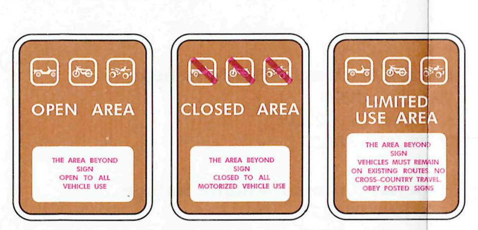
EXAMPLES OF AGENCY SIGNS

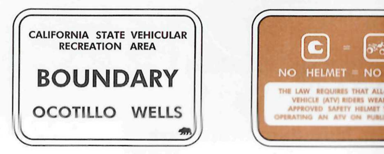


BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

USDA FOREST SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

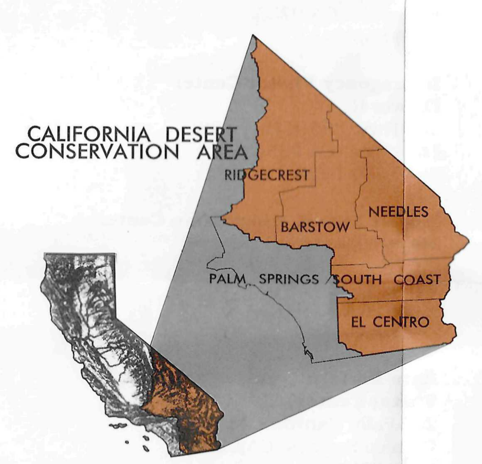


CALIFORNIA STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA

Help protect your public lands by observing posted OHV designations. Watch for OHV signs and read them carefully.

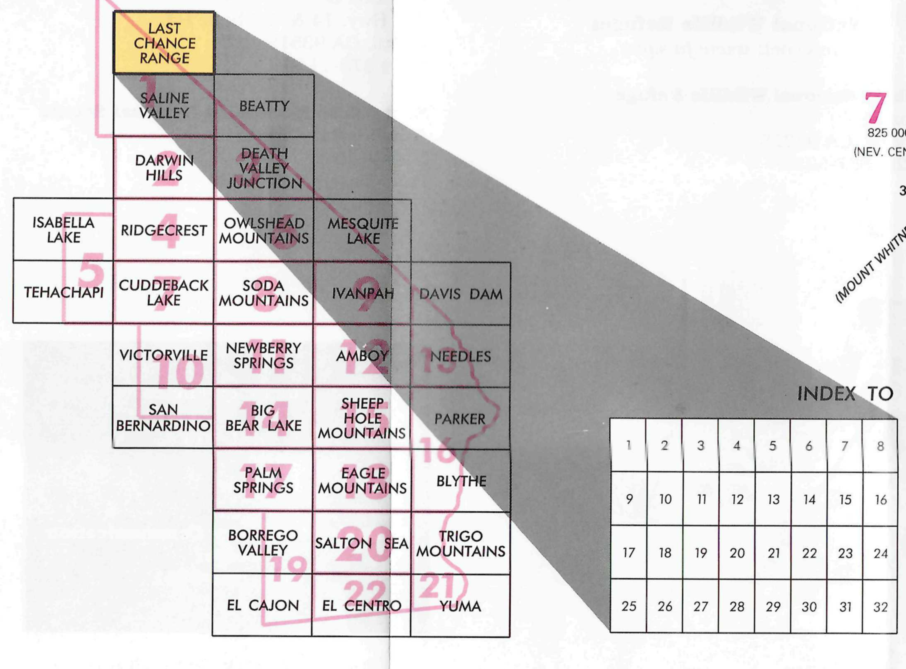
For more information contact the BLM, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, California State Park, or California State Motorized Vechicle Recreation Area Office (see back panel for address and phone numbers).

The Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, and National Park Service wilderness areas shown on this map were derived from the legislative maps, such as the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. For more information, contact the representative agency.



CALIFORNIA DESERT AREA ACCESS GUIDE
INDEX TO 1:100,000-SCALE MAPS

RED OUTLINE INDICATES PREVIOUS DESERT ACCESS GUIDES



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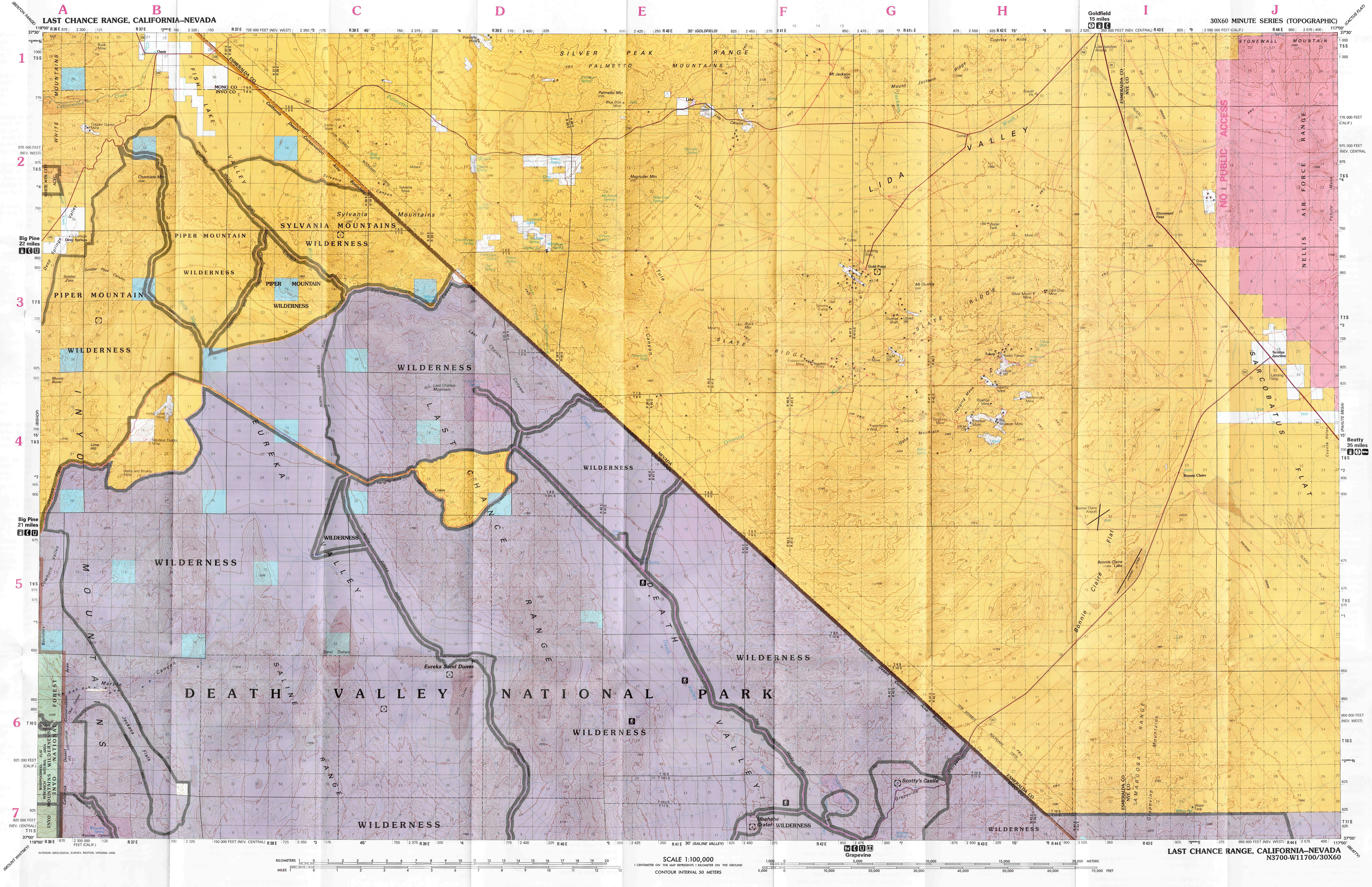
2 Sylvania Canyon	18 East of Joshua Flats
3 Sylvania Mountains	19 Hanging Rock Canyon
4 Magruder Mountain	20 Sand Spring
5 Lida	21 West of Gold Mountain
6 Mount Jackson	22 Gold Mountain
7 Stonewall Pass	23 Bonnie Claire Lake
8 Scottys Junction NE	24 Bonnie Claire
9 Soldier Pass	25 Waucoba Spring
10 Horse Thief Canyon	26 East of Waucoba Spring
11 Last Chance Mountain	27 Last Chance Range SW
12 Tule Canyon	28 Last Chance Range SE
13 Gold Point SW	29 Ubehebe Crater
14 Gold Point	30 Scottys Castle
15 Scottys Junction SW	31 Bonnie Claire SW
16 Scottys Junction	32 Bonnie Claire SE

LAST CHANCE RANGE, CALIFORNIA–NEVADA

30X60 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



INTERIOR--GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA--2000

SCALE 1:100,000
1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 1 KILOMETER ON THE GROUND
CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS

LAST CHANCE RANGE, CALIFORNIA–NEVADA
N3700-W11700/30X60

SPECIAL SYMBOL LEGEND

- Locked Gate
- Route / Trail Marker
  - Bureau of Land Management (338)
  - Forest Service (FS264)
  - County (223)
  - National Park Service (22)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND STATUS LEGEND

Public Lands (Administered by Bureau of Land Management)	
Oregon & California Lands (O&C) Coos Bay Wagon Road (CBWR)	NONE
National Forest	
National Grasslands	NONE
National Parks and Monuments	
Indian Lands or Reservations	NONE
Military Reservations and Withdrawals Corps of Engineers	
National Wildlife Refuges (Administered by Fish & Wildlife Service)	NONE
Bankhead–Jones Land Use Lands (L.U. Lands)	NONE
Patented Lands	
State Lands	
Bureau of Reclamation	NONE
Power Withdrawals and Classifications	
Federal Agency Protective Withdrawals	NONE
Public Water Reserves	
Department of Energy	NONE
Radio and Air Facilities	NONE
Miscellaneous	NONE
State, County, City; Wildlife, Park and Outdoor Recreation Areas	NONE
Acquired Lands (By Administering Agency)	NONE

POINTS OF INTEREST (SEE BACKSIDE FOR INFORMATION)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

RECREATIONAL SYMBOL LEGEND

Information	Restrooms
Picnic Area	Drinking Water
Hiking	Food Service
Interpretive Trail	Gasoline Station
Scenic Area	Telephone
Horseback Trail	Lodging
Scenic Geology	Ranger Station
Point of Interest	Historic Site

BLM SPECIAL EDITION 2000
SURFACE MANAGEMENT STATUS
DESERT ACCESS GUIDE

California
Desert District
Last Chance Range

1:100,000–Scale topographic map showing:

- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Contours and elevations in meters
- Recreation sites
- Partial coverage of former desert access guide #1 Eureka–Saline

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Edited and published by the Bureau of Land Management National Applied Resource Sciences Center, Denver, Colorado in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management California State Office. Planimetry partially revised by BLM from various source material. Revised information not field checked.

Base map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey. Compiled from USGS 1:24,000 and 1:62,500–scale topographic maps dated 1957–1982, and from advance materials. Partially revised from aerial photographs taken 1980 and other source data. Revised information not field checked. Map edited 1985.

Projection and 10,000–meter grid, zone 11: Universal Transverse Mercator. 25,000–foot grid ticks based on California coordinate system, zone 4 and Nevada coordinate system, west and central zones. 1927 North American Datum.

Land lines are omitted in areas of extensive tract surveys. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

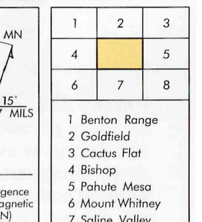
CONVERSION TABLE

METERS	FEET
750	2461
1000	3281
1250	4101
1500	4921
1750	5741
2000	6562
2250	7382
2500	8202

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM



UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1985 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1 Benton Range
2 Goldfield
3 Cactus Flat
4 Bishop
5 Pahute Mesa
6 Mount Whitney
7 Saline Valley
8 Beatty

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825
AND
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, CO 80225

ISBN 0-607-94710-1

20% TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light duty, hard, or aggregate surface
- Streets, roads graded/drained/natural surface
- Rough bladed or two-tracked surface
- Trail (foot, pack, bicycle, or as labeled)
- Route marker: Interstate; U.S.; State

WELCOME TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT

Within its 25-million-acre expanse—an area the size of Ohio—lies a land of extreme contrasts. From the relatively high Mojave Desert of Joshua trees and creosote to the lower Colorado Desert of native fan palms, smoke trees and ocotillo, the California Desert offers a multitude of recreational opportunities. Whether you have come to hike or backpack, tour by auto or four-wheel drive, enjoy your off-highway vehicle (OHV), or ride horses or mountain bikes, please **Tread Lightly!** on the desert and **Leave No Trace** of your visit.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Contact your local land management office when planning your trip to the desert. They can provide you with maps and any needed permits, as well as up-to-date information on seasonal and emergency closures, weather and road conditions. When traveling in the desert, please keep in mind the following:

- ❑ These maps do not show the entire desert route network.
- ❑ Road conditions and hazards are not marked.
- ❑ Signs on the ground take precedence over information on the maps.
- ❑ Boundaries are graphic representations only and are not shown to scale.

Not all land in the desert is public. Private land is scattered throughout the California Desert. Please respect private property and leave all gates as you found them.

RECREATION INFORMATION

Whatever outdoor recreation activity you enjoy, the following information will help to assure safe and enjoyable visits for everyone.

Campfires

To protect sparse vegetation and the fragile desert ecosystem, bring firewood from home. Regulations vary among agencies and seasons. Always check with the local office before building a campfire.

California Fire Permit

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): A campfire permit is required at all times. A free permit is available at all BLM offices and visitor centers. Open fires may be banned completely during periods of high fire danger. Outside of existing campfire rings, please use a metal fire pan. Firewood collection is restricted to down and dead materials.

National Park Service (NPS): In Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, campfires are permitted in designated campgrounds. Where fireplaces are not provided, fires are restricted to portable stoves. In the Mojave National Preserve, open campfires are limited to existing campfire rings or a metal fire pan. The collection of wood, living or dead, anywhere within NPS lands is prohibited.

California State Parks (CSP): Open ground fires are not allowed. Campfires are allowed in fire rings found in designated campsites and day-use areas. Portable grills may be used, but ashes and coals may not be dumped on the ground; use the fire rings or carry them out.

California State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA): Open ground fires are allowed. Use of campfire rings is encouraged. **Leave No Trace** and pick up any debris (nails, ashes, and coals). Bring your own firewood. Dead wood may not be gathered.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS): Campfire permits are required year-round. Fire restrictions vary depending on the level of fire danger. Contact a USFS office to find out current information.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Campfires are not permitted on most National Wildlife Refuges.

Camping

A wide range of camping opportunities are available in the California Desert, from developed campgrounds to primitive backcountry. Regulations vary among agencies and seasons. Contact the area you wish to visit for more information. Remember to **Leave No Trace** of your visit.

BLM: There are many developed campgrounds in the California desert. BLM also allows dispersed camping and has a number of Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs) for "snowbirds" that flock to the desert in the winter months. For more specific information, contact any BLM office or visitor center for a Recreation Opportunity Guide (ROG).

NPS: In National Parks, camping is generally limited to 14 days; however, there are exceptions. NPS also offers backcountry camping. Contact each individual park for details on their camping opportunities and reservations.

CSP: Camping in most State Parks is permitted in designated areas. Contact the park you intend to visit to learn more about their camping facilities. Some parks offer family and group campsites. Campsite reservations can be made year-round by calling DESTINET at (800) 444-7275.

SVRA: You can camp anywhere in the Ocotillo Wells SVRA. There are several tables, ramadas, and fire rings scattered throughout the SVRA for your convenience.

USFS: The USFS offers developed, family, group, undeveloped, and remote camping opportunities. For specific information on camping in USFS areas, contact the nearest USFS office. To make reservations at popular campgrounds, call 1-800-280-CAMP.

USFWS: Camping is permitted at some National Wildlife Refuges. Contact the USFWS for more information.

Vehicle Travel

Due to diverse topography, plants, soils and land ownership in California, off-highway vehicle (OHV) regulations vary from area to area. Flash floods are common in the desert, so avoid crossing washes, and wait a few hours after a heavy rain. Check with the appropriate land management agency before you visit an area.

BLM: All BLM-managed public lands in the California Desert are designated as one of three vehicle-use categories:

- ❑ **Open Areas** are open to vehicle use anywhere within the posted boundaries. Travel off established routes (cross-country) is permitted.
- ❑ **Closed Areas** are closed to all motorized vehicle use.
- ❑ **Limited Areas** are open to motorized vehicle use, subject to posted restrictions. No cross-country travel is permitted in Limited Areas.

NPS: Only street-legal vehicles may be operated within NPS-managed lands. All off-road travel is prohibited.

CSP: Only street-legal vehicles may be operated, and only on designated roads.

SVRA: Cross-country travel is permitted only in designated, open OHV areas. In all other areas, vehicles are limited to approved routes of travel.

USFS: OHV riding areas are designated trails and routes. Ride responsibly and follow signs.

USFWS: Some refuge roads and trails are closed to motorized vehicles.

Hunting and Target Shooting

The majority of public lands managed by the BLM and USFS are open to hunting. All California State laws regarding hunting, including the possession of a valid state hunting license, are in effect on these lands. Hunting opportunities exist for migratory birds, upland game, fur-bearing mammals and big game, except where prohibited by state or local laws or posted otherwise. Questions regarding these opportunities should be directed to the local land management field office. For information on hunting or fishing regulations, call the California Department of Fish and Game at (562) 590-5132.

BLM: The shooting or discharge of firearms is generally permitted on BLM-managed lands unless posted otherwise, as long as such activity is permitted by state and local laws. Shooters are prohibited from destroying any natural features, including cactus and other plants. A firearm may not be discharged within 150 yards of any developed area.

NPS: The possession of a firearm or air-gun is prohibited unless it is unloaded and cased or otherwise packed to prevent use. Target shooting is illegal in the Mojave National Preserve, but hunting is allowed and is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game.

CSP: Hunting or the possession of loaded firearms is prohibited in most units of the State Park system.

SVRA: Possession of loaded firearms is prohibited.

USFS: Target shooting and "plinking" are permitted in some areas and are regulated by county ordinances and Federal regulations.

USFWS: Some National Wildlife Refuges allow hunting during hunting season. Target shooting is not allowed on National Wildlife Refuges. Call USFWS for current information.

Pets

Pets are welcome in all areas if kept on a leash. National Park and California State Park regulations are strictly enforced. Remember to clean up after your pet. When considering leaving pets in vehicles or trailers, be aware that temperatures can rise quickly to lethal levels in the summer heat.

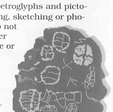
PROTECTED RESOURCES

Historic and Archaeological Sites

The California Desert possesses thousands of historic and archaeological sites. The petroglyphs and intaglios left by the earliest Indian inhabitants, the trails of early Spanish explorers, the vestiges of mining camps and roads used by later settlers, and the remnants of General George Patton's WWII desert warfare training areas are just a few of the sites that provide a rich and important legacy of more than 10,000 years of human history in North America. Visit these sites and reflect on the forces and events that have shaped our nation and our personal lives.

Remember, historic and archaeological sites are fragile, non-renewable resources. Unfortunately, many of these sites have been damaged by casual collecting, as well as by deliberate looting and vandalism. It is illegal to remove artifacts or other objects of antiquity from public lands. Observe sites from a distance, take care not to disturb the surface of a site, and do not remove artifacts or other objects. Help preserve and protect this legacy so that future generations may also visit, enjoy and learn about our heritage.

- ❑ Enjoy rock art (petroglyphs and pictographs) by viewing, sketching or photographing it. Do not use chalk or other materials to trace or otherwise touch rock art. Direct contact can accelerate the disintegration of these ancient figures. Local rock art societies and amateur archaeological organizations are good places to learn about recording and protecting rock art.



- ❑ Archaeological and cultural sites are often places of ancestral, religious or cultural importance to local Native American tribes and should be approached with respect. Many tribes in the California Desert have museums or public information centers; contact them to learn more about their history and culture.
- ❑ The California Desert has remnants of old mining camps, stagecoach stops and homesteads, as well as WWII-era military camps and training areas. Please approach these sites with caution. An abandoned mine may pose hazards, including dangerous shafts and tunnels and the remains of hazardous chemicals, such as mercury and cyanide, that may have been used in milling processes. Military training areas still have unexploded land mines and ammunition. If you encounter any of these hazards, please stay clear and notify local law enforcement or a BLM Ranger.
- ❑ Historic and archaeological sites are protected by law. Severe civil and criminal penalties will be brought against individuals who damage or otherwise harm these resources. Conviction can carry criminal penalties of up to 2 years in prison and/or $250,000 in fines, as well as civil penalties such as vehicle confiscation or site restoration costs.

Wilderness

The 1964 Wilderness Act defines wilderness as areas where the Earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." There are 8 million acres of wilderness in the California Desert. These Federal lands are administered by the BLM, NPS, USFS and USFWS for the preservation and protection of their natural conditions. Wilderness within California State Parks is managed similar to Federal wilderness. The following guidelines will help maintain the wilderness values for you and other visitors.

- ❑ Use **"Leave No Trace"** techniques when preparing for your wilderness visit, traveling through wilderness, and camping in wilderness.

Follow Leave No Trace (**LNT**) guidelines to minimize the impacts of your next wilderness visit.

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Properly dispose of what you can't pack out
- Leave what you find
- Minimize use and impacts of fire

For more LNT information call 1-800-332-4100.

Responsible land use depends more on your attitude and awareness than on rules and regulations.

Be sure to **Tread Lightly!** by:

- Travel only where permitted;
- Respect the rights of others;
- Educate yourself;
- Avoid driving throught wet areas and areas easily scarred by churning wheels;
- Drive responsibly to protect the environment.

- ❑ Familiarize yourself with rules that apply to the specific wilderness area that you intend to visit. Motorized equipment and mechanical transport, such as chainsaws, motor vehicles and bicycles, are prohibited in all wilderness areas. Permits for visitation or use of pack animals are required in some wilderness areas. The managing agency is the best source of current information.

Desert Tortoise and other Threatened and Endangered Species

All California residents and visitors are responsible for learning about and respecting regulations that protect desert wildlife and resources. You can be a part of our efforts to reduce the decline in desert tortoise and other threatened and endangered species populations. These species are fully protected by state and Federal laws and must not be disturbed, collected, killed or harassed. If you see someone take a tortoise from the desert, please notify CALTIP (800) 952-5400 or any law enforcement agency.

DESERT SAFETY TIPS

Travel in the desert can be an adventure. It can also be a disaster if a breakdown or sudden change in weather catches you unprepared. Harsh weather conditions can turn a desert outing into a tragedy. Acquire a knowledge of desert survival skills. Travel in pairs for safety in backcountry areas.

Plan Your Trip Carefully

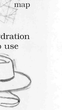
Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. Stick with your itinerary and let them know when you get back. Do not travel in the desert backcountry without taking along appropriate maps, such as 7.5-minute U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) topographic maps, which show land contours and specific features.

Learn how to use a topographic map and a compass before you hike cross-country or on trails that are not well defined. It is easy to become disoriented in the desert where many landmarks and rock formations look similar.

Portion of topographic map

Dress Properly

Wear layered clothing to slow dehydration and minimize exposure. Be sure to use good hiking shoes, loose-fitting natural fiber clothing, a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Desert temperatures can reach over 90°F and drop below 50°F in one day. Summer temperatures can exceed 125°F in some locations. Winter temperatures can often drop below freezing.



Carry Plenty of Water

There are no dependable sources of water within the California Desert. **A gallon of water per person, per day is the absolute minimum you should carry.** When planning a hike, remember that water weighs approximately 8 pounds per gallon. When the water is half gone, it is time to turn back. Be sure to bring extra water for your vehicle.

DO NOT RATION WATER: it will only do you good if you drink it.

Mine Shafts and Tunnels

For your safety, avoid entering mine shafts or tunnels. They are extremely dangerous due to unstable walls and odorless toxic fumes. Entering mines can also disturb wildlife (bats and mice) living in them.

Vehicles

Keep your vehicle well maintained. Carry extra water and food, a shovel, tools, a tow strap, flares and blankets. Check road conditions and beware of flash floods. If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle; it is much easier to spot a vehicle than a person on foot.

Backcountry Permits

A backcountry permit may be required for overnight camping or travel. Check with the appropriate office for the area you will be in.

Fire

One of the last thoughts on any desert visitor's mind is the danger of wildfire. Many people think the relatively sparse plant cover means the desert does not burn. But a desert fire, if conditions are right, can be just as dangerous and destructive as wildfire in brushlands.

When driving off maintained roads, avoid stopping in tall grass or brush. Hot catalytic converters or exhaust pipes can ignite dry material and cause a wildfire.

All fireworks are prohibited on BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS and State Parks land.

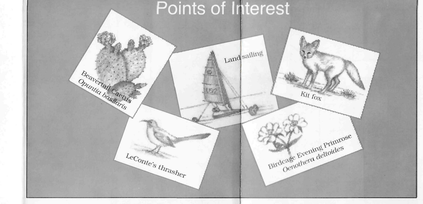
MILITARY EXPLOSIVES

Large areas of the desert have been and are still used as bombing ranges and training arenas by the U.S. Armed Forces. There are still many unexploded devices lying around. Do not handle anything resembling military explosives. Report any such device you observe to your local law enforcement office.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

With the continued closure of toxic waste disposal sites, the illegal dumping of hazardous waste has increased throughout the desert. Many of these materials are extremely toxic to humans. To avoid harm, stay clear of suspicious drums, bags or chemical odors. Visible fumes, dead plants or animals in the immediate vicinity, and sudden onset of illness or skin irritation are signs of imminent danger. Report any suspected hazardous waste to your local law enforcement office.

Desert Access Guide
Last Chance Range
Points of Interest



① Piper Mountain Wilderness

(*See map, A-3*) Portions of the Inyo, Sylvania, and Piper Mountains, for which this wilderness takes its name, can be found within this 72,575- acre area. Alluvial fans cover large portions of the eastern side of the wilderness, with plains and hills also part of the landscape. This scenic area includes trails that are ideal for hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and photography.

Desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, chukar, quail, and coyote are all known to make this wilderness home. Sagebrush and juniper- pinyon woodland are the most common vegetation, with conifer trees at the higher elevations. One of the northernmost stands of Joshua trees grows at the base of the Inyo Mountains within this wilderness.

Piper Mountain Wilderness is located in Inyo County, 15 miles east of Bishop, California. Access is via State Highway 168, about 20 miles north and east from Big Pine on the Big Pine- Death Valley Road, about 18 miles east and south of Big Pine.

② Sylvania Mountains Wilderness

(*See map, C-3*) Located close to the California-Nevada border, the terrain within the Sylvania Mountains Wilderness starts low on the desert floor, with the gradually rolling hills on the western boundary giving way to rough and mountainous rock rising nearly 8,000 feet on the eastern boundary. The Last Chance Range, Piper Mountain, and Fish Lake Valley can all be viewed from hiking and horseback riding trails in this wilderness, providing a sense of vastness.

Sagebrush scrub grows at the lower elevations and pinyon-juniper thrive along the mountain peaks. Desert bighorn sheep roam this 17,820-acre wilderness, along with deer and chukar.

Sylvania Mountains Wilderness lies within Inyo County, 30 miles east of Bishop. Access from the north is via State Highway 168, about 32 miles north and east of Big Pine and along F-0796; from the south via Big Pine- Death Valley Road about 34 miles east of Big Pine and along North Eureka Road (F-1373).

③ Death Valley Wilderness

(*See map, C-6*) The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 not only created Death Valley National Park, but also designated nearly 95% of the park — over 3.5 million acres — as wilderness. Death Valley is the largest wilderness unit in the contiguous United States.

This designation as wilderness ensures that a large portion of the fragile Mojave Desert ecosystem will remain unchanged. Rare and endangered plants, as well as cultural and significant historical features, are protected within wilderness boundaries.

Several hundred miles of paved and dirt roads provide access to this wilderness, which ranges from elevations of 282 feet below sea level to the 11,049-foot summit of Telescope Peak. The area is a scenic setting for hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing. Wilderness explorers can look forward to spotting an elusive desert bighorn sheep in the rugged canyons or a rare desert pupfish in an isolated spring.

④ Ubehebe Crater

(*See map, F-7*) At the north end of Death Valley National Park, Ubehebe Crater is an emphatic expression of a geologically restless land. A few thousand years ago, a massive explosion ripped a giant hole in the northern flank of Tin Mountain, creating a crater that is over 700 feet deep and half a mile wide.

Ubehebe Crater is surrounded by about a dozen smaller satellite craters. This volcanic field was formed when magma (molten rock) rose so close to the surface that it encountered groundwater; the groundwater was turned to steam, and the resulting explosions literally blew the top off the overlying rocks, creating a pockmarked landscape.

This unusual landscape is worthy of exploration and offers interesting hiking opportunities. The trail to the bottom of Ubehebe Crater is a fun romp through loose rubble. However, the laborious climb out can be exhausting. A gentler half-mile trail can be followed along the rim of Ubehebe to Little Hebe Crater.

Although older than Ubehebe, Little Hebe maintains a very distinctive form. In the walls of Little Hebe, the observant geologic detective will find a variety of volcanic material — fallout debris from Ubehebe and volcanic spatter debris connected with the explosion of Little Hebe. After exploring Little Hebe, you can continue a loop walk for another mile around the rim of Ubehebe.

Located 6 miles west of Scotty's Castle, Ubehebe Crater is accessible by a paved road extending 40 miles northwest from California Highway 190. This road leads to a parking and viewing area on the western edge of Ubehebe Crater.

⑤ Scotty's Castle

(*See map, G-6*) Visitors to Scotty's Castle always wonder why the Spanish-style mansion and complex were constructed in a canyon on the outskirts of the notorious Death Valley. The explanation is even stranger than most expect.

The instigator of the building project was Walter Scott, ex- performer of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and prospector. Also known as Death Valley Scotty, he was best at mining the pockets of wealthy eastern investors. He would flamboyantly spend their money in western ways, claiming that the source of the funds was his gold mine.

Scott's most steadfast investors were the Johnsons, a millionaire couple from Chicago. Albert Johnson became suspicious of Scott's activities, after visiting him several times and never seeing a gold mine. However, Johnson found riches of another sort; he enjoyed Scotty's outrageousness and the wilderness of Death Valley.

By 1922, the Johnson's started construction of a desert vacation home that Scott boasted was built with income from his secret mine. Tourists and reporters of the day started calling it Scotty's Castle and the name stuck, even though the real financing behind the structure eventually became known publicly.

As tourism grew in Death Valley, the Johnsons ended up operating their home as a bed-and-breakfast and also conducted tours through the mansion. After the wealthy couple died in the 1940's, the non-profit Gospel Foundation was charged with operating the business and taking care of Scotty until his demise in 1954.

The Foundation sold the castle to the National Park Service in 1970 so that it would be preserved and cared for well into the future. Park rangers in period clothing present 1939 living history tours of the castle every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tours last 50 minutes and tickets can be purchased on the grounds.

Tour reservations may be made for bus groups by contacting the castle at (760) 786-2392. Castle grounds are open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and include hiking trails and interpretive signs. Onsite facilities includes an exhibit hall, bookstore, gift shop, snack bar, and gas pumps, open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Scotty's Castle is accessible via the Scotty's Castle Road that leads north from Highway 190 in Death Valley National Park between Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells, or by traveling west on Nevada Highway 267.

⑥ Eureka Dunes

(*See map, C-6*) In a remote basin in northern Death Valley National Monument stand the Eureka Dunes. Rising 700 feet above the valley floor, these sand dunes are the second tallest in the United States; only the Great Sand Dunes of Colorado are taller. As warm global temperatures caused Ice Age lakes in the basins of the Death Valley region to dry up over 10,000 years ago, wind pushed sand left behind from ancient lake shores against the mountains, creating towering dunes.

Dry sand avalanching down the face of the highest dunes generates a humming sound resembling a distant airplane. The sand grains' exceptionally rounded shape and thin coating of silica may contribute to this "booming dune" phenomenon.

This isolated "island" of sand has provided a specialized habitat conducive to the evolution of unique life forms. Shifting sands challenge the dune's wildlife residents by either burying them alive or blowing away to expose roots and dens.

Despite the landscape's parched appearance, sand dunes absorb occasional rainfall like sponges. These factors, plus isolation from other dunes, has led to the evolution of plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world.

Although native species have adapted to live in harmony with this unstable environment, but the spread of exotic and invasive plant species such as Russian thistle, or "tumbleweed," and off-highway vehicle use from the 1970's caused impacts leading to the need for protection of the plants such as the Eureka Dunes evening primrose and dunes grasses, which are federally listed as endangered species.

We invite you to visit the dunes and respect the regulations. Off-highway vehicle use and other activities that damage flora and fauna are prohibited. Please take responsibility in choosing activities that have the least impact on the land.

Eureka Dunes are accessible by most standard vehicles via the Big Pine- Death Valley Road. Drive about 44 miles on rough dirt road from Ubehebe Crater Road in the park or 49 miles (28 miles of it is rough dirt road) from the town of Big Pine in Owens Valley.

⑦ Gold Point, Nevada

(*See map, G-3*) Gold Point was originally founded in 1868 as Lime Point, so named by silver-ore miners after an outcropping of lime located a few hundred yards west of the present-day townsite. Like many other mining tent cities, this small collection of tents and miners soon disappeared into the untold pages of history.

In this desolate area, the only available supplies were located 250 miles north at Unionville, a major mining town northeast of present-day Lovelock. At the time Lime Point was first inhabited, freight coast over $100/ton and was delivered by horse-drawn wagon. The closest water source was in Lida Valley, a day's ride on horseback.

Around 1880, better silver outcroppings were discovered, with silver selling for almost $1.00 per ounce. The scarcity of water meant the ore had to be shipped to nearby Lida for milling. The huge cost of shipping ore to Lida and milling it, coupled with the remoteness of any railroads, led by 1882 to virtual abandonment of operations and the town of Lime Point.

In 1905, about a half mile southeast of the old tent city of Lime Point, the Great Western Mine began operations. After discovery of gold and high-grade silver ore known as "horn silver," a feverish stampede developed and the new camp of Horn Silver was founded. At its peak of prosperity, the town had a population of 1,000 people, over 225 wood-framed buildings, a newspaper, and a post office. The railroad never puffed smoke any closer than 15 miles to the east at Ralston, where a stage ride to Horn Silver cost $8.00.

By 1930, more gold than silver was being mined and the town's name was changed to Gold Point. Mining efforts ceased when the United States entered World War II. Post-war mining resumed on a smaller scale until they finally turned off the lights and closed the doors in the 1960's.

Today, the abandoned camp is a lesson in history, featuring 50 original buildings still standing, including the home of former Nevada state senator Harry Wiley. The old post office serves as a museum and there are many old mining camps to explore within a short distance. No facilities or services are available.

Gold Point is located 30 miles southwest of the town of Goldfield on U.S. Highway 95. From Las Vegas, go north on U.S. Highway 95 for 165.5 miles to Lida Junction (15 miles north of Scotty's Junction). Turn west at State Route (S.R.) 266 and go 7.5 miles to the Gold Point turn-off. Go south and travel 8 miles along the graded dirt road to Gold Point.

Notes

WHO MANAGES THE DESERT

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) was created by Congress in 1976 and includes a long-term land use plan for the management of public lands. The mission of the BLM is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. BLM offices are maintained in Riverside, Barstow, El Centro, Needles, Palm Springs and Ridgecrest.

National Park Service (NPS): The NPS manages Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks as well as the Mojave National Preserve. All units of the NPS are managed to "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." National Park designation implies a large, spectacular natural place having a wide variety of attributes. National Preserves have similar qualities, but also allow hunting or other commercial uses.

Department of Defense (DOD): Large areas of the California Desert are under the management of the military: the Marine Corps Training Base at Twentynine Palms, Chocolate Mountains Gunnery Range, El Centro Naval Air Facility Ranges, the Naval Weapons Center at China Lake, Edwards Air Force Base and the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin.

California State Parks (CSP): The California Department of Parks and Recreation manages diverse cultural, historical and natural resources for posterity while offering an abundance of recreational and educational opportunities. In the desert, these include Red Rock Canyon, Saddleback Butte, Anza-Borrego Desert, the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve, Mitchell Caverns Natural Preserve, Salton Sea, Picacho State Recreation Area and the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Area.

U. S. Forest Service (USFS): The USFS benefits Americans in many ways through management of the National Forests and Grasslands, forestry research, and cooperation with forest managers on state and private land. It offers a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities and manages special areas. The Cleveland, San Bernardino, Angeles, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests surround the California Desert.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): The USFWS manages a system of land and waters for the conservation of fish and wildlife and associated ecosystems. National Wildlife Refuges offer recreational opportunities to the public, including wildlife observation, nature photography, hiking, fishing and hunting. Refuges in the California Desert include Cibola, Havasu, Imperial, and Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuges.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rangers and other staff are in the California Desert to help you have an enjoyable and safe visit. Contact any of the offices listed below for site-specific information and assistance.

Bureau of Land Management
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov*
www.nv.blm.gov
az.www.az.blm.gov

California Desert District Office
6221 Box Springs Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 697-5200
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/cdd*

Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6000
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/barstow*

Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 391-6000
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield*

Bishop Field Office
785 N. Main Street, Suite E
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-4881
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/bishop*

El Centro Field Office
1661 S. 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 337-4400
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro*

Needles Field Office
101 W. Spikes Road
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-7000
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/needles*

Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office
690 W. Garnet Avenue
P.O. Box 2000
North Palm Springs, CA 92258
(760) 251-4800
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings*

Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 384-5400
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest*

Kingman Field Office
2475 Beverly Ave
Kingman, AZ 86401-3629
(520) 692-4400

Lake Havasu Field Office
2610 Sweetwater Ave
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406-9071
(520) 505-1200

Yuma Field Office
2555 Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365
(520) 317-3200
Internet: *www.az.blm.gov/yuma*

Battle Mountain Field Office
50 Bastian Road
Battle Mountain, NV 89820-1420
(702) 635-4000
Internet: *www.nv.blm.gov/Battle_Mtn*

Las Vegas Field Office
4765 West Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89108
(702) 647-5023
Internet: *www.nv.blm.gov/Las_Vegas*

National Park Service
Internet: *www.nps.gov*

Death Valley National Park
Death Valley, CA 92328
(760) 786-2331
Internet: *www.nps.gov/deva*

Joshua Tree National Park
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
(760) 367-1260
Internet: *www.nps.gov/jotr*

Mojave National Preserve
222 E. Main Street, Suite 202
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 255-8800
Internet: *www.nps.gov/moja*

Lake Mead National Recreation Area
601 Nevada Highway
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 293-8907
Internet: *www.nps.gov/lame*

U. S. Forest Service
Internet: *www.r5.psufs.gov*

Angeles National Forest
701 North Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006
(818) 574-1613

Cleveland National Forest
10845 Rancho Bernardo Road
Rancho Bernardo, CA 92127
(760) 673-6180

Inyo National Forest
873 N. Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 878-2400

San Bernardino National Forest
1824 S. Commercecenter Circle
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(661) 383-5588

Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257
(209) 784-1500

National Wildlife Refuges
Internet: *www.fws.gov*

Cibola National Wildlife Refuge
Box AP
Blythe, CA 92225
(520) 857-3253

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 3009
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-3853

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 72217
Yuma, AZ 85365
(520) 783-3371

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge
P.O.Box 6290
Yuma, AZ 85364
(520) 783-7861

Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge
906 W. Sinclair
Calipatria, CA 92233
(760) 348-5278

California State Parks
Internet: *www.ceres.ca.gov/dpr*

Angeles District - Mojave Desert Sector
43779 15th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534
(805) 942-0662

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
(760) 767-5311

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
12551 Hwy. 79
Descanso, CA 91916
(760) 765-0755

Mitchell Caverns Natural Preserve
P.O. Box 1
Essex, CA 92332
(760) 928-2586

Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area
P.O.Box 360
5172 Hwy. 78
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
(760) 767-5391

Palomar Mountain State Park
P.O.Box 175
Palomar, CA 92060
(760) 742-3462

Picacho State Recreation Area
P.O.Box 848
4900 Picacho Road
Winterhaven, CA 92283
(760) 393-3052

Salton Sea State Recreation Area
100-225 State Park Road
North Shore, CA 92254
(760) 393-3059

Visitor Centers

CA Welcome Center
2790 Tanger Way Suite 106
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 253-4813

Big Bear Discovery Center
North Shore/Highway 38
P.O. Box 66
Fawnskin, CA 92333
(909) 866-3437

Interagency Visitor Center
Drawer R
Jct. Hwy. 395 & Hwy 136
Lone Pine, CA 93545
(760) 876-6222

Mojave Desert Information Center
Mojave National Preserve
P.O. Box 241
72157 Baker Blvd.
Baker, CA 92309
(760) 733-4040

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center
200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
(760) 767-5311

Mojave Desert Multi-Agency Information Center
California State Parks
43779 15th Street West
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 942-0662

Jawbone Station
P.O. Box D
Jct. Hwy. 14 & Jawbone Rd.
Cantil, CA 93519
(760) 373-1146

Santa Rosa Mountains National Scenic Area Visitor Center
51-500 Hwy. 74
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 862-9984

For Emergencies

DIAL 911

or

Federal Interagency Communication Center
(909) 383-5651