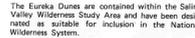


Archaeological sites are not uncommon near the Eureka Dunes. Because these sites are considered sensitive, they are not described in this narrative. The visitor to Eureka Dunes is reminded that unauthorized collection of artifacts and disruption of archaeological sites is a violation of Federal law under the Antiquities Act.



**EUREKA DUNES (E-7)**

The vastness of the California Desert contains many areas endowed by nature, or man, with characteristics that set them apart. Eureka Dunes is one of these. In fact, Eureka Dunes is so unique that the Secretary of the Interior designated the dunes as a National Natural Landmark in early 1963. The Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Game have developed a management plan to protect the areas unique habitat.

From a distance, the Eureka Dunes appear to float above the floor of Eureka Valley. This mirage results because the light colored dunes stand out in sharp contrast to the surrounding mountains which are composed of very dark colored rocks. The highest peaks of the dunes stand 692 feet above the valley floor, making them the tallest in California.

A scene almost as striking as the dunes themselves is the prominent multi-colored strata exposed on the face of the Last Chance Mountains. The forms and rich colors of these strata create a background for the pale desert wastes, which when viewed at dawn or sunset, creates a panorama of sand and rock of exquisite beauty. With sufficient rainfall in the spring, an astonishing variety of color and beauty is displayed in a carpet of wildflowers.



**LOCATION**

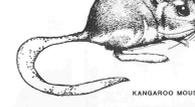
The dunes are in the northern part of the California Desert Conservation Area, accessible by driving 45 miles east from Big Pine or 50 miles north from Death Valley on paved or graded dirt roads.

**GEOLOGY**

Eureka Valley is a down-faulted desert basin surrounded by uplifted mountains; the Last Chance Mountains to the east, the Saline Mountains to the west and north. These rugged, sparsely vegetated and multi-colored ranges stand out starkly from the sediment filled valley. Eureka Valley is a closed basin which, in earlier geologic times, was a large and deep freshwater lake. In the more arid climate of today, Eureka Valley contains a shallow ephemeral lake or plays more than two and a half miles long by a mile wide.

The dunes are the most unique and outstanding feature within Eureka Valley. Three factors are needed to build a dune formation: the presence of a source of sand, a recurrent wind strong enough to move the sand; and a place where the sand can accumulate. Weathered outcroppings of sandstone and shaly sand are the source. Winds of necessary velocity are common, particularly in the winter months. The prevailing westerly winds and the southerly winds cause the winds to eddy and deposit the suspended sands in the southern end of the Last Chance Range. North of the dunes, the valley narrows and then opens into a large circular basin. North and northwest winds, funneling through the valley, swirl around the southern basin, and, slowed down, lose their ability to transport the sand which settles down into the dunes system.

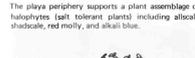
The exact age of the Eureka Dunes is unknown. In geologic terms they are considered recent; however, they are at least several thousand years old.



**FLORA, FAUNA AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

The three major vegetation types predominant within the Eureka Dunes area are: creosote bush scrub, alkali scrub, and alkali grass. Borax was discovered in the playas west of the dunes, and the psammophilic for land plant scrub species, which occurs on the dunes proper.

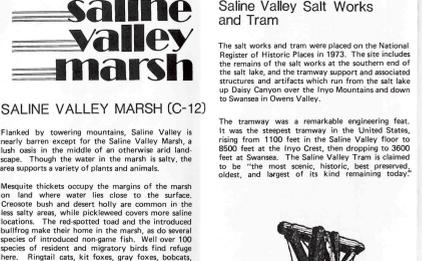
While these mineral deposits were significant, the remoteness of the area, ruggedness of terrain, and lack of easy access made development of mineral resources uncommenced. The sites which remain potential early attempts to exploit these minerals and the ingenious technological solutions developed to cope with problems peculiar to Saline Valley.



The Eureka Dunes themselves support a psammophilic plant assemblage. The most psammophilic refers to plants which inhabit sandy areas. The predominant species is Eureka dune grass, a perennial dune binding grass. This species, the only living member of its genus (Swainsonia), is a federally listed endangered species and is endemic to Eureka Valley. It occurs throughout the dunes and is one of only two species present on the highest part of the dunes (the other being desert clover). Other species present on the lower and more stable portions of the dunes include Eureka Dunes evening primrose, which is also federally-listed as endangered; phing locoweed, which is under review for possible listing; plicate daisies; Indian rice grass; and Indigo bush.

The site consists of five shallow rock-lined basins of varying sizes to the west of the road and a large well, which is an unusual somewhat linearly oriented plicate daisy; Indian rice grass; and Indigo bush.

**NOTES**



**SALINE VALLEY MARSH (C-12)**

Flanked by towering mountains, Saline Valley is rarely more than 1100 feet in the Saline Valley floor to 8500 feet at the Inyo Crest, then dropping to 3600 feet at Swanses. The Saline Valley Tram is the only area supports a variety of plants and animals.

Mequite thickets occupy the margins of the marsh on land where water lies close to the surface. Creosote bush and desert willow are common in the less salty area, while pick-tooled covers more saline locations. The introduced non-game fish, Well over 100 bullfrogs make their home in the marsh, as do several species of resident and migratory birds first found here. Ringtail cats, kit foxes, gray foxes, bobcats, and coyotes are frequent visitors, occasionally being joined by bighorn sheep.

**LOCATION**

Located in the northern portion of the California Desert, Saline Valley can be reached by graded dirt roads from U.S. 395, State Highway 190, and by driving north from Death Valley. Be aware that there are no services in the Saline Valley.

**RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**

Saline Valley offers the opportunity to visit and explore a rugged desert environment. There are no services so all visitors must carry ALL necessary supplies. No motorized vehicular travel is allowed on either the low lying sand dunes in the center of the valley or in the Saline Mountain Range on the north edge of the valley. Vehicle travel is allowed on all other approved routes. In addition to primitive vehicular routes, there are many excellent undeveloped hiking, rock-hauling, and camping sites. Hunting and shooting is allowed, subject to state laws.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The cultural resources within Saline Valley Marsh include highly significant historic, prehistoric, and archaeological features and artifacts. The current boundaries encompass 27 recorded archaeological sites, which are concentrated near water resources and the mequite dunes. Site types include village, rock shelters, temporary camps, trails, cremations, lithic waters, rock art locations, milling locations, rock art locations, etc. Because of their

At least nine species of reptiles occupy the Eureka Dunes. Other than bats, 15 species of mammals have been recorded, 10 of which are rodents. The most important of the structures within easy access to roads, including terminals, have been dismantled and carted off by wood gatherers and junk collectors, to another.

**WILDLIFE**

A diverse fauna and a variety of wildlife habitat are located within the Saline Valley area. The marsh is of prime importance to many species of birds in the environment. Extensive and very dense mequite thickets surround the marsh and provide valuable food and cover for many small animals, birds, and migratory birds.

The water supply comes primarily from Hunter Canyon which has a perennial stream. Sand dunes and mequite thickets also occur in the northern area and provide a contrasting habitat to the aquatic area.

The important species are:

- Amphibians:** The native red-spotted toad and the desert bullfrog make their home in the marsh.

**Reptiles:** At least eight species of reptiles have been identified in the area. Some of the lizards include the desert spurne, chuckwalla, and the collared lizard. No snakes have been seen.

**Fish:** Three species have been introduced into a pond in the vicinity of the marsh; the western mosquitofish, or chub, brown bullhead, and bluegill. None are catchable sport fish.

**Birds:** Bird life is diverse and abundant. It is concentrated in the marsh, Hunter Canyon stream, mequite thickets, and in the vicinity of the artesian well. A total of 24 bird species of resident and migratory birds have been observed, including a variety of ducks and other wild birds.

**Mammals:** Most of the mammals are nocturnal. Sixteen species have been identified. It is believed that bighorn sheep occasionally range into Hunter Canyon. Caribou include the ring tail, skunk, coyote, kit fox, gray fox, and bobcat. A black bear cub was reported seen on the Saline Valley Road near the marsh.

Feral (wild, introduced) burros are in the valley but their numbers are kept down by periodic gathering. They are placed by adopters through a special BLM adopt-a-burro program. The number of feral burros in the valley must be controlled to minimize their harm to the area's indigenous wildlife and ecology. A fence has been built around the marsh to keep burros out of the important habitat.

The marsh is a haven for numerous species of insects, including biting flies and mosquitoes. Of interest are the creosote living insects, which are active at night. During the day they are active in the shade (humans), or sunning on rocks (insects).

**WRITE IT DOWN**  
**CALL IT IN**  
**COLLECT YOUR REWARD**

**NOTES**



To meet the needs of winter visitors and still protect fragile desert resources, the BLM has established nine "Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs)" along the Colorado River and in the California Desert, where visitors may camp the entire year on public lands. **OUTSIDE THESE AREAS, CAMPING IS LIMITED TO FOURTEEN DAYS IN ONE LOCATION UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED.**



Winter visitors who wish to stay more than 14 days may do so by purchasing a LONG-TERM VISITOR PERMIT and selecting a location in one of the designated Long-Term Visitor Areas. The cost of a Long-Term Visitor Permit is \$25. Winter camp sites cover the use season from October 1 to May 31. Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Coast Passport discounts do not apply toward the fee. Permit holders may move from one LTVA location to another.

Wildlife water sources are scarce throughout the desert. TRY TO LIMIT YOUR STAY AT WATER DOLLS TO THIRTY MINUTES OR LESS to minimize wildlife disturbance. In addition, YOU MAY NOT CAMP CLOSER THAN 200 YARDS FROM ANY MAN-MADE WILDLIFE WATER SOURCE.

**NOT ALL DESERT LANDS ARE PUBLIC LANDS!** Private lands are scattered throughout the California Desert Conservation Area. Please respect private property. Some landowners aggressively protect their rights against trespass. PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER PERMISSION IS REQUIRED WHEN YOU OPERATING VEHICLES ON PRIVATE LAND.

**LEAVE GATES AS YOU FOUND THEM!**

**PARK YOUR VEHICLE NO MORE THAN 300 FEET FROM A VEHICLE ROAD WHEN CAMPING OR STOPPING.** Removal of gates is otherwise. Try to use existing campsites rather than making new ones.

Pets are permitted, but should be kept under control at all times in consideration of other visitors. Also, be aware that natural predators, such as coyotes, consume small pets opportunistically.

Dumping garbage or sewage from any trailer or other vehicle, except in places or areas specifically designated for that purpose, is prohibited. USE DUMP STATIONS AND POUR WASTE WATER INTO DESIGNATED WASTE LANDS. Avoid burning trash and never bury it! Try to follow this simple rule:

**PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT.**

When hunting or target shooting, please use common sense - KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AIMING YOUR WEAPON. Don't shoot from or across a road, over low hills, or within one half mile of developed recreation sites. Use cardboard or paper targets that can be cleaned up or removed. **DO NOT SHOOT GLASS BOTTLES.** Use well-shattered fragments of glass to injure others. Pick up all spent cartridges. Be aware of all state and local shooting regulations.

The relatively sparse vegetation of the desert may lead some to believe that fire danger is minimal. However, fire is a real threat to desert resources, as well as to the national and state economies. Many areas of desert land are lost to public lands to the death of livestock and economic hardship to the rancher. The BLM asks ALL visitors to public lands to respect the rights of livestock by following these rules:

1. **DO NOT HARASS** livestock on the open range.

2. **DO NOT CAMP** near water improvements as livestock will not water when people are nearby.

3. **DO NOT SHOOT** at, destroy, or vandalize range improvements.

4. **DO NOT ASSUME** that personal property, such as equipment or camping gear, left on the desert has been abandoned.

**YOUR SAFETY IS A PRIME CONCERN TO BLM. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT ALWAYS PROTECT YOU FROM DOING THINGS WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER YOURSELF. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE DANGERS WHICH EXIST IN THE DESERT. HAVE A SAFE TRIP!**

**MINES**

Abandoned mines and open mine shafts are common in the desert. Polonium gas within mines and open mine shafts is extremely toxic to humans. NEVER VENTURE INTO ANY OPEN SHAFT OR TUNNEL.

**TOXIC WASTE**

With the continued closure of toxic waste disposal sites, the illegal dump of hazardous waste has increased throughout the desert. Many of these materials are extremely toxic to humans. NEVER STAY CLOSE TO SUSPICIOUS DRUMS, BAGS, OR CONTAINERS OF UNKNOWN CONTENTS. NEVER VENTURE INTO ANY SUSPECTED HAZARDOUS WASTE TO THE BLM OR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

**WATER**

Throughout vast areas of the desert, services providing gasoline and water are few or non-existent. Don't count on filling your gas tank at the "next stop" on the map. FILL YOUR GASOLINE AND WATER CONTAINERS BEFORE VENTURING OUT INTO THE UNKNOWN.

**FIRE**

Flam fires in the desert are a common occurrence. Even though it may not be raining in your location, lightning can ignite in tall grass or brush. Do not handle anything resembling military explosives. THESE DEVICES ARE NOT TO BE PLAYED WITH! They were designed to be handled by trained personnel, and remain explosive for many years. Report any such device you observe to the BLM or the local sheriff's office.

**MILITARY EXPLOSIVES**

Large areas of the desert were used for bombing ranges and maneuvers by the U.S. armed forces. There are still many unexploded devices lying around to tempt the curiosity of the casual visitor. THESE DEVICES ARE NOT TO BE PLAYED WITH! They were designed to be handled by trained personnel, and remain explosive for many years. Report any such device you observe to the BLM or the local sheriff's office.

**WILDLIFE**

The desert is home for some types of wildlife that can be especially dangerous to humans. Avoid contact with scorpions, and black widow or brown recluse spiders. To avoid contact with these creatures, the users of their habits. **DON'T PUT YOUR HANDS OR FEET ANYWHERE YOU CAN'T SEE FIRST!** Scorpions and spiders can be found under rocks and boards. Bats are active at night. During the day they are active in the shade (humans), or sunning on rocks (insects).

**NOTES**

**TIPS FOR A TROUBLE-FREE VISIT**

Plant collection is allowed by permit only, except in these three situations where no permit is required:

- Small-scale collection of annual wildflowers for personal use.
- Small-scale collection of dead and dry plant material (other than firewood) for personal campfires.
- General collection of dead and down wood for on-site use.

Hobby rock collecting is permitted unless otherwise posted. Rocks, minerals, gemstones, and common invertebrate fossils may be removed by hand or with simple hand tools in reasonable quantities for personal collection. Removal for any commercial sale, in large amounts, or by means of mechanical equipment requires a permit.

Most types of mineral exploration or mining are governed by Federal regulations. THE REGULATIONS REGARDING WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ON OTHER PUBLIC LANDS. Please contact the closest BLM Area Office for more information regarding existing routes of travel, the use of exploring or the operation of mechanized earth-moving equipment.

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- Camping is limited to 14 days within any 28-day period. After 14 days, campers must relocate at least 25 miles from the previous site.
- Leave your campsite as clean or cleaner than you found it.
- Pack out all trash or refuse which you brought in.
- Campfires should follow the Fire Safety Guidelines.

**VEHICLE OPERATION**

We want you to enjoy your visit to the California Desert. So, to get the most out of your trip, make sure your vehicle is in good working condition and that you follow these simple rules when operating your vehicle on public lands:

- Observe all state and local regulations.
- Drive in a careful and responsible manner.

Keep within established speed limits. **DON'T DRIVE UNDER THE INFLUENCE** of alcohol, narcotics, or other dangerous drugs.

Operate your vehicle in a manner which will not cause unnecessary damage or disturbance to soil, vegetation, wildlife, livestock, or man-made improvements.

**BE PREPARED**

Travel in the desert can be an adventure. It can also be a disaster if a breakdown or a sudden change in weather catches you unprepared. The mountains, valleys, and lowlands of the California Desert can be harsh and unforgiving to someone without proper preparation. Acquire a knowledge of desert survival skills. Travel in pairs for safety in backcountry areas.

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE**

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**WHERE CAN I DRIVE OR RIDE?**

While the Bureau is responsible for regulating vehicle use on public lands, the responsibility for knowing, understanding, and complying with the regulations is yours.

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**CARRY PLENTY YOUR WATER:** For personal consumption. Ten gallons, used wisely, will last two people a weekend.

**DON'T RATION YOUR WATER:** It will only do you good if you drink it.

**MAKE SURE YOUR EQUIPMENT IS IN GOOD ORDER** before you leave. A flat spare tire or a water can with a leak won't do you much good.

**WATCH THE TEMPERATURE OF YOUR CAR MOTOR.** Motors are expensive. Do not "lug" your motor. Shift to a lower gear (with either standard or automatic transmission). This will also reduce the chance of an automatic transmission failure. **TURN YOUR AIR CONDITION OFF IF YOUR CAR STARTS TO HEAT.** Cool the motor if it bores.

**OPEN AREAS:** Open Areas are available for all forms of cross-country motorized vehicle use. Motorized vehicles may be operated anywhere within the posted boundaries of open areas. On this map, all Open Areas are shown with GREEN CROSS-HATCHING.

**WHILE USE IN LIMITED USE AREAS IS RESTRICTED** to approved routes of travel, thousands of miles of roads and trails are available for the use of off-road vehicles.

Within Limited Use Areas, routes of travel are designated as either OPEN, LIMITED, OR CLOSED for motorized vehicle use.

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**Limited Routes** are approved routes of travel available for motorized vehicle use subject to certain use restrictions. These restrictions include, but are not limited to, seasonal seasons of use and limitations on the number or types of vehicles allowed. Limited Routes are shown on this guide as RED LINES WITH DASHED GREEN HIGHLIGHTING.

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In addition, we ask that you observe the following rules:

- When building a campfire or using a flame device, clear flammable material down to mineral soil a minimum radius of FIVE FEET in order to prevent fire escape.
- Carry a shovel, hand trowel, or tool for use in preparing and extinguishing your campfire.
- NEVER leave your campfire unattended.
- NEVER build your campfire in high wind conditions.
- Extinguish your campfire completely before leaving it. Crown, stir, and feel. You can be held liable for the cost of suppression and damages caused by a wildfire that starts through negligence on your part.
- Have an approved spark arrester on your off-road vehicle.
- Avoid parking your vehicle above tall dry grasses or brush-covered areas. Do not use any devices equipped with catalytic converters.

**INTERAGENCY VISITOR CENTER (A-12)**

Located one mile south of Lone Pine on U.S. Highway 395, the Interagency Visitor Center is operated jointly by several Federal and State agencies. Here you can obtain information about national parks, national forests, and BLM public lands in the region, as well as highway maps and other descriptive information to any BLM office, Ranger on patrol, or nearest:

- Persons digging in and around archaeological sites, destroying your historical heritage.
- Persons unloading drums or containers.
- Persons dumping household trash, garbage, or sewage on public lands.
- Persons vandalizing or shooting at facilities, signs, fences, or water improvements.
- Persons intentionally setting fire to Joshua trees, shrubs, cacti, or other vegetation.
- Persons cutting down or digging up trees, shrubs, cacti, or other vegetation.
- Persons spray painting or defacing rocks, stones, or other natural features.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES OF A SUSPICIOUS NATURE!**

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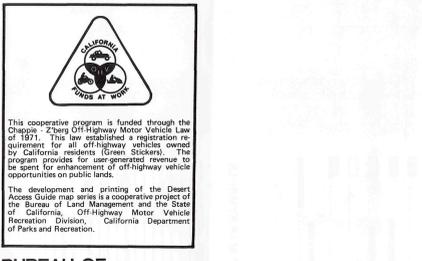
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- Persons unloading drums or containers.
- Persons dumping household trash, garbage, or sewage on public lands.
- Persons vandalizing or shooting at facilities, signs, fences, or water improvements.
- Persons intentionally setting fire to Joshua trees, shrubs, cacti, or other vegetation.
- Persons cutting down or digging up trees, shrubs, cacti, or other vegetation.
- Persons spray painting or defacing rocks, stones, or other natural features.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES OF A SUSPICIOUS NATURE!**

**NOTES**



**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

The vast open spaces of the California Desert is uniquely situated within a few hours drive of over 14 million people. In recognition of the special character created by this situation, the Congress established the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) in 1976. Approximately half of the desert's 25 million acres are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Congress directed the BLM to provide for the administration of public lands in the CDCA in a way that would protect for the wise use of its resources. The administrative California Desert District Office in Riverside, Public Lands and Range Management, manages the BLM's mineral, livestock grazing, wildlife, watershed, wilderness, and recreation.

The following is a list of BLM California Desert Offices for your information:

**CALIFORNIA DESERT INFORMATION CENTER**  
100 Cookwater Lane  
Barstow, CA 92311  
(619) 256-3581

**CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT OFFICE**  
3800 Cookwater Lane  
Riverside, CA 92507  
(619) 980-0000

**RIDGECREST RESOURCE AREA OFFICE**  
300 S. Richmond Road  
Ridgecrest, CA 93501  
(619) 375-7125