EXAMPLES OF AGENCY SIGNS

OPEN AREA — CLOSED AREA — LIMITED USE AREA

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ROAD RESTRICTED TO STREET LEGAL VEHICLES ONLY. NO GREEN STICKER VEHICLES — DESIGNATED VEHICLE ROUTE

USDA FOREST SERVICE

NPS BOUNDARY — WILDERNESS BOUNDARY — NO MOTOR VEHICLES

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RESTRICTED AREA: HIGHWAY LEGAL VEHICLES ONLY — RESTRICTED AREA: NO MOTOR VEHICLES ON THIS WATER — RESTRICTED AREA: REMAIN ON DESIGNATED ROADS 4 WHEEL DRIVE RECOMMENDED

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

CALIFORNIA STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA — BOUNDARY — OCOTILLO WELLS

NO HELMET = NO RIDE — THE LAW REQUIRES THAT ALL RIDERS WEAR HELMETS. SEE YOUR OHV OFFICIAL SAFETY HELMET GUIDE CONTAINING DO'S AND DON'TS.

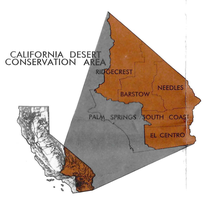
CALIFORNIA STATE VEHICULAR RECREATION AREA

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 Vehicle 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 CONSERVATION AREA



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

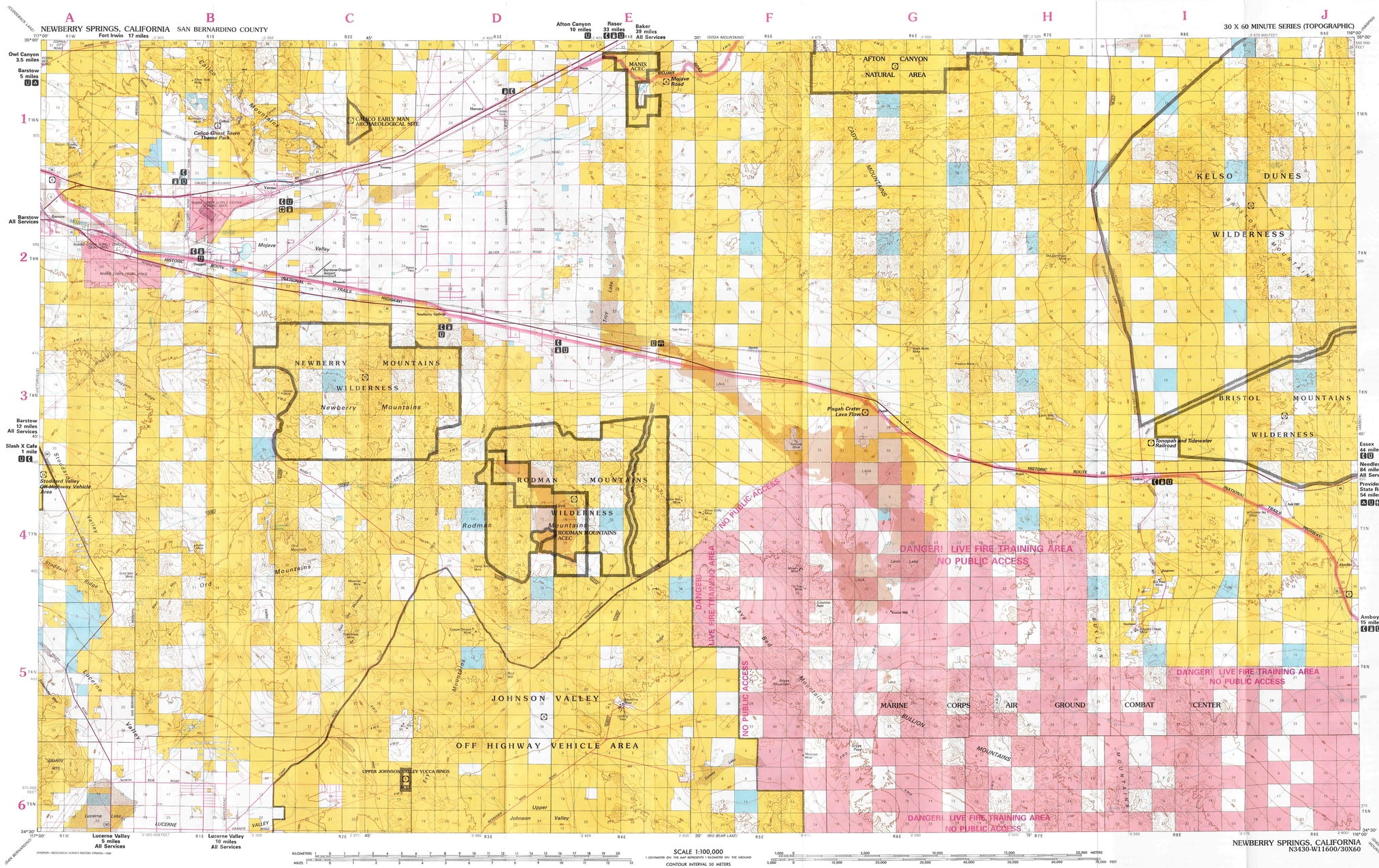
RED OUTLINE INDICATES PREVIOUS DESERT ACCESS GUIDES

	LAST CHANCE RANGE			
	SALINE VALLEY	BEATTY		
	DARWIN FALLS	DEATH VALLEY JUNCTION		
ISABELLA LAKE	RIDGECREST	OWLSHEAD MOUNTAINS	MESQUITE LAKE	
TEHACHAPI	CUDDEBACK LAKE	SODA MOUNTAINS	IVANPAH	DAVIS DAM
	VICTORVILLE	NEWBERRY SPRINGS	AMBOY	EL MIRAGE
	SAN BERNARDINO	BEAR LAKE	RIVERA HORSE MOUNTAINS	PARKER
		PALM SPRINGS	PALO VERDE MOUNTAINS	BLYTHE
		BORREGO VALLEY	SALTON SEA	TRIGO MOUNTAINS
		EL CAJON	EL CENTRO	YUMA

INDEX TO 1:24,000-SCALE MAPS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

1 Nebo
2 Yermo
3 Harvard Hill
4 Marin
5 Hidden Valley West
6 Hidden Valley East
7 Wad of Broadwell Mesa
8 Broadwell Mesa
9 Daggett
10 Minneola
11 Newberry Springs
12 Troy Lake
13 Troy Peak
14 Sleeping Beauty
15 Broadwell Lake
16 East of Broadwell Lake
17 West Ord Mountain
18 Ord Mountain
19 Camp Rock Mine
20 Silver Bell Mine
21 Sunshine Peak
22 Lenwood Lake
23 Lenwood
24 Hub Hill
25 White Horse Mountain
26 Grand View Mine
27 Fry Mountains
28 Iron Ridge
29 Lucerne Lake
30 Lenwood
31 Morgans Well
32 Ludlow SE



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

NEWBERRY SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
N3430-W11600/30X60

SPECIAL SYMBOL LEGEND

Locked Gate
Route / Trail Marker
Bureau of Land Management ... 137
Forest Service ... 2127
County ... 1777

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

POINTS OF INTEREST (SEE BACKSIDE FOR INFORMATION)

RECREATIONAL SYMBOL LEGEND

Campground
Picnic Area
First Aid
Drinking Water
Trailer Sanitary Station
Telephone
Ranger Station
Fee Area
Food Service
Information
Hiking
Scenic Geology
Point of Interest
Gasoline Station
Historic Site
Off Highway Vehicle Area
Restrooms

NOTE TO MAP USERS

The surface and minerals management status overprints are published as general planning and management tools. Some of the lands, surface and mineral rights, may have been shown as patented lands due to the lack of information available to BLM with respect to the nature of acquisition. Tracts less than 40 acres are usually omitted because of the map scale. The official land records in the Bureau of Land Management State Office are the repository of land status information. Federal agencies should be checked for up-to-date status on any specific tract of land. Inadequacies in the BLM maps should be reported to the respective Bureau of Land Management offices from which the maps were obtained.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Roads crossing public lands may be travelled by the public unless closed by signing or notice by the land management agency. Public lands interwoven by private lands may not have public access. Permission is required from the private landowner to cross private land, unless access is provided by a Federal, State, or County road, or a BLM road with legal access.

BLM SPECIAL EDITION 1996
SURFACE MANAGEMENT STATUS
DESERT ACCESS GUIDE

California Desert District Newberry Springs

1:100,000–Scale topographic map showing:

- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Contours and elevations in meters
- Recreation sites
- Coverage of former desert access guide #11 Johnson Valley

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 1953-1971, and from advance materials. Partially revised from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. Revised information not field checked. Map edited 1977. Map photoinspected using 1989 photographs. No major culture or drainage changes found.

Projection and 10,000-meter grid, zone 11: Universal Transverse Mercator. 25,000-foot grid ticks based on California coordinate system, zone 5. 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
250	820
500	1640
750	2460
1000	3281
1250	4101
1500	4921
1750	5741
2000	6562

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

MN GN 0°17' 5 MILS 1988

UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1977 magnetic declination (MN) for center of Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Cuddeback Lake
2 Soda Mountains
3 Ivanpah
4 Victorville
5 Amboy
6 San Bernardino
7 Big Bear Lake
8 Sheep Hole Mtns.

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

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9 780607 913842

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
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
Bridge; overpass; underpass
Tunnel: road; railroad
Built up area; locality; elevation
Airport; landing field; landing strip
National boundary
State boundary
County boundary
National or State reservation boundary
Land grant boundary
U.S. public lands survey range, township, section
Range, township, section line, protracted
Power transmission line; pipeline
Dam; dam with lock
Cemetery; building
Windmill; water well; spring
Mine shaft; adit or cave; mine, quarry; gravel pit
Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument
Ruins; cliff dwelling
Disturbed surface: strip mine, quarry; gravel pit
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
Stream; lake: perennial; intermittent
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
Area to be submerged; marsh, swamp
Land subject to controlled inundation
Special area boundary
BLM recreation area boundary
National trail; back country, scenic byway

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 through 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

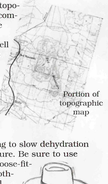
All California residents and visitors are responsible for learning about and respecting regulations that protect desert wildlife and resources. You can be a part of our efforts to reduce the decline in desert tortoise and other threatened and endangered species populations. These species are fully protected 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.

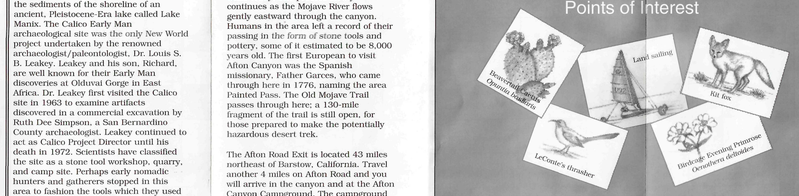
MILITARY EXPLOSIVES

Large areas of the desert have been and are still used as bombing ranges and training areas by the U.S. Armed Forces. There are still many unexploded duds 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
Newberry Springs
Points of Interest



❶ Calico Early-Man Archaeological Site

(*See map, C-1*) The history of the Calico site dates back to 1942, when amateur archaeologists discovered stone tools in the area. The fragments were embedded in the sediments of the shoreline of an ancient, Pleistocene-Era lake called Lake Manix. The Calico Early Man archaeological site was the only New World project undertaken by the renowned archaeologist/paleontologist, Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey. Leakey and his son, Richard, are well known for their Early Man discoveries at Olduvai Gorge in East Africa. Dr. Leakey first visited the Calico site in 1963 to examine artifacts discovered in a commercial excavation by Ruth Dee Simpson, a San Bernardino County archaeologist. Leakey continued to act as Calico Project Director until his death in 1972. Scientists have classified the site as a stone tool workshop, quarry, and camp site. Perhaps early nomadic hunters and gatherers stopped in this area to fashion the tools which they used to survive. The Calico site is open to the public. To get there, travel 15 miles northeast of Barstow, California on Interstate-15 and take the Minneola Road Exit. Follow the signs another 2 miles on a graded dirt road to the site.

❷ Calico Ghost Town Theme Park

(*See map, B-1*) The discovery of rich silver deposits on Calico Mountain in 1881 led to the founding of the town of Calico, California by early prospectors. Eighty-six million dollars in high-grade silver was taken from the area in its first 15 years. By 1886, the price of silver fell drastically, making the mines too expensive to operate. The towns population at that time was around 4,000. With the collapse of the value of silver, the population evaporated, leaving the town deserted by 1905. Walter Knott, known for his Knotts Berry Farm, bought the town and in 1949 began restoration of its buildings. By 1975, it had become a San Bernardino County theme park. While the historic old structures are now mostly gone, the visitor can still capture a sense of the history of the area by walking around the old townsite, and visiting the shops and ice cream parlors. Gunfights are held in the streets and annual special events attract thousands of visitors. To get to the theme park, take the Ghost Town Road Exit off Interstate-15, northeast of Barstow, California, and follow the signs for 3 miles. Park hours are 7 a.m. to dusk, daily.

❸ Afton Canyon Natural Area

(*See map, G-1*) The headwaters of the Mojave River are in the San Bernardino Mountains of California. From there, the river flows north and east for 100 miles, away from the Pacific, eventually disappearing from view in the Devils Playground within the National Park Services Mojave National Preserve. The Mojave flows underground, coming to the surface in only a few places, including Afton Canyon. Here the river flows on the surface most of the year, providing a unique desert habitat for desert plants and animals.

Afton Canyon was carved by water draining from Pleistocene Manix Lake, very likely through a rift in the earth caused by a strong earthquake along the Manix Fault about 15,000 years ago. Water eroded the rocks and soils there, creating the colors seen in the canyon walls today. The process slowly continues as the Mojave River flows gently eastward through the canyon. Humans in the area left a record of their passing in the form of stone tools and pottery, some of it estimated to be 8,000 years old. The first European to visit Afton Canyon was the Spanish missionary, Father Garces, who came through here in 1776, naming the area Painted Pass. The Old Mojave Trail passes through here; a 130-mile fragment of the trail is still open, for those prepared to make the potentially hazardous desert trek.

The Afton Road Exit is located 43 miles northeast of Barstow, California. Travel another 4 miles on Afton Road and you will arrive in the canyon and at the Afton Canyon Campground. The campground is open year-round and has 22 campsites. Facilities include picnic tables, cooking grills, pit toilets, and garbage cans. There is no fire-wood, running water, electricity, or telephone service. Visitors should come well-prepared when visiting such remote desert locations, particularly in the summertime.

❹ Pisgah Crater Lava Flow

(*See map, G-3*) Although much of the lava associated with this flow extends onto the U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, which is not open to the public, there are also portions of the lava flow found on public lands, which are open to the public. Scientists have determined that these flows may be the youngest pahoehoe basalts found in California. Typically, such flows are eroded or obscured by plant growth, but this phenomenon has not yet happened at Pisgah. Visitors may observe a variety of lava types here, including both pahoehoe and aa.

Research and study at Pisgah has resulted in significant knowledge pertaining to the formation of the lava tubes and subsurface geology of the area. An analysis of chemical changes in lava rock of different-aged flows, for example, has shown scientists how, as our continent drifts westward, the molten rock below the earths crust has changed. Pisgah is a unique destination for students of geology, whether individuals or classroom groups, and has served as an instructional and educational aid for many years. Access to the area is off Historic Route 66, just east of Newberry Springs, California.

❺ Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings ACEC

(*See map, C-6*) The Yucca Rings of Upper Johnson Valley are both the largest and oldest-known for the Mojave Yucca (Yucca schidigera) with an estimated age of up to 2,250 years, making them much older than most living things. Yucca rings, as a phenomenon, are formed from the vegetative reproduction, or clonting, of original parent plants. As yucca shoots grow outward from the original plant, a large group of stalks is formed. Over a period of many years, the interior portion of a given plant may die, leaving only the younger, outer stalks. In this way, a yucca ring is formed. Yucca rings in Upper Johnson Valley have diameters of up to 20 linear feet, and may be comprised of as many as 130 individual plants.

Getting to the rings may be somewhat difficult. They are located about 5 miles from Camp Rock Road, northeast of Lucerne Valley, California, and just southeast of Anderson Dry Lake, within the Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area.

❻ Historic Route 66

(*See map, A-1 to J-5*) This historical highway, once known as America's Main Street, has been popularized by song and television for many years. Completed in 1926, U.S. Highway 66 stretched for more than 2,000 miles from Chicago to Los Angeles. When Interstate 40 was completed, the old highway fell into general disuse. About 82% of the original route remains today, and can be traveled.

Known as the National Trails Highway in southern California, there has been an increase in interest in the old route in recent years, inspiring publications, maps, and roadside museums.

❼ Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad

(*See map, I-3*) For 35 years, from 1905 to 1940, the Tonopah and Tidewater (T&T) Railroad ran between Ludlow, California, and Goldfield, Nevada. While this railroad line never flourished financially, it served miners, mining companies, and desert residents for whom this transportation link was of immense importance. For this reason, it was kept alive, paid for by the mining companies owned by "Borax" Smith, who also financed its original construction. The T&T served as the shortest, fastest, and cheapest rail route to Los Angeles and San Francisco for all of the towns and mines along the Amargosa River and within the Death Valley region. Shipping borax by rail replaced the famous 20-mule teams used by the Harmony Borax Works. As the mines depleted, the T&T brought supplies and passengers in and out of the region, but by 1940 all operations ceased. The rails and ties were salvaged in 1943, during World War II. In order to preserve what remains of the original route, the remnant of the old railroad grade from Sperry, California, to the California/Nevada border has been closed to motorized travel.

❽ Mojave Road

(*See map, E-1*) Traveling across the desert is daunting for some people today, even in our modern air-conditioned automobiles — so just imagine running on foot across this land. Native Americans did just that over a thousand years ago. Venturing from the Colorado River to the Pacific Coast to trade goods, they stopped at springs along the way. Later, early explorers like Jedediah Smith (1826) and Father Francisco Garces (1776), as well as Army troops in the 1860's and early settlers, used this route and its springs. Also called the Old Government Road or Old Mojave Trail, the Mojave Road once ran from Fort Whipple, near Prescott, Arizona, to Drum Barracks just south of Los Angeles. The road eventually was abandoned with the advent of railroad travel in the 1880's and the automobile routes that followed the tracks. Today, only 130 miles of the Mojave Road remain, beginning at Fort Mojave Indian Reservation on the Colorado River and ending near Camp Cady east of Barstow. Four-wheel drive enthusiasts enjoy the Mojave Road to this day.

❾ Johnson Valley Off Highway Vehicle Area

(*See map, D-5*) This 154,700-acre off-highway vehicle area, located northwest of Lucerne Valley, California, provides a wide variety of opportunities for off-highway vehicle riding. Johnson Valley consists of dry lake beds, rugged hills, steep mountains, open valleys, and areas of deep sand. All forms of motorized vehicle use are allowed within the boundaries of the area. Popular staging and camping areas include Anderson Dry Lake, Soggy Dry Lake, Cougar Buttes, and the Rockpile. Elevations range from 4,600 feet at Hartwell Hills to 2,300 feet at Melville Dry Lake. The access roads to this area are open to street-legal vehicles only, and much of the land found south of the open area is privately-owned. Competitive events are often held in Johnson Valley; visitors should use caution, stay away from well-marked race routes, and watch for race vehicles, particularly on weekends. Access to the area is from Camp Rock Road, on the western boundary, and by way of Bessemer Mine and Boone Roads, all three of which are north of State Highway 247, just a few miles east of the community of Lucerne Valley, California.

❿ Newberry Mountains Wilderness

(*See map, C-3*) The Newberry Mountains Wilderness is noted for its rugged volcanic mountains and its deep, maze-like canyons. Topography ranges from 2,200 feet in the north to 5,100 feet on the southern end. The unique desert features in this area are the result of volcanic activity. Desert bighorn sheep have historically traveled this area, and prairie falcons and golden eagles stop here to forage and to rest. Spring wildflower displays have been seen along the western boundary. To reach the Newberry Mountains Wilderness, take Camp Rock Road from either Interstate 40 just south of Daggett, California, or from California Highway 247 just east of Lucerne Valley, California.

⓫ Rodman Mountains Wilderness

(*See map, E-4*) A series of ridges and valleys climbing from 2,000 feet to almost 5,000 feet are the result of earthquake faults which cross the Rodman Mountains Wilderness. A lava flow also cuts the area in two, trending from northwest to southeast, forming a sloping mesa. Colorful escarpments, calico-colored mountains, tangled canyons, and broad, majestic bajadas are in gentle symphony here. Steep canyons and cliffs form dry falls along deep drainage patterns, creating robust cascades during heavy rainstorms. An important raptor breeding area is located within this wilderness, where prairie falcons and golden eagles can sometimes be found. The mountains are home to a historic range for desert bighorn sheep. Access is by way of Camp Rock Road from either Interstate 40 south of Daggett, California, or from California Highway 247 east of Lucerne Valley.

⓬ Kelso Dunes Wilderness

(*See map, F-2*) Within this 129,580-acre wilderness lie two sweeping valleys: the rolling Bristol Mountain and the Kelso Sand Dunes, the second tallest dunes in the California Desert. The sand dune system lies within the Mojave National Preserves portion of the wilderness. To access the southwest corner of this wilderness, take the Kelbaker Road exit from Interstate 40 and go north for approximately 4.6 miles. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended.

⓭ Bristol Mountains Wilderness

(*See map, J-3*) A portion of the rolling Bristol Mountains and a tilted volcanic plain form this 68,515-acre wilderness. Extreme distances and the lack of any springs make travel in this wilderness hazardous. The area offers outstanding challenges for only the most experienced desert hiker, as well as opportunities for solitude. The wilderness is contiguous on its eastern boundary at Budweiser Wash with the Granite Mountains Wilderness, which is part of the Mojave National Preserve. Interstate 40 forms portions of the wilderness southern boundary. Take the Ludlow exit from I-40 and follow the dirt road north for about 2 miles to a pipeline road and turn east. There are no established trailheads and high clearance vehicles are recommended.

⓮ Stoddard Valley Off Highway Vehicle Area

(*See map, A-4*) Stoddard Valley is a triangular-shaped off-highway vehicle recreation area immediately south of Barstow, California. Access is convenient to the visitor, as the area is bordered by Interstate 15 on the west and California Highway 247 on the east. Organized races and other competitive events take place here year-round. The open area is punctuated by steep, rocky mountains; rugged hills; open valleys; and wide, winding, sandy washes. Other recreational activities include hiking, rock scrambling, rock bounding, and bird watching. Elevations in Stoddard Valley range from 5,000-foot Stoddard Peak to Turtle Valley at about 2,800 feet.

Camping is allowed anywhere within the open area, as long as it does not block travel on a road. Camping is primitive and self-contained, meaning that motor homes and campers are the most appropriate way of staying overnight, as there are no facilities of any kind in Stoddard Valley. There is a 14-day camping limit.

Access from the north off Interstate-15 is by the Barstow Road Exit; Barstow Road becomes California Highway 247 south of town. Follow signs. Access from the south is also from Interstate 15 by either the Hodge Road Exit or the Outlet Center Drive Exit (formerly Sidewinder Road), and following the signs.

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
(805) 391-6000*
Internet: *www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield*

* Effective April 1999, area code 805 will change to area code 661.

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) 367-1200
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.psw.fs.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
18424 S. Commercecenter Circle
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909) 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 AF
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
2796 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

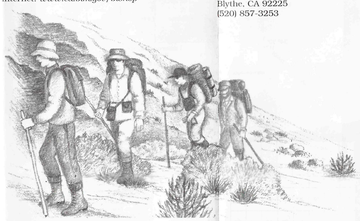
Interagency Visitor Center
Drawer R
Jct. Hwy. 395 & Hwy 136
Lone Pine, CA 93545
(760) 876-6222

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
(805) 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
31-500 Hwy. 74
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 862-9984

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