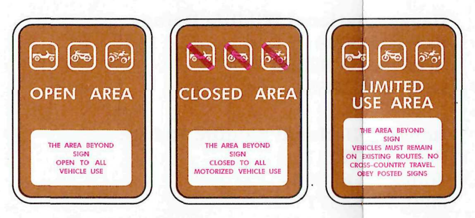
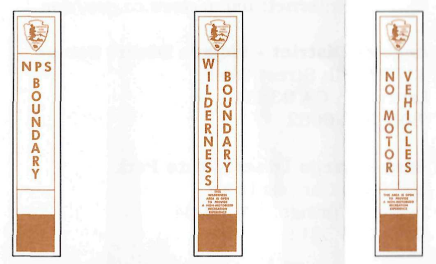
EXAMPLES OF AGENCY SIGNS



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

USDA FOREST SERVICE



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

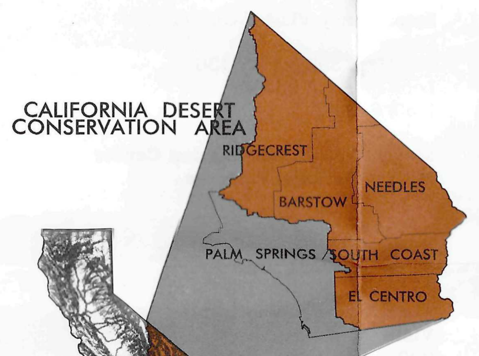
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

CALIFORNIA STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA

Help protect your public lands by observing posted OHV designations. Watch for OHV signs and read them carefully.

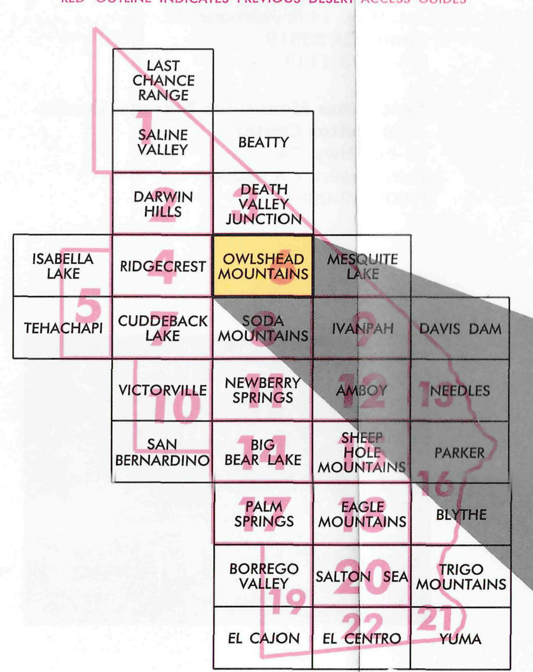
For more information contact the BLM, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, California State Park, or California State Motorized Vechicle Recreation Area Office (see back panel for address and phone numbers).

The Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, and National Park Service wilderness areas shown on this map were derived from the legislative maps, such as the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. For more information, contact the representative agency.

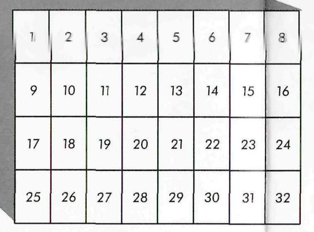


CALIFORNIA DESERT AREA ACCESS GUIDE
INDEX TO 1:100,000-SCALE MAPS

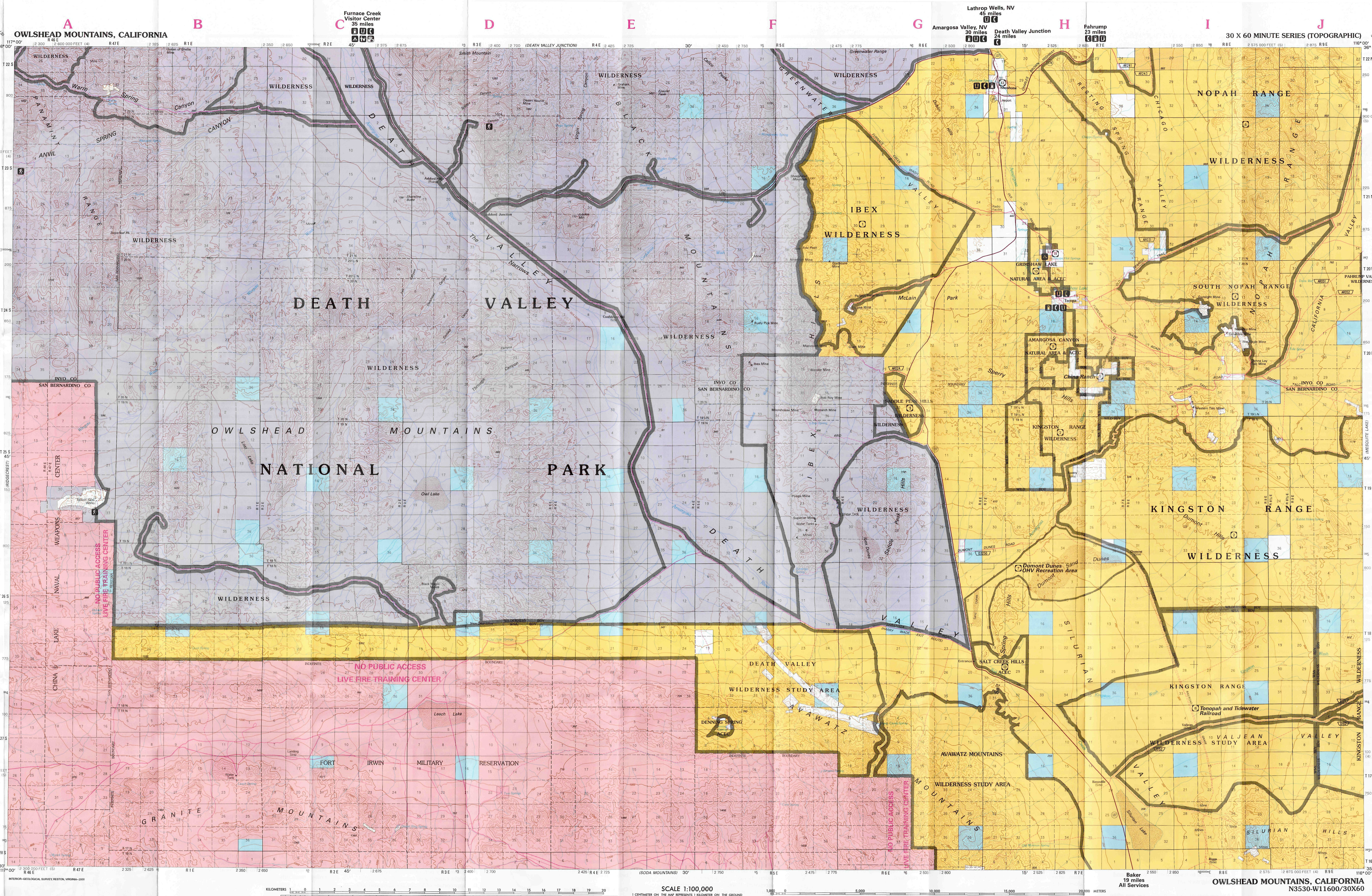
RED OUTLINE INDICATES PREVIOUS DESERT ACCESS GUIDES



INDEX TO 1:24,000-SCALE MAPS



1 Anvil Spring Canyon West
2 Anvil Spring Canyon East
3 Shore Line Butte
4 Epaulet Peak
5 Salsberry Peak
6 Shoshone
7 Resting Spring
8 North of Tecopa Pass
9 Wingate Wash West
10 Wingate Wash East
11 Confidence Hills West
12 Confidence Hills East
13 Ibex Spring
14 Ibex Pass
15 Tecopa
16 Tecopa Pass
17 Hidden Spring
18 Quail Spring
19 Owl Lake
20 East of Owl Lake
21 Old Ibex Pass
22 Saddle Peak Hills
23 Dumont Dunes
24 Valjean Hills
25 West of Leach Spring
26 Leach Spring
27 Leach Lake
28 East of Leach Lake
29 Avawatz Pass
30 Sheep Creek Spring
31 Silurian Lake
32 Silurian Hills



SCALE 1:100,000

1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 1 KILOMETER ON THE GROUND

CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS

SPECIAL SYMBOL LEGEND

- Locked Gate
- Route / Trail Marker
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Forest Service
  - County
  - National Park Service

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND STATUS LEGEND

- Public Lands (Administered by Bureau of Land Management)
- Oregon & California Lands (O&C) Coos Bay Wagon Road (CBWR) ... NONE
- National Forest ... NONE
- National Grasslands ... NONE
- National Parks and Monuments
- Indian Lands or Reservations ... NONE
- Military Reservations and Withdrawals Corps of Engineers
- National Wildlife Refuges (Administered by Fish & Wildlife Service) ... NONE
- Bankhead-Jones Land Use Lands (L.U. Lands) ... NONE
- Patented Lands
- State Lands
- Bureau of Reclamation ... NONE
- Power Withdrawals and Classifications ... NONE
- Federal Agency Protective Withdrawals ... NONE
- Public Water Reserves
- Department of Energy ... NONE
- Radio and Air Facilities ... NONE
- Miscellaneous ... NONE
- State, County, City; Wildlife, Park and Outdoor Recreation Areas ... NONE
- Acquired Lands (By Administering Agency) ... NONE

POINTS OF INTEREST (SEE BACKSIDE FOR INFORMATION)

1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8 ... 9 ... 10 ... 11 ... 12 ... 13 ...

RECREATIONAL SYMBOL LEGEND

- Campground
- Wildlife Viewing Area
- Hiking
- Restrooms
- Scenic Area
- Historic Site
- All Terrain Vehicle Trail
- Four Wheel Drive Trail
- Off Highway Vehicle Area
- Scenic Geology
- Point of Interest
- Drinking Water
- Trailer Sanitary Station
- Gasoline Station
- Telephone
- Ranger Station

BLM SPECIAL EDITION 1999
SURFACE MANAGEMENT STATUS DESERT ACCESS GUIDE

California
Desert District
Owlshead Mountains

1:100,000-Scale topographic map showing:

- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Contours and elevations in meters
- Recreation sites
- Partial coverage of former desert access guide #6 Dumont/Clark Mountain

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Edited and published by the Bureau of Land Management National Applied Resource Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management California State Office. Planimetry partially revised by BLM from various source material. Revised information not field checked.

Base map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey. Compiled from USGS 1:62,500-scale topographic maps dated 1948–1956, and from advance materials. Partially revised from aerial photographs taken 1976–80 and other source data. Revised information not field checked. Map edited 1993.

Projection and 10,000-meter grid, zone 11: Universal Transverse Mercator. 25,000-foot grid ticks based on California coordinate system, zone 4 & 5. 1927 North American Datum.

Land lines are omitted in areas of extensive tract surveys. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

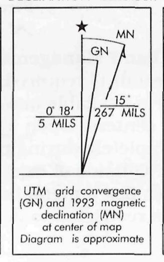
CONVERSION TABLE

METERS	FEET
Sea Level	Sea Level
250	820
500	1640
750	2461
1000	3281
1250	4101
1500	4921
1750	5741

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM



UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1993 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Darwin Hills
2 Death Valley Junc.
3 Las Vegas
4 Ridgecrest
5 Mesquite Lake
6 Cuddeback Lake
7 Soda Mountains
8 Ivanpah

FOR SALE BY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825
AND
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, CO 80225

ISBN 0-607-94255-X

20% TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light duty, hard, or aggregate surface
- Streets, roads graded/drained/natural surface
- Rough bladed or two-tracked surface
- Trail (foot, pack, bicycle, or as labeled)
- Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge; overpass; underpass
- Tunnel: road; railroad
- Built up area; locality; elevation
- Airport; landing field; landing strip
- National boundary
- State boundary
- County boundary
- National or State reservation boundary
- Land grant boundary
- U.S. public lands survey; range, township; section
- Range, township; section line, protracted
- Power transmission line; pipeline
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; building
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; adit or cave; mine, quarry; gravel pit
- Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument
- Ruins; cliff dwelling
- Distorted surface: strip mine, quarry; gravel pit
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Stream, lake: perennial; intermittent
- Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
- Area to be submerged; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation
- Special area boundary
- BLM recreation area boundary
- National trail; back country, scenic byway

NOTE TO MAP USERS

The surface and minerals management status overprints are published as general planning and management tools. Some of the lands, surface and mineral rights, may have been shown as patented lands due to the lack of information available to BLM with respect to the nature of acquisition. Tracts less than 40 acres are usually omitted because of the map scale. The official land records in the respective offices of the Bureau of Land Management or other responsible Federal agencies should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land. Inadequacies in the BLM maps should be reported to the respective Bureau of Land Management offices from which the maps were obtained.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Roads crossing public lands may be travelled by the public unless closed by signing or notice by the land management agency. Public lands intervened by private lands may not have public access. Permission is required from the private landowner to cross private land, unless access is provided by a Federal, State, or County road, or a BLM road with legal access.

WELCOME TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT

Within its 25-million-acre expanse—an area the size of Ohio—lies a land of extreme contrasts. From the relatively high Mojave Desert of Joshua trees and creosote to the lower Colorado Desert of native fan palms, smoke trees and ocotillo, the California Desert offers a multitude of recreational opportunities. Whether you have come to hike or backpack, tour by auto or four-wheel drive, enjoy your off-highway vehicle (OHV), or ride horses or mountain bikes, please **Tread Lightly!** on the desert and **Leave No Trace** of your visit.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Contact your local land management office when planning your trip to the desert. They can provide you with maps and any needed permits, as well as up-to-date information on seasonal and emergency closures, weather and road conditions. When traveling in the desert, please keep in mind the following:

❑ These maps do not show the entire desert route network.

❑ Road conditions and hazards are not marked.

❑ Signs on the ground take precedence over information on the maps.

❑ Boundaries are graphic representations only and are not shown to scale.

Not all land in the desert is public. Private land is scattered throughout the California Desert. Please respect private property and leave all gates as you found them.

RECREATION INFORMATION

Whatever outdoor recreation activity you enjoy, the following information will help to assure safe and enjoyable visits for everyone.

Campfires

California Fire Permit

To protect sparse vegetation and the fragile desert ecosystem, bring firewood from home. Regulations vary among agencies and seasons. Always check with the local office before building a campfire.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): A campfire permit is required at all times. A free permit is available at all BLM offices and visitor centers. Open fires may be banned completely during periods of high fire danger. Outside of existing campfire rings, please use a metal fire pan. Firewood collection is restricted to down and dead materials.

National Park Service (NPS): In Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, campfires are permitted in designated campgrounds. Where fireplaces are not provided, fires are restricted to portable stoves. In the Mojave National Preserve, open campfires are limited to existing campfire rings or a metal fire pan. The collection of wood, living or dead, anywhere within NPS lands is prohibited.

California State Parks (CSP): Open ground fires are not allowed. Campfires are allowed in fire rings found in designated campsites and day-use areas. Portable grills may be used, but ashes and coals may not be dumped on the ground; use the fire rings or carry them out.

California State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA): Open ground fires are allowed. Use of campfire rings is encouraged. **Leave No Trace** and pick up any debris (nails, ashes, and coals). Bring your own firewood. Dead wood may not be gathered.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS): Campfire permits are required year-round. Fire restrictions vary depending on the level of fire danger. Contact a USFS office to find out current information.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Campfires are not permitted on most National Wildlife Refuges.

Camping

A wide range of camping opportunities are available in the California Desert, from developed campgrounds to primitive backcountry. Regulations vary among agencies and seasons. Contact the area you wish to visit for more information. Remember to **Leave No Trace** of your visit.

BLM: There are many developed campgrounds in the California desert. BLM also allows dispersed camping and has a number of Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs) for "snowbirds" that flock to the desert in the winter months. For more specific information, contact any BLM office or visitor center for a Recreation Opportunity Guide (ROG).

NPS: In National Parks, camping is generally limited to 14 days; however, there are exceptions. NPS also offers backcountry camping. Contact each individual park for details on their camping opportunities and reservations.

CSP: Camping in most State Parks is permitted in designated areas. Contact the park you intend to visit to learn more about their camping facilities. Some parks offer family and group campsites. Campsite reservations can be made year-round by calling DESTINET at (800) 444-7275.

SVRA: You can camp anywhere in the Ocotillo Wells SVRA. There are several tables, ramadas, and fire rings scattered throughout the SVRA for your convenience.

USFS: The USFS offers developed, family, group, undeveloped, and remote camping opportunities. For specific information on camping in USFS areas, contact the nearest USFS office. To make reservations at popular campgrounds, call 1-800-280-CAMP.

USFWS: Camping is permitted at some National Wildlife Refuges. Contact the USFWS for more information.

Vehicle Travel

Due to diverse topography, plants, soils and land ownership in California, off-highway vehicle (OHV) regulations vary from area to area. Flash floods are common in the desert, so avoid crossing washes, and wait a few hours after a heavy rain. Check with the appropriate land management agency before you visit an area.

BLM: All BLM-managed public lands in the California Desert are designated as one of three vehicle-use categories:

❑ **Open Areas** are open to vehicle use anywhere within the posted boundaries. Travel off established routes (cross-country) is permitted.

❑ **Closed Areas** are closed to all motorized vehicle use.

❑ **Limited Areas** are open to motorized vehicle use, subject to posted restrictions. No cross-country travel is permitted in Limited Areas.

NPS: Only street-legal vehicles may be operated within NPS-managed lands. All off-road travel is prohibited.

CSP: Only street-legal vehicles may be operated, and only on designated roads.

SVRA: Cross-country travel is permitted only in designated, open OHV areas. In all other areas, vehicles are limited to approved routes of travel.

USFS: OHV riding areas are designated trails and routes. Ride responsibly and follow signs.

USFWS: Some refuge roads and trails are closed to motorized vehicles.

Hunting and Target Shooting

The majority of public lands managed by the BLM and USFS are open to hunting. All California State laws regarding hunting, including the possession of a valid state hunting license, are in effect on these lands. Hunting opportunities exist for migratory birds, upland game, furbearing mammals and big game, except where prohibited by state or local laws or posted otherwise. Questions regarding these opportunities should be directed to the local land management field office. For information on hunting or fishing regulations, call the California Department of Fish and Game at (562) 590-5132.

BLM: The shooting or discharge of firearms is generally permitted on BLM-managed lands unless posted otherwise, as long as such activity is permitted by state and local laws. Shooters are prohibited from destroying any natural features, including cactus and other plants. A firearm may not be discharged within 150 yards of any developed area.

NPS: The possession of a firearm or air-gun is prohibited unless it is unloaded and cased or otherwise packed to prevent use. Target shooting is illegal in the Mojave National Preserve, but hunting is allowed and is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game.

CSP: Hunting or the possession of loaded firearms is prohibited in most units of the State Park system.

SVRA: Possession of loaded firearms is prohibited.

USFS: Target shooting and "plinking" are permitted in some areas and are regulated by county ordinances and Federal regulations.

USFWS: Some National Wildlife Refuges allow hunting during hunting season. Target shooting is not allowed on National Wildlife Refuges. Call USFWS for current information.

Pets

Pets are welcome in all areas if kept on a leash. National Park and California State Park regulations are strictly enforced. Remember to clean up after your pet. When considering leaving pets in vehicles or trailers, be aware that temperatures can rise quickly to lethal levels in the summer heat.

PROTECTED RESOURCES

Historic and Archaeological Sites

The California Desert possesses thousands of historic and archaeological sites. The petroglyphs and intaglios left by the earliest Indian inhabitants, the trails of early Spanish explorers, the vestiges of mining camps and roads used by later settlers, and the remnants of General George Patton's WWII desert warfare training areas are just a few of the sites that provide a rich and important legacy of more than 10,000 years of human history in North America. Visit these sites and reflect on the forces and events that have shaped our nation and our personal lives.

Remember, historic and archaeological sites are fragile, non-renewable resources. Unfortunately, many of these sites have been damaged by casual collecting, as well as by deliberate looting and vandalism. It is illegal to remove artifacts or other objects of antiquity from public lands. Observe sites from a distance, take care not to disturb the surface of a site, and do not remove artifacts or other objects. Help preserve and protect this legacy so that future generations may also visit, enjoy and learn about our heritage.

❑ Enjoy rock art (petroglyphs and pictographs) by viewing, sketching or photographing it. Do not use chalk or other materials to trace or otherwise touch rock art. Direct contact can accelerate the disintegration of these ancient figures. Local rock art societies and amateur archaeological organizations are good places to learn about recording and protecting rock art.

❑ Archaeological and cultural sites are often places of ancestral, religious or cultural importance to local Native American tribes and should be approached with respect. Many tribes in the California Desert have museums or public information centers; contact them to learn more about their history and culture.

❑ The California Desert has remnants of old mining camps, stagecoach stops and homesteads, as well as WWII-era military camps and training areas. Please approach these sites with caution. An abandoned mine may pose hazards, including dangerous shafts and tunnels and the remains of hazardous chemicals, such as mercury and cyanide, that may have been used in milling processes. Military training areas still have unexploded land mines and ammunition. If you encounter any of these hazards, please stay clear and notify local law enforcement or a BLM Ranger.

❑ Historic and archaeological sites are protected by law. Severe civil and criminal penalties will be brought against individuals who damage or otherwise harm these resources. Conviction can carry criminal penalties of up to 2 years in prison and/or $250,000 in fines, as well as civil penalties such as vehicle confiscation or site restoration costs.

Wilderness

The 1964 Wilderness Act defines wilderness as areas "where the Earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." There are 8 million acres of wilderness in the California Desert. These Federal lands are administered by the BLM, NPS, USFS and USFWS for the preservation and protection of their natural conditions. Wilderness within California State Parks is managed similar to Federal wilderness. The following guidelines will help maintain the wilderness values for you and other visitors.

❑ Use **"Leave No Trace"** techniques when preparing for your wilderness visit, traveling through wilderness, and camping in wilderness.

Follow Leave No Trace (LNT) guidelines to minimize the impacts of your next wilderness visit.

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Properly dispose of what you can't pack out
- Leave what you find
- Minimize use and impacts of fire

For more LNT information call 1-800-332-4100.

Responsible land use depends more on your attitude and awareness than on rules and regulations.

Be sure to **Tread Lightly!** by:

- Travel only where permitted;
- Respect the rights of others;
- Educate yourself;
- Avoid driving throught wet areas and areas easily scarred by churning wheels;
- Drive responsibly to protect the environment.

❑ Familiarize yourself with rules that apply to the specific wilderness area that you intend to visit. Motorized equipment and mechanical transport, such as chainsaws, motor vehicles and bicycles, are prohibited in all wilderness areas. Permits for visitation or use of pack animals are required in some wilderness areas. The managing agency is the best source of current information.

Desert Tortoise and other Threatened and Endangered Species

All California residents and visitors are responsible for learning about and respecting regulations that protect desert wildlife and resources. You can be a part of efforts to reverse the decline in desert tortoise and other threatened and endangered species populations. These species are fully protected by state and Federal laws and must not be disturbed, collected, killed or harassed. If you see someone take a tortoise from the desert, please notify CALTIP (800) 952-5400 or any law enforcement agency.

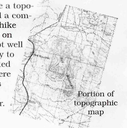
DESERT SAFETY TIPS

Travel in the desert can be an adventure. It can also be a disaster if a breakdown or sudden change in weather catches you unprepared. Harsh weather conditions can turn a desert outing into a tragedy. Acquire a knowledge of desert survival skills. Travel in pairs for safety in backcountry areas.

Plan Your Trip Carefully

Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Stick with your itinerary and let them know when you get back. Do not travel in the desert backcountry without taking along appropriate maps, such as 7.5-minute U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) topographic maps, which show land contours and specific features.

Learn how to use a topographic map and a compass before you hike cross-country or on trails that are not well defined. It is easy to become disoriented in the desert where many landmarks and rock formations look similar.



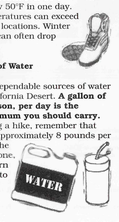
Portion of topographic map

Dress Properly

Wear layered clothing to slow dehydration and minimize exposure. Be sure to use good hiking shoes, loose-fitting natural fiber clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Desert temperatures can reach over 90°F and drop below 50°F in one day. Summer temperatures can exceed 125°F in some locations. Winter temperatures can often drop below freezing.

Carry Plenty of Water

There are no dependable sources of water within the California Desert. **A gallon of water per person, per day is the absolute minimum you should carry.** When planning a hike, remember that water weighs approximately 8 pounds per gallon. When the water is half gone, it is time to turn back. Be sure to bring extra water for your vehicle.



DO NOT RATION WATER: it will only do you good if you drink it.

Mine Shafts and Tunnels

For your safety, avoid entering mine shafts or tunnels. They are extremely dangerous due to unstable walls and odorless toxic fumes. Entering mines can also disturb wildlife (bats and mice) living in them.

Vehicles

Keep your vehicle well maintained. Carry extra water and food, a shovel, tools, a tow strap, flares and blankets. Check road conditions and beware of flash floods. If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle; it is much easier to spot a vehicle than a person on foot.

Backcountry Permits

A backcountry permit may be required for overnight camping or travel. Check with the appropriate office for the area you will be in.

Fire

One of the last thoughts on any desert visitor's mind is the danger of wildfire. Many people think the relatively sparse plant cover means the desert does not burn. But a desert fire, if conditions are right, can be just as dangerous and destructive as wildfire in brushlands.

When driving off maintained roads, avoid stopping in tall grass or brush. Hot catalytic converters or exhaust pipes can ignite dry material and cause a wildfire.

All fireworks are prohibited on BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS and State Parks land.

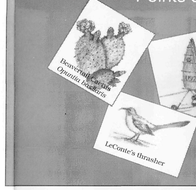
MILITARY EXPLOSIVES

Large areas of the desert have been and are still used as bombing ranges and training arenas by the U.S. Armed Forces. There are still many unexploded devices lying around. Do not handle anything resembling military explosives. Report any such device you observe to your local law enforcement office.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

With the continued closure of toxic waste disposal sites, the illegal dumping of hazardous waste has increased throughout the desert. Many of these materials are extremely toxic to humans. To avoid harm, stay clear of suspicious drums, bags or chemical odors. Visible fumes, dead plants or animals in the immediate vicinity, and sudden onset of illness or skin irritation are signs of imminent danger. Report any suspected hazardous waste to your local law enforcement office.

Desert Access Guide
Owlshead Mountains
Points of Interest



① Ibex Wilderness

(*See map, F-2*) This wilderness includes portions of the Ibex Hills, Dublin Hills, and the Black Mountains. The Ibex Hills provide a rugged, north-south divide between Greenwater Valley's alluvial slopes, on the east, and the Black Mountains, on the west.

The Black Mountains and Ibex Hills climb from 3,000 to 4,752 feet. Horizontal rock layers of red, yellow, brown, and black create a dramatic effect during late, winter afternoons. Evidence of historic talc mining can be found in the area, which is also home to desert bighorn sheep.

This wilderness can be accessed from California Highways 127 and 178.

② Kingston Range Wilderness

(*See map, I-4*) The Kingston Range forms 17 miles of continuous ridgeline above 6,000 feet, capped by 7,300-foot Kingston Peak, and surfaces like an island in a sea of desert lowlands. A bajada slopes south from the range, draining into the Kingston Wash. A small stand of white fir grows at the upper elevations of the Kingston Peak, and over 500 plant species can be found here, making this wilderness one of the most botanically diverse in the Mojave Desert.

The Kingston Range Wilderness is one of only four places in California where confirmed sightings of the banded gila monster have been made. Year-round water and associated wetlands provide food for wildlife, as well as cover and habitat for birds, fish, mammals, and insects.

Access to the Kingston Range is from California Highway 127, the Old Spanish Trail highway; or along the eastern boundary, from the Excelsior Mine Road, via Cima Road, off Interstate-15, 26 miles east of Baker, California.

③ Saddle Peak Hills Wilderness

(*See map, G-3*) The Saddle Peak Hills form the western three-quarters of this wilderness, which also includes the northwestern portion of the Silurian Valley, both of which can be clearly seen from California Highway 127 north of Baker. This modest wilderness lies immediately adjacent to Death Valley National Park. The hills are cut by curved faults, and range in elevation from 500 feet on the valley floor to 2,500 feet at the summits. The geologic features here represent common landforms found throughout the surrounding desert and its rugged mountains. This wilderness can be accessed from California Highway 127.

④ South Nopah Range Wilderness

(*See map, I-2*) California Highway 178, the Old Spanish Trail, bisects the Nopah Range and forms a boundary for this wilderness area. The sedimentary rocks of these mountains rise to 4,200 feet, with gently rolling alluvial slopes on the east and west. Vegetation here is sparse, with prairie falcons having been seen hunting over most of the lowland areas. The environment here is suitable for the ivory-spined agave, and wild horses and burros have been seen. To get to this wilderness, take California Highway 127, to the Old Spanish Trail highway.

⑤ China Ranch

(*See map, H-3*) China Ranch, located in beautiful Amargosa Canyon near Tecopa, is a family-operated date farm with a colorful history. The ranch has been designated a Natural Area and is open to the public.

Shortened from "Chinaman's Ranch", the name was inspired by a Chinese man who originally homesteaded here in the 1880's. After working the borax mines in Death Valley, he came here to raise fresh vegetables, hogs, and chickens for sale to the local lead and silver mines.

Nearby is the Old Spanish Trail, as well as the historic Tonopah and Tidewater (T&T) Railroad grade. A scenic trail through the Natural Area connects it with the town of Tecopa. To get to China Ranch, take the Furnace Creek Wash Road just a few miles southeast of Tecopa, California, and turn south on China Ranch Road.

⑥ Nopah Range Wilderness

(See map, I-1) The Chicago Valley, with many winding, light-colored stream beds, is a flat north-south divide between the Spring/Spring Range to the west and the Nopah Range to the east. Both mountain ranges are large and rugged with dramatic geologic landscapes.

Geology here includes mountains, alluvial fans, badlands, playas, plains, river washes, and hills rising from 1,800 to 6,395 feet. Only creosote, cacti, yucca, and other desert shrub species cover the sweeping bajadas, giving the mountains their barren character.

Bighorn sheep, desert tortoises, golden eagles, and prairie falcons all inhabit this wilderness, while wild horses and burros roam the Chicago Valley. Access Nopah Range Wilderness from California Highway 178, also known as the Old Spanish Trail.

⑦ Dumont Dunes Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area

(*See map, H-4*) Dumont Dunes is a remote area for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. Bordered by steep volcanic hills and the slow-moving Amargosa River, this popular OHV area can be seen from a distance, the towering white sand dunes softly contrasting with the dark hills and blue mountains beyond.

Most visitors to the area ride motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, sand rails, or four-wheel drive vehicles. The easily-accessed areas, just off the entrance road, are used exclusively for OHV and sand rail staging and play. Due to the remoteness of the area, there are few requests for competitive event permits, leaving the location available exclusively for casual riding.

There are also many opportunities here for hiking, rock scrambling, rock hounding, and wildlife viewing. Wildflowers carpet the countryside in springtime. Dumont Dunes is an often-used setting for films, television commercials, and commercial still photography.

Located near the center of the Mojave Desert, close to Death Valley, the remote dunes can become dangerously hot and dry. Bring extra water and other emergency supplies, especially during the summer months.

Outside of the open area, vehicle use is restricted to open routes of travel. No glass containers are allowed in the open area, and safety flags are required on all recreational vehicles. Access to the area is from California Highway 127, 31 miles north of Baker, California.

⑧ Tonopah And Tidewater (T&T) Railroad

(See *map, I-5*) For 35 years, from 1905 to 1940, the Tonopah and Tidewater (T&T) Railroad ran between Ludlow, California, and Goldfield, Nevada. While this railroad line never flourished financially, it was an important transportation link for miners, mining companies, and desert residents, and thus was kept in operation. Shipping borax by rail replaced the famous 20-mule teams used by the Harmony Borax Works. The T&T also served as the shortest, fastest, and cheapest rail route to Los Angeles and San Francisco for all of the towns and mines along the Amargosa River and within the Death Valley region.

As the mines were depleted, the T&T brought supplies and passengers in and out of the region, but by 1940, all operations ceased. The rails and ties were salvaged in 1943, during World War II. In order to preserve what remains of the original route, the remnant of the old railroad grade from Sperry, California, to the California/Nevada border has been closed to motorized travel.

⑨ Amargosa Canyon

(*See map, H-3*) The Amargosa Canyon Natural Area is located along the Amargosa River drainage in southern Inyo County, California. An extremely rich and diverse assortment of wildlife — including a great variety of birds — lives on this isolated stretch of surface water in the canyon and adjacent river drainage.

People are known to have lived in this area for the past 8,000 years. Four distinct cultures have been discovered, now known as the Paleo-Indian, the Lake Mohave/Pinto, the Amargosa, and the Shoshonean. Two historic transportation routes ran through Amargosa Canyon — the Old Spanish Trail in the 1830's and a portion of the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad constructed in 1906. The railroad rails were removed during World War II, and all bridges and most railroad ties have been destroyed by vandalism, weathering, and erosion.

Access to Amargosa Canyon is by way of State Highway 127 to the Old Spanish Trail Highway, just south of Shoshone, California. Go east for approximately 4 miles to Tecopa and follow the signs.

⑩ Grimshaw Lake

(*See map, H-2*) The Grimshaw Lake Natural Area extends along the Amargosa River adjacent to the Tecopa Hot Springs. Connected geographically to Amargosa Canyon, the Natural Area extends along the Amargosa River drainage to the vicinity of Tecopa.

The presence of permanent, flowing water is a rare occurrence in the Mojave Desert; the lake provides precious habitat for desert wildlife, localized plants, and a variety of waterfowl and migratory birds, such as the California Yellow-billed Cuckoo and the Least Bell's Vireo.

Small areas of wetland vegetation support populations of the Amargosa Vole, the Amargosa pocket gopher, the speckled dace, the Amargosa River pupfish, and the Tecopa Bird's-beak plant. These species are very sensitive to disturbance, which is the reason Grimshaw Lake is protected as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

⑪ Tecopa Hot Springs

(*See map, H-2*) The hot springs located in Tecopa, California, were first occupied by Native Americans, who, believing the water to be therapeutic, regularly brought their sick and lame to the springs to bathe.

Later, European immigrants and horse thieves came to the area, trying to find a route across Death Valley to the California gold fields. They, too, used the waters to seek relief from the miseries of arthritis, rheumatism, and related ailments.

Located a short distance off California Highway 127, between Baker and Death Valley Junction, Tecopa Hot Springs is the quintessential, almost mythical, desert trailer village of the American Southwest. A road leads from nearby Shoshone across the desert to Pahrump, Nevada. Las Vegas, a hundred miles away, offers a glittery contrast to the sleepy desert campground.

⑫ Shoshone

(See map, G-1) The small town of Shoshone, located a few miles north of Tecopa, serves as a wintering area for retired snowbirds. Miners looking for gold and silver once lived in the town; when these valuable minerals were depleted, some stayed on to mine for the rich deposits of borax and talc, until prices dropped. The town now has unusual "apartments," old miner's homes which were dug into the sides of hills, complete with chimneys, porches, and adjoining rooms.

Shoshone is an oasis in the desert, complete with marsh grasses blowing in the wind, unusual geologic formations south of town, and a small museum. These hills are composed of tuff, a rock which is formed from fine-grained volcanic material composed of ash and dust, mixed with lake sediment.

Shoshone is located 57 miles south-southeast of the Furnace Creek Visitor Center, 28 miles south of Death Valley Junction and 26 miles southwest of Pahrump, Nevada on California Highway 127, about 50 miles north of Baker.

⑬ Salt Creek Hills

(*See map, H-5*) Water flow generated by several small desert springs, as well as winter drainage from neighboring Silurian Valley, come together to form a unique tributary to the Amargosa River, known as Salt Creek. The streamside vegetation at Salt Creek is about the only water-based habitat in over 1500 square miles of desert!

Early Native Americans used the Salt Creek Hills as a source of food and shelter; the pioneering Latter Day Saints crossed through the area following the famous Mormon Trail; and miners worked the area extensively over the past century.

An interpretive trail begins approximately 15 miles north of Baker, off California Highway 127, taking visitors on an historical and ecological journey through the Salt Creek Hills.

Notes

WHO MANAGES THE DESERT

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) was created by Congress in 1976 and includes a long-term land use plan for the management of public lands. The mission of the BLM is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. BLM offices are maintained in Riverside, Barstow, El Centro, Needles, Palm Springs and Ridgecrest.

National Park Service (NPS): The NPS manages Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks as well as the Mojave National Preserve. All units of the NPS are managed to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." National Park designation implies a large, spectacular natural place having a wide variety of attributes. National Preserves have similar qualities, but also allow hunting or other commercial uses.

Department of Defense (DOD): Large areas of the California Desert are under the management of the military: the Marine Corps Training Base at Twentynine Palms, Chocolate Mountains Gunnery Range, El Centro Naval Air Facility Ranges, the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake, Edwards Air Force Base and the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin.

California State Parks (CSP): The California Department of Parks and Recreation manages diverse cultural, historical and natural resources for posterity while offering an abundance of recreational and educational opportunities. In the desert, these include Red Rock Canyon, Saddleback Butte, Anza-Borrego Desert, the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve, Mitchell Caverns Natural Preserve, Salton Sea, Picacho State Recreation Area and the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Area.

U. S. Forest Service (USFS): The USFS benefits Americans in many ways through management of the National Forests and Grasslands, forestry research, and cooperation with forest managers on state and private land. It offers a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities and manages special areas. The Cleveland, San Bernardino, Angeles, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests surround the California Desert.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): The USFWS manages a system of land and waters for the conservation of fish and wildlife and associated ecosystems. National Wildlife Refuges offer recreational opportunities to the public, including wildlife observation, nature photography, hiking, fishing and hunting. Refuges in the California Desert include Cibola, Havasu, Imperial, and Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuges.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rangers and other staff are in the California Desert to help you have an enjoyable and safe visit. Contact any of the offices listed below for site-specific information and assistance.

Bureau of Land Management
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov*
www.nv.blm.gov
azwww.az.blm.gov

California Desert District Office
6221 Box Springs Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 697-5200
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/cdd*

Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6000
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/barstow*

Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 391-6000
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield*

Bishop Field Office
785 N. Main Street, Suite E
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-4881
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/bishop*

El Centro Field Office
1661 S. 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 337-4400
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro*

Needles Field Office
101 W. Spikes Road
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-7000
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/needles*

Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office
690 W. Garnet Avenue
P.O. Box 2000
North Palm Springs, CA 92258
(760) 251-4800
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings*

Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 384-5400
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest*

Kingman Field Office
2475 Beverly Ave
Kingman, AZ 86401-3629
(520) 692-4400

Lake Havasu Field Office
2610 Sweetwater Ave
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406-9071
(520) 505-1200

Yuma Field Office
2555 Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365
(520) 317-3200
Internet: *www.az.blm.gov/yuma*

Battle Mountain Field Office
50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, NV 89820-1420
(702) 635-4000
Internet: *www.nv.blm.gov/Battle_Mtn*

Las Vegas Field Office
4765 W. Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89108
(702) 647-5023
Internet: *www.nv.blm.gov/Las_Vegas*

National Park Service
Internet: *www.nps.gov*

Death Valley National Park
Death Valley, CA 92328
(760) 786-2331
Internet: *www.nps.gov/deva*

Joshua Tree National Park
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
(760) 367-1260
Internet: *www.nps.gov/jotr*

Mojave National Preserve
222 E. Main Street, Suite 202
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 255-8800
Internet: *www.nps.gov/moja*

Lake Mead National Recreation Area
601 Nevada Highway
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 293-8907
Internet: *www.nps.gov/lame*

U. S. Forest Service
Internet: *www.r5.pswfs.gov*

Angeles National Forest
701 North Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006
(818) 574-1613

Cleveland National Forest
10845 Rancho Bernardo Road
Rancho Bernardo, CA 92127
(760) 673-6180

Inyo National Forest
873 N. Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 878-2400

San Bernardino National Forest
1824 S. Commercenter Circle
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(661) 383-5588

Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257
(209) 784-1500

National Wildlife Refuges
Internet: *www.fws.gov*

Cibola National Wildlife Refuge
Box AP
Blythe, CA 92225
(520) 857-3253

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 3009
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-3853

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 72217
Yuma, AZ 85365
(520) 783-3371

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge
P.O.Box 6290
Yuma, AZ 85364
(520) 783-7861

Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge
906 W. Sinclair
Calipatria, CA 92233
(760) 348-5278

California State Parks
Internet: *www.ceres.ca.gov/dpr*

Angeles District - Mojave Desert Sector
43779 15th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534
(805) 942-0662

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
(760) 767-5311

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
12551 Hwy. 79
Descano, CA 91916
(760) 765-0755

Mitchell Caverns Natural Preserve
P.O. Box 1
Essex, CA 92332
(760) 928-2586

Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area
P.O. Box 360
5172 Hwy. 78
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
(760) 767-5391

Palomar Mountain State Park
P.O. Box 175
Palomar, CA 92060
(760) 742-3462

Picacho State Recreation Area
P.O. Box 848
4900 Picacho Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
(760) 393-3052

Salton Sea State Recreation Area
100-225 State Park Road
North Shore, CA 92254
(760) 393-3059

Visitor Centers

CA Welcome Center
2790 Tanger Way Suite 106
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 253-4813

Big Bear Discovery Center
North Shore/Highway 38
P.O. Box 66
Fawnskin, CA 92333
(909) 866-3437

Interagency Visitor Center
Drawer R
Jct. Hwy. 395 & Hwy 136
Lone Pine, CA 93545
(760) 876-6222

Mojave Desert Information Center
Mojave National Preserve
P.O. Box 241
72157 Baker Blvd.
Baker, CA 92309
(760) 733-4040

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center
200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
(760) 767-5311

Mojave Desert Multi-Agency Information Center
California State Parks
43779 15th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 942-0662

Jawbone Station
P.O. Box D
Jct. Hwy. 14 & Jawbone Rd.
Cantil, CA 93519
(760) 373-1146

Santa Rosa Mountains National Scenic Area Visitor Center
51-500 Hwy. 74
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 862-9984

For Emergencies

DIAL 911

or

Federal Interagency Communication Center
(909) 383-5651