

SAFETY:

Weather extremes and poisonous snakes are desert hazards common to this area. Afton Canyon has flash flood risk as well. Avoid low-lying areas during storms and remember that storms upstream can result in flooding, even though it is not raining in your immediate area.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

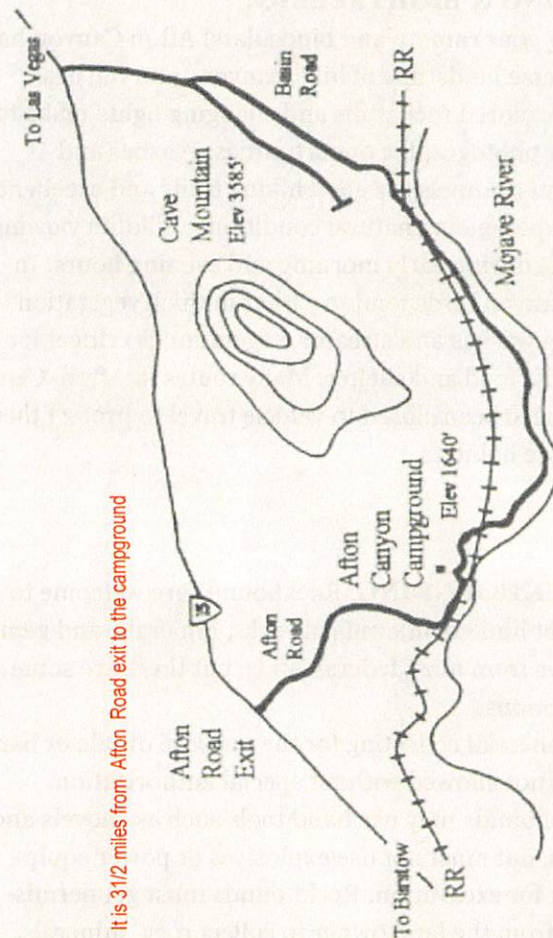
Private land owners, legal grazing allotments, and mining operations with Operation Plans on file with the BLM within the Afton Canyon Area have rights of access. It is not the intent of BLM to affect private rights or interests in the area. *(This does not imply and BLM jurisdictions over private lands within the area, unless authorized by the land owner.)*

CAMPING:

Camping is permitted only in the Afton Canyon Campground. This campground is a first-come first-served fee area. There 12 camp-sites which include picnic tables and fire grates at each campsite. 2 vault toilets are located in the center of the campground. Backpacking is welcome, however campfires are not permitted outside the designated campground. Camping fee- \$6.00 per night.

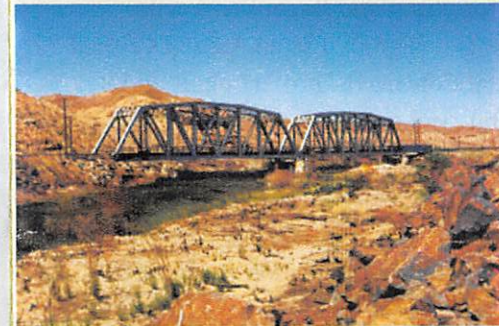


- Recreational shooting is not permitted in the Afton Natural Area.
- All applicable county, state and Federal laws and regulations apply.
- Vehicles are restricted to post open-routes.
- State and Federal hunting regulations are in effect during small game bird hunting seasons.



It is 3 1/2 miles from Afton Road exit to the campground

AFTON CANYON NATURAL AREA



Afton Canyon Railroad Bridge



Mojave River Water Crossing

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BARSTOW FIELD OFFICE

2601 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6000
(760) 252-6099 Fax
www.blm.gov/ca/barstow

Emergency Contact:

The Federal Interagency
Communications Center (FICC) at
(888) 233-6518 or call 911



BLM

Barstow Field Office

Afton Canyon Natural Area is located 37 miles northeast of Barstow along Interstate 15 between the Afton Road and Basin Road exits. Afton Canyon is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to protect plant and wildlife habitat, and to preserve scenic values of the riparian area within the canyon. Early western explorers passing through this area included Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson and John Charles Fremont. The route following this road known as the Mojave Road, is a rugged 4-wheel-drive scenic tour running from Fort Mojave on the Colorado River Near Needles to Camp Cady near Harvard Road east of Barstow.



Afton Canyon Campground

ACTIVITIES:

Afton Canyon is one of the few places where the Mojave River flows above ground making Afton an ideal location for bird and wildlife viewing. The area is ideal for hiking, hunting, camping, nature study, rock hounding, horseback riding, and vehicle touring. Check local weather forecasts before visiting the area. Thunderstorms can result in flash floods in canyons and washes.

Tell a friend or neighbor where you are going and when to expect your return. Bring sufficient water, food, clothing, tools, and first aid supplies for your activity.

The Afton Canyon area is a mix of public and private lands including those held by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Please respect the rights of private land owners. Land status can be found on BLM Surface Management maps covering this area and can be purchased at the California Desert BLM Offices.

HIKING & SIGHTSEEING:

Bring your camera and binoculars! Afton Canyon has a diverse landscape of hills, canyons and washes. Multicolored rock walls and changing lights make for many photographic opportunities. Washes and stream channels are good hiking trails and excellent for experiencing natural conditions. Wildlife viewing is best during early morning and evening hours. In the canyon birds tend to gather in thick vegetation. Along washes and streams, vegetation is critical for wildlife food and shelter. Many routes in Afton Canyon have been closed to vehicle travel to protect these wildlife habitats.

ROCKHOUNDING: Rockhounds are welcome to collect limited amounts of rocks, minerals, and gemstones from most federal lands, but there are some exceptions. Commercial collecting for the purpose of sale or barter is not allowed without special authorization. Rockhounds may use hand tools such as shovels and picks, but must not use explosives or power equipment for excavation. Rockhounds must get permission from the land owner to collect rock, minerals, and gemstones on private property.

HUNTING:

You can hunt dove, quail and chucker, but season and bag limits vary. Call the California Department of Fish and Game for current hunting information. Hunting in the immediate vicinity of wildlife waters, guzzlers included, is limited to 30 minutes (*California Fish and Game Commission, title 14*). Hunting is permitted with shotguns only (shotgun shells, no rifle slugs) in the area. Recreational shooting of guns is not permitted within the boundaries of the Afton Canyon Natural Area or shooting of any kind is allowed within 1/2 mile of the designated campground.

Get permission from landowner before using firearms on private land. On public lands, all county, state and federal regulations are in effect. Please note that firearms use within 150 yards of livestock or buildings is **not** allowed (*San Bernardino County Ordinance 22.011*).

MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE:

Within this Area of Critical Environmental Concern, routes are posted with "Open Route" markers. Routes have been selected to allow access to the area and to the Mojave Road while preserving riparian (stream-side) environments. Use of all vehicles is permitted only on designated open routes.

- Brown markers with route numbers indicate an Open Route for use by motorized vehicles.
- Red markers indicate routes that have been closed to all vehicle travel.
- No marker indicated a closed route.

Within the Afton Canyon Area, travel is restricted to designated Open Routes.