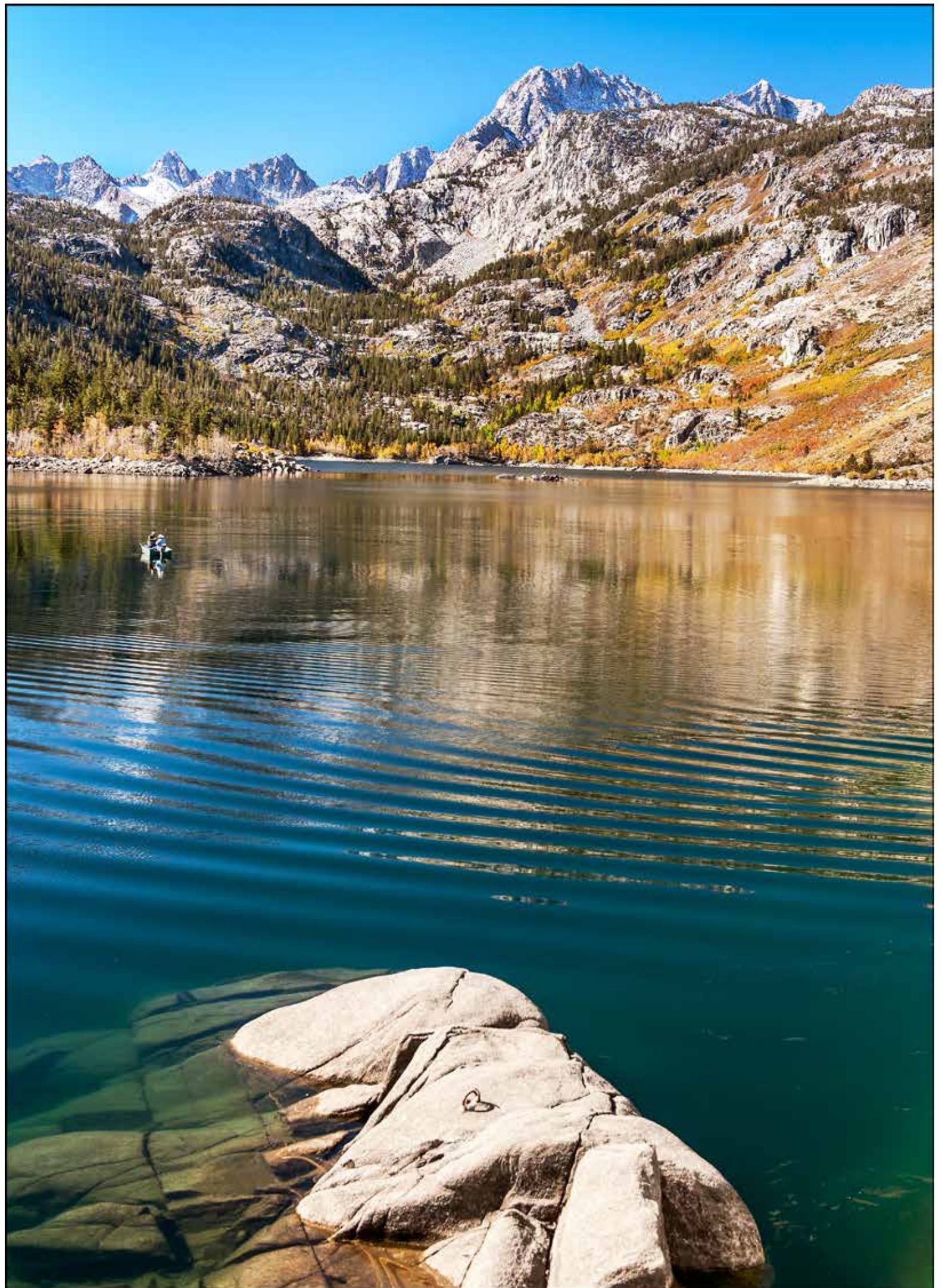
*South Bishop Creek,
Bishop (INYO-038).*



*North Lake Road,
Bishop (INYO-055).*



*Piute Crag, Mt. Emerson,
John Muir Wilderness (INYO-002).*



*Lake Sabrina,
Bishop (INYO-018).*



*Bristlecone Pines XXV,
Patriarch Grove (BRCN-025).*

ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINES

The White Mountains rise to over 14,000 feet and define California's eastern boundary north of Death Valley. Bristlecone Pines thrive in this severe environment where the arid climate, alkaline soil and dolomitic rock facilitates their slow growth over other species. Most of the Bristlecones in the higher elevations here are more than 2,000 years old, and some have been dated to more than 4,000 years making them the oldest living trees on the earth.

All these trees are in a State Park that is directly east and above Bishop. It's about a one hour drive, through Big Pine, on a paved road to the lowest forest: the Schulman Grove.

The Patriarch Grove is twelve miles further up on a rocky gravel road. Although it takes another hour to get there, it's worth the time. The titles identify where each photograph was made.

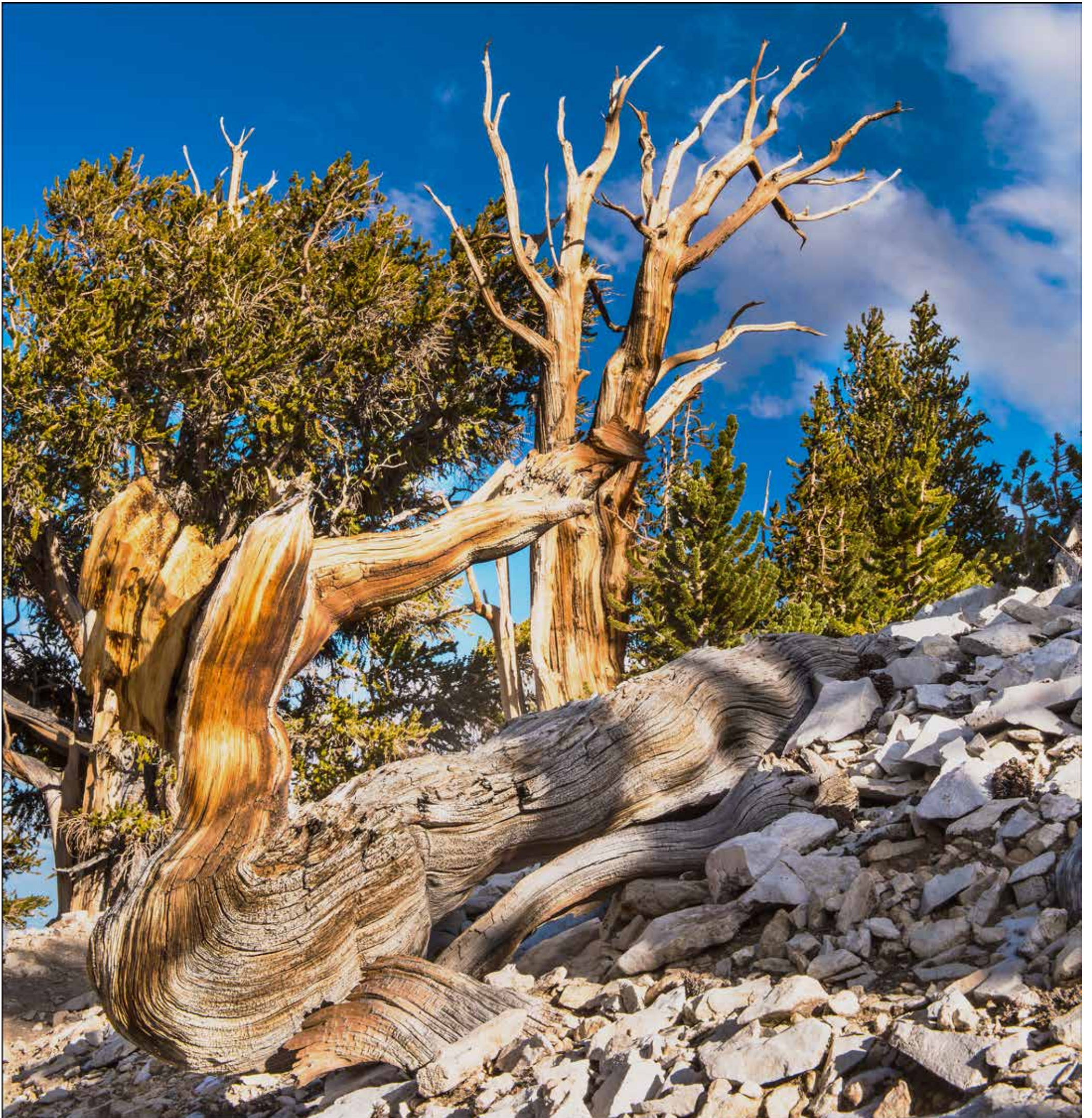


*Bristlecone Pines XXI,
Patriarch Grove (BRCN-021).*



*Left: Bristlecone Pine XI,
Schulman Grove (BRCN-011).*

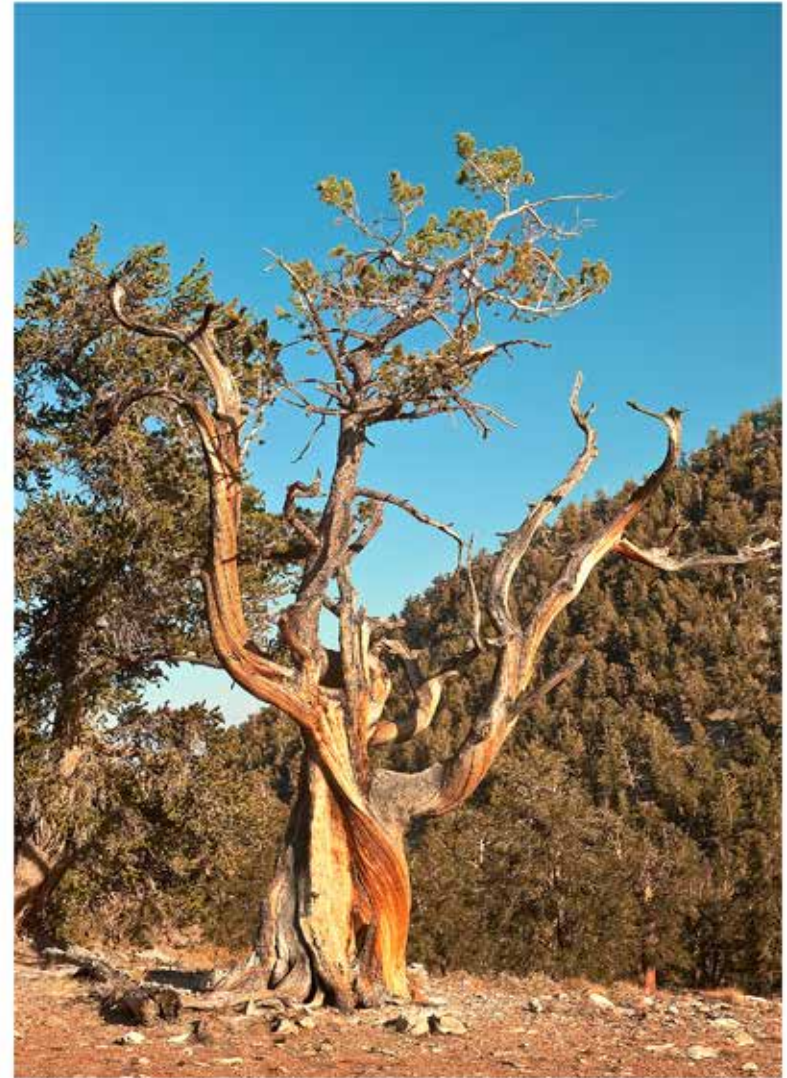
*Right: Bristlecone Pines XXIX,
Patriarch Grove (BRCN-029).*

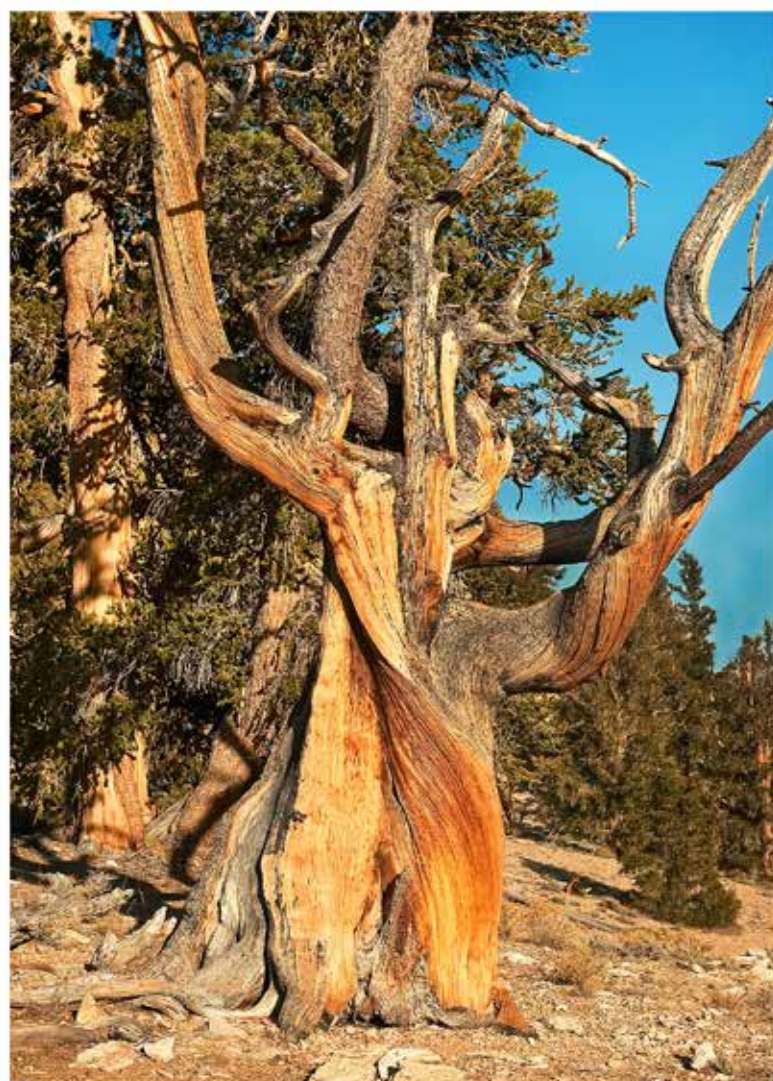


A TREE NAMED: ISADORA

While hiking through a grove of these ancient conifers, I came upon this graceful tree. It seemed like a modern dancer with arms extended and standing on her toes. It reminded me of photographs of San Franciscan, Isadora Duncan (1878-1927), the mother of modern dance; and that's what inspired me to shoot and print these images as a triptych.

ISADORA: Ancient Bristlecone Pine
(*Pinus longaeva*)
A Limited Edition Photographic Triptych





*Bristlecone Pine VIII,
Schulman Grove (BRCN-008).*





MANZANAR INTERNMENT CAMP

Manzanar opened in March 1942 and was the first of ten “Relocation Centers” throughout the West where Japanese Americans were imprisoned until the end of World War II. At its peak over 10,000 people lived here. Today the only visible traces of the camp are the foundations of the buildings. One barracks and a guard tower have been reconstructed, plus there is an interpretive center. Ironically it’s located just six miles south of a town named Independence.

*Left: Bristlecone Pines XXVIII,
Patriarch Grove (BRCN-028).*

*Manzanar Cemetery,
Independence (INYO-001).*



*Alabama Hills Sundown I
Lone Pine (INYO-080).*



*Alabama Hills Sundown II,
Lone Pine INYO-081).*



*Lathe Arch II, Alabama Hills
Lone Pine (INYO-064).*



*Mt. Whitney Sunrise,
Alabama Hills INYO-069).*



*Stagecoach Road, Alabama
Hills, Lone Pine (INYO-064).*



*Mobius Arch, Alabama Hills
Lone Pine (INYO-024).*



*Dante's View, Death Valley
(DVAL-010).*



*Devil's Speedway,
Death Valley (DVAL-007).*



*Artist's Palette Canyon
Death Valley (DVAL-015).*



*Devil's Cornfield,
Death Valley(DVAL-008).*





*Left: Manley Beacon,
Death Valley (DVAL-012).*

*Zabriskie Point,
Death Valley (DVAL-006).*

SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

MARTY: A PHOTOGRAPHER'S BEST FRIEND

Marty joined our family as a puppy in 2008 from the local shelter. He's mostly a "Kelpie": an Australian cattle dog, according to "dog experts". His obedience and intelligence support this progeny, but he's more mellow than most.

When Marty is with our other dogs, he's very playful. But when he goes out with me, he becomes a *working* dog. Whether it's standing patiently at my side waiting for the sun to rise, or simply "minding the car" when I am eating dinner, he's always the perfect traveler. Whenever I work a shift at our local cooperative art gallery, Marty comes along and joyfully greets every visitor.

On the trail Marty either leads or follows, but always stays within my line of sight. If it's hot he finds a shady spot to wait, while I fuss with my tripod and change lenses and filters. He was at my side when I captured almost all the images in this book. See Marty and his canine friends at: www.mcbridephotographics.com/marty.html.

PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE

The photographs in this book were taken between 2007 and 2014 using three successive generations of Nikon Professional Digital cameras. In all instances Adobe Photoshop was used to optimize the color and exposure for printing purposes. All were captured on a tripod, as a series of bracketed images at different shutter speeds, which enabled me to combine two or three of them to expand the exposure range in the highlights and shadows when necessary.

PURCHASE PRINTS FROM THIS BOOK

All of the photographs in this book may be purchased as Limited Edition Signed Prints. To learn more go to www.McBridePhotoGraphics.com or contact me directly at: jack@mcbridephotographics.com.

Thank you for your interest in my work.



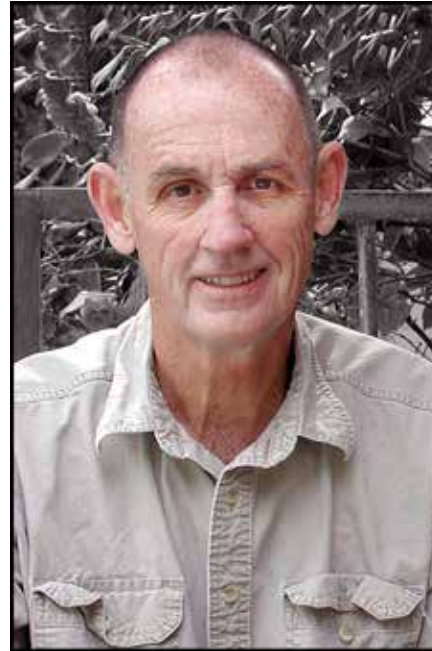
"Dog Is My Co-Pilot"



Marty: Rabbit Hunting



Marty: Entranced by the Sunrise at North Lake



AUTHOR/PHOTOGRAPHER

Jack McBride has been doing award-winning travel and landscape photography for more than twenty years. He approaches his subjects as an artist rather than as a documentary photographer, which means he uses artistic license to alter his images when necessary to produce the emotional response from the viewer that he envisioned at the location.

His prints have won awards in numerous juried shows, and have been purchased by several large companies, including Kaiser Permanente to decorate their facilities. His work has also been featured in galleries in the Central Valley and on the coast.

As an Advertising Director for companies such as Polaroid, McDonald's, General Mills, and the Gallo Winery, McBride worked with many of the top commercial photographers in the world. All the while he was building his own portfolio based on these experiences. McBride holds a B.A. in Communication Arts from the University of Notre Dame and is a former U.S. Naval Officer. More of his work can be viewed at: www.mcbridephotographics.com.



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