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# Carrizo Plain National Monument

# 2018

*Visitors' Guide*



# Your Guide to the Carrizo Plain National Monument

*Carrizo Super Bloom of 2017*

California's Beautiful Carrizo Plain • Where to Visit and What to See • Painted Rock • The California Wildflowers



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OppSites

# Carrizo Plain National Monument

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Special thanks to The Friends of the Carrizo Plain, the contributing writers, and the Bureau of Land Management.

### Where is the Carrizo Plain National Monument?

The Carrizo Plain National Monument, the largest remaining tract of the San Joaquin Valley biogeographic province with limited evidence of human alteration, is bordered by the Temblor Range to the northeast and the Caliente Range to the southwest. It is easily accessible by state Highways 33, 166, and 58.

### Getting There

**From Bakersfield:** Take state Highway 58 west past McKittrick, Turn left on 7 miles Road at the bottom of the Temblor Range. Turn left on Soda Lake Road.

**From Taft and Maricopa:** Take state Highway 166 west. Turn right on Soda Lake Road.

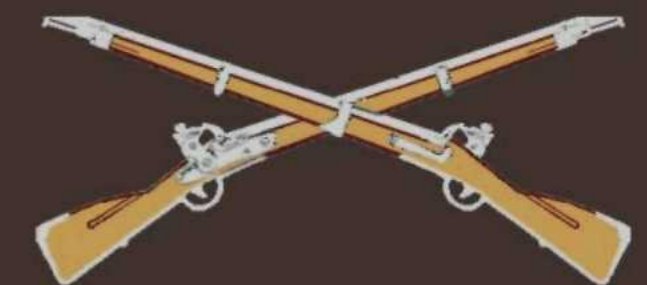
**From North San Luis Obispo County:** Take state Highway 58 east. Turn right on Soda Lake Road.

**From Ojai:** Take state Highway 33 north. Turn right onto state Highway 166 in Cuyama. Turn left on Soda Lake Road.

**From Santa Maria:** Take state Highway 166 east. Turn left on Soda Lake Road.

The Bureau of Land Management  
Bakersfield Field Office  
3801 Pegasus Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93308

# Ten Percent Firearms



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# Welcome to the Carrizo Plain



Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, I want to thank the Taft Independent for the opportunity, as the manager of the Carrizo Plain National Monument, to provide a "Welcome" for this visitors guide. The Carrizo Plain was designated a National Monument on Jan. 17th 2001, when President Clinton signed a proclamation designating it as a National Monument. Today it is cooperatively managed by the Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy.

The Carrizo Plain is one of those areas when people mention its name the response is often, "where or what did you say". It is one of those hidden treasures of California and for a lot of you reading this visitor guide you will find out it is right in your backyard and you didn't even know it.

The Carrizo is recognized for its significant geologic, biological, historical and cultural resources. There are many things to see and do when you are out on the monument depending on your interest. In the spring, sometimes the monument is teaming with wildflowers. Generally the beginning of the wildflower season begins in late March and ends in mid-May, with the peak usually being the beginning of April.

For those interested in viewing wildlife, the Carrizo hosts many migratory birds during the winter months, which include mountain blue birds, many raptors and mountain plovers. Other

species that you may see are San Joaquin kit fox, a variety of snakes, lizards, Tule elk and occasionally a pronghorn antelope.

Guided and self-guided tours are offered seasonally to some sites on the monument such as the Soda Lake area and Painted Rock. If you are interested in a tour to Painted Rock you will need to go online to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) to secure a permit. A permit is needed to access Painted Rock so be sure to get it prior to coming. You can also phone recreation.gov toll free at 1-877-444-6777. Please follow established rules when visiting Painted Rock; they are located on your permit.

Our visitor center is open seasonally December thru May, Thursday through Sunday 9:00 am to 4:00pm. Stop in to get brochures and other information while out on the monument. The phone number for the visitor center is (805) 475-2131.

If your interest lie in hiking, camping or hunting there are a few established hiking trails or you can just set off and take your own hike. There are two campgrounds located on the monument on a first come first serve basis and there is dispersed car camping (leave no trace), in the foothills of the monument. While hunting on the monument all California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations are in effect. You may want to check the BLM Carrizo website prior to coming to see special rules that may be in effect, a map outlining the dispersed car camping areas and general information. While exploring the monument remember all vehicles must stay on established routes of travel.

It has been said that during certain times of the year you can "hear the quite". This is one area that you can go all day without seeing another person. So please be prepared with food, gas, water and protective clothing before entering the monument. During the winter many roads become impassible due to wet conditions and temperatures often fall below freezing, while in the summer temperatures often exceed 100 degrees. So please be prepared!

In closing, whatever your interest may be that brought you to the monument you may be quietly surprised if you remember "The closer you look, the more you see".

Enjoy your visit!  
Johna Hurl



## Carrizo Plain National Monument

Welcome to the Carrizo Plain National Monument; a powerful yet peaceful landscape of sky and earth in a pattern seen nowhere else. As you explore this living museum, remember the closer you look, the more you see.

**Geography and Climate:** The Carrizo Plain is an internal drainage basin with all surface water draining to Soda Lake. The lake evaporates and becomes a white, salt-encrusted basin during the dry season of May through November. The plain stretches for about 50 miles north to south; it is bordered on the northeast by the Temblor Mountains and on the southwest by the Caliente Mountains. Caliente Mountain, the highest peak in San Luis Obispo County, stands 5,106 feet high while the Temblors reach up to 4,332 feet high at McKittrick Summit. The San Andreas Fault makes its seemingly quiet path through the area and is clearly visible near Wallace Creek. The plain is one of the sunniest places in California and summer temperatures often exceed 100 degrees F. On winter nights, however, temperatures often dip below freezing.

**Plants and Animal:** Plant communities range from iodine bush-and saltbush scrub to valley grasslands and California juniper woodland. Many sensitive species live on the plain including the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the San Joaquin kit fox, the giant kangaroo rat, and the San Joaquin antelope ground squirrel. Tule elk and pronghorn antelope have been reintroduced into the area and can be seen at various locations on the plain. Winter brings long-billed curlews, ferruginous hawks, and other birds to the Carrizo Plain. Many raptors, including red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, harriers, owls, and others, can be found all year throughout the area. The California condor has been reintroduced nearby and will hopefully return to its historic foraging grounds.

**Human History:** Chumash, Yokuts, and other Native Americans hunted and traded in the area. Painted Rock, probably used for religious ceremonies, is one of the more significant examples of Native American rock painting in the world. Dryland grain farming and ranching developed in the late 1800s; in 1912 mechanized agriculture brought large-scale farming to the plain. Today, most people come to Carrizo for recreation -- birding, hiking, photography, camping, hunting, and just plain relaxing.

**Management:** The Carrizo Plain National Monument, covering almost 250,000 acres, is managed jointly by the Bureau of Land Management, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy. A primary management focus is rare and endangered plants and animals and restoration of native ecosystems. Research is an active and important part of management, and projects are underway to better understand species and their habitats. Melding human use and species preservation, prescribed fire and livestock are used as tools to reach management goals.

### Some Helpful Hints

- Services (gasoline, food, water) are not available. Services are available in Taft to the east and Santa Margarita and Atascadero to the west.
- Only street legal vehicles are allowed on the monument.
- Vehicles must remain on designated roads. Dirt roads are impassable or closed when wet and have a potential for fire danger in summer. Soda Lake Road is only partially paved.
- Permits are required for campfires during fire season and are available at Bakersfield BLM office, 661-391-6000.
- Cultural artifacts and rock art are protected; so please don't remove or touch them.
- Do not harass wildlife.
- Leave No Trace. Pack out what you pack in.
- Follow California Department of Fish & Wildlife hunting regulations.
- Target shooting is not allowed on the monument.
- Pets must be under owner control at all times. In addition, pets must be leashed or caged at all developed sites including visitor center, interpretive areas, trailheads and campgrounds.

### Painted Rock

- Painted Rock is closed to public access March 1 through July 15 to protect biological and cultural resources.
- Guided tours are offered in March through May by permit only.
- Self-guided tours are offered July 16 through the end of February by permit only.
- Permits for Painted Rock guided and self-guided tours must be booked at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling toll free, 1-877-444-6777. TDD 1-877-833-6777.
- Horses and pets are not allowed at Painted Rock, on the trail to Painted Rock or the Painted Rock parking area.

### Facilities

- KCL and Selby Camp - primitive camping, restrooms.
- Goodwin Education Center (Visitor Center) - information, brochures, campfire permits, restrooms, no water. Open December through May, Thursday through Sunday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Closed holidays.
- Painted Rock - restroom, picnic tables, no water, 112-mile trail from parking lot to Native American pictograph site.
- Soda Lake Overlook - vista, restrooms, no water.
- Traver Ranch - Information and self-guided tour of dryland farming equipment, restroom, no water.

### For More Information

- Goodwin Education Center - 805-475-2131  
Goodwin Education Center  
HCR 69 Box 3087  
California Valley, California 93453



## What is the Carrizo Plain National Monument?

Full of natural splendor and rich in human history, the majestic grasslands and stark ridges in the Carrizo Plain National Monument contain exceptional objects of scientific and historic interest. Since the mid-1800s, large portions of the grasslands that once spanned the entire 400-mile expanse of California's nearby San Joaquin Valley and other valleys in the vicinity have been eliminated by extensive land conversion to agricultural, industrial, and urban land uses. The Carrizo Plain National Monument, which is dramatically bisected by the San Andreas Fault zone, is the largest undeveloped remnant of this ecosystem, providing crucial habitat for the long-term conservation of the many endemic plant and animal species that still inhabit the area.

The monument offers a refuge for endangered, threatened, and rare animal species such as the San Joaquin kit fox, the California condor, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the giant kangaroo rat, the San Joaquin antelope squirrel, the long-horn fairy shrimp, and the vernal pool fairy shrimp. It supports important populations of pronghorn antelope and tule elk. The area is also home to many rare and sensitive plant species, including the California jewelflower, the Hoover's woolly-star, the San-Joaquin woolly-threads, the pale-yellow layia, the forked fiddleneck, the Carrizo peppergrass, the Lost Hills saltbush, the Temblor buckwheat, the recurved larkspur, and the Munz's tidy-tips. Despite past human use, the size, isolation, and relatively undeveloped nature of the area make it ideal for long-term conservation of the dwindling flora and Carrizo Plain Visitors' Guide

fauna characteristic of the San Joaquin Valley region.

The Carrizo Plain National Monument also encompasses Soda Lake, the largest remaining natural alkali wetland in southern California and the only closed basin within the coastal mountains. As its name suggests, Soda Lake concentrates salts as water is evaporated away, leaving white deposits of sulfates and carbonates. Despite this harsh environment, small plant and animal species are well adapted to the setting, which is also important to migratory birds. During the winter months, the lake fills with water and teems with thousands of beautiful sandhill cranes, long-billed curlews, and mountain plovers.

The Carrizo Plain National Monument owes its existence to the geologic processes that occur along the San Andreas Fault, where two of the Earth's five great tectonic plates slide past one another, parallel to the axis of the Plain. Shifting along the fault created the Plain by rumpling the rocks to the northeast into the Temblor Range and isolating the Plain from the rest of the San Joaquin Valley. The area is world-famous for its spectacular exposures of fault-generated landforms. Stream valleys emerge from the adjacent mountains, only to take dramatic right-angle turns where they intersect the fault. Ponds and sags form where the ground is extended and subsides between branches of the fault. Benches form where the fault offsets valley walls. Many dramatic landscape features are products of the interplay between very rapid fault movement and slower erosion.

*Continued on Page 8*

## Stops Along the Carrizo Plain

### Stop 1:

#### Soda Lake Overlook

As the centerpiece of the national monument, Soda Lake is impressive — a massive expanse of nearly blinding-white mineral deposits shimmering in the bright summer sun, set against varying shades of green from the surrounding shrubs and brown from, well, the dirt. The landscape looks as though a giant baking soda explosion has occurred time and time again. It's beautiful, and for that, you can thank Mother Nature herself.

About 30 million years ago, movement along the San Andreas and San Juan fault lines caused the bordering Temblor and Caliente mountain ranges to rise and the land in between to form the shallow basin now known as Soda Lake, the lowest point in the Carrizo Plain. At one point in time, runoff from the plain drained into the Salinas River in the north. But now, thanks to the San Andreas Fault, water that trickles down into the lake during the winter months from elsewhere in the plain evaporates, and with nowhere else to go, it leaves behind "a glistening expanse of sulfate and carbonate salts that appear to ripple and sway in the heat waves of the summer," a sign at the top of the lookout informed us.

(Side note: Yep, we were fooled by that "mirage in the desert" effect. We thought we saw the



*Soda Lake, the national monument's focal point, is one of the largest undisturbed alkali wetlands in California.*

*(continued on page 31)*

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# A view from the top



The dry climate of the area produces low erosion rates, thereby preserving the spectacular effects of fault slip, folding, and warping. On the Plain, these fault-related events happen intermittently, but with great force. In 1857, the strongest earthquake in California's recorded history ripped through the San Andreas Fault, wrenching the western side of the Carrizo Plain National Monument 31 feet northward.

The area is also distinguished for its significant fossil assemblages. The Caliente Formation, exposed on the southeast side of the Caliente Range, is host to abundant and diverse terrestrial fossil mammal remains of the Miocene Epoch (from 13 million to 25 million years ago). Fossils of five North American provincial mammalian ages (Arikareean, Hemingfordian, Barstovian, Clarendonian, and Hemphillian) are represented in sedimentary rocks in that formation. These terrestrial fossil remains are interlaced with marine sedimentary rocks bearing fossils of mollusks, pectens, turitellas, and oysters.

In addition to its geologic and biological wealth, the area is rich in human history. Archaeologists theorize that humans have occupied the Carrizo Plain National Monument area since the Paleo-Indian Period (circa 11,000 to 9,000 B.C.). Bedrock mortar milling features, village middens, and elaborate pictographs are

the primary manifestations of prehistoric occupation. The Painted Rock art site is recognized as world class. European expeditions through the area date back to the late 1700s, with settlement beginning in the 1850s. Livestock ranching, farming, and mining activities in the last century and a half are evidenced by numerous artifacts and historic ranch properties within the area.



Wemher Krutein/Photovault.com

*The Carrizo Plain National Monument offers visitors a glimpse into the San Joaquin Valley's natural habitat.*



Carrizo Plain Visitors' Guide

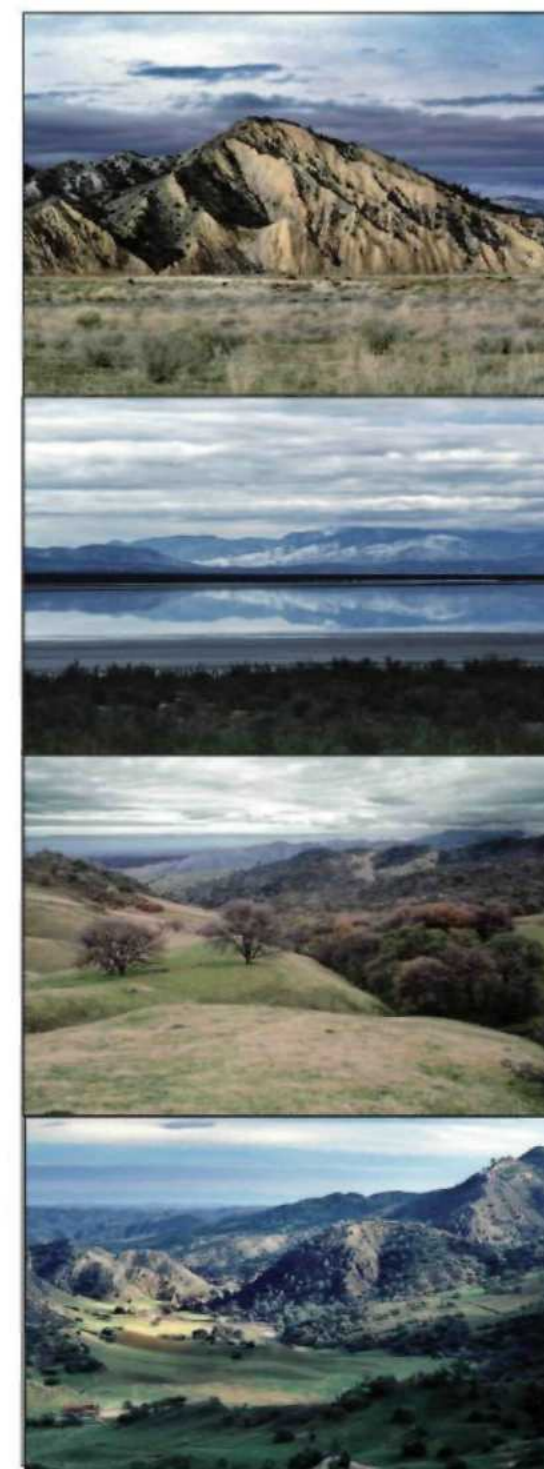
*The above photo was taken atop the Temblor Mountain Range behind Crocker Springs over looking the Carrizo Plain with Soda Lake in the distant right. By Jessica Skidgel*

The Carrizo Plain is located between the coastal ranges of California's eastern San Luis Obispo County lies an immaculate landscape comprised of blossoming flowers and awe-inspiring views. Hundreds of miles of open space characterize this rolling plain, providing RV rental travelers with a place to relax and rejuvenate before heading off on another west coast adventure. So what is this place, you ask? The Carrizo Plain National Monument of course! Located in California's most secluded region, the Carrizo Plain National Monument has remained relatively untouched by human development for well over three centuries. Known as "Llano Estero" or the "Salt Marsh Plain", the Carrizo Plain National Monument features 250,000 acres of protected terrain, providing an array of rare plants and animals with miles of natural habitat and unspoiled environmental splendor. Owned and cooperatively managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Nature Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Carrizo Plain is a definite must-visit for RV rental nature lovers – so what are you waiting for! The Carrizo Plain National Monument is ready and waiting to dazzle you with natural beauty, so don't miss your chance to check it out first hand during your upcoming RV vacation.

One of the nation's newest National Monuments, the Carrizo Plain is located just 60 miles east of San Luis Obispo. Home to stunning views of the famous San Andreas Fault, the Carrizo Plains National Monument is often referred to as California's "Serengeti". Sprawled across a mix of wetlands and grass areas, the Carrizo Plain is approximately 45 miles long and 10 miles wide, providing a wide variety of endangered species with protected habitat and ecosystems. Until recently the Carrizo Plains were dominated by ranching and farming, destroying much of the area's local vitality and environmental significance. In 1988 The Nature Conservancy, along with numerous federal, state and county agencies, rallied together to save this important patch of California terrain, purchasing 82,000 acres from and out-of-state land and oil company. The Nature Conservancy later partnered with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in order to further ensure the safety of the park. Named a National Monument in 2001, the Carrizo Plains are continually evolving, providing RV rental travelers with an exciting outlet of outdoor fun.

The Carrizo Plains National Monument is proud to provide RV rental travelers with a wide variety of facilities and recreation activities, including everything from hiking and camping to wildlife viewing and educational programs. Located off of Highway 58, the Carrizo Plains Preserve is open from sunrise to sunset, providing RV rental travelers with hours of outdoor excitement and activity. If you're planning on visiting the Carrizo Plains National Monument during your upcoming RV vacation please feel free to contact the Guy L. Goodwin Education Center at (805) 475-2131 for more details. This center, which is open Thursday through Sunday, 9:00am to 4:00pm, December through May, features a knowledgeable staff as well as interactive displays and colorful brochures. (If you're planning on visiting the Monument between June and November please call the Bureau of Land Management at (661) 391-6000 for more details).

Carrizo Plain Visitors' Guide





Story and Photos By  
Chuck Graham

# Carrizo Plain

## California's Serengeti

*At the foot of the Caliente Mountains a herd of Tule elk browsed across the sweeping grasslands of the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Through my dusty binoculars I could see about 40 cows and calves munching on an array of lush, dewy wildflowers just north of Painted Rock.*

I was roughly two miles east of the herd and had never seen elk on the plain before. With the sun at their backs I managed to close the gap to about 200 yards, maneuvering with a 300mm lens, while staying low to the ground in a seasonal arroyo draped in tidy tips and gnarled tumbleweeds. Able to fire off a few frames, I backed away from the elk letting them enjoy the spring's bounty.

Along with Tule elk, pronghorn antelope also share the open plain. North America's fastest land mammal can gallop up to 50 mph — crossing the grasslands between the Temblor and Caliente Mountains in blinding speeds. Because of these herds, the Carrizo Plain has come to be known as "California's Serengeti."

This relatively pristine landscape is a safe haven for the highest concentration of threatened and endangered wildlife in the state. The national monument turned 11 years old in April, the last of California's once-vast grasslands clinging to the protection set forth by former President Bill Clinton.

## Natural Wonders Abound

Every time I enter the Carrizo Plain my anticipation mounts. What will I see and experience that I didn't the time before? The abundant silence of this remote wilderness engulfs me until a blunt-nosed leopard lizard scampers across the road, or a badger mows through the tallest grasses.

"It's a unique, beautiful area," said Jonah Hurl, resource manager of the Carrizo Plain for the Bureau of Land Management the past 18 years. "It's a place where you can go without seeing or hearing anyone."

Two winters ago, my wife Lori and I saw two barn owls roosting inside an alcove of a sandstone cathedral. They flew over to the sunny side of the gritty outcropping to ward off the morning chill. They landed on a slab of sandstone covered in a montage of crimson and auburn lichen the same shades as the owl's wings. On another occasion after heavy winter rains, we were driving on Simmler Road on the eastern fringe of Soda Lake. We were moving slowly, careful not to get stuck in the mud, when Lori spotted a baby black-tailed jackrabbit. It was alone, separated from its mother and cold, huddling in a muddy rut. Its mottled fur was soaked from the previous night's rain and it was shivering. I pulled it out of the mud and held it close to my chest facing the warm morning sun until it was dry. It was weeks from growing into its submarine-like feet and it needed a lot of luck to survive marauding coyotes, San Joaquin kit foxes and raptors. Reluctantly we left it behind, but it was nature's way.

On several trips to the Carrizo Plain I've gone without seeing another soul, so it came as a surprise that the national monument brings in anywhere from 40,000 to 60,000 visitors per year at a place where the next gas station or market is 50 miles away in any one direction.

"It's totally dependent on wildflowers," continued Hurl, "April is the busiest month. The spring of 2010 was a banner year for wildflowers."

It's true. Soda Lake Road runs for 50 miles through the Carrizo Plain, and in 2010 the Temblor Mountains to the east and most of the grasslands were splashed in swaths of purple, yellow, pink and gold.

### Golden hour

It was a lung-busting ascent at dawn, rising above the floor of the Carrizo Plain, achy knees churning my mountain bike to its highest summit at 5,106 feet. I left the sweeping grasslands and lost myself in the oak woodlands and pine forests while pedaling up Caliente Ridge for a different perspective of the vast grasslands.

Aside from old cattle ranching roads and remnants of ranches dating back to the 1940s, the Carrizo Plain suffers from very little human impact. In fact, ravens and raptors have taken over those weather-beaten manmade structures and made them into their own. Old windmills, water tanks and teetering barns are fair game for annual nest sites.

My eyes were tearing up in the frigid 20-degree temperatures and my lungs burned with each deep breath. It was silent except for my huffing and puffing. Gratefully I pulled up to a natural overlook to catch my breath as shadows retreated across the sweeping plain.

As I neared the summit at the top of the ridge, I spooked a majestic golden eagle roosting in a gnarled oak tree. It swooped over me and continued east out over the grasslands, vanishing against the stark landscape of the Elkhorn Plain in the southeast

corner of the monument. What would take me half-a-day's ride, hell, the raptor was already there.

### Soda Lake

The flock of American avocets skimmed the surface of Soda Lake maybe a millimeter separating their wing tips from the shimmering shallows. They gathered inside a tiny cove sharing it with a bevy of sandpipers and long-billed curlews.

Soda Lake is the largest natural alkali lake in California and during wet winters attracts migrating sandhill cranes. During the dry season Soda Lake becomes a blinding white, 3,000-acre saltpan.

The midday glare seen from miles away. But at sunrise and sunset the edge of the lake is one of the more tranquil places across the Carrizo Plain. It's a place to wander and reflect. It's also a good time to see some of the 180 bird species that frequent the National Monument.

The best place to do this is along the boardwalk that meanders along the west shore of the alkali lake, well situated for setting up a spotting scope or scanning with binoculars. Shorebirds and geese fly in by the hundreds, Soda Lake being part of the Pacific Flyway, the lonely, wide open expanse a safe haven for flora and fauna alike.

Back on Highway 166 unfortunately signaled the end of another Carrizo Plain experience, leaving behind the grasslands, soothing silence and too many natural wonders to count. That is until once again I feel the tug inside to pack up my truck and climb Highway 33 to return once more to "California's Serengeti."



# The Rock of Painted Rock

by David Chipping

Painted Rock is one of the most well known treasures of the Carrizo Plain, but less well known are the origins of the rock itself. The sandstone that dominates the rock belongs to the Vaqueros Formation, a geologic unit that is found throughout most of the Caliente Range and elsewhere in the Coast Ranges. The formation was first described from Vaqueros Canyon, east of Greenfield in Monterey County. The sandstone was deposited in a westward expanding series of deltas that flowed into a shallow sea rich in sea life. This was at the closing of the Oligocene Epoch and the start of the Miocene epoch, a little earlier than 20 million years ago, and marked a significant change in the interaction of the North American lithosphere plate and the floor of the Pacific Ocean. What had been a series of alluvial fans dominated by coarse gravel, suggesting steep slopes and fast moving waters, were buried in river deposits that gradually became ocean deposits as the land sank and the ocean deepened. The next time you visit Painted Rock, look for the ripple marks on one of the interior ledges that prove that the rock was deposited in very shallow water.

The sands became finer as the water deepened and the shoreline receded to the east. The sands were later replaced by the much finer shales of the Monterey Formation, which were formed in a fairly deep marine environment and can be found on Caliente Mountain. It was as if the "bottom fell out" of North America's western shore line, as the ocean replaced the land, but there is an explanation. At about this time the Farallon Plate, that lay between today's Pacific Plate and the North American Plate, was completely devoured by a subduction zone lying west of the coast. This brought the Pacific and North American Plates together for the first time. As the Pacific Plate moved in a different direction than the Farallon Plate, the edge of North America changed from a zone of compression to a zone of lateral shear. This also gave birth to the San Andreas fault, but as shearing began it opened up marine basins in areas that had formerly been uplifted mountain slopes. To illustrate how a marine basin can open under shear, place a sheet of paper on a table with a small hole in the center, put your hands on opposite edges, and make a shearing motion with your right hand toward you and your left hand away from you. You will see extensional tears extending from near left to far right.

Why does Painted Rock stick up out of the ground? The sandstone deposits that once surrounded the rock have been eroded and washed away by erosion, but Painted Rock survives as the sand grains were cemented together more firmly. The geologic unit can be seen along the eastern flanks of Caliente Mountain, forming a resistant backbone for the mountain, and can also be seen at Selby Rocks. One fun fact on Selby Rocks. As you approach on the way to Selby Rock, note how the easternmost rock looks like a giant frog. I want to call it Riddip Rock.

Dr. Chipping is Professor Emeritus of Geology at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and President of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. He is Vice President of the Friends of the Carrizo Plain Board of Directors.

# Carrizo Plain National Monument is a natural laboratory for studying the Geology of Earthquakes

By Sinan O. Akciz, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine

We establish some of our biggest cities right next to major faults. As we populate them, we bring in water and energy from other places and build infrastructure across these faults. We take advantage of the slowness of geological processes and carry on with our hectic daily lives and forget about nature's forces. After all, scientists can't really tell where and when the next big or damaging earthquake will occur, right?

While we still can't predict earthquakes, we have come a long way in the past few decades in terms of understanding how the ground will shake at a particular location after an earthquake if we know (a) the fault the earthquake has occurred on, (b) its magnitude, and (c) the direction in which the rupture propagated. We can run sophisticated simulations on supercomputers and produce a near-infinite number of analyses for each possible earthquake scenario. We compare the model results to earthquakes that have been recorded instrumentally and fine-tune the numerous assumptions that need to be made about the subsurface geology of the region where the earthquake has occurred.

Data about the possible magnitudes and direction of the rupture, however, is not easy to provide (thus the large number of model iterations that need to be run). Our best guess about what the next earthquake along a particular section of a fault will look like is based on our characterization of how large earthquakes occurred along that section of the fault in the past. This data, as you can imagine, is difficult to collect and interpret in a straightforward way. Such data is collected by paleoseismologists, who dig trenches as deep as 17 feet across the fault of interest and document and interpret the geological evidence created by old surface-rupturing earthquakes that is preserved in the soil record. These records are hard to come by, because (a) unless the sedimentation rate is just right, earthquake evidence either erodes away (when sedimentation rate is too slow) or gets buried too deep to be exposed by a backhoe (when sedimentation rate is too fast), (b) even if the earthquake evidence is well-preserved, there is often not enough datable material to determine when the earthquakes occurred.

Some of the best paleoseismological data of any known fault in the world is collected from within the Carrizo Plain. Geological evidence for strike-slip faulting is preserved remarkably well, thanks to the protection of the land as a National Monument. In addition, there are lots of locations within the Carrizo Plain where the sedimentation rate is just fast enough that you can unequivocally identify each earthquake without questioning the completeness of the earthquake record preserved in these sediments. There is plenty of charcoal carried into the plain from the Temblors, which enables the precise dating of these individual earthquakes. In addition, the Carrizo Plain has many old river channels that are disrupted and offset by earthquakes, which enables us to study how big these past earthquakes were by measuring how much the channel shifted.

Ongoing research along the Carrizo Section of the San Andreas Fault is shedding new light on the past behavior of this section of the fault. New data indicate that ~ 4,000 years ago the San Andreas Fault was moving at a rate similar to the current slip rate of ~36 mm/yr. New data also suggest that earthquakes that ruptured the Carrizo Plain occurred on average every  $88 \pm 41$  years, which is a lot more frequently than previously thought. However, this data also indicate that not all earthquakes were similar in magnitude to the great Fort Tejon earthquake of 1857. But which ones were big and most damaging? Which ones were small? Which ones had epicenters near Parkfield? Which ones were the tailends of ruptures that originated further southeast? All these questions remain unanswered and during the investigation process, new ones will undoubtedly emerge. The Carrizo Plain National Monument will continue to provide new scientific discoveries and remain one of the most valuable natural laboratories for studying past earthquakes. We thank the residents of the Carrizo Plain and the Bureau of Land Management for their continued support to our research, which not only helps southern California to be better prepared for future earthquakes, but also helps us better understand earthquakes occurring along strike-slip faults elsewhere in the world which may not have as high-quality geological data as the San Andreas Fault.



Offset stream channel at Wallace Creek

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## The Carrizo Plain – fact sheet –

|  |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Size:</b><br>250, 000 acres total;<br>45 miles long,<br>10 miles wide   | <b>Location:</b><br>65 miles from San Luis Obispo, 25 miles from Maricopa; accessible via state Highways 58 and 166 | <b>Points of Interest :</b><br>Soda Lake, Painted Rock, Wallace Creek (best place to view evidence of San Andreas Fault activity), and the Goodwin Education Center. The Goodwin Education Center open 12-3-2015 and closes May 29, 2016. | <b>Plants:</b><br>Several rare and sensitive plant species, including the California jewel flower, Hoover's woolly-star, San Joaquin woolly threads, pale-yellow layia, forked fiddleneck, Carrizo peppergrass, Lost Hills saltbush, Temblor buckwheat, recurved larkspur, and Munz's tidy-tips | <b>Animals:</b><br>Several threatened, endangered, and unique species, including the San Joaquin kit fox, California condor, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, giant kangaroo rat, San Joaquin antelope squirrel, longhorn fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, pronghorn antelope and tule elk |
| <b>National Monument Status:</b><br>Designated as a national monument by former President William Clinton on Jan. 3, 2001  |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Other Interesting Facts:</b><br>* Only four percent of California's native grasslands remain – the Carrizo Plains account for a great deal of this, supporting native bunchgrass, needlegrass and blue grass.<br>* More endangered species of animals and plant life live on the Carrizo Plains than anywhere else in California. This includes the California jewel flower, the San Joaquin kit fox, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard and the giant kangaroo rat.<br>* Numerous species of endangered animals have been reintroduced to the Carrizo Plains over the past 15 years. These include the native tule elk and the pronghorn. Today there are just less than 100 pronghorns on the plain and well over 200 tule elk. |   |   |   |  |

## Painted Rock



A view of Painted Rock on the Carrizo Plain National Monument

Painted Rock, a horseshoe-shaped monolith rock formation, stands about 55 feet above the high plain adjacent to the Caliente Mountain Range. The geologic formation is a sedimentary rock called sandstone. This sandstone is of marine origin formed about 25 million years during the Miocene Epoch. An ancient river flowing northwestward carved the central portion (saddle) of Painted



Rock during the Pleistocene (Ice Age).

The Chumash, Yokuts, and other native peoples lived, hunted and traded in this central region of California. Painted Rock, a special place to the native peoples, is recognized as one of the most important rock painting (pictograph) sites in the United States. Some of the lifeways of the American Indian use of Painted Rock is sacred as they continue to express through their visitations to the site.

At Painted Rock, three colors dominate the paintings; red, black and white. The red ochre is made from hematite, a mineral found locally. Pigment for black

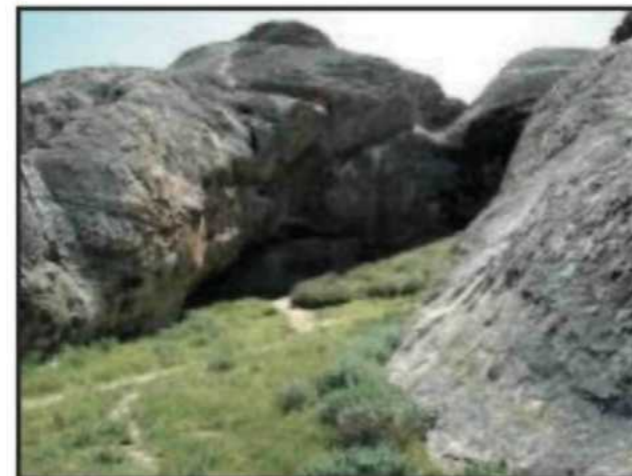
paint was made from wood charcoal. The source for white paint comes from diatomaceous shale and/or gypsum, both minerals found locally in the Monument. Animal fat or oil extracted from crushed plant seeds, whites of bird eggs, or milkweed may have served as a binder for making paints. Paint was applied to the rock surface by finger or with a fibrous plant stick.

The paintings were done over a long period of time, with some paintings superimposed or painted over previously painted images. The paintings are estimated to be from 200 to 3000 years old. The pictographs exhibit a diverse and intricate style that has been long and widely recognized as among the most impressive in North America. Unfortunately, vandalism ranging from graffiti to gunshot impacts over the past 100 years has destroyed or severely damaged some of the rock paintings. Wind and water erosion, and other natural occurrences such as bird excretions and honeybee activity have also damaged the preservation of the rock paintings.

Please help us protect Painted Rock, a cultural resource of the American Indians of California and a special place for future generations of people to enjoy and benefit. The native peoples today are actively involved in the management and preservation of Painted Rock.

No hunting or shooting is allowed in

the area of Painted Rock or along the trail for one-quarter (1/4) mile radius. Pets are not allowed at Painted Rock. Please BEWARE of rattlesnakes and honeybees at Painted Rock and along the trail.



Left: Painted Rock 1891. Above: The entrance to Painted Rock

Federal Laws make it illegal to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface (or attempt to do aforementioned activities) archaeological resources located on public land. Any person found in violation of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act could be fined not more than \$100,000, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. Please report any violations to archaeological resources to the Bakersfield BLM Office (661) 391-6000. Thanks for helping us preserve California's heritage resources.

## Thistle Sage *Salvia carduacea*

By Dirk Walters



A Pollen seeking bee on the Thistle Sage

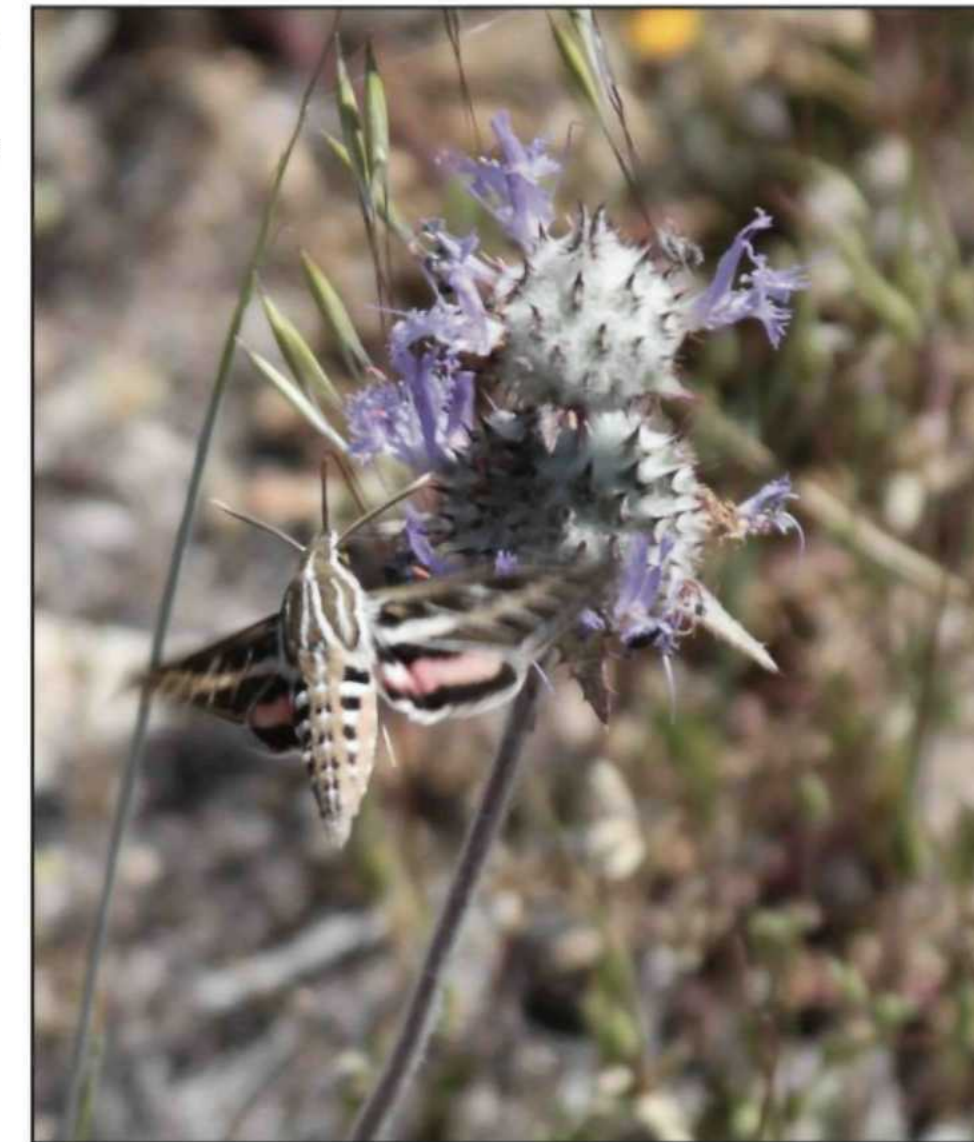
Thistle sage (*Salvia carduacea*) is one of my favorite spring wildflowers. In good years it can be found in many locations throughout the Carrizo Plains National Monument. It is especially noticeable on gentle slopes of the Plain itself. Being a good desert species, it doesn't appear every year. So, it has always been a treat to find it in abundance.

Both the common name and scientific name are derived from the plant's appearance. It's a mint whose stems and leaves resemble a thistle. Thistle sage is also the direct translation of its scientific name. *Salvia* is the genus name for the sages (a common type of economically important mint) and *carduacea* is derived from the genus name of a group of thistles (e.g. Italian thistle, *Carduus pycnocephalus*). Many mint characteristics are visible in Bonnie's drawing. The square stem, along with the leaves borne in opposite pairs, can be seen. Unfortunately the minty odor can't be picked up from the drawing or photos, but be reassured it has it in spades. Mint flowers are bi-lateral, usually with two prominent lips. Flowers are borne in circular clusters. These stacks of whorls give the inflorescence the appearance of an oriental pagoda. The lower lip is the more spectacular in thistle sage. There are several sages in the Monument area. In addition to thistle sage, we also have the smaller purple flowered Chia (*S. columbariae*). There are also two shrubby sages, black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) and purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*).

Thistle sage flowers are fun to just sit down and watch. This is because they are frequented by large bumble bees which I assume are their principle pollinator. The flowers of thistle sage are large, lavender to pale purple with a fringe in the front of the lower lip that is pure white. Its two fertile anther-halves are bright, bright orange. Thistle sage anthers produce a branch at base. At the end of one of the branches is the orange fertile anther cell visible in drawing and photo. The other branch is relatively short and projects backward and downward just inside the mouth of the relatively long corolla tube. Nectar is produced at the very bottom of the tube. In order for a bee to get to the nectar, it has to stick its head into the tube which pushes on the two sterile branches thus forcing the fertile anther downward causing them to come in contact with the bee's rump. That contact deposits pollen on the bee's rump. One additional thing needs to be noted about this pollination mechanism. Only fairly large bees will be able to work it correctly. Smaller bees and insects are probably excluded from the tube by the downward projecting branches because they lack the strength to push them

out of the way. Even if they have the strength to move the barrier, they may be so small that the pollen bearing anther doesn't reach their rumps. These would be able to steal the nectar without carrying pollen to the next flower. A year or so ago, a day-flying hawk moth was observed visiting thistle sage flowers. Several of us took pictures and one of David Chipping's is included. Hawk moths do not land on a flower, but hover in front of it. They hover slightly higher than the opening to the floral tube which brings their backs in contact with the stamens. Since they have a long, thin proboscis, they can reach the nectar without entering the corolla tube and without coming in contact with the tripping lever system. This is not a problem because of their hovering position in front of the flower brings them in contact with the protruding stamens.

Thistle sage would be a great addition to any native garden, especially one that encourages annuals. It would take full sun and prefer well drained soils. All parts of the plant are very fragrant. One web source recommended it for attracting birds. Many web sites discussed its edible leaves and especially its edible seeds. The seed are eaten like chia seed. One web source told of a study that compared the nutritional value of thistle sage verses chia. It reported that whereas chia had higher necessary fatty acid content, thistle sage had higher protein levels. Both thistle sage and Chia were important food plants for native Californians.



Day Flying Hawk Moth on the Thistle

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# Vernal Pools of the Carrizo Plain

By David Chipping

The floor of the Carrizo Plain contains a small number of ephemeral wetlands that exist only during the winter and spring before drying up. "Vernal" means appearing or occurring in spring. The pools contain a number of species of animals and plants that are dependent on the annual cycle of submergence and desiccation, and which also can survive dry years such as 2008 and 2009 in which there is hardly any rainfall.

The geologic origins of the Carrizo Plain's pools vary. Some form due to recent geologic deformation near the San Andreas Fault, but the most important group of pools lies in the lowest valley topography north of the Carrizo Plain National Monument, especially in the central area of Belmont Trail and near Seven Mile Road. The surface of the land is gently dimpled, the hollows being less than a foot or so below the surrounding higher ground, and the dimples being about the size of a table-tennis table. They can be spotted in the summer by the presence of white salty clay and the dried out remains of algal and bacterial mats that look like blackened peeled paint on the white background, and in the winter by rather muddy water. The muddiness is due to the teeming life of the pool that must be born, grow to maturity, mate and deposit seeds, cysts, and future offspring before the pool dries and the killing summer heat returns.

The Belmont Trail pools share an origin with Soda Lake itself. Both are deflation hollows, blown from the floor of the valley by the northwest winds. The general ease of wind excavation can be viewed in the summer in the form of myriad dust devils riding the hot winds. Soda Lake itself is a giant wind-blown hollow, with the dust being deposited and trapped on the southwest side of the lake by the vegetation of the "clay dune" along Simmler Road. The scale of the vernal pools is much smaller, but the high spots around the pools are the consequence of dust caught in vegetation.

Why does water stay in the hollows? There is a relatively thin clay seal a few inches beneath the surface. A story is told of a Cal Poly Soil Science student who, many years ago, attempted to take a soil core from the bottom of a filled pool with an auger, only to watch aghast as the entire pool drained into the sub-

surface through the newly cut hole.

Today such destruction would violate Federal law, as the pools contain endangered species and the habitat destruction would be an illegal "taking" of protected species. These are the Longhorn fairy shrimp and, potentially, the Vernal Pool fairy shrimp. These tiny crustaceans deposit eggs as cysts at the end of their extremely short lives, and these remain in the dried mud to hatch during the next submergence, and for this reason walking in dried out pools can cause harm to this species and should be avoided.

Larger pools may be used by Spadefoot Toads as hatching sites of tadpoles, the adults then reburying themselves during the dry times. A number of very interesting plants are also found in the pools.

Vernal pool plants germinate when water is in the pool, and start their lives underwater. They usually flower and set seed as they emerge during the drying of the pool. The high spots around the pools allow goldfields and owl's clover to ring the pools, but these are not the true denizens of the pools. Most of these, such as Mousetail and Water Starwort, are very small and not very colorful, but while none are unique to the Carrizo Plain, all are relatively uncommon due to the inherent rarity of the habitat.

There are probably half a dozen or so of these interesting plants that will have you down on your knees with a hand lens as you introduce yourself.



Vernal Pool Photo by Paul G. Johnson, 4/7/2005

# A History of a Special Place

by Craig Deutsche

Today the Carrizo Plain National Monument is a place of open space and overwhelming quiet. This was not always so, and even as recently as forty years ago you might hear the thumping of electric generators working at the ranches or the sound of tractors making rounds in the fields. Wheat was grown on the flats, and cattle grazed on the more hilly ground. The years between 1940 and 1960 were the most prosperous, but few people outside the valley knew of this valley. It was a story waiting to be told.

Jackie Czaplá runs the Visitor Center in the Monument, and in 2008, she and I began a project to collect oral histories from the people who had once worked this land. Finding the stories was something of a treasure hunt. One person would tell us of another person we should meet, and then he (or she) would direct us to still another. There were also instances of pure serendipity. In 1991 Nancy Warner, a contractor with the Nature Conservancy, interviewed six old-time residents about early flora on the Plain. Her cassette tapes were forgotten and were only re-discovered when I asked a BLM archeologist if she could check in an old file drawer. The tapes were to become part of our project to be transcribed and saved. The persons interviewed on those tapes were already elderly in 1991, and they recalled memories from the very first years of the twentieth century.

Perhaps the most astonishing discovery was a taped interview with Nancy Wright Traver. It was made by several younger family members in 1970, only a few years before her death. Nancy was wife of Lew Traver who owned a ranch in the center part of the Plain. Their house and much of their farm equipment are easily seen along Soda Lake Road in the Monument today.

Nancy Wright was born in 1876 in Adelaide, California. Her father managed cattle, and her mother managed four children and their two-room wooden house. Water was drawn from a well in buckets; laundry was done on a washboard along-

side the creek; cooking was done on a wood-burning stove; and light at night was provided by either kerosene lanterns, candles, or simply a dish of oil with a string in it. Once a year the family made the two day journey by wagon to Cayucos to purchase supplies: salt, one sack of sugar, four sacks of flour, and various small hardware items. Everything else they had to provide on their own. Returning from one of these trips, they found that their house had burned to the ground. The only surviving property was her father's saddle which had been on the porch and escaped the flames. The clothing and the quilts which Nancy's mother had made were among the lost possessions. The family rebuilt and started over.

In the recording Nancy goes on to tell of a diphtheria epidemic, of drought, of her schooling, of the various jobs she held, and of her marriage. She was already fifty-two years old when her family moved to the north end of the Carrizo Plain. Nancy was sixty-four when her husband bought what is now called the Traver Ranch on the present Monument. The recording was, and is, a chronicle of California pioneer life from the time of candles to the age of television.

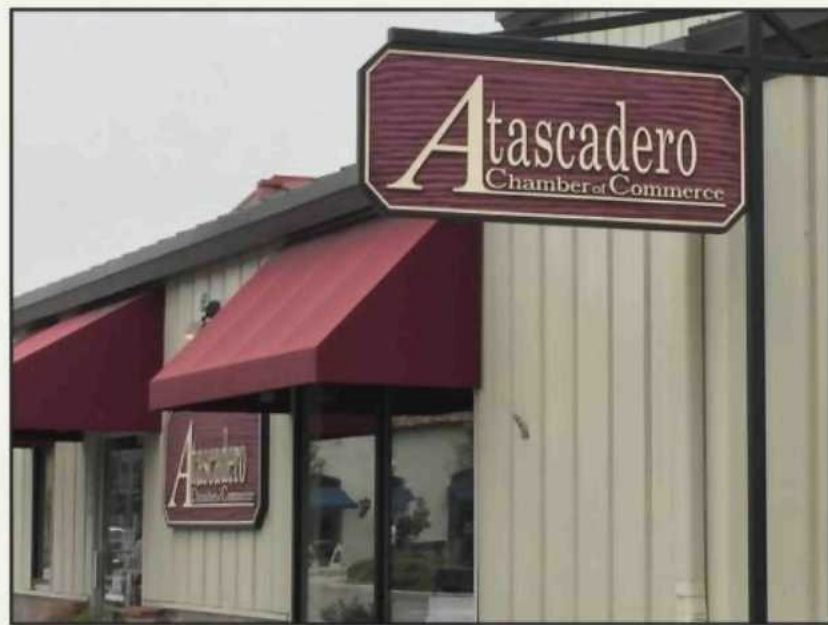
These discovered recordings were the exception. More commonly we were given the name of someone we might wish to interview, and then we set out to find them. When I placed a telephone call, I calculated that I had three sentences to persuade the person that I wasn't crazy, one minute to persuade them that the project was real and interesting, and then five minutes to persuade them to be interviewed themselves. I dropped names shamelessly, names of people who referred me, and names and histories of neighbors that they had once known. In fact, nearly everyone we met has been intrigued and ultimately glad to tell of their experiences and their family.



There were stories of the strong community at the north end of the Plain: Farm Bureau meetings, school functions, Halloween parties, and dances. Other interviews described in detail how dryland farming was done. There were anecdotes about a whiskey still during prohibition, about childhood adventures, and about farm accidents and rattlesnakes. The south end of the Plain is drier, and the people who lived there were more widely separated. There was no tight community as there was in the north, and it became more difficult to locate the former residents. Nevertheless, many of their stories were of the same kind.

Jackie and I have interviewed 130 persons, and the recordings along with their transcripts have been archived in several different libraries including those at Cal Poly State University, at Taft College, and the Bancroft Library in Berkeley. While we take a great deal of satisfaction in this, our real reward was unexpected. As we became familiar with the history of the valley, the meetings became more like conversations than interviews. In some cases we were able to put people in touch with others of their family that had become lost. In my case, several of these persons have become personal friends, and I have been privileged to become part of their community. Although tractors no longer work the fields and fences are falling down, the Carrizo Plain is very much alive.

## The Atascadero Chamber of Commerce



Information On The Carrizo Plain  
Maps of the Carrizo Plain National Monument

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Maps of the Carrizo Plain National Monument

Taft, California  
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## Geocaching the Carrizo Plain

By Wesley Morris

Back in 2009 I mocked Taft for being the "Gateway to the Carrizo Plain". Who in the heck wants to drive out to that barren landscape and hang out all day long? Yet as an avid Geocacher on a Geocaching streak (I would find a cache a day for 72 days in a row), I was running out of options in Taft. I saw some Geocaches in the Carrizo Plain I hadn't found, so I figured I would go check them out. My love for exploring and Geocaching the Carrizo Plain was born on March 14, 2009.

For those of you asking, "What is Geocaching and why should I care?" It is a worldwide treasure hunting game where people hide containers for you to go find using GPS and coordinates as your guide. Yet, most Geocaches really don't have treasure inside, but merely trinkets mainly found at a dollar store. The true treasure in a Geocache and especially in the Carrizo Plain are the places Geocaching is going to take you.

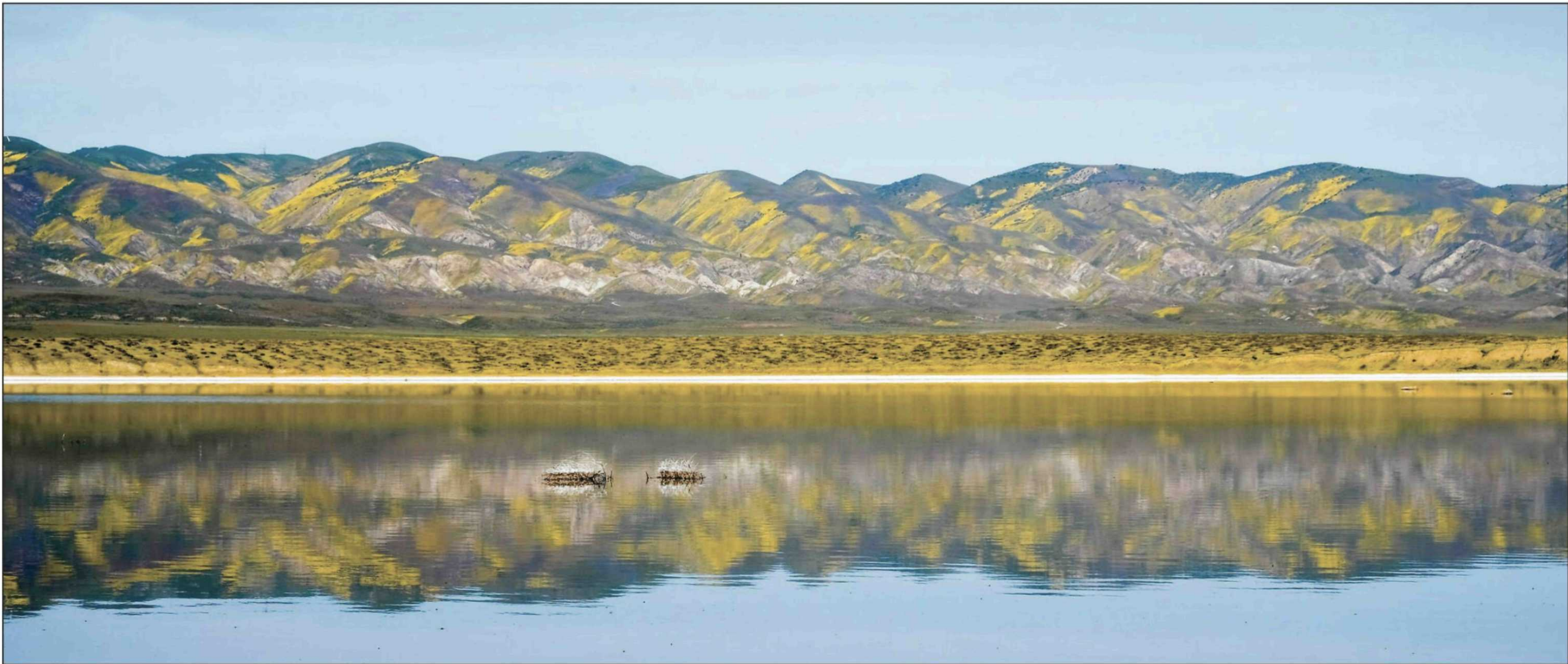
What I have discovered in my 7 years of Geocaching in the Carrizo Plain is I am still finding new sights to see and history to explore. I usually come out two or three times a year and on every trip I find something new. From an old rock cellar in the southwest hills of the CPNM, to an old homestead on the eastside, to old springs on the west, The American Ranch in the north, and Panorama Point in the middle. There are educational earthcaches that teach me about the geology of the San Andreas Fault, caches by old farm equipment or trucks, and spots at magnificent vista points. I have travelled to these spots in my old Ford Focus, my newer Honda Ridgeline 4x4, my dual sport Yamaha motorcycle, bicycle, and by foot.

The Carrizo Plain is a great place to explore and Geocache while I do it. You can learn more about this fun way to experience the Carrizo Plain by going to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) or if you want to see my profile go to [www.elrojo14.com](http://www.elrojo14.com).

I definitely no longer mock Taft's designation as "The Gateway to the Carrizo Plain". I have developed a love and care for the Carrizo Plain and it was all because I had nowhere else to go to find a Geocache. So if you are looking for a fun activity to do whether it is at the Carrizo Plain or anywhere you travel in the world, check out Geocaching. I have definitely used it to expand my world.

Wes Morris is a teacher at Taft Union High School and teaches a Geocaching Summer School Class which he takes students to the Goodwin Educational Center and El Saucito Ranch on field trips. You can contact him with your Geocaching questions at [gc@elrojo14.com](mailto:gc@elrojo14.com).





*Photo by Ha Lam, First Place Winner, 2017 Carrizo Plain Photo Contest*

## 2017 Carrizo Plain Photo Contest Winner

The spring of 2017 was a great time to visit Carrizo Plain National Monument. Vast amounts of rain during the winter and early spring months yielded a Super Bloom effect that made national and international news. This resulted in a record of visitor attendance totaling over 70,000 guests from March to May. Along with the Super Bloom was Carrizo Plain National Monument's 1st Annual Photo Contest in conjunction with the Friends of the Carrizo Plain.

The photo contest was created to showcase the pied beauty of Carrizo Plain National Monument that some may have missed during their visit. All submitted photos were viewed by Friends of the Carrizo Plain board members and a selection was made with the very first winner being Ha Lam, who's photo will be on display in the Goodwin Education Center as well as the cover of this magazine.

If you didn't have a chance to submit your photos for the contest then you will have another opportunity to do so for the 2nd Annual Photo Contest. All photos need to be submitted via email to: [blm\\_ca\\_carrizo@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ca_carrizo@blm.gov) by September the 15th, 2018.

You will be able to submit a maximum of 2 photos per category in: Landscape, Flowers, People/Human Interest, Animals/Wildlife, Black & White, and Jr. Photographers (16 and under).

All the winners will be published in the following year's visitor guide publication with the winners having their photos displayed in the Goodwin Education Center.

So please share with us your experience and photos of how you spent your time at Carrizo Plain National Monument and follow us on Facebook and Instagram - Friends of the the Carrizo Plain and BLM.



# Carrizo Plain National Monument

## Land Status

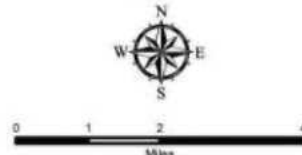
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- State Lands
- County / City / Regional
- Private/Other
- No Hunting Zone
- Open Camping Area
- Carrizo Plain National Monument
- Wilderness Study Area
- San Andreas Fault
- County Maintained Roads
- Paved Roads
- Open Roads
- Administrative Use Only
- Closed to Vehicle Use
- Foot Trail
- ? Information Board



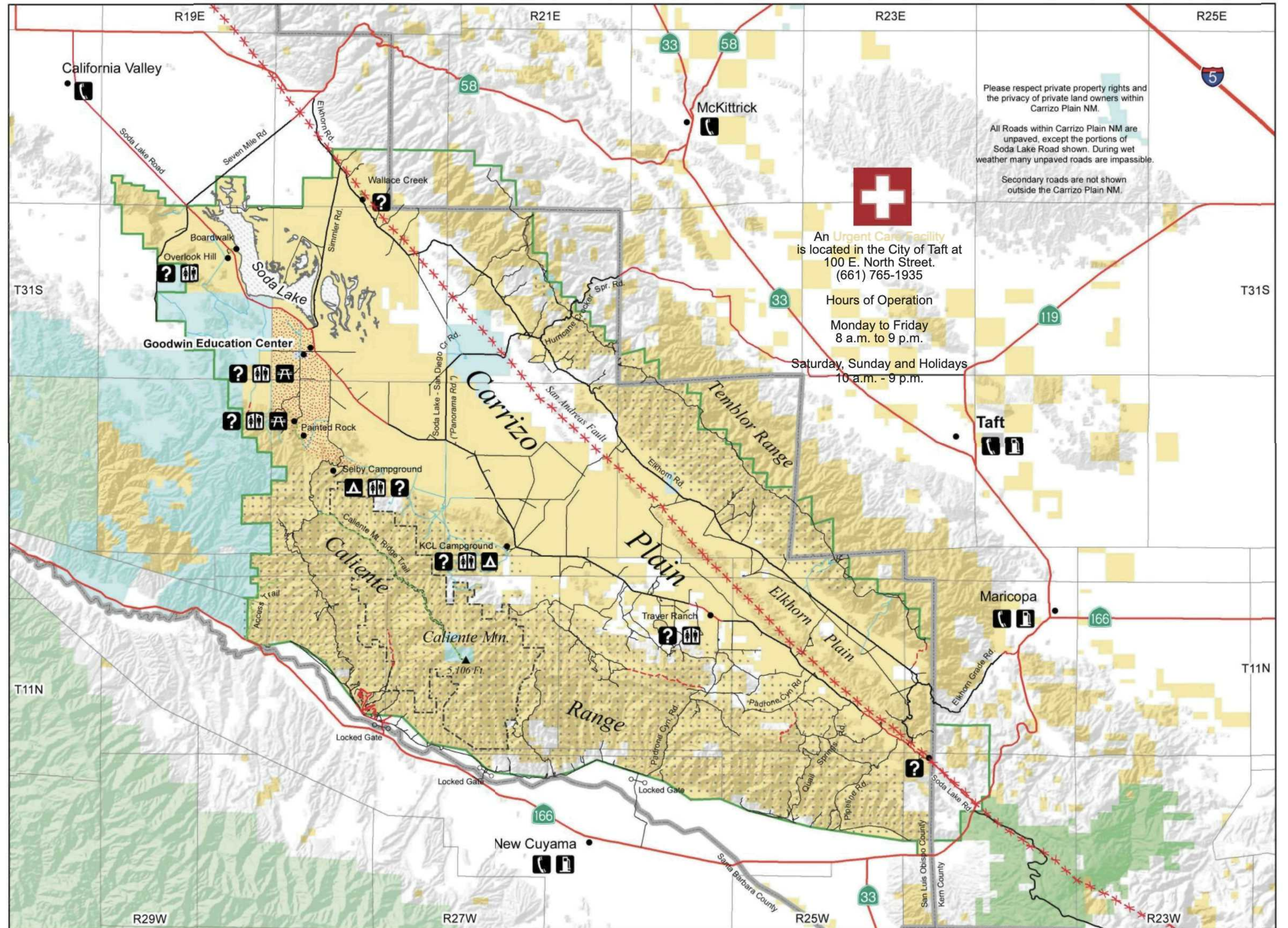
Location Map

Bureau of Land Management  
 Bakersfield Field Office  
 3801 Pegasus Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93308. 661-391-6000  
[www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield](http://www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield)

Goodwin Education Center  
 (Open December - May: Phone 805-475-2131)



Revised: April 17, 2013



Please respect private property rights and the privacy of private land owners within Carrizo Plain NM.

All Roads within Carrizo Plain NM are unpaved, except the portions of Soda Lake Road shown. During wet weather many unpaved roads are impassible.

Secondary roads are not shown outside the Carrizo Plain NM.

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Richard Pradenas (above), 2nd Place Winner (below), Sunrise Overlook Hill, and Andrew Williams, 3rd Place Winner Soda lake



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# The Oak Woodlands of the Monument

By David Chipping

Say what? Of all the things that the Monument has, you wouldn't think oak woodlands would be on the list. Yes... we do have oak woodlands, but they are either very well hidden or very short trees. The hidden oaks sit at the base of steeply cut canyons on the east side of Caliente Mountain. These are small patches of Blue oak, *Quercus douglasii*, sitting at the base of rocky slopes where there is a little water and some shade, mostly tucked far into ravines where they cannot easily be seen from the flatlands. They can also be seen on the eastern slopes of the Temblor Range. The other oak is far more extensive and is found along the summit ridge of Caliente Mountain. The species is Tucker Oak, *Quercus john-tuckeri*. Like many plants, this oak is named to honor somebody, in this case John M. Tucker, professor of botany (1947-1986) at the University of California at Davis. It is a scrub oak, growing as high as 20 feet, but usually a bushy shrub growing up to 6-15 feet in height. It grows in close association with California juniper, *Juniperus californica*, but can be distinguished by the grey-green color of its holly-like leaves which differ from the deep dark green of the juniper. The Tucker Oak was once called *Quercus dumosa* var. *turbinella*, or even *Quercus turbinella*. It's common name in earlier floristic studies on the Monument was scrub oak, but that name is now given to desert species to the south.



Interestingly, the juniper-oak mix is found extensively over the American West, albeit with different species of oak and juniper. However, they are all of similar appearance to those on the Monument. However elsewhere this is usually called the "P-J" for the common association of juniper and pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*). This association, combined with scrub oak, is well developed in the Pine Mountain and Mt. Abel-Mt Pinos areas south of the Monument, but pinyon pine is rare on the Monument and grows only in some remote small stands on the flanks of Caliente Mountain. The P-J is usually the lowest of the tree-dominant plant communities, lying above the various types desert scrubs. The U.S. Forest Service finds that juniper persists at slightly lower elevations than pinyon pine, so it is possible that the highest point in San Luis Obispo is not quite high enough for an abundance of pinyon pine. It is also likely that, as global warming increases, the pinyons will be gone completely.

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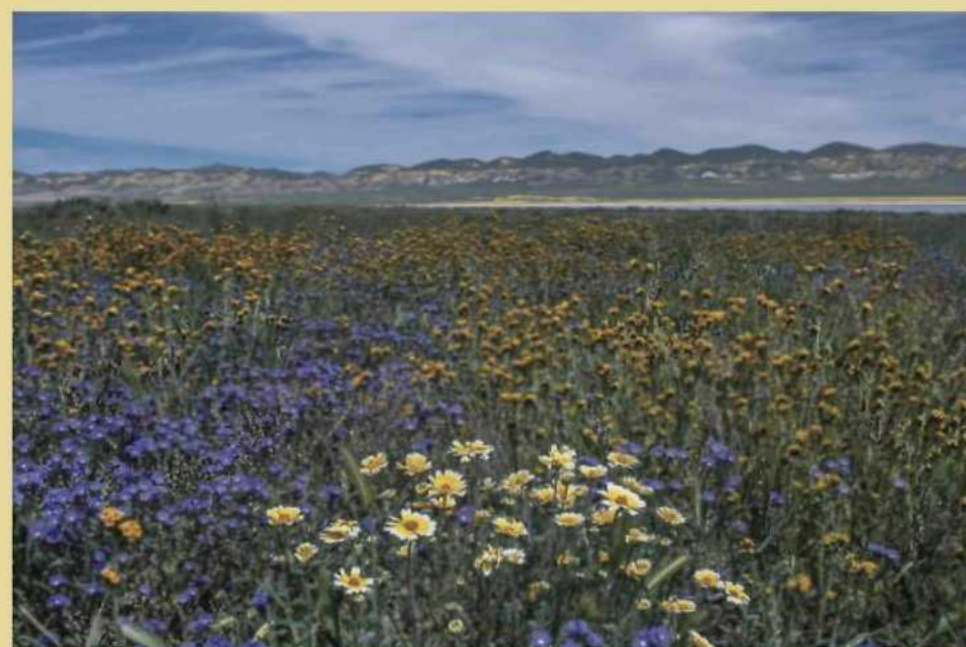
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Grassland Sunset by Richard Pradenas

### 2017 Carrizo Plain Photo Contest Honorable Mention Contestants



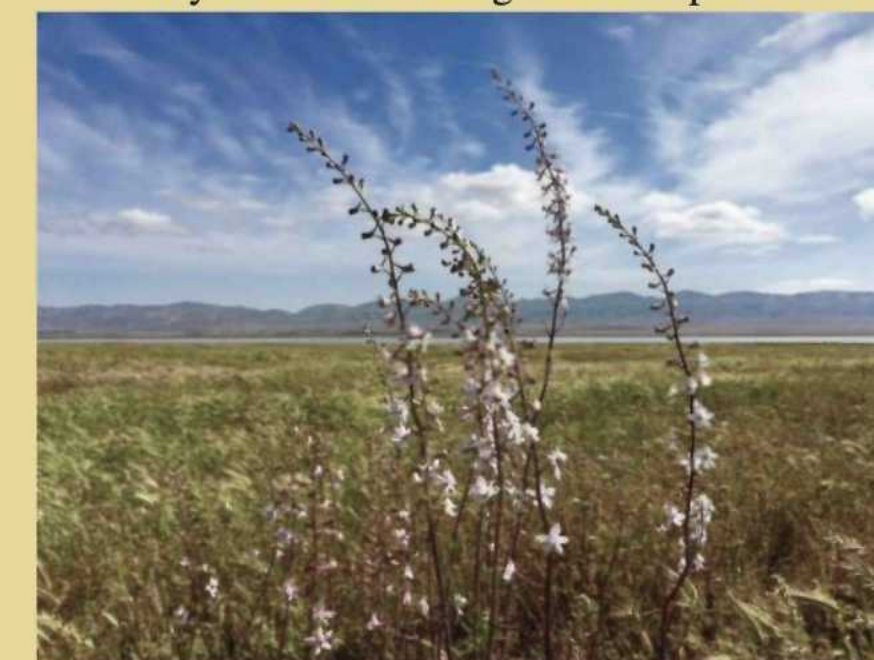
Joyce Britton - Pronghorn in Superbloom



Richard Pradenas - Wild Tractor



Kevin Roland - Color Mountain



Joyce Britton - Western Side Soda Lake Road



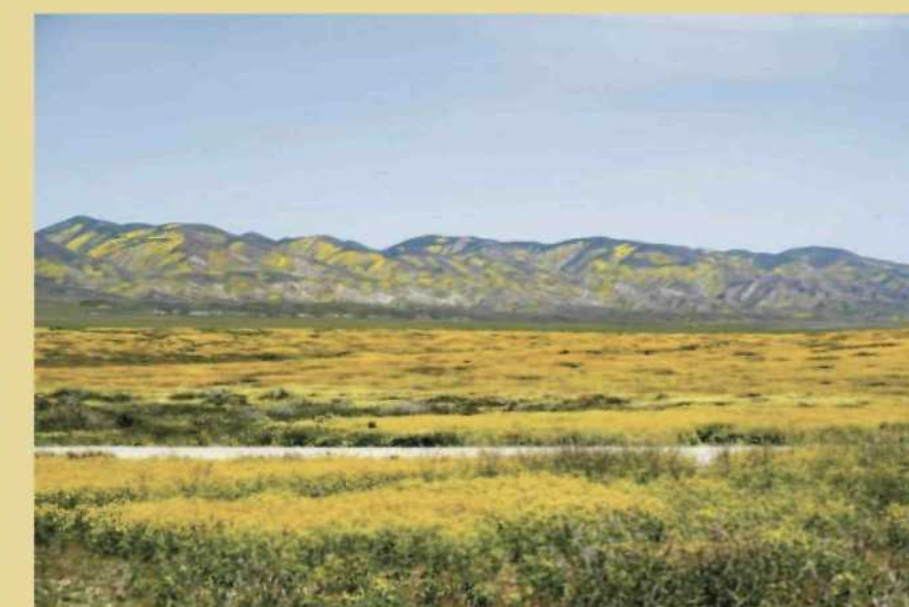
Kevin Roland - Mountainside Siesta



Joyce Britton - The Selby Rocks



Ha Lam - Flower Trail



Ha Lam - Yellow Fields

## Back Roads and Byways of Carrizo Plain National Monument

By Craig Deutsche

Some places keep their own company. They are best discovered on their own terms, and perhaps they are most rewarding when they come as surprise and even when you are traveling alone. Guide books and signs will bring you to Painted Rock, to the Soda Lake Overlook, to Wallace Creek, and a to a few well known roads within the Carrizo Monument. I will not take you to my favorite places, to the back-country sites that mean so much to me. I will tell you about them and invite you to find them. When you do, then they will become your places also and with their own meanings for you alone.

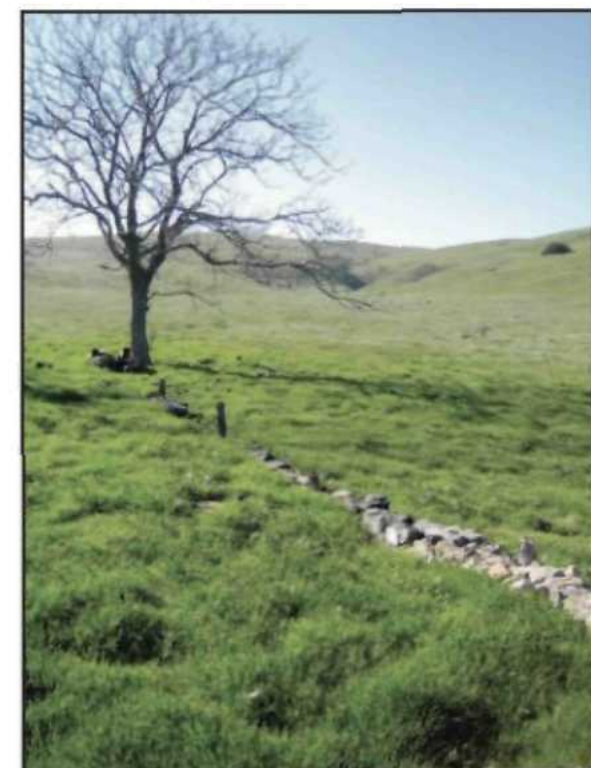
To the south and west of Soda Lake Road the Caliente Range runs nearly the full length of the Carrizo Plains National Monument. There are no paved roads in these higher places, although a number of dirt roads climb into their foothills. A few even cross the range and descend to the Cuyama Valley. None of these complete the traverse to connect with highway 166, and you will be left to return, probably along the very same road. But beware. These roads are dirt; many are steep; some are badly eroded; a few are rocky. They are not for your sports car or for mine. To travel these routes you will need reasonably high clearance, and in some places you may want four-wheel drive. Above all you will want good judgment. But don't be deterred. It is along these roads and off them that the best of the Carrizo is to be found.



Along Soda Lake Road you will see a sign indicating a road to Quail Springs. Once you begin this journey there are no signs to help guide you to the spring or over the range.

If you make a wrong turn, springtime will find you hopelessly lost in valleys of flowers that few visitors have ever seen. If you insist on continuing you may reach a dead end with a fence blocking a steep descent. Standing on this hilltop you will look across lower hills, see a few buildings in the middle ground, look down on the main road that you left, and wonder how to reach still another road that crosses in the distance. To the north and east the Temblor Mountains will be colored with flowers in spring but will be dry, dusty, and otherworldly in autumn. With another turn and a few more miles you may, or may not, reach the high point of Caliente Range along the road. When your nerves calm you will see the agricultural fields of the Cuyama Valley below and the Los Padres Forest and coast range of mountains rising beyond the valley. Who would have seen these from the pavement?

Other roads leading toward the Caliente Range will bring discoveries of other kinds. The Wells Ranch is not a secret place. It is marked on some maps, but it has few visitors. There is an old house which is nearly falling apart. A shed lies several yards away, and various pieces of equipment lie about, trash perhaps but once useful. Windows have no glass, the roof is little more than a frame, wallboard is crumbling, and doorways are only holes in the walls. Trees that are still living nearby tell of care and effort invested years ago in this homestead. Rodents in the field and some owls in a nearby nest are the current inhabitants. You must wonder how these people lived in the isolation here, and what they felt when the time came to give up and leave.



Homestead

Beyond the Wells Ranch you may cross over a low ridge toward the head of Middle Canyon. This canyon descends south to the Cuyama Valley, but this canyon is not the route you will take on your first trip. A two-rut road starts down the canyon, disappears, becomes a trail, and then climbs along the side and continues southward along a ridge. Between the ridge and the canyon your discovery will be a wide, grassy flat with an old wooden corral, rusting water troughs, and a long, open view out and over distant farm lands in the valley far below. It is difficult to guess when this field was last used for ranching. You will be absolutely alone. Of course the trail continues, but I will not spoil your trip by telling its tale.

Another of the roads leading south toward the mountains passes a small gravesite on a nearby hill. Rather than drive, please walk up this hill. Inside a low iron fence are three graves. The headstone of one reads, "Mary Morris, 1833 - 1896."

At the age of fifty-five, she, her husband, and four children left Texas for a new life at the south end of the Carrizo. Ten children were already dead in Texas, and she never returned to see the three still living there. During the eight years in the Carrizo, Mary never left the homestead, a dirt floor cabin not far from the gravesite. Several differing accounts of Mary's death have been given, but perhaps it is better that we don't know for certain. On this hilltop above Soda Lake Road and surrounded by the drying grasses, Mary has earned her quiet and our respect.

Farther along this same road you will meet four or five Tree of Heaven and an old, low stone wall. The wall was surely part of a foundation from an earlier time.

These foreign trees, with compound leaves similar to native Ash, are found at many places on the Plain where they were planted for shade near early farms. Beyond this homestead site, and once again



On the way to Quail Spring

On a hillside with a view to the north are the crumbling remains of an old adobe structure. One has to suppose that it was used by shearers, perhaps from the earliest occupation of the Plain before farming and then cattle were introduced. The history of this adobe site, however, has been lost.

In the open and flat center of the Plain is the Van Meter Ranch site. Here several buildings are still standing, and beside these are three wooden-sided harvesters, probably used in the 1920s. The machines are collapsing and parts are missing, but it is still possible to see how grain was cut, where it was loaded into the thresher itself, and where the blades and fans separated straw and chaff from the grain heads.

This site is to be visited at sunset after the day's heat in the summer. Dry-land farmers planted grain in late autumn in anticipation of the winter rains. Harvest was in the summer with temperatures over 100 degrees, with dust everywhere, and with workdays of twelve hours minimum. Standing alone among these ghosts takes you to an earlier time and way of life that is now nearly gone.

I have met ghosts of another kind at one of the rock art sites in the Carrizo. Several years ago I had visited a pictograph site and felt at the time as if it had been painted only a few years earlier. The colors were vivid, the rock seemed solid, and there were no footprints to lead anyone to the place. It was a wonderful discovery, and I was secretly, and perhaps foolishly, proud to have found it. Reading which I have done since suggests that the Plains

were probably used seasonally by Chumash peoples from as long ago as 10,000 years. Archeologists suggest that the paintings were made by shamans in the tribe as a part of their journeys to and from the other world. These academics also acknowledge that all their explanations are speculative, and truly we can only wonder at meanings. Photos of these paintings are nearly useless in conveying the impression that they give. The setting with long views, dry heat, juniper bushes, and perhaps nearby mortar holes are a single piece with the painting.

Several months ago I returned to this particular site. It was early morning, and I was planning to leave the Plain in a few hours for my home in Los Angeles. I was looking, of course, for the same place I had once discovered. I did, and did not succeed. Somehow the rock was more weathered than I had remembered. The colors of the images were fading, and there were human

footprints not far away. If these peoples are still watching us, I have to wonder what they think. I will not return to this site again. This is a personal story, and I invite you to explore and find your own personal story. If you take a wrong turn along one of the dirt roads, then you will find places that I have not seen. Then I will have to come looking to find your discoveries.

There is another byway that I have found out in the open center plain. For a number of years volunteer groups have been removing and modifying barbed wire fencing in the Carrizo. Pronghorn do not jump fences, but rather they attempt to go under. Where fences are intact and lower wires are close to the ground these may inhibit movement of the antelope, particularly when they are stressed by predators or by automobile traffic on the roads.

Several months ago with time on my hands I went to a particular section of barbed wire where I had worked with a group. This was a particularly remote, and perhaps lonely, piece of fence north and east, beyond Soda Lake. My car stayed behind as I worked first with bolt cutters to release the wire from the poles and then rolled the fallen wire to be picked up later. Where metal poles had corroded in the saline soil I pushed them over for removal. Other poles were solid and had to stay. It was warm in early May, and I had to work slowly.

Dust devils rose to the west of me in Soda Lake. Meadowlarks were singing all around. Beside one fence pole I found a piece of coyote skull. In the track of the nearby road there lay the outer covering of an antelope horn. Sun was bright for a while, but in the later afternoon clouds raced overhead, and a few raindrops scattered briefly. The meadowlarks continued singing as the shadows lengthened. A few poles stood in a long line across the open country, and wire coils lay along the nearby road. These byways are not only found on the land. As you travel them, they become a part of you as well.

Craig Deutsche is a Volunteer for The Friends of the Carrizo Plain and Sierra Club, former Publisher and Managing Editor of the "Desert Report", and actively involved in creating Pronghorn-friendly fences and documenting oral histories of long-time families on the Carrizo Plain. His recent book, *Another Place and Time: Voices from the Carrisa Plains, 2013*, is a time capsule of memories shared by different generations of ranchers, shearers, farmers and the tight-knit community that connected them as they lived and worked hard to support themselves on the Carrisa Plains.

Van Meter Ranch

Van Meter Ranch



Van Meter Ranch

Van Meter Ranch

Van Meter Ranch

Van Meter Ranch

Van Meter Ranch

Van Meter Ranch

Van Meter Ranch

## Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments

In accordance with President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017, Executive Order (EO), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released the final report outlining recommendations he made to the President on some national monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

Recommendations Secretary Zinke made in the final report included the following:

Keep federal lands federal - the report does not recommend that a single acre of federal land be removed from the federal estate. If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by whichever agency managed the land before designation

Add three new national monuments - Secretary Zinke recommended beginning a process to consider three new national monuments: The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).

Modify the boundaries and management of four monuments - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments

Expand access for hunting and fishing - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure public access to encourage more hunting and fishing in monuments

"America has spoken and public land belongs to the people," said Secretary Zinke. "As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated."

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

### Stop 1 (continued from page 7)

"water" of the lake shimmering a few miles away as we first drove down Seven Mile Road's bumpy surface. It was, in fact, much further and of a different substance than we originally thought.)

In the plain's more recent history, salt was once collected and refined, and the sodium sulfate was then used in the manufacturing of detergent, craft paper, textiles, and glass. Evidence of this past life on the lake is apparent.

As the first stop of this self-guided tour, the Soda Lake Overlook provides perhaps the best and most wide-reaching view of the lake. "One of the largest undisturbed alkali wetlands in the state" (also gleaned from the sign), Soda Lake is about five miles long and half-a-mile to two miles wide. It has a surface area of more than 3,000 acres and 102 miles of shoreline. Again, this main feature of the plain is impressive. At this vista, one can also easily see the two plains that comprise the larger Carrizo Plain: the Elkhorn and the Carrizo. Confusing? Yeah, just a little, but it all makes sense seen from the bird's-eye view of the overlook, where one can see both of the plains, uh, plainly. Soda Lake, due to its high concentration of salt, supports certain salt-tolerant animals, including small brine shrimp, and plants, such as iodine bush, which grows adjacent to the lake, spiny saltbush, and alkali larkspur.

At this point in the tour, there is also the option of walking closer to the water on a few trails and a boardwalk. We chose to forego this option since we had unwisely chosen to visit the Carrizo Plain during the hottest part of the day.



Although closed during the summer, the Visitor's Center does provide tourists with an informative brochure and a detailed map of the area.

### Stop 2: The Goodwin Education Center

From the Soda Lake Overlook, the Visitor's Center is just a seven-mile drive down Soda Lake Road, the main thoroughfare in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Unfortunately for us, the center was closed when we went (and will remain closed until December). Luckily, though, an informative brochure and a detailed map are available just outside the center's doors, so we made good use of those materials instead.

The small building does, however, feature an easily accessible outdoor native plant garden and a helpful brochure to aid in the identification process. This outdoor area also serves as an observation point from which to view remnants of the Plain's farming past, including a grain elevator. I didn't understand the complete significance of this history at the time, as it is a complicated one, but it sure looked cool, and we got some good photos, too.

In an effort to protect nesting birds such as prairie falcons, ravens, gold eagles, and barn owls and to continue the preservation of the rock itself, Painted Rock is closed from March 1 through July 15. So for us, all we could do was read about its history and look at Painted Rock from a

### Stop 3: Wallace Creek

I'm embarrassed to admit this, but we accidentally bypassed Wallace Creek. I know what you're thinking: "This girl wanted to go on the self-guided tour to write a piece for this Carrizo Plain Visitors' Guide, and she couldn't make it to one-third of the sites?!"

Yep, that's correct.

But in my defense, we didn't avoid the creek because we didn't want to see it or its accompanying trail, but rather I didn't realize where it was in relation to Stop 2. We wanted to continue on state Highway 166 on our way out of the monument, and Wallace Creek was just a bit out our way that day.

(Side note: The paved portion of Soda Lake Road ends shortly after the turnoff for the Visitor's Center. Driving for more than an hour on the unpaved portion of this road is not enjoyable. Seven Mile Road, accessible from state Highway 58, though also unpaved, proved to be a better entrance into the national monument for us; it's also a shorter drive. Also, signs along the side of Soda Lake Road and elsewhere warned us that roads were impassible when wet, so be careful!)

Wallace Creek, for those who *do* make it out there, is perhaps the best place in the monument to view just how dramatically the San Andres Fault — the 625-mile fault line that runs nearly the entire length of California, from just below Los Angeles to the Bay Area — has affected the Carrizo Plain. Evidence of its work can be seen in the offset of the creek bed and fault scarps, which according to Hurl in the self-guided tour, are particularly well preserved in the Carrizo Plain.

Hurl also explained that the 8.0-magnitude Fort Tejon earthquake of 1857 "may have centered in the Carrizo and is probably the strongest earthquake to hit California in historic time. Surface ruptures extended 200 miles and offsets of 10 meters occurred within the Carrizo. Future seismic activity within the Carrizo is highly likely."

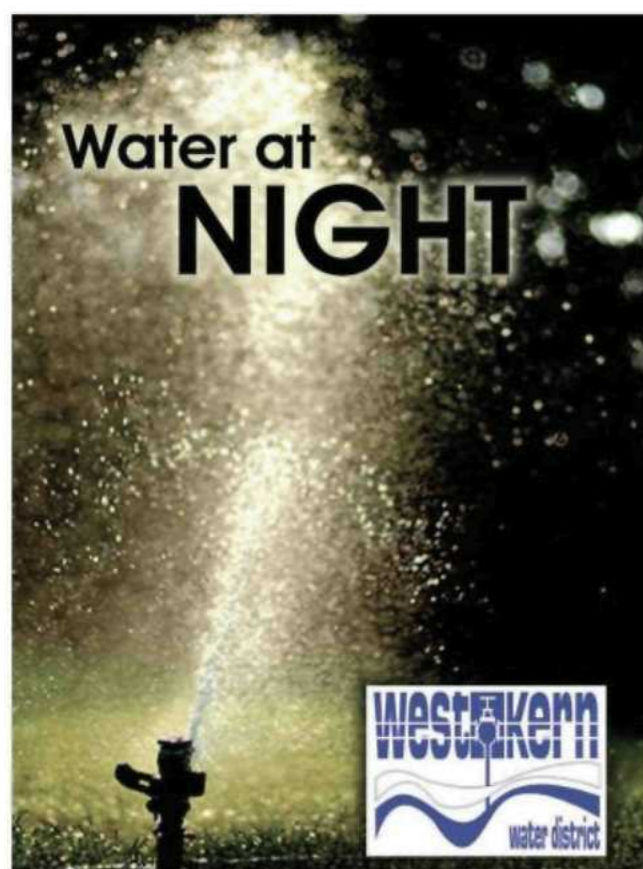
The creek is currently offset by about 130 meters, 10 meters of which were caused by the 1857 Fort Tejon earthquake.

Because of these unique features, the Carrizo Plain provides academics with plenty of research opportunities. Evidence of the fault's activity can be easily seen elsewhere in the monument, too.

*Those who wish to take the self-guided Carrizo Plain National Monument tour themselves can find the four podcasts (an introduction and one for each of the stops) at:*

[www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/carrizo/self-guided-tour.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bakersfield/Programs/carrizo/self-guided-tour.html)

*Continued on Page 38*





# The Peoples Who Once Lived On The Carrizo

by Jane M McCabe

Those who know Spanish know that “carrizo” means reed, telling us that the Carrizo Plain was so named because it was once filled with reeds. Central California between the coast and the San Joaquin Valley is uninhabitable in some areas, a land of mountains and deserts. The Carrizo Plain (please see map on page 13) is a swath of high desert plain that runs from Highway 166 in the south to 58 in the north, a distance of about 45 miles. Its width is about 15 miles. To visit it you can enter from 166 about 10 miles west of Maricopa or from 58 about 20 miles west of Highway 33. The road runs through it from the south to the north, northwest.

Along the road to the east is Soda Lake, a pencil shaped alkaline lake with a crust of white salt surrounding it. In the middle of the plain to its west is Painted Rock, a horseshoe-shaped rock made of marine sandstone about 250 feet across and 45 feet tall.

Few people live on the Carrizo Plain today, but it was once home to various tribes of indigenous peoples, who attributed religious significance to the rock and painted on its surface. (One can probably assume these people also used the reeds of the plain to weave baskets, though none of these remain today.)

The interior of the rock alcove is adorned with many pictographs created by the Chumash, Salinan and Yokut peoples over many thousands of years. Ancient rock art in red, black and white yucca pigments, and some yellow, green and blue were painted with rodent tail hair brushes or simple finger painting.

## The Chumash People

Estimates are that the Chumash people first populated the Carrizo Plain about 2000 BCE (when Abraham migrated from Haran to Canaan) but mostly abandoned it, possibly due to drought, about CE 600 (after Rome was overrun by barbarians.)

Pictographs and petroglyphs are common through interior California, the rock painting tradition thrived until the 19th century. Chumash rock art is considered to be some of the most elaborate rock art tradition in the region.

The Chumash lived in the present-day counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis in southern California until the early 19th Century. They were a Hokan-speaking, maritime, hunter-gatherer society whose livelihood was based on the sea. They developed excellent skills for catching fish, shellfish, and other marine mammals. Beyond fishing, however, they were also skilled in creating rock art. Rock art may have been created by shamans during vision quests. No one is absolutely certain about the meaning of the Chumash Rock art, but scholars generally agree that it is connected with religion and astronomy.

Chumash rock art is almost invariably found in caves or on cliffs in the mountains. It makes sense that the rock art sites are always found near streams, springs, or other sources of permanent water as the artists would need water to mix their pigments.

Chumash traditional narratives in oral history says that religious specialists, known as ‘alchuklash created the rock art. Non-Chumash people call these practitioners medicine men or shamans. The sites for the vision quests were usually located near the shaman’s village. The Chumash considered caves, rocks, and water sources quite powerful, and the shamans saw them as “portals to the sacred realm...where they could enter the supernatural.”

## Subject matter and materials

Chumash rock art depicts images like humans, animals, celestial bodies, and other shapes and patterns. These depictions vary considerably and appear to be in no particular order or arrangement. The colors of the paintings vary as well, from red or black monochromes to elaborate polychromes. The Chumash made paint from mixing soil, mortar, and a liquid binder like blood or oil from animals or mashed seeds, which helped to make the paint permanent and waterproof. Orange and red paint contained hematite or iron oxide, while yellow came from limonite, blue and green from copper or serpentine, white from kaolin clays or gypsum, and black from manganese or charcoal.

Paint was applied with a person’s finger or a brush. Images depicted in the paintings are representational and abstract. Abstract images include squares, circles and triangles, zigzags, crisscrosses, parallel lines, and pinwheels. Interpretations

In the early 20th Century, non-Natives began studying California rock art, including a number of archaeologists, such as Julian Steward and Alfred Kroeber. Because of some commonly occurring symbols in paintings, it is believed that portions of the rock art depict themes of fertility, water, and rain.

A radiocarbon test on pigment from a Santa Barbara area pictograph site showed that the sample was about 2,000 years old (which would mean it was created about the time of Jesus.)

In recent times there have been many marks left by early settlers such as one reading “Geo. Lewis 1908”, founder of Atascadero, California. Unfortunately there has also been major defacing of this site. In the 1920s the large pictographs was irreparably damaged from a shotgun blast. To protect these treasures from further vandalism the public is restricted from close access to the pictographs.

“Painted Rock is widely considered to be among the finest examples of Native American pictograph painting in the world. Although the original painted panels have been damaged, largely due to turn of the century souvenir collectors who purposely removed sections of paint, a significant amount of the paintings are intact. Painted Rock continues to hold important spiritual values for contemporary Native American people who often visit the site for ceremonies and religious observances,” said Tamara Whitley, archaeologist in the BLM Bakersfield Field Office.

The BLM manages Painted Rock for public visitation and education while balancing Native American values and concerns. The permit application process allows the BLM to educate the public about appropriate visitation of the site monitoring impacts through the visitor tracking system.

Permits will be available online at recreation.gov. Permits booked through recreation.gov will be charged a \$1.50 processing fee for each permit.

From March 1 to July 15, Painted Rock will be open for guided tours only. Reservations for guided tours, which also visit the Soda Lake Overlook and wildflower viewing sites, can also be made online at recreation.gov. Larger group tours must be booked through the Goodwin Education Center by calling (805) 475-2131. The Goodwin Education Center is open Thursday, December 3, 2015 through Sunday, May 29, 2016, Thursdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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## Other Area Attractions

### West Kern Oil Museum

This museum set in the oil-rich hills of Taft tells the story of the oil companies, of everyday life in the early oilfields and in the oil camps, and the story of oil itself. To schedule a tour, call (661) 765-6664.

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Thursday – Saturday); 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Sundays)

From the Plain: Take Highway 166 East to Maricopa. At the stop sign in Maricopa, turn left onto Highway 33. Proceed approximately 7 miles to Wood Street, the first paved left turn coming into Taft. Turn left onto Wood Street, and look for the Oil Museum parking sign. www.westkern-oilmuseum.org. wkom491@gmail.com.

### Painted Rock

The sandstone formation at Painted Rock has long drawn the attention of Carrizo Plain visitors. About 3,000 – 4,000 years ago, Native Americans began to paint their sacred images within the alcove of the rock. Not surprisingly, the power of this place continues to enthrall, and it still receives many visitors today.

Unfortunately, the attraction and accessibility of the site have also drawn the attention of peoples who didn’t appreciate the significance of the pictographs, or rock paintings, created by earlier Native Americans. The site sustained significant damage due to vandalism over the last century as a result. Measures have been taken to repair some of the damage but what has been lost can never be reclaimed. Management of the site is focused upon protection, preservation, public education and research, while respecting the Native American values of this sacred site.

You stewardship is vital to the protection and preservation of this important site.

### Visiting Painted Rock

Painted Rock may be visited as part of a BLM guided tour or with a self-guided tour permit. Tours or permits are available according to the calendar below.

-March 1 to July 15: Painted Rock is closed, except for BLM guided tours conducted on Saturdays from mid-March to the end of May.

No other form of public visitation is allowed during this time period.

-July 16 to the end of February: Self-guided tour permits are available and required for unguided public access to Painted Rock.

BLM guided tour reservations and self-guided tour permits can be booked either online or by phone at the numbers listed below through www.recreation.gov. Permits and tours booked either by phone or online will be charged a nominal processing fee for each reservation.

When booking online at www.recreation.gov, do a search for Carrizo Plain National Monument, then click on “Check Availability”, then click on “Enter Date” for the appropriate tour. For the BLM guided tour select “Soda Lake/Painted Rock Tour”; for the self-guided tour select, “Painted Rock Self-Guided Tour”. Then follow instructions to complete the booking process.

When you received your confirmation e-mail from www.recreation.gov you will receive a set of rules to follow while visiting Painted Rock and if going on the Self-Guided tour you will also receive a gate code to enter the area. Please follow the rules.

Recreation.gov Phone Numbers

Carrizo Plain National Monument, Painted Rock, Soda Lake/Painted Rock tour and Painted Rock Self-Guided Tour reservation (toll free): 1-877-444-6777. International reservations: 518-885-3639.

TDD: 1-877-833-6777. Customer Service: 1-888-448-1474.

Special Group Tours: (916) 391-6080.

### Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational Area

A man-made site comprised of two lakes — Lake Evans and the much larger Lake Webb — the recreation area offers tourists fishing, boating, jet sky, camping, picnicing, and bicycling opportunities. For reservations, call (661) 868-7050.

Hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

From the Plain: Take Highway 166 to Highway 33. Turn right on Enos Lane (near the Texaco and Shell stations), which will take you to the Main Gate Entrance.

### Kern National Wildlife Refuge

Located in the historic Tulare Lake Basin, the refuge was the first effort to preserve wetland habitat in the area. The west side of the refuge contains upland habitat for endangered wildlife endemic to the San Joaquin Valley. For more information, call (661) 725-2767.

Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset

Waterfowl Hunting Season: October through January; tour route closed on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the hunting season

From the Plain: Take Highway 166 East to Interstate 5. Go north on I-5, then take Highway 46 East 5 miles to Corcoran Road and turn north. Drive 10.6 miles to the refuge, located at the intersection of Corcoran Road and Garces Highway.

### Tule Elk State Natural Reserve

Created in 1932, the reserve seeks to protect a once-endangered herd of tule elk, giving the elk room to roam and visitors a chance to view them.

Hours: 8 a.m. to sunset

From the Plain: Take Highway 166 east. Turn left onto Highway 33. The turnoff to the reserve is located about ten miles north of Taft.

### The Petroleum Highway

The portion of this route N of Route 166 has historically been called El Camino Viejo.

In the portions of the route in Kern and Fresno counties, SR 33 passes through one of the United States’ largest petroleum extraction fields, with hundreds of nodding oil pumps along the highway. Some of the fields visible from the highway include the Midway-Sunset, South Belridge, Cymric, Lost Hills, and Coalinga oil fields.

Most of SR 33’s route is through sparsely populated, relatively desolate portions of the San Joaquin Valley. Travelers along it should use caution, since emergency services are typically dozens of miles away. Carrying extra water and coolant is especially advised, since summertime temperatures in the area routinely surpass 100 °F (39 °C).

### Taft Oilworker’s Monument

Taft is the site of the largest bronze statue in California, the 40-foot Oilworker Monument that honors the hard-working men who built Kern County’s vast oil industry. The massive structure, found at the intersection of Supply Row and Sixth Street adjacent to a public greenbelt, is highlighted by three eight-foot bronze workers rendered in exquisite detail. Topped by a bronze derrick treated to look like wood, the Monument not only looks realistic, but is historically accurate - right down to nuts and bolts made to same size as those used to build derricks more than a century ago. With expressive features, exquisite detail, dynamic gesture, and through-provoking content, this latest work is sure to take its place among the great masterpieces of art history.

# Fabulous Back Roads of California



## California Highway 166



State Route 166 connects the Central Coast of California to the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Route 166 starts off in Guadalupe in northwestern Santa Barbara County and heads east towards the largest city on its eastern journey: Santa Maria. It then joins with U.S. Route 101 for the last few miles in Santa Barbara County before crossing the Santa Maria River and splitting off in San Luis Obispo County. For the next 75 miles (121 km), SR 166 crosses the Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo county line a total of five times. This stretch follows the Cuyama River through a canyon separating the Sierra Madre Mountains from mountains in San Luis Obispo County, and then opens out into the Cuyama Valley, passing cattle ranches, going through the Russell Ranch Oil Field, and passing Aliso Canyon Road, the turnoff to the South Cuyama Oil Field. On the north during this stretch is the mile-high Caliente Range, which contains Caliente Mountain, the highest peak in San Luis Obispo County.

After going through the towns of New Cuyama and Cuyama, the highway meets SR 33 north of Ventucopa. Approximately eight miles east of this intersection lies Soda Lake Road on the left (at the closed Reyes 76 Service Station). SR 33 and SR 166 merge until reaching Maricopa, where SR 166 heads due east for its last 20 miles (32 km), intersecting with I-5 nine miles (14 km) north of the Grapevine. SR 166 ends at SR 99 in Mettler, and it is the last exit for both I-5 and SR 99 southbound before they merge near Wheeler Ridge.

From US 101 to the junction of SR 33, 166 is signed as the "CHP Officers Irvine and Stovall Memorial Highway." In February 1998, a large storm swelled the Cuyama River and caused it to wash out a section of the highway. Officers Britt Irvine and Rick Stovall were responding to an early morning call about a truck accident when their CHP cruiser drove off the washed out section, overturned, and was buried in mud.



## California Highway 33



Beginning in Ventura as a short freeway (the "Ojai Freeway"), it continues north as an undivided surface road through Ojai, follows Matilija Canyon past the easternmost extremity of the Santa Ynez Mountains, passes over the Transverse Ranges at Pine Mountain Summit, coming down into the Cuyama Valley to an eventual junction with SR 166. After joining with 166 for about 20 miles (32 km) it turns northwest, following the western side of the San Joaquin Valley. Between Taft and Avenal it roughly parallels Interstate 5; for the first 15 miles (24 km) of this portion it follows the axis of the Midway-Sunset Oil Field. Northwest of Avenal, it turns due west to enter Coalinga, then turns northeast and soon becomes concurrent with I-5 for 13 miles (21 km). Thereafter, it departs due north near Cantua Creek, turns northwest at Mendota, and meets State Route 152 in Dos Palos, with which it runs concurrently for approximately ten miles. It departs again to the northwest near Los Banos, turns north at Santa Nella (where it has an interchange with I-5), and roughly parallels I-5 and the San Joaquin River until its final terminus at I-5 at Yarmouth.

The portion of Route 33 in Kern County between Route 46 and Route 166 is named the Petroleum Highway. It was named in recognition of the petroleum industry, which has made an important economic contribution to Kern County and other parts of the state. The heart of oil country in Kern County is in the western part of the county adjacent to Route 33, where oil has been produced for more than 100 years. In fact, this region of Kern County produces 50 percent of California's oil production; and the largest gas field in the west, Elk Hills, is within sight of Route 33. Travelers on Route 33 can visit the only oil boomtowns in California and the West Kern Oil Museum in Taft. Named by Assembly Concurrent Resolution 185, July 16, 2004, Chapter 128.



## California Highway 58



State Route 58 is an east-west highway across the southern San Joaquin Valley, the Tehachapi Mountains, which border the southern Sierra Nevada, and the Mojave Desert. It runs between its western terminus near Santa Margarita (junction U.S. Route 101) and its eastern terminus at Barstow (junction Interstate 15). It has junctions with Interstate 5 near Buttonwillow, State Route 99 in Bakersfield, State Route 202 in Tehachapi, State Route 14 in Mojave, and U.S. Route 395 at Kramer Junction. Route 58 gives good access to Edwards Air Force Base.

Route 58 is a freeway from its south junction with Route 99 in Bakersfield to several miles east of Mojave (a freeway bypass of Mojave was completed in 2004), except for two grade-level intersections two miles (3 km) apart in the Caliente area. There is another grade-level intersection east of Mojave and west of the main Edwards AFB north gate exit where California City Boulevard intersects it. Other freeway segments are bypasses of Boron and Barstow.

Route 58 is the only freeway to cross the Sierra Nevada range south of I-80, the only other freeway to cross the Sierra. The route also offers an alternative to the often treacherous Donner Pass to truckers traveling from the San Francisco Bay Area to points eastward; prior to the construction of Interstate 80, the road (as U.S. Route 466) was heavily used for this purpose.

Route 58 west of Buttonwillow is a winding mountain road through a thinly populated area. Alternatives such as State Route 46 to the north or State Route 166 to the south are recommended for those not wishing to traverse so mountainous a route; much of this section of Route 58 is prohibited to truck traffic. However, this section of SR 58 provides close access to the Carrizo Plain National Monument, which is known for its scenic beauty and geological features, including the San Andreas Fault.

# Visitor Services Around the Carrizo

The Cuyama Valley, McKittrick and Derby Acres



Santa Barbara Pistachio Company  
3380 Highway 33  
Ventucopa

Services: Gas, food, and information  
Store Hours:

Monday through Sunday from 8am to 6pm  
Farm Store Phone: (661) 766-2177

Santa Barbara Pistachio Company and Store is located on Highway 33 in Ventucopa. The family-operated farm is known as the "original home of the flavored pistachio."

The area's perfect high-desert climate of sunny days and cool, clear nights is almost identical to the pistachio's native climate in the Middle East.

Still a small family enterprise in these modern times of corporate, high-tech agribusiness, Santa Barbara Pistachio is owned and operated by Gene and Gail Zannon, with their sons, Tristan and Josh, in charge of production and farming the 380 acres of pistachio trees. At Santa Barbara Pistachio Company, quality does grow on trees.

## McKittrick

The community of McKittrick is located near the crossroads of Highway's 33 and 58 in western Kern County. The Penny Bar and Cafe, located in the old McKittrick Hotel, is known for its famous penny bar, containing over 1 million pennies that cover the floors, walls, and bar. The restaurant is open 7 days a week, and features breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The hotel, however, has not rented rooms for over 40 years.

## Derby Acres

Derby Acres is a small town located about 10 minutes north of Taft on Highway 33. The Tumbleweed Cafe and Bar, located in the heart of Oil Country is a favorite place to eat and drink on the westside of Kern County. The restaurant features breakfast and lunch, and dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Stop by and say hello to owner, inventor and world traveler Orchel Krier. The site also offers RV facilities.



Sagebrush Annie's  
4211 Highway 33  
Ventucopa

Services: Wine tasting, dinner, and special events

Wine Tasting Room: Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 5:30pm  
Dinner: Served Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. For reservations, call (661) 766-2319

Sagebrush Annie's is located about one hour north of Ojai on Highway 33 and about one hour southwest of Bakersfield via state Highway 119 to Highway 166 in Maricopa and then to Highway 33 south in Cuyama Valley. From the Los Angeles area, we are a two-hour drive via Interstate 5 north to Frazier Park and then west through the Lockwood Valley. A less-traveled scenic route from the Los Angeles area is west from Frazier Park through Pine Mountain Club and along Cerro Noroeste Road to highway 166, then southwest to Highway 33 south.



The Place  
4014 Highway 33  
Ventucopa

Services: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner; catering; and special events

Hours:  
Open Monday through Friday from 9am - 9pm  
Open Saturday and Sunday from 8am - 9pm  
Phone: (661) 766-2660.

The Place restaurant is located in Ventucopa and offers homemade breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They also have great pizza. On Saturday and Sunday, they offer rib eye steak dinners.

Stop by and say hello to owners Vicky and Alick.

## Paik's Ranch House Restaurant

"Where Everybody Meets"

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner  
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Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sat. 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
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200 Kern Street, Taft, CA

For Advertising Information,  
Please call  
**(661) 765-6550**



# Visitor Services Around the Carrizo Plain

## Taft and Maricopa



### The City of Taft

The City of Taft is located approximately 24 miles east of the Carrizo on Highway 119 and Highway 33.

With a population of over 7,500, Taft is a full-service city offering more than 25 restaurants, 3 hotels, 2 supermarkets, 2 pharmacies, more than a dozen service stations, and other essential traveler services.

Taft has been officially designated the "Gateway to the Carrizo Plain", with a Carrizo Plain Visitors Center located at the Taft Chamber of Commerce, 400 Kern St. The Chamber's phone number is (661) 765-2166.

Taft is known for friendly people who are always ready to answer questions, and ready to recommend a good restaurant or give directions.



### Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge

The Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge is located in the southwestern San Joaquin Valley foothills of Kern County, California. Elevations on the Refuge range from 1,600 to 4,680 feet. Purchased to protect dwindling California condor foraging and roosting habitat in 1985, the 14,097-acre refuge is the site where the last wild female condor was trapped in 1986.

The refuge is managed to preserve historic endangered California condor foraging and roosting areas. The refuge has an active grazing program, using cattle to manage wildlife habitat.

The refuge is administered by Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The refuge complex main office is located off-refuge at 2493 Portola Road, Suite A, in Ventura, California.

The refuge is closed to public use.



### Maricopa

The City of Maricopa, with a population of 1,250 is located 19 miles east of the southern entrance to the Carrizo Plain at the intersection of Highways 33, 166, and 119.

The city features one Shell service station, a Motel 8, and three restaurants.

The city also features an old-fashioned quilt shop, the Maricopa Quilt Company, featuring hand-made quilts and supplies.

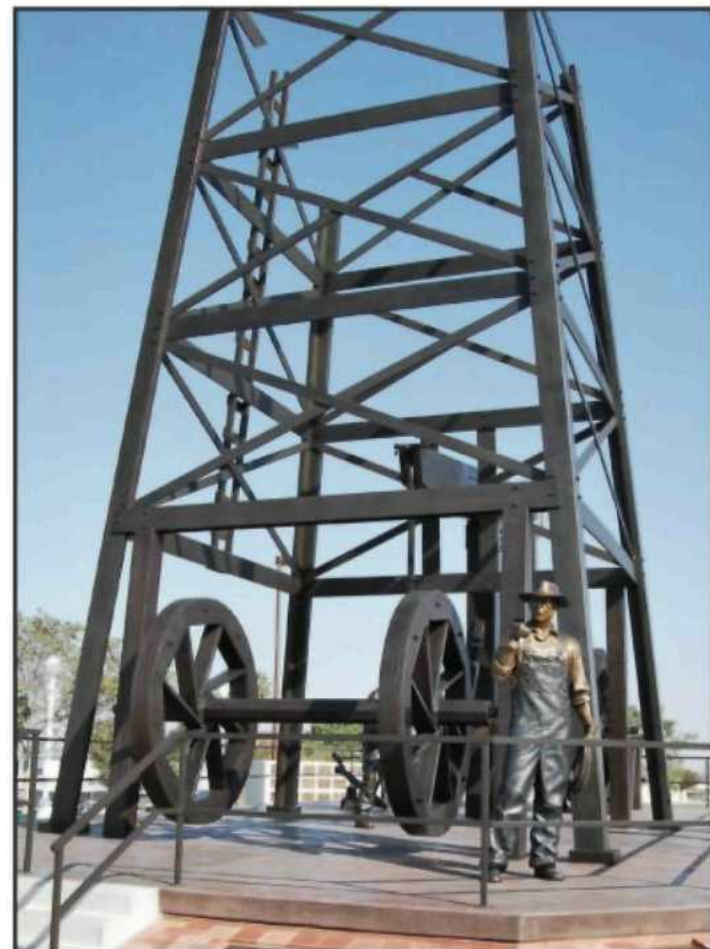
## Taft Oilworkers Monument

Taft is the site of the largest bronze statue in California, the 40-foot Oilworker Monument that honors the hard-working men who built Kern County's vast oil industry. The massive structure, found at the intersection of Supply Row and Sixth Street adjacent to a public greenbelt, is highlighted by three eight-foot bronze workers rendered in exquisite detail. Two other life sized figures, a woman and child are also featured adjacent to the monument.

Topped by a bronze derrick treated to look like wood, the Monument not only looks realistic, but is historically accurate - right down to nuts and bolts made to same size as those used to build derricks more than a century ago.

Sculptor Benjamin Victor, a Taft native, achieved national prominence at age 26 when he became the youngest artist to ever have a sculpture displayed in the National Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol. With expressive features, exquisite detail, dynamic gesture, and through-provoking content, this latest work is sure to take its place among the great masterpieces of art history.

In October 2011, there was an unveiling ceremony of two additional sculptures to the Taft Oilworkers Monument. The newest additions are a woman and child completing the monument. Surrounding by bricks and plaques honoring oilworkers, oil companies, and their families, this monument is a must see when visiting Kern County.



The Taft Oilworkers Monument, a 40 ft. tall bronze sculpture honoring local oilworkers.

# Visitor Services Around the Carrizo Plain - Santa Margarita

Santa Margarita is an unincorporated town is located in San Luis Obispo County, California founded in 1897 near Cuesta Peak and San Luis Obispo along State Route 58. It's one of the most rural areas in San Luis Obispo County. The town's name comes from the name issued by the Mexican government to describe the area when it was a land grant inside Alta California. It is home to a Mexican mission named Santa Margarita Asistencia. Santa Margarita Lake, a major water source for San Luis Obispo, is located several miles southeast of the town on the Salinas River. It is served by the zip code 93453 and area code 805.

The town is surrounded by the Santa Margarita Ranch, a 15,000+ acre Spanish rancho which is home to the historic Santa Margarita de Cortona Mission Asistencia. Secularized from Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, these lands in the foothills of the

Santa Lucia Mountains were originally granted to Joaquin Estrada, who later sold it to the Martin Murphy, Jr. family. Californio culture is still very much alive at the Rancho, which remains in the private ownership of local developers Rob Rossi, Doug Filliponi, Karl Wittstrom, and Ron Hertel. It remains a working stock ranch and is also now home to the Ancient Peaks Winery and the Pacific Coast Railroad Company, a narrow gauge steam heritage railway.

Santa Margarita was founded in 1897, not to be confused with Rancho Santa Margarita, California that was founded in the 1990's. The population of Santa Margarita is small, but has finally surpassed the number of the towns elevation which stands at 1,100 feet.

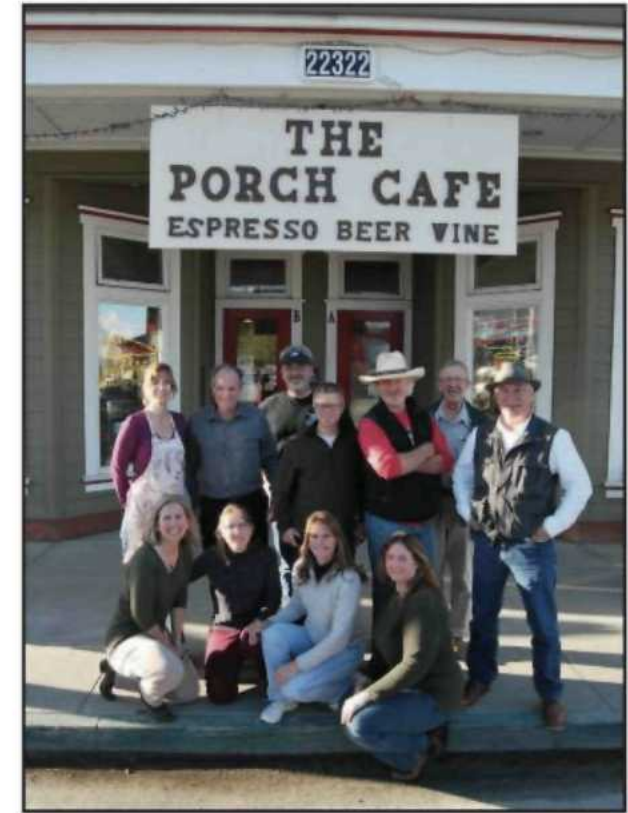
Santa Margarita is just north of San Luis Obispo. The climate is similar to Napa Valley, with rainfall at about 20 inches, and frost appearing from November through

March.

The town is home to a few restaurants, a gas station, a liquor store, a feed store, and a lumber store. The town also has several other conveniences, but no stop lights!

Santa Margarita is located just northeast of San Luis Obispo between San Luis Obispo and Atascadero along US Highway 101 near Santa Margarita Lake.

Santa Margarita is part of the San Luis Obispo-Atascadero-Paso Robles metro area.



visit [SantaMargarita.com](http://SantaMargarita.com)

Gateway to North San Luis Obispo County & the Carrizo Plain National Monument

HOME OF THE SANTA MARGARITA WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

Come explore our 'hidden treasures'!

### Stop 3 Continued from Page 31

Seeing firsthand the beauty of the Carrizo Plain National Monument, it's obvious that there is more to it than what meets the eye. (It's not just brown and hot, I promise.)

My favorite example of this — the highlight of our trip — was the spotting of a male pronghorn antelope. We saw him toward the end of our visit, as we traveled on Soda Lake Road out of the national monument and toward state Highway 166. I must say, seeing a lone pronghorn antelope run as fast as he could from the side of the road when he first saw our car round the corner, then stopping at a safe distance to observe us — just like we did with him, camera at the ready — was spectacular. We were two species alone in this barren, hot environment, both trying to understand the significance of this encounter, and we understood him perfectly.

Right, a pronghorn antelope, one of only 100 on the Plain, has a close encounter with the author. Below, a view of the Carrizo Plain from Soda Lake Road and the entrance to the KCL camping site.



# West Side Family Health Care

## Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

10 a.m. - 9 p.m.



100 E. North Street Taft, CA 93268 661-765-1935



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745-4898

## Skydive Taft: Bringing family fun to all ages for over 15 years

For over 20 years Skydive Taft has been thrilling people with the ride of their life! A tandem skydive starts 13,000 feet up in the blue skies above our beautiful Central California Valley then roars earthward at 120 mph before transforming into a leisurely float down under a big canopy enjoying a bird's eye view (literally) of the mountains all the way to the sea.

Skydive Taft's highly trained instructors make your experience extremely safe as well as mind blowing!

Visiting Skydive Taft is a fabulous family day out. Whether you're in the sky having the experience of a lifetime, or on the ground watching the colorful canopies flying around while enjoying a picnic lunch on the grass, there's always a lot to see, do and talk about as you immerse yourself in the exhilarating world of skydiving.

The minimum age to skydive is 18 and the maximum age is... well as long as you are in good health, you can jump! Skydive Taft recently hosted the birthday jumps of an 80 year old grandmother and her 18 year old grandson!

Is work getting you down? Family stresses piling up? Come and leave it all behind - jumping out of an airplane will make you look at the world in a whole new way. The smile won't leave your face for days!

500 Airport Rd, Taft, CA 93268. Phone: (661) 765-5867.



## Greetings from the Friends of the Carrizo Plain

Wow, now we know what a Super Bloom is. The flowers on the Carrizo Plain National Monument were spectacular this last spring. If you did not see the flowers on the Monument you may have missed an unbelievable sight. Those who have been going to the area for years say this even they have never seen anything like flower bloom of the spring of 2017. The number of people who visited the monument the last spring was the highest ever!

Hi, my name is Ray Hatch, and I am the Current President of the Friends of the Carrizo Plain. It has been over 16 years since the Carrizo Plain National Monument was formed. In fact it was February 17, 2001 when President Bill Clinton signed the Executive Order to form the Carrizo Plain National Monument. But the work to protect this fragile landscape started well before 2001. Local landowners, residents, and concerned citizens worked alongside public agencies and the Nature Conservancy to establish what would become the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

The Friends of the Carrizo Plain's role in this story began when nine board members, primarily interested residents from the surrounding communities formed the Friends of the Carrizo Plain. Shortly after the Monument was formed, they established the Friends of the Carrizo Plain and on March 1, 2002 Articles of Incorporation were filed with the State of California and Friends of the Carrizo Plain was established. In July 2003 our 501(c)(3) federal non-profit status was granted by the IRS.

The mission of the Friends of the Carrizo Plain "is to support the managing partners in the Education, Interpretation, and Conservation of the unique resources of the Carrizo Plain National Monument." We seek to accomplish our mission by educating the public about the Monument's special qualities, increasing public understand of the value of protecting the Monument's resources, and recruiting their support in protecting this unique part of the National Landscape Conservation system. The role of educating the public is one of our major objectives.

Our primary way of accomplishing this objective is to help operate the gift shop and the book store at the Goodwin Education Center on the Monument. Here we encounter the largest number of people seeking to understand better this last remaining jewel of California's vast grasslands. Our ability to provide resources and material that help explain the value of protecting the Carrizo Plain, is an important tool in increasing the public's support in preserving this area in its natural state.

We also educate the public by outreach at community events, developing print and electronic educational material for display in the Education Center, by providing participant luncheons and educational materials at volunteer activities such as National Public Lands Day, and information tables at various civic events (Morro Bay Bird Festival, Santa Margarita Wild Flower Festival, and San Luis Obispo Earth Day Celebration).

For the last four years we urged and financially helped school and other groups visit the Monument. We will continue to support these school trips this next year. This last two year we were able to fund an intern to work with BLM staff to support the Goodwin Education Center activities and to help with tours. We can continue supporting the intern position next year because of your financial support of our organization.

We are entering the high-tech arena in the Goodwin Education center and we have provided two iPads for use there. One is an information kiosk and the other is used for our sales register. We will continue to evaluate new technology to better provide information to CPNM visitors.

We have financially supported the publishing of a Visitor Guide to the Carrizo Plain National since 2010. We will continue this and distribute over 5,000 copies to areas surrounding the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

This year the Carrizo Plain National Monument, like many other National Monuments recently formed, are being reviewed by the Federal Government. I am confident that the Monument boundaries will not be altered, and we will be able to enjoy this National Monument forever.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those individuals and organizations, past and present, for helping to protect this precious landscape and I would urge all of you reading this to visit Carrizo Plain National Monument. The opportunity to enjoy, to learn, to share, to preserve, and to protect Carrizo Plain National Monument's wildlife, geology, plants, and other unique features are waiting there for all of us to discover.

Don't forget to come to the Monument and see the flowers in the springtime.



## JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE CARRIZO PLAIN "Protecting the Unique Beauty of the Carrizo"

[www.carrizo.org](http://www.carrizo.org)

The Friends of the Carrizo Plain (FOCP) is composed of volunteers devoting time, energy, and resources to support the managing partners (Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, and California Department of Fish and Game) in the education, interpretation, and conservation of the unique resources of the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

*A Carrizo Plain National Monument that remains unique and preserved, providing an internationally recognized model of cooperative resource conservation.*

### Values:

- Being good stewards of the land
- Fostering trust between the FOCP, the managing partners, and the public
- Promoting and generating enthusiasm for understanding the resources of the Carrizo Plain National Monument
- Cooperating and building consensus to achieve goals
- Respecting the serenity of the Carrizo Plain National Monument
- Leaving a legacy of the Carrizo Plain National Monument for future generations to appreciate

### Why join FOCP?

Your membership will help support activities of The Friends of the Carrizo Plain that are consistent with its mission, vision, and values.



[www.Carrizo.org](http://www.Carrizo.org)

**PLEASE JOIN US:** Fill out and return the form below with your check to:

Friends of the Carrizo Plain  
HCR 69 - Box 3078  
Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Categories (pick one)  
Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sustaining (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting (\$1000) \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer Interests \_\_\_\_\_

# Black Gold Brewing Company

Brew Pub - Grill - Cafe



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## Taft's Historic Landmark



Weddings,  
receptions, parties,  
school events,  
meetings, class  
reunions, and other  
special events

*\* The Fort Preservation Society is a nonprofit organization depending on memberships, donations, and events to maintain and preserve the structure and grounds. It is governed by an 11-member board, which employs an executive director to handle daily operations and a caretaker to maintain the facilities.*

## The Fort Preservation Society

915 N. 10th Street, Suite #2 • Taft, California • 661-765-7371