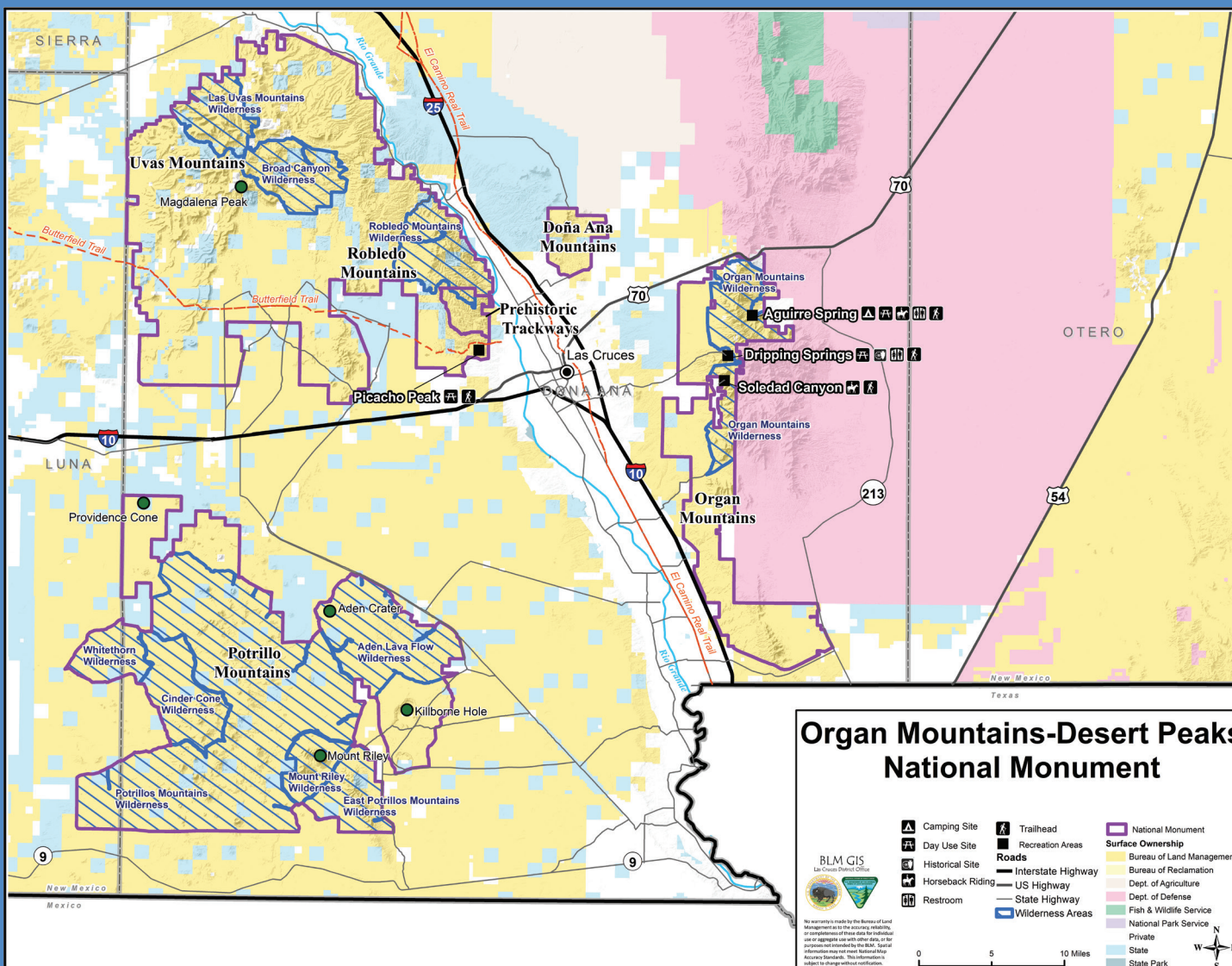




**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument



Directions

Visitor Center The Dripping Springs Visitor Center offers interpretive displays of the Organ Mountains. It is located 10 miles east of Interstate 25, Exit 1, on the western edge of the Organ Mountains in the Dripping Springs Natural Area. It is open all year, except winter holidays, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 p.m. The Dripping Springs Natural Area is located 10 miles east of Las Cruces, on the west side of the Organ Mountains. From Exit 1 on Interstate 25, take University Avenue/ Dripping Springs Road east to the end.

Bureau of Land Management
Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, NM 88005-3371
575-525-4300
or
www.blm.gov/new-mexico

In case of emergency:
Immediate Emergency – 911
BLM 24-hour Dispatch – 1-800-637-9152

Welcome to the Organ Mountains—Desert Peaks National Monument (the Monument)! The Monument includes 496,529 acres of public land managed by the BLM. The Monument consists of five mountain ranges: Organ Mountains, Doña Ana Mountains, Sierra de las Uvas, Robledo Mountains, and the Potrillo Mountains. These mountain ranges are a part of the BLM's National Conservation Lands system.

The Organ Mountains, 10 miles east of the city of Las Cruces, are characterized by rock pinnacles of granite composition. They rise to 9,006 feet in elevation and extend for 20 miles, generally running north and south.

On the northwest side of Las Cruces are the Doña Ana Mountains, Robledo Mountains and Sierra de Las Uvas, which make up the Desert Peaks area. The Doña Ana Mountains reach an elevation of 5,800 feet, with low limestone ridges, hogbacks and cuestas surmounted by high monzonite peaks. The Robledo Mountains are also home to the BLM-managed Prehistoric Trackways National Monument. The Robledos and Las Uvas landscapes are characterized by numerous mesas and buttes interspersed with deep canyons and arroyos.

The Potrillos Mountains, 30 miles southwest of Las Cruces, are a series of cinder cones with maar craters and basalt lava flows in an open Chihuahuan desert landscape. Its oldest maar crater is thought to be the mile-wide Kilbourne Hole, at more than 80,000 years old.



Livery Ranch Buildings



Volunteers greet guests at the Visitor Center located at the Dripping Springs Natural Area

The Monument has lured people for hundreds of years. It has been a homeland for diverse Native American people, Van Patten's historic hotel, the Butterfield Stage Coach Line, a place of exploration for 17th century Spaniards, a hideout for one of the American West's most notorious outlaws, and a training ground for World War II airmen and Apollo astronauts. The area is also home to a high diversity of animal life, including golden eagles and other raptors, as well as mountain lions, mule deer, and other mammals.

Visitors will be treated to spectacular sunsets and endless recreational activities. The Monument is a popular recreation area, with multiple hiking trails (including four designated National Recreation Trails), a popular campground, off-highway vehicle trails, and opportunities for hunting, mountain biking, climbing, and other dispersed recreation. Below are some of the popular recreational activities

Monument Amenities

VISITOR CENTER: Come up to the Visitor Center at Dripping Springs Natural Area for information and to see our exhibits.

CAMPING: Campsites are available at Aguirre Spring Recreation Area, and dispersed camping on the rest of public lands unless otherwise posted.

PICNICKING: Picnic tables with charcoal grills are available at La Cueva Picnic Area, Aguirre Spring Recreation Area, and Picacho Peak Recreation Area.

BICYCLING: 54 miles of bicycle trails especially at Doña Ana Mountains.

HIKING: 48 miles of hiking trails.

EQUESTRIAN: 40+ miles of riding trails.

Know Before You Go

The beautiful Organ Mountain—Desert Peaks National Monument is full of fascinating adventures. It is also known for being a dry, arid, desert landscape. When visitors plan their travels they should make sure they are prepared for any circumstance. Here are a few tips to help you become an expert planner!

- Let someone know where you are going. Make sure they know your plans, the route you will take, and what time you are expected to return.
- Wear proper clothing. A good pair of walking or hiking shoes is recommended. Carry a jacket even in the summer.
- Bring proper gear. If staying out overnight, bring a warm enough sleeping bag.
- Check the weather. Be prepared for drastic changes in the weather. Summer days can bring intense heat, while summer night temperatures can dip to freezing. There could even be flash floods in the low-lying areas.
- Know your limits. Don't attempt hikes or rides that are beyond your ability. If possible, avoid exploring alone.
- Drink plenty of water. Since the body loses fluids quickly in a desert environment, carry plenty of water and high energy snacks.
- Leave wildlife alone. Be alert and observe all snakes and wildlife from a safe distance.

