THE EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA . .
a unique desert region full of scenic, historic, and natural wonders. . . awaits your visit! Here you can explore magnificent sand dunes, intriguing geologic features, unique plant communities, old Army "forts," and historic Indian and explorer routes through the desert. You can camp under trillions of stars, enjoy the antics of a jackrabbit, and discover the beauty of a beavertail cactus in full bloom. Or you can just relax in the peace and serenity of the world of nature.

Administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the East Mojave was designated as a National Scenic Area in 1980 and is an integral part of the California Desert Conservation Area created by Congress in 1976. Eighty percent of the Scenic Area's 1.5 million acres are federal public lands managed by BLM, with the remainder under state or private ownership.

The information and map provided in this guide will help you prepare for a safe and rewarding trip to one of the most exciting desert areas in our Nation. Before you start, you should study the map carefully and locate critical services such as gasoline, drinking water, and telephones. It would also be a good idea to consult the mileage chart on the map page in the center of this guide.

You will also want to be prepared with the proper clothing and equipment to make sure your trip will provide many pleasant memories.

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Items you should consider bringing include a wide-brimmed hat, sun screen, sunglasses, hiking boots, first aid kit, some food, at least a gallon of water per day for each person in your party, toilet paper, flashlight, at least one long-sleeved shirt, and a jacket. Have your car and tires checked before leaving home, and make sure you have enough gas to get to the next service station.

Services

Gasoline, drinking water, and telephones are found widely dispersed around the East Mojave. Gas can be found at three locations along the perimeter of the Scenic Area with minimal food supplies and/or cafes at Goffs, Cima, Nipton, and the I-15/Cima Road junction. All services are available at Baker. For more details, see map insert and consult mileage chart.

Weather

Nothing is as certain as the unpredictability of the weather. Be prepared for extreme variations in temperature, particularly in winter. Summer can bring violent thunderstorms and the threat of flash floods, even if it isn’t raining where you are.

Summers are hot, with lower elevation daytime highs usually above 110°F. Many popular destinations are above 4,500 feet, where temperatures are 10-20 degrees cooler than on the desert floor. Always plan on cool evenings while visiting the desert’s pinyon/juniper woodlands, and bring insect repellant or netting to protect against biting insects and flies.

Winters are cool and damp with subfreezing temperatures common at night at all elevations, and occasional snow flurries above 3,000 feet. Daytime highs can fall anywhere between 40° and 70° F. Many experienced desert visitors prefer summer’s longer days and pleasant evenings over winter’s long freezing nights.

Spring and fall can be variable, with a greater chance of strong winds, but offer a chance to see the Scenic Area at its best. October to November and March through mid-May are the most popular periods.
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

EXPLORING THE SCENIC AREA

A wide variety of recreational opportunities exist within the Scenic Area, meeting almost everyone's interests and desires. The Scenic Area also provides excellent opportunities for motor vehicle, bicycle, or horseback riding enthusiasts. While much of the area is accessible by two-wheel-drive vehicles, high-clearance or four-wheel-drive vehicles are advisable for back country travel.

Two four-wheel drive interpretive trails cross the region. The Mojave Road—a 130-mile historic Native American trade route, later developed into a wagon trail—crosses east-west through the heart of the East Mojave. The East Mojave Heritage Trail—a 700-mile loop trail beginning and ending in Needles—runs through much of the East Mojave region. For safety, visitors using these routes should travel in groups. Interpretive guidebooks for these trails are available for purchase or on loan from the California Desert Information Center in Barstow, the Needles Resource Area, or from the California Desert District office in Riverside.

As part of the Scenic Byways program, BLM is designating several roads as “Back Country Byways” within the East Mojave National Scenic Area. Several incorporating Interstates 40 or 15 will provide a loop to look at the features of most interest to you. Sand dunes, a historic railroad depot, scenic canyons, and short hiking trails are only some of the opportunities awaiting you along the byways. Exploring these Back Country Byways will provide you with an unusual look at the desert environment. Look for signs marking these scenic routes while you are exploring the area.

Access - Desert soils and vegetation are fragile and slow to recover when impacted by human use. In response to this, all motor vehicles are required to stay on approved routes. (See BLM's New York and Providence Mountains Desert Access Guides for detailed information.) Equestrian and bicycle users should minimize any travel off existing roads and trails. You may encounter barriers or signs used to limit access into sensitive areas; please respect their message. Cross-country travel is not allowed in the Scenic Area. If you are looking for a place to enjoy cross-country motor vehicle activities, we suggest you try one of the off-highway vehicle areas available in the surrounding desert region, such as Dumont Dunes, located north of Baker, and Rasor, southwest of Baker.

Hiking - Most of the Scenic Area lends itself well to off-trail hiking. With the use of good maps, this can be a very exciting experience. Old mining roads in the New York, Castle, Clark, and Providence Mountains also make good hiking routes. Looking for a developed trail? Trails can be found in the Piute Range, Providence Mountains, and between Hole-in-the-Wall and Midhills campgrounds. Short hikes within the Scenic Area can be found at Hole-in-the-Wall and Teutonia Peak. Although there are no designated trails, Kelso Dunes and the Cinder Cones can be easily explored.

Photography - Most desert photographers prefer working in the early morning or late afternoon sun when shadows and soft light enhance the desert landscape. During mid-day, use a polarizing filter to add nice contrasts to your photos.
Camping - BLM provides two developed campgrounds in the East Mojave for your use. Hole-in-the-Wall and Midhills have several campsites; some sites at both areas are suitable for small groups. Both campgrounds have picnic tables, fire pits, grills, water, and vault toilets. Motorhomes more than 26 feet in length may have difficulty using Midhills campground. A daily fee of $4 per camping unit is charged. All campsites are first come, first served, and no reservations are accepted. Primitive camping in the Scenic Area is available for those wanting a more secluded or backcountry experience. Remember to keep your vehicle alongside roads or trails (within 25 feet) preferably in existing camping sites. Cross-country travel is not allowed. Set up your camp at least 600 feet away from any water sources such as springs or tanks. Wildlife and cattle need these waters for survival. Do not set up camp in washes! Flash floods are always possible, and it’s the rain falling out of your sight that can be dangerous.

When camping at any location in the Scenic Area, remember that camping on public lands is limited to 14 days in any 28-day period. You must move at least 25 miles from your previous site to set up camp again.

Campers should pack out all trash, leaving campsites in better condition than they found them. Bring your own wood as dead-and-down wood in the desert is scarce and provides habitat for wildlife. Cutting of live wood is not allowed.

REMEMBER: from April to October, ground fires outside the campgrounds are not permitted without a fire permit. Fire permits are available from Hole-in-the-Wall fire station, BLM Rangers, and California BLM offices.

Holding tanks on campers, trailers, and motorhomes may only be dumped at dump stations, which are available in Needles, Barstow, and Las Vegas.

Please respect other users as many people go camping to experience the peace and quiet found in a desert. Please don’t intrude with excessive noise, and keep all pets restrained.

Hunting & Shooting

The East Mojave region offers hunting opportunities for game such as dove, quail, deer, and rabbits. Although hunting dates may vary, deer season generally runs for three weeks starting the second week of October. Quail season begins the third week of October and lasts through January. California hunting licenses are required. Recreational shooting — target practice and "plinking" are popular activities and are allowed, but must be done safely and follow County, State, and Federal laws and regulations.

For the safety of visitors and the protection of resources, selected areas in the Scenic Area are closed to firearm use, including hunting. These areas are the Piute Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Granite Mountain Research Natural Area, Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, half mile zones around BLM’s two campgrounds, and recreation sites such as Camp Rock Spring and Soda Springs. Please use caution and common sense whenever you are shooting a firearm.
The following points of interest descriptions have been developed to provide you with information about historical, scenic, or natural landmark sites in or near the Scenic Area. We hope this information provides an insight into the history of the East Mojave as well as suggesting some interesting places to see.

ALONG I-15

Soda Springs - The springs served as a source of water for travelers on the Mojave Trail. It has been an Indian campsite, military outpost, wagon station, railroad siding, the headquarters of a radio evangelist, and a health resort. Today it is a desert education and study center. An orientation center is open, and weekend tours are available to the general public from October to May. For more information, call BLM's Barstow Office at (619) 256-3591. The site can be reached by taking the Zzyzx Road exit off of I-15, southwest of Baker.

Clark Mountain is the highest peak in the Scenic Area (7,929 ft.), and was formed from a series of thrust faults. Mining began here in the early 1860s and continues today. The mountain was named for an early miner, Senator William A. Clark, the "Copper King" of Montana. The Molycorp Mine at Mountain Pass is noted for rare earth deposits. The deposit, found in 1950, is the largest ore body of its type in the world, with ore reserves estimated at 40 million tons. Some of the minerals produced at this mine are used in TV picture tubes, X-ray films, fluorescent lamps, sunglasses, and fiber optics.

Lake Tuenda at Soda Springs

Kelso/Kelso Depot - Kelso was developed in 1905 as a Los Angeles to Salt Lake railroad stop because water was easily obtainable for the steam engines. Later the line was sold to the Union Pacific Railroad, which built a Spanish style depot in 1924 to provide food and lodging for the railroad workers. The site at one time also contained a roundhouse and other maintenance facilities. The development of the diesel engine eliminated the need for water stops along the route. Although the Depot was closed in 1985, the trees and shrubs at Kelso provide an excellent spot for birding. BLM and the nonprofit Kelso Depot Fund are working together to explore ways of reopening the Depot for public use.

Kelso Dunes - This unique and isolated dune system rises more than 600 feet above the desert floor. The dunes were created by southeast winds blowing finely grained residual sand from the Mojave River sink, which lies to the northwest. The dunes color is created from many golden rose quartz particles. When the dry sand grains slide down the steep upper slopes, a notable booming sound is produced. In some years, the dunes offer a display of nice spring wildflowers. They are a wonderful place to explore on foot. A hike to the top and back takes approximately two hours. The area is closed to vehicles.

Amboy Crater - (about 10 miles south of the Scenic Area). This 250-foot-high crater is one of the best examples in the Mojave...
Desert of a volcanic cinder cone. The cinder cone is approximately 6,000 years old. A foot path leads to the top of the cone, where you can get a good view of the surrounding area. The hike to the Crater and back can take 2-3 hours. Late January - March are good times to see the wildflowers.

ALONG CIMA ROAD

Cima Dome - Best seen from a distance, this almost perfect, rounded landform rises 1500 feet above the surrounding desert. The dome is approximately 75 square miles in size. It is a small batholith (a molten mass of rock that stopped rising well below the surface) once covered by volcanic material, uplifted and eroded to its present form. Covering Cima Dome is a large dense forest of Joshua trees. The Sunrise Rock area (approximately 6 miles north of Cima) is a good place for a short exploration on foot. A hike to Teutonia Peak and back takes about 2 hours; the trail begins just north of Sunrise Rock.

Cima - By 1920, the town consisted of a boarding house (with cabins made of railroad ties), a store, and a post office. It served as a railroad siding and a commercial center for ranchers and miners. In 1962, the original buildings were replaced by the store and post office you see today.

ALONG CEDAR CANYON ROAD

Rock Spring - Like many springs in the desert, Rock Spring played an important role by providing water, first to the Indians and later to other travelers in the desert and across the Mojave Trail. The U.S. Army established an outpost here in December 1866, about the same time mining activity in the region was grinding to a halt. The outpost was developed to protect travelers but primarily to provide escort riders for the U.S. mail. Camp Rock Spring was one of the most isolated and comfortless Army posts that ever existed in the history of the West. Near Rock Spring you may notice a rock-house. It was once Bert Smith’s homestead. A World War I gas victim, he came to the desert only expecting to live a short time, but lived here until 1954.
ALONG BLACK CANYON / ESSEX ROAD

Hole-in-the-Wall (4,500 foot elevation) - The volcanic rock formations in the area make this a popular recreation site. Favorite activities in the area include camping (fee is $4 per camping unit), picnicking, and hiking. Rock climbing on the volcanic rocks is not recommended due to their crumbly nature. Fall and spring are the most popular seasons for camping, with winter and summer providing variable weather conditions and temperatures. There are two unmaintained trails available at Hole-in-the-Wall. One leaves from the picnic area and travels west through the volcanic rock. This trail involves a descent down metal rings, as well as scrambling around and over many boulders. The other trail is about 7 miles long beginning along Wild Horse Canyon Road and traveling north from Hole-in-the-Wall to Midhills. As you wander past cactus gardens and other interesting rock formations, you will get a good look at the diverse desert landscape. Back country camping is available in several spots along the trail. During the summer, ground fires are not permitted, so check fire conditions or use propane stoves for cooking.

Providence Mountains State Recreation Area (Mitchell Caverns) is open for camping, rock climbing, picnicking, hiking, and cavern tours. The visitor center, located in the Providence Mountains at 4,300 feet, can be reached via paved roads by traveling 17 miles north of I-40 on Essex Road.

The Mitchell Caverns are limestone caves that feature a wide variety of formations. The caverns may be visited only by guided tours, which last about an hour and a half and require a mile and a half hike. Tours are scheduled at 1:30 PM weekdays and at 10:00, 1:30, and 3:00 on weekends and State holidays from September 16 - June 15. While no tours are offered June 16 - September 15, the park is open for other activities. Groups are requested to make reservations through the Park Headquarters at least two weeks in advance.

The caverns are equipped with stairs, railings, and special lighting to facilitate guided tours of stalactites, stalagmites, cavern coral, and flowstone. Fees: Camping is $6 per vehicle per night. Tours-adults $3.00 and children (ages 6-17) $1.00. The park has a small supply of water. For more information write P.O. Box 1, Essex, CA 92332 or call (619)389-2281.

Providence Min

Hole-in-the-Wall Campground
MILEAGE CHART

HOLE-IN-THE-WALL to
Baker 65 miles
Cima    20 miles
Fort Piute 40 miles
Goffs  40 miles
Kelso  30 miles
Ludlow  70 miles
Midhills Campground 10 miles
Mitchell Caverns 20 miles
Nipton  45 miles
Rock Spring 15 miles
Valley Wells/I-15 40 miles

KELSE to
Amboy 40 miles
Baker 35 miles
Ludlow 50 miles
Needles to Hole-in-the-Wall 60 miles
Los Angeles to Hole-in-the-Wall 225 miles
Las Vegas to Hole-in-the-Wall 100 miles
Nipton started in 1905 as a railroad town and cattle loading station on the Los Angeles & Salt Lake line. Soon the town consisted of a hotel, cafe and bar, general store, and collection of small homes. Many of the buildings are still used today. Nipton General Store is also a Desert Information Outpost.

New York Mountains - At more than 7,500 feet, these mountains are primarily composed of granite. The erosion process has produced the spectacular scenery you see today. Several canyons along the southern edge of the range provide habitat for plants such as oak and white fir not usually associated with the desert. There are a number of good camping and hiking areas along New York Mountain Road.

Castle Peaks - These jagged "andesitic" spires are found in the northern portion of the New York Mountains. The red-hued peaks are of volcanic origin and were formed by general uplifting of the area through faulting, followed by erosion. A road recommended for high-clearance vehicles only provides access near the peaks, as well as opportunities for hiking and horseback riding.

Hart - Today the original area is just a ghost town with little remaining. In 1907, gold was discovered, and soon the town had two two-story hotels, a general store, a post office, a barber shop, six saloons, and 400 frame and tent dwellings with 700 people living there. In 1910, much of the town was destroyed by fire. Mining continued until 1915, with the town dying about 1918. Mining continues in the area today.

OX Cattle Ranch is located on the old town site of Maruba, which is privately owned. The ranch was part of the original Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company operation and was the largest operation in the area, extending over most of the East Mojave during the early 1900s.

Lanfair Valley is a ranching and agriculture community named for E.L. Lanfair, an organizer of the homesteaders who migrated to the valley in 1910. By 1917, there were 130 registered voters in the valley and a store. They dry-farmed corn and beans, but the 8-10 inches of rainfall were not enough. Water rights were a constant conflict between the ranchers and the farmers. Water was hauled 10 miles or brought by the railroad. In 1923 the railroad spur was abandoned, and the homesteaders left soon after. Much of the valley today is still privately owned.
Lanfair Valley eroded you eastern side thrives one-half gorge is was and Piute southwest side An unmaintained spectacular steep-sided badland. Canyon served ans, and water source Piute the willows, Piute the southwest side of Lanfair Valley through the Piute Canyon fault zone. Today the gorge is nearly 200 feet deep, a spectacular steep-sided badland. An unmaintained trail on the southwest side allows access to the bottom of the gorge.

Piute Creek/Fort Piute - For one-half mile, a narrow ribbon of willows, cottonwoods, and rushes thrives along Piute Creek, one of the few free flowing streams in the Mojave Desert. An important water source for animals, Indians, and early explorers, the site served as a base for up to 18 men of the US 9th Infantry from November 1867 to May 1868. Fort Piute is the best preserved of all the Old Mojave Road outposts built to protect early travelers. The area is closed to vehicles and firearm use. Opportunities are excellent for hiking and bird watching.

Goffs - Named after a railroad official, Goffs became an important railroad siding on the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad in 1883 with a two-story station and turntable for helper engines that pulled trains up the long grade from Needles. The population fluctuated with the mining and railroad eras, and today only a few homes, a cafe, and a gas station can be found here. The cafe is also a Desert Information Outpost.

RESOURCES OF THE EAST MOJAVE

The BLM manages the Scenic Area for the benefit of many resources and uses including wildlife, livestock grazing, soils, minerals, wilderness, cultural resources, and recreation. It is BLM's responsibility to resolve user/resource conflicts and carefully balance these uses while protecting the land.

Signs of mining, railroads, and transmission lines from the Colorado River to the Los Angeles basin are seen throughout the area. Cattle, ranches, wells, corrals, and fences built to facilitate ranching also dot the landscape. Many of these features add to the unique character of the area, as well as benefiting the local, State, and national economy. Please respect all private property.

Camp Ibis - Camp Ibis was one of eleven World War II military Desert Training Center camps in the Arizona-California desert under the command of General George S. Patton. The camps were created in 1942 to train troops in rough terrain and harsh climates preparing them for conditions over seas. Camp Ibis was home to a number of Armored Divisions, each numbering more than 20,000 men. A plaque is located on US 95 at the main entrance to the camp, and is dedicated to the memory of the trainees. You can explore the camp on foot or by four-wheel drive vehicle. Please leave the remnants of the past in place for others to see.
DESERT PLANTS

Wildflowers can be found from late February through May, depending on elevation, winter moisture, and spring temperatures. Common species of wildflowers can be collected for personal use, but limit your collecting to one flower per plant and collect from a large area so as not to deplete the flowers in a given area. Take care not to uproot the plant, and don’t cut all the stems or leaves off.

Many desert plants and cacti are slow-growing and can take 20 or more years to grow to an average size. Please don’t cut, shoot, or dig them up. Much of the vegetation in the Scenic Area is protected by either state or federal law. Many plants and plant communities are considered sensitive due to their scarcity, limited distribution, or separation from areas normally associated with that plant community. The wildlife in the Scenic Area is dependent on the vegetation, and destructive activities can have far-reaching implications. Please treat the plant life of the Scenic Area with care, and leave it for others to enjoy.

FIREWOOD IS SCARCE—PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN.

DESERT WILDLIFE

Although wildlife in the East Mojave is abundant, the nighttime or evasive habits of some desert creatures make them difficult to find. However, you will often see birds, rabbits, and lizards in the area. You may also find desert bighorn sheep and mule deer inhabiting the rugged mountains, along with such predator species as bobcats and mountain lions. Animals preferring lower elevations include coyotes, kit foxes, antelope ground squirrels, packrats, and desert tortoises. Lizards and snakes (including rattlesnakes) are found at all elevations.

Golden eagles, several species of hawks, falcons, and owls use a variety of habitats and elevations. This is also true of the common raven, which is increasing in numbers and range throughout the East Mojave.

Gambel’s quail, chukar, and mourning doves live in canyons and washes where they are able to find water, dense brush for cover, and annual grasses that produce seeds for food. Many wildlife species are protected by law. Some are rare or declining in numbers so that loss of desirable habitat could threaten them with extinction. The desert tortoise, found in many of the valleys, and the Mohave chub found in ponds near Soda Lake are in this class.

The desert tortoise is suffering from a variety of impacts that have led the State of California to declare it as a threatened species and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list it as an endangered species.

You can help the desert tortoise. If you see a desert tortoise on the road, please drive around it very slowly. Do not pick up a tortoise unnecessarily. Please do not take desert tortoises home as pets, or return a captive tortoise to the desert—it’s illegal!

Wildlife habitat management on public lands is the responsibility of the BLM, while the California Department of Fish and Game manages the wildlife species. Hunting is permitted on public lands in accordance with State Fish and Game regulations. If your interest lies in hunting or trapping, be sure to obtain the proper license or permit.
CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources are the physical remains left by previous generations. The prehistory of the Eastern Mojave has been traced back more than 10,000 years, and its written history back to 1775 with the explorations of Francisco Garces and Juan Bautista.

The Bureau of Land Management manages thousands of cultural sites in the Scenic Area. Many of these sites have been determined to be significant on a regional and national level, with some eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Many of these fragile connections to our past are slowly disappearing and, if these remnants are destroyed, the ability to understand our past will be gone.

When cultural resources are improperly removed, virtually all of their scientific value is lost. Vast amounts of knowledge can be gained from archaeological studies.

By examining how we have responded or reacted to past environmental changes, we can better understand how the environment has affected mankind. It also provides us with insight into problems facing us now and in the future.

In 1979, Congress took an important step to help preserve our Nation's cultural heritage by passing the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Under this law, a person can be convicted of a felony for defacing, disturbing, removing, or selling artifacts from Federal land, resulting in seizure of equipment, a fine of $100,000, and/or a prison sentence of up to five years.

BLM archaeologists and Rangers patrol archaeologically sensitive areas and monitor the condition of cultural resources on public lands. Local law enforcement agencies also provide assistance. Federal and State cultural resource laws are strictly enforced, but all of these efforts are often not enough. Our cultural heritage is still being vandalized.

You can help:

- Report vandalism. If you witness vandalism on public lands, report it immediately to BLM’s Needles Resource Area office.

- Leave cultural resources undisturbed and encourage others to do the same.

Our cultural resources are irreplaceable. By removing pieces of our heritage you prevent the reconstruction of our past, leaving nothing to pass on to future generations. During your visit please enjoy, but don’t destroy, our Nation’s heritage.
EARLY EXPLORATION OF THE EAST MOJAVE

Exploration of the East Mojave by Euro-Americans began in 1776 when Friar Francisco Garces traveled from New Mexico to Mission San Gabriel, California. Around 1826, as fur became harder to find in northern states, trappers began exploring the Southwest. The great trappers who explored the region included Jedediah Strong Smith, William Wolfskill, George Yount, Kit Carson, Ewing Young and Peter Ogdan.

In 1854, the War Department sent Lieutenant A. W. Whipple on an expedition to locate a route for a proposed railroad to the Pacific Coast. The party traveled from the Colorado River near Needles to Cajon Pass by way of Piute Spring, Rock Spring, Marl Spring, Kelso Wash, and the Mojave River. Exploration continued with Edward F. Beale crossing the region in 1857 with his famous Camel Caravan from Camp Verde, Texas, to Fort Tejon, California, looking for a suitable route for wagons. The general route used by Lieutenant Whipple became known as the Government Road (Mojave Road).

During the 1860s, military posts were erected along the Government Road to protect the mail route from troublesome Indian attacks. Unfortunately, the attempt to carry mail by this route was not even marginally successful. In 1868, the mail route was moved to the southern La Paz route, leading to the abandonment of these outposts.

MINING HISTORY

Against the backdrop of rugged desert mountains and severe conditions, few remnants of old mining structures exist today. The history of a mine and its mining district is often all that remains. Some of the East Mojave mining districts included Rock Springs, Trojan, Clark Mountain, Vanderbilt - New York, Exchequer, Arrowhead, Ivanpah, Old Dad, Hart, and Mescal. Minerals mined from these districts included gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, zinc, rare earths, tin, and tungsten.

Early prospectors began exploring this region around 1870. Mines were severely isolated, and supplies came from San Francisco by way of San Bernardino and then by freight wagon over the Government Road. Burros then carried supplies where wagons could not go. The outgoing ore had even a longer journey, as most of it was shipped to Wales for smelting. Freight rates were hundreds of dollars per ton.

Because supplies and travel costs were expensive, only the richest ore deposits were developed. Other deposits were discovered but were of little interest in a region supplied only by freight wagon. Their development did not begin until the railroad arrived, which brought lower freight rates and made supplies more readily available. Mining reached its peak between 1900 and the end of World War (1918).

During the depression, with gold prices up, costs low, and men not having much else to do, gold deposits everywhere were reexamined. World War II brought a new demand for minerals, but production did not reach the peak it had attained 25 years earlier. Today, new technologies for exploration and development have resulted in fewer, but more productive mines.
RAILROADS

The main line of the Santa Fe (then the Southern Pacific) railroad was completed to Needles in 1883 where it joined with the Atlantic and Pacific line, having no immediate effect on life in the East Mojave. In 1893, a branch line was completed from Goffs through Lanfair Valley to Barnwell (Manvel). It served Sagamore Mine and helped to stimulate other mining activity. In 1907, a branch of the railroad was completed from Manvel to Searchlight, Nevada. Eventually the Manvel line was extended through the New York Mountains into Ivanpah Valley. With the construction of the Union Pacific line through Kelso, Cima, and Ivanpah in 1905, railroad transportation was available to the central part of the East Mojave.

RANCHING AND HOMESTEADING

Ranchers shared the land with miners and the railroad with no conflict, grazing thousands of cattle over more than a million acres of land. Ranching boomed in 1894 with the establishment of the Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company. In 1910, homesteading and dry farming were attempted in Lanfair Valley, but conflicts over water developed between the homesteaders and cattlemen. By 1925, because of drought and other poor conditions, most homesteaders had left the area.

MILITARY ACTIVITY

In 1942, General George S. Patton trained World War II troops on the desert for the North African campaign. The California-Arizona Maneuver Area (a temporary training area) was established to encompass the southeastern portions of the East Mojave. Little remains from this time period, although rock-lined walkways, insignias, outdoor chapels, and tracks left by numerous tanks can still be found at some of the camps. Much of the area has grown over and the outline of the camps and tank tracks are noticeable only from the air.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

You can help make your Scenic Area a better place! We need you to help us manage the East Mojave. Volunteers can assist in a variety of projects including wildlife monitoring, trail work, clean-ups, providing public information, or giving nature walks. For more information, contact BLM's Needles Resource Area.
IN AN EMERGENCY

For Emergencies: DIAL 911

Interagency Communications Center
San Bernardino (24 hour service for fire or BLM's Law Enforcement)

(714) 383-5651

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bureau of Land Management Rangers patrol the East Mojave to help you and other visitors have a safe and enjoyable trip. Rangers can also provide you with additional information and maps, or you can stop by one of several privately owned businesses that have been set up as Desert Information Outposts.

Interpretive walks/talks

Groups with ten or more people can and are encouraged to request Interpretive/Naturalist programs to enhance your visit to the East Mojave. Please contact the Needles Resource Area Office for details two or more weeks in advance.

More detailed maps of the area are available from BLM offices and some Desert Information Outposts. Ask for the Providence Mountain and New York Mountain Desert Access Guides. U S Geological Survey topographic maps of the area are also available in all BLM offices.

A variety of maps, publications, and information can be obtained from:

California Desert
Information Center
831 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
(619) 256-8617
(desert books available)

Needles Resource Area
P.O. Box 888
101 W. Spikes Road
Needles, CA 92363
(619) 326-3896

California Desert District
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507
(714) 276-6394