



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**

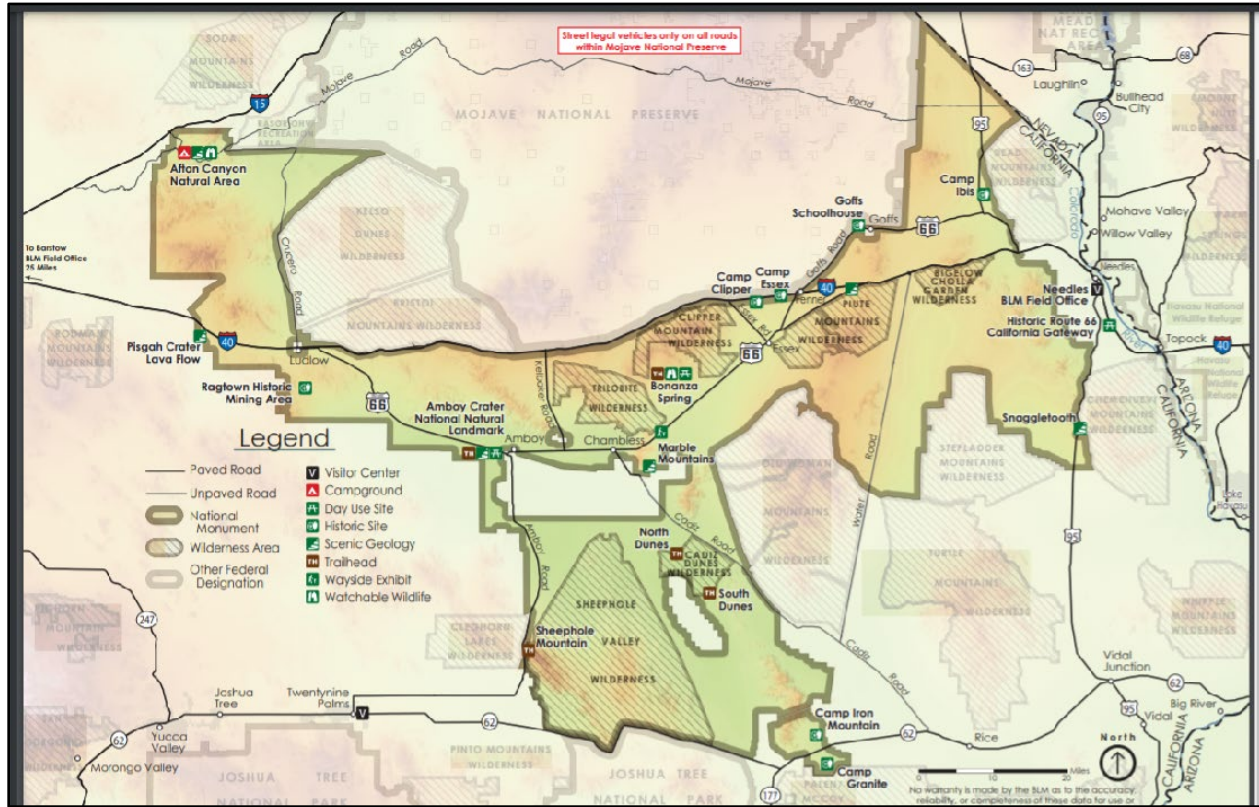
**California**  
2022: Annual Manager's Report

# Mojave Trails

## National Monument



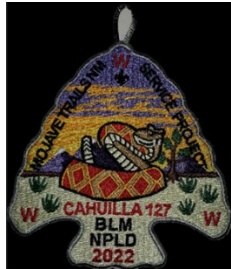
# Map



# Accomplishments

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Mojave Trails National Monument kicked off 2022 with a social media campaign focused on our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration shared with the newly established Historic Route 66 Needles to Barstow National Scenic Byway. This year's event was promoted by our partners who shared in the acknowledgment of the new National Scenic Byway.



# Challenges

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This year was one of the wettest years on record. The monsoon season started in June and did not end until after September. A healthy monsoon season typically lasts about a month, mid-July to mid-August. The vegetation of the Mojave River experienced the effects of this year's seasonal monsoon rain events as very fast-flowing water removed some of the river's vegetation stands.



# Visitors

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This year the Monument received an estimated 63,000 visits, however, overnight campground stays decreased. Mojave Trails visitors hiked the designated Amboy Crater National Recreation Trail and toured the National Scenic Byway Historic US Route 66. The Monument is also a growing destination for Jeep touring and Overlanding (four-wheel drive touring). As knowledge increases about the National Monument, visitation will increase.

There is only one developed overnight campground located within the National Monument. Afton Canyon Campground is managed by the Barstow Field Office and a fee is charged for camping at that site. In 2022, the Barstow Field Office reported an average of 760 recreation fee permit envelopes per month. This was fewer than reported in 2021.



# Partnerships

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Mojave Trails National Monument depends heavily on partnerships, volunteers and external support to assist with service projects due to the limited staff time shared between the three managing field offices. The Monument has long-term service agreements with the Boy Scouts of America, a great relationship with National Scenic Byway partner California Historic Route 66 Association and receives invaluable research support from the Mojave Desert Land Trust. Without partnerships the Mojave Trails management and staff would not have the support needed to accomplish monument goals.

This year's Women in Science Discovering Our Mojave (WISDOM) interns spent six months observing birds and bumblebees at Bonanza Spring. The interns endured the unforgiving weather of the desert which ranges from hot, sweltering late summers to cold, dry winters, and explored and collected critical data to help the BLM better understand the diverse fauna and wildlife residing at the spring.



# Science

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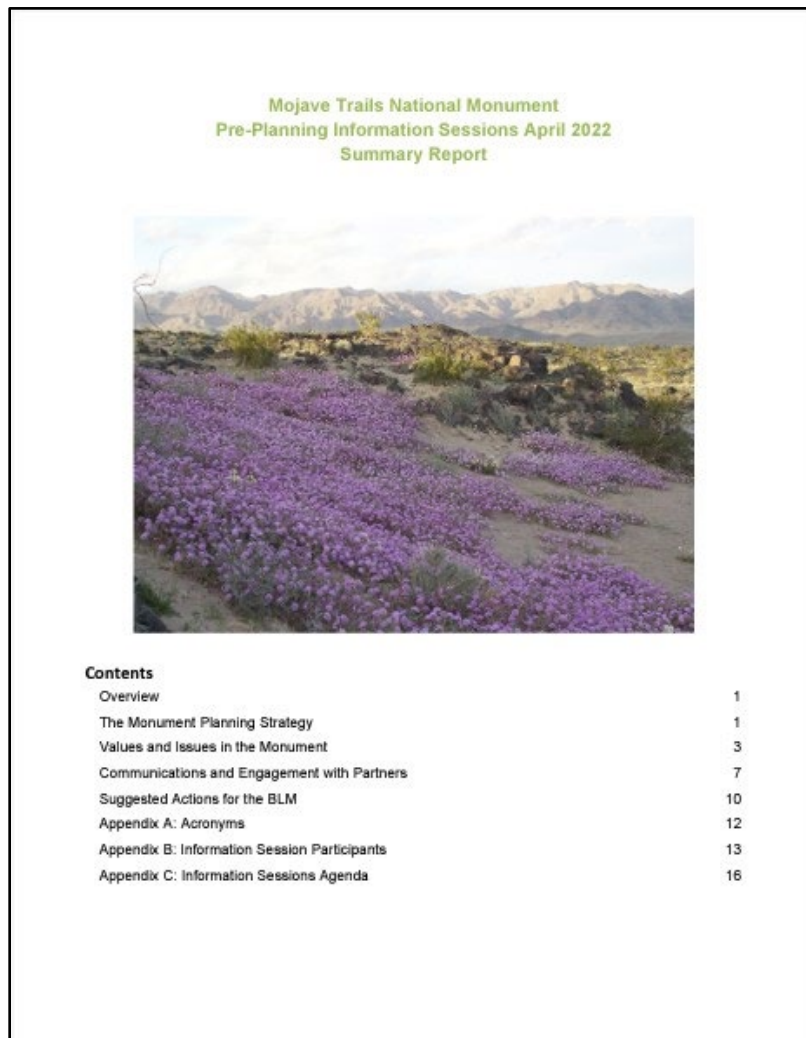
Mojave Trails National Monument has a very active minerals remediation program. The Needles Field Office minerals staff spent a large part of the year working on remediating expired mining operations within the National Monument boundaries. The ongoing work led by the Needles Field Office minerals staff has assisted with the closure of one case file and resulted in the completion of field surveys of many abandoned mines and land in their immediate vicinity.



# Social and Environmental Justice

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In 2022 the focus of the Mojave Trails National Monument was on reengaging and educating local communities on the monument management planning strategy, which has been identified as the top priority for the BLM at Mojave Trails National Monument. Planning preparation continued in a series of public information meetings held in April. More than 150 participants attended three Zoom meetings. Information from these meetings is being used by the BLM in the ongoing planning process. The BLM believes that the Zoom platform has been a tool to better assist in reaching audiences that might not otherwise show up to in-person meetings. While specific statistics aren't available, the approach has led to strong community involvement in national monument pre-planning from many different communities across the California desert.





# Events

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Mojave Trails National Monument is a dynamic outlet for public volunteer projects and education programming. This year the Monument hosted a Boy Scouts of America service project and an educational talk about Cultural Resource sensitivity.

The Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow Chapter, from the California Inland Empire, has been a huge contributor to Mojave Trails National Monument service projects for years. The Needles Field Office national conservation lands program specialist has built and supported a long-standing service relationship with the Boy Scouts Chapter. The focus of the relationship and agreement is the cleanup and care of the Sheephole Wilderness. Last fall the Scouts supported National Public Lands Day. The BLM Needles staff also hosted the Scouts for a cleanup of the southern Sheephole Wilderness boundary. They assisted BLM with construction and placement of barricades across areas where vehicles were trespassing into wilderness.



# Words from the staff

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Without the dedication of the partners and Bureau of Land Management Field Office staff, Mojave Trails National Monument would not exist. The staff appreciate the ongoing engagement of partners in monument programs.



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## **Mojave Trails**

### **National Conservation Area**

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