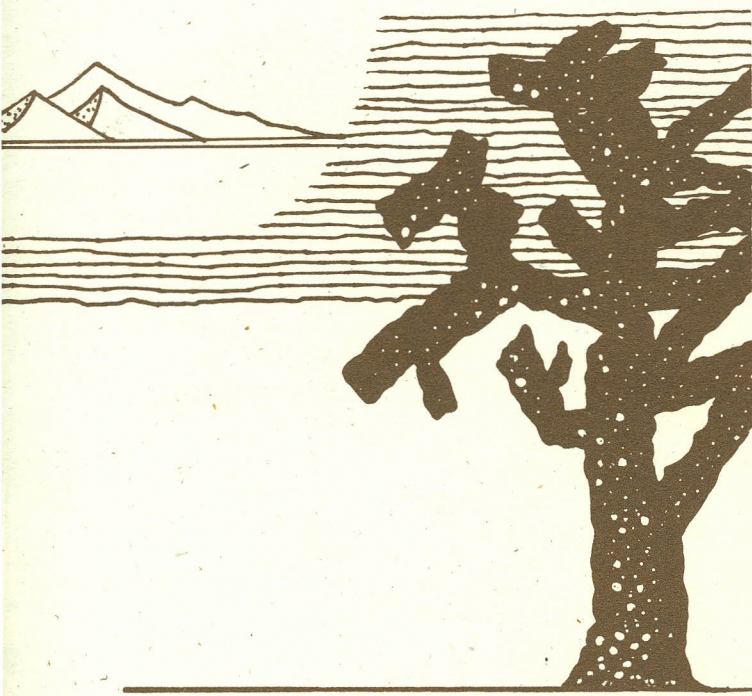




# California

## East Mojave

### National Scenic Area



## **A First for the Nation . . .**

Volcanic cinder cones, slow-paced desert tortoises, Wild West cattle operations, booming sand dunes, historic and modern mines, rock formations etched with messages from past residents, vast scenic vistas framed by Joshua trees . . . all vital pieces of the beauty that melds into the East Mojave.

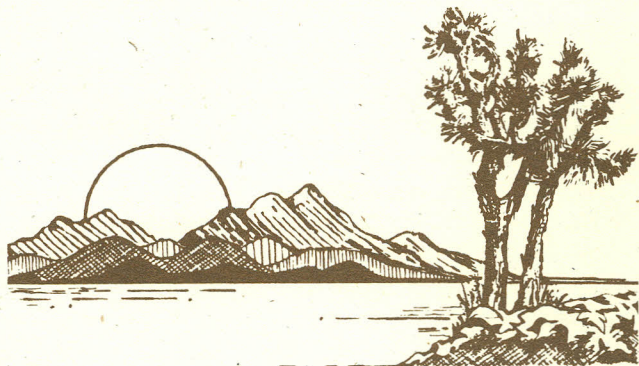
Designated in 1980 as America's first National Scenic Area, the East Mojave combines natural beauty with a unique living history. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers this variety of ecosystems to conserve the region's natural and cultural resources.

## **The Desert Environment . . .**

The East Mojave desert ranges in elevation from less than 1,000 feet to almost 8,000 feet. Since summer daytime temperatures typically exceed 100 degrees at lower elevations, the best months for visiting are October through May.

Though not always visible, wildlife is abundant. Some of the nearly 300 different species of animals living here include bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyotes, and desert tortoises. The tortoise, declared a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, should not be handled or disturbed.

To survive the desert climate, many plants have small leaves to minimize moisture loss, while cacti store large volumes of water, and mesquite send roots as deep as 100 feet. Common plants include yucca, creosote, and the spindly Joshua tree. Wildflower displays can be particularly colorful in April and May.



Petroglyphs (Indian rock art) are scattered throughout the Scenic Area. This fragile evidence of man's history is protected by law. Please enjoy these drawings, but do not disturb, damage, or remove them.

## **Exploring the Scenic Area . . .**

The 1.5-million-acre Scenic Area is easily accessible from either Interstate 15, which forms most of its northern boundary, or Interstate 40, which creates its southern boundary. Day visitors can enjoy a picnic, a scenic drive, a bike ride, a short hike, or views of spring wildflowers. Overnight visitors will also enjoy camping, stargazing, or backpacking. Or you can just relax in the peace and serenity found in all reaches of the Scenic Area.

### **Visitor Center/Interpretive Programs:**

Additional information and maps are available within the Scenic Area at the Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Contact Station. Interpretive programs are offered during the spring and fall; check at the visitor contact station for a schedule. BLM Rangers patrol the Scenic Area to provide information and resource protection.

**Camping:** BLM maintains two campgrounds with water, tables, and toilet facilities. Hole-in-the-Wall campground is located at 4,200 feet near towering sculptured volcanic rocks. A new campground designed particularly for motorhomes features some pull-through sites and a dump station.

Mid Hills campground at 5,600 feet is located in a pinon-juniper woodland and offers excellent views of Cima Dome from some sites. Motorhomes longer than 26 feet may have difficulty maneuvering in this campground. A daily fee per camping unit is charged at both sites.

Primitive camping is also allowed on disturbed areas adjacent to roads, and backpackers may camp in any previously disturbed site.

All campers are encouraged to "Leave No Trace", and particularly to carry their trash out with them. You may stay up to 14 days in one camp. Please bring your own firewood as none is available on site.

**Hiking:** Two developed trails exist within the Scenic Area: a 2-mile trail to Teutonia Peak on Cima Dome and an 8-mile trail between the two campgrounds. Many other routes, such as old mining roads, are also popular with hikers.

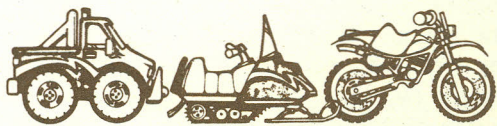
**Target shooting and hunting:** These activities are permitted in the Scenic Area, subject to Federal, State, and local regulations. Safety zones closed to all shooting and hunting exist at recreation sites and the Granite Mountains Research Natural Area.

**Touring:** As part of the Scenic Byways program, BLM has designated a network of roads as "Back Country Byways". Loops incorporating the County roads between Interstates 40 and 15 provide the traveler a look at sand dunes, a historic railroad depot, scenic canyons, and other features located in this unusual desert environment. Look for signs marking these scenic routes while exploring the area.

Four-wheel-drive use is invited along the historic Mojave Road and the East Mojave Heritage Trail, as well as on other routes reaching into the remote corners of the Scenic Area. Detailed guidebooks are available at BLM offices and information sites within the Scenic Area to assist you and make your trip more enjoyable.













Mountain bikes may be ridden on existing routes in the East Mojave and are an excellent way to enjoy the scenery. Horseback riding is also a popular activity -- just remember to carry water for your horse as well as you!

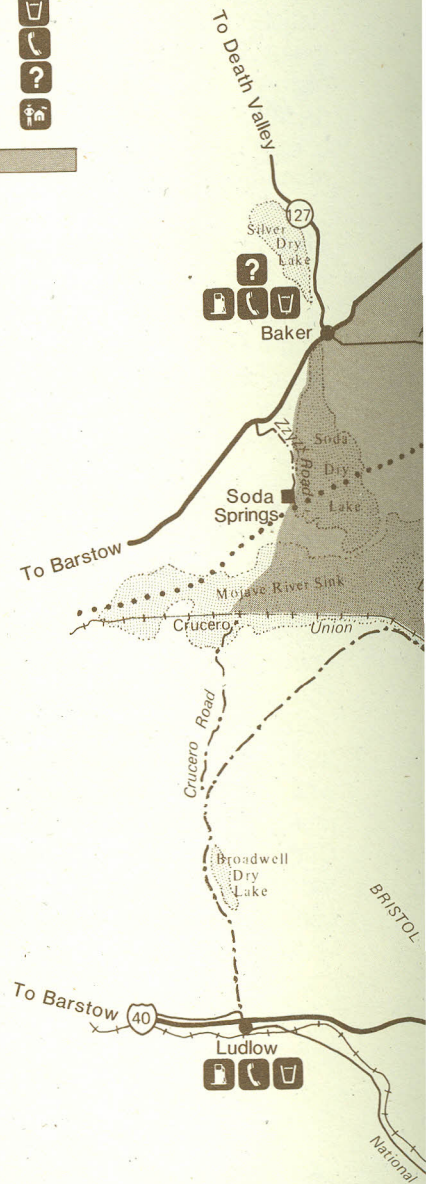
All vehicles must stay on existing routes within the Scenic Area. Cross country vehicle travel is prohibited. BLM's New York Mountains (#9) and Providence Mountains (#12) Desert Access Guides cover most of the region and are available at BLM offices, the California Desert Information Center in Barstow, and the Hole-in-the-Wall visitor contact station. These maps indicate approved routes of travel and points of interest within the East Mojave.



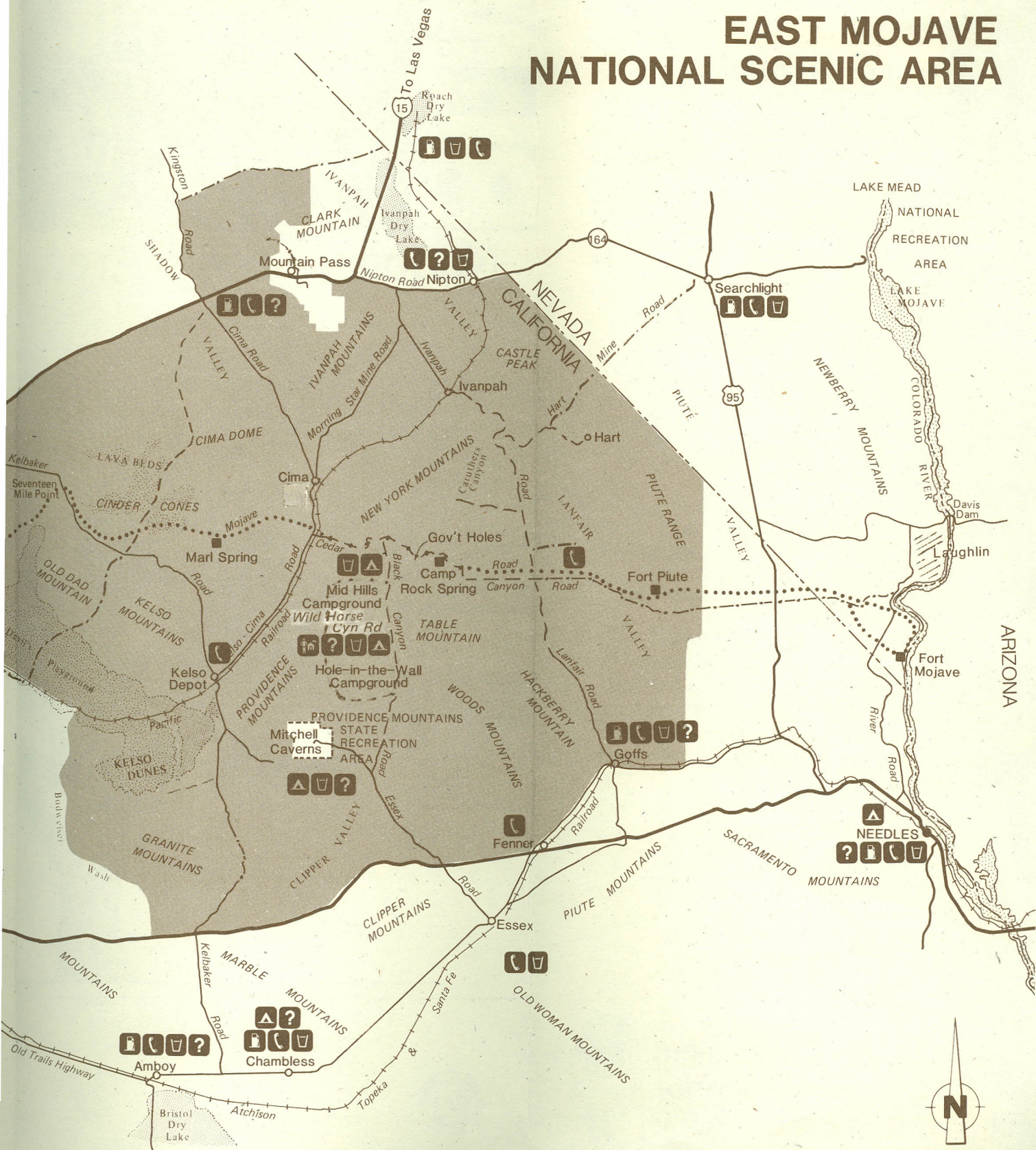
**TREAD LIGHTLY!**

## KEY

- PAVED ROAD 
- MAINTAINED DIRT ROAD 
- UNMAINTAINED DIRT ROAD 
- MOJAVE ROAD 
- MILITARY CAMPSITE on Mojave Road 
- CAMPGROUND 
- GAS 
- WATER 
- TELEPHONE 
- INFORMATION 
- RANGER STATION 
- EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA 



# EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA



## **Come Prepared . . .**

. . . for heat, cold, and dehydration.

Although limited supplies of water are available at the campgrounds, you're wise to bring a supply with you. When hiking, carry at least a gallon per person each day, and don't forget to drink it!

Wear protective clothing against the sun and wind. Although it may be hot during the day, nights can be cool, so bring extra layers of clothing. Be sure that you and your vehicle are prepared for extreme conditions. And watch out for flash floods. Violent downpours in distant areas may result in flooding where you are, so don't camp in a wash.

Gas, water, and telephones are found widely dispersed around the East Mojave. See the area map for available services. No overnight motel accommodations exist within the Scenic Area. Small stores with limited foodstuffs are located at Goffs, Cima, and Nipton.

Pets are allowed within the Scenic Area and the campgrounds. Please keep them restrained so they do not disturb other visitors, native wildlife, or domestic livestock. Do not leave them locked in your vehicle as high temperatures may overcome them.

And come prepared to have a wonderful time! The East Mojave weaves its own special magic around its visitors . . . we hope it brings you back many times to discover the wonders hidden there!

### **For more information, contact the Bureau of Land Management:**

Needles Resource Area  
Post Office Box 888  
101 West Spike's Road  
Needles, CA 92363  
(619) 326-3896

California Desert District  
6221 Box Springs Boulevard  
Riverside, CA 92507  
(714) 653-3274

**United States Department  
of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

