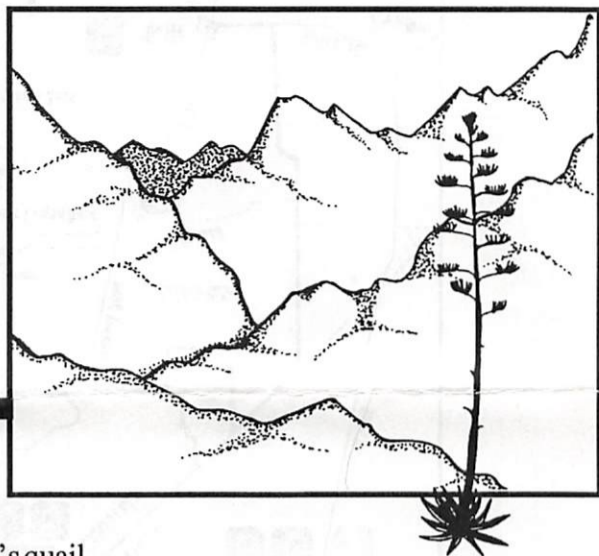


Mojave National Preserve



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Volcanic cinder cones, slow-paced desert tortoises, wild west cattle operations, booming sand dunes, historic and modern mines, rock formations etched with messages from former residents, vast scenic vistas framed by Joshua trees, this is the Mojave National Preserve.

BACKGROUND

Signed into law by President Clinton on October 31, 1994, the California Desert Protection Act created the 1.4 million acre Mojave National Preserve in the heart of the Mojave Desert. The act transferred the lands known as the East Mojave National Scenic Area from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service. The National Park Service administers the variety of ecosystems in the Mojave National Preserve to preserve the region's natural and cultural resources.

Congress enacted the California Desert Protection Act to preserve the unrivaled ecological, geological, cultural, historical, wildlife and recreational values of the California Desert.

THE DESERT ENVIRONMENT

The desert in the Mojave National Preserve ranges in elevation from less than 1,000 feet to almost 8,000 feet. The best months for visiting are October through May. Summer daytime temperatures average more than 100 degrees.

Though not always visible, wildlife is abundant. The Mojave Desert is home to nearly 300 different species of animals, including desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyotes and desert tortoises. A variety of birds live in the desert. Golden eagles and several species of hawks can be seen soaring

on the thermal updrafts. Gambel's quail, chukar and mourning doves, as well as many other smaller species of birds live in the canyons and washes where they are able to find water, food and vegetation for cover.

Desert plants are especially adapted to living in this arid climate. Many have small leaves with waxy coverings to minimize moisture loss, while cacti store large volumes of water. Other plants such as the creosote have developed extensive or deep root systems that enable them to gather the precious water. Common plants include yucca, creosote and the Joshua tree. If the winter rains have watered the desert, wildflowers spread across the desert in a rainbow of colors during April and May.

Evidence of the people who have lived and made a living from the desert and its resources is scattered across the region. Petroglyphs and pictographs etched and drawn on the rocks throughout the region are evidence of a long history of the peoples who followed the natural cycles of plants and animals, gathering and hunting what they needed to live. Later comers to the desert left their marks too. Old mines, ranches and even the ruts cut into the desert floor by wagons remind us that this "barren" land has drawn people to its resources for more than 10,000 years. All historical objects and archaeological features are protected by law. Observe and enjoy them, but do not disturb, damage or remove them.

EXPLORING THE PRESERVE

The Mojave National Preserve is easily accessible from either Interstate 15, which forms most of its northern

boundary, or Interstate 40, which creates its southern boundary. Visitors can enjoy a picnic, a scenic drive, a bike ride, a short hike or views of spring wildflowers. Visitors can also enjoy camping, stargazing or backpacking.

VISITOR CENTER AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Additional information and maps are available at the Mojave Desert Information Center in Baker, California. Call or visit for up-to-date information on programs offered throughout the year.

The Mojave Desert Information Center is open daily. Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center is open as staffing permits.

National Park Service rangers patrol the Preserve to provide information and resource protection.

CAMPING

The National Park Service maintains two campgrounds with water, tables, and toilet facilities. Hole-in-the-Wall campground (elevation 4,200 ft.) is located near towering volcanic rocks that have been sculpted by water and wind. The campground, with some pull-through sites, can accommodate motorhomes and a dump station is available.

Mid Hills campground (elevation 5,600 ft.) is located in a pinon-juniper woodland and offers excellent views of Cima Dome from some of the sites. Motorhomes longer than 26 feet may have difficulty maneuvering in this campground.

Backpackers may camp anywhere in the backcountry. They must be more than 1/2 mile from a road and more than 1000 feet from a water source. They are encouraged to "Leave No Trace" and to carry their trash out. Camping is limited to 14 days in one camp. Please bring your own firewood, as none is available in the Preserve. Call the Barstow office for information on group camping.

HIKING

Two developed trails can be found in the Preserve. A 2-mile trail (one way) to Teutonia Peak on Cima Dome begins from a trailhead on the Cima Road. An 8-mile (one way) trail between Mid Hills campground and Hole-in-the-Wall can be reached from either campground. Many other routes, such as old mining roads, canyons or washes, are popular with hikers. Be sure to carry the appropriate topographical map.

HUNTING

Hunting is permitted in the Preserve in designated areas and according to federal, state and local regulations. There is no hunting in the safety zones around all recreation sites and in the Granite Mountain Research Natural Area. Target shooting and "plinking" are not allowed in Mojave National Preserve.

TOURING

A variety of roads offers visitors access to many of the special features of the Preserve. Sand dunes, an historic

railroad depot, scenic canyons and cindercones are just a few of the resources that can be enjoyed. Some of the roads are signed, others will require a map. Motor vehicles and bicycles must remain on established roads. Driving in washes or off-road is not allowed. All motor vehicles must be street legal. High clearance 4-wheel drive is recommended on most unpaved roads. Check at the visitor center for specific information on road conditions.

COME PREPARED

Temperatures can be extreme and water scarce. Limited supplies of water are available at the campgrounds, and visitors are advised to bring a supply. When hiking, carry at least a gallon per person per day, and don't forget to drink it!

Wear clothing that will protect against sun and wind. Although it may be hot during the day, nights can be cool, so bring extra layers of clothing. Summer temperatures can exceed 100 degrees and winter temperatures can dip well below freezing, especially at higher elevations.

Be sure that you and your vehicle are prepared for extreme conditions. Watch out for flash floods. Violent downpours in distant areas may result in flooding where you are. Be alert when traveling in desert canyons and washes. Gas, water and telephones are only found in a few widely scattered locations around the Preserve. See the map for locations.

No overnight motel accommodations are found in the Preserve. Motel rooms are available in Baker and some are found in Nipton. Small stores with limited food supplies are located at Cima and Nipton.

Pets are allowed in the Preserve, but must be on a leash, no longer than 6-feet. Do not allow them to disturb other visitors or wildlife. Do not leave them locked in your vehicle as high temperatures can be fatal.

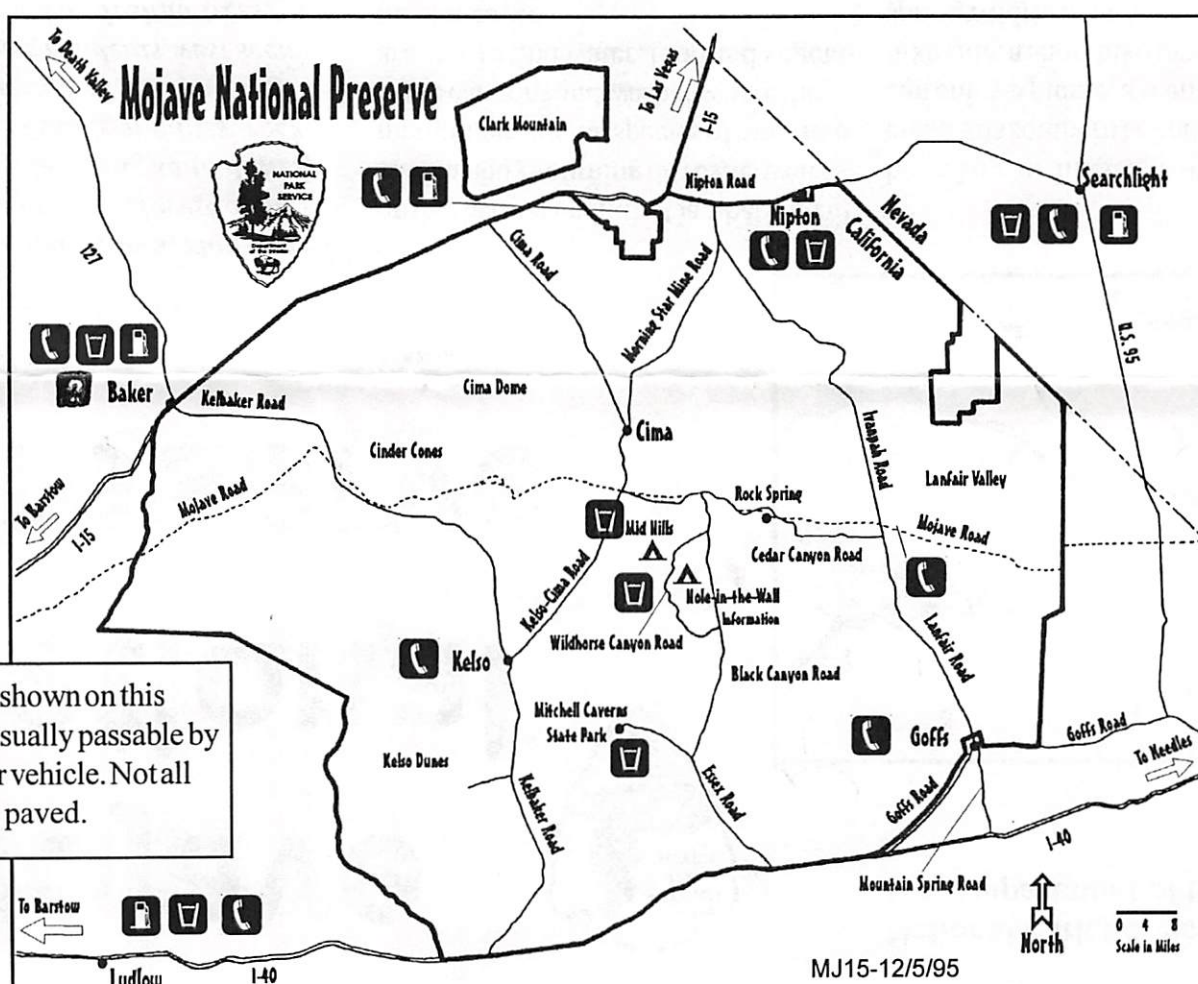
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mojave Desert Information Center
P.O. Box 241
Baker, CA 92309
(619) 733-4040

Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Center
Black Canyon Road
Mojave National Preserve
(619) 928-2572

California Desert Information Center
831 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
(619) 255-8760

Mojave National Preserve
222 E. Main St. Ste. 202
Barstow, CA. 92311
(619) 255-8801



All roads shown on this map are usually passable by passenger vehicle. Not all roads are paved.