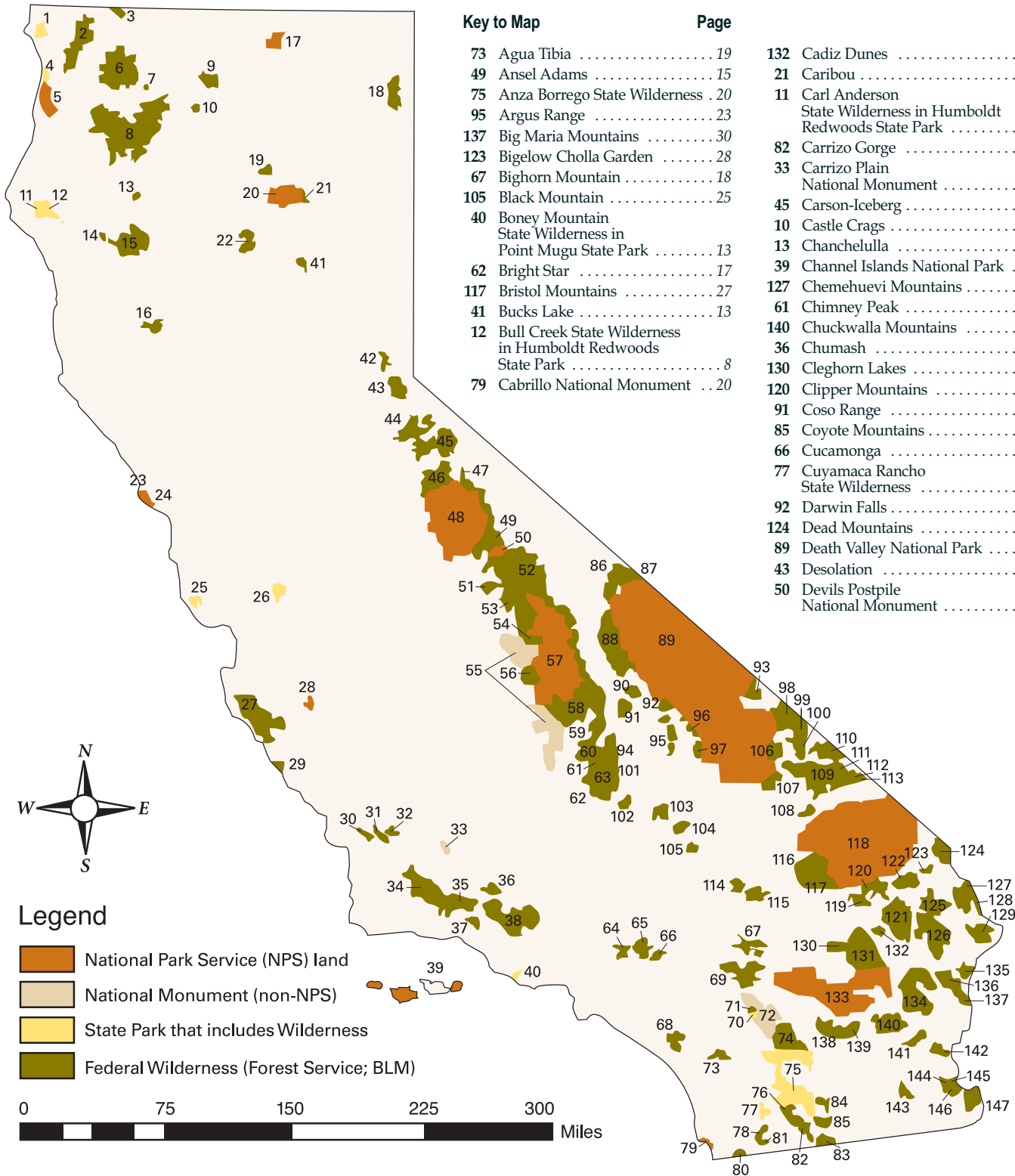


California's Federal and State Wilderness, National Parks, and National Monuments



With towering redwood forests, pristine mountain peaks, and rugged desert landscapes, the wilderness of California encompasses some of the most beautiful and diverse lands on earth. These are places where eagles still soar across the horizon and salmon still sail from ocean to river – lands where nature thrives and the human spirit is free.

Congress has permanently protected some of these special lands as federal wilderness under the Wilderness Act. President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the act in 1964 to preserve America's natural heritage "for the permanent good of the whole people." Since then, more than 14 million acres of wild California have been protected, including parts of Yosemite National Park, Mojave National Preserve, Big Sur coastline, Trinity Alps, and many, many other cherished areas throughout our Golden State.

Once lands are legally protected as wilderness, they can no longer be logged, mined or otherwise developed. They are permanently preserved in their natural state so the public can forever enjoy fishing, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, camping, or simply relaxing in peaceful surroundings. As California's last remaining wild places, they deserve special care and respect – so "leave no trace" while you are there.

Whether you live on the coast, down in the valley, or up in the hills, you are never far from an array of wilderness opportunities. The California Wilderness Coalition has created this guide to help you find your perfect wilderness destination.

Enjoy wild California!

Welcome to the California Wilderness Guide!

Whether it's a three-week trek or a weekend hike, planning your trip starts with knowing the basic guidelines. Some regulations are universal and well-known. Bicycles and off-road vehicles (*except wheelchairs*) are prohibited from all wilderness areas, so you won't find that information listed for each entry. What you will find is:



Silver Peak Wilderness

photo: Jim Rose


Who to contact for more information. Because regulations can change suddenly in response to local conditions, contact the ranger district (RD), national forest (NF), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), or park office before you leave for your trip. This is especially important during fire season.


All wilderness managers now recommend or require "leave no trace" recreation. Among other things, that means camping well away from water sources and trails, carrying weed-free feed for stock, packing out all litter, not shortcutting switchbacks, and building campfires only with dead and downed wood in existing rings or pits or, better still, not at all. Also, in respect for archaeological sites, please leave them untouched.


In bear country, you may need to carry your food in a bear-proof canister. Canisters come in two sizes and can be rented at Sequoia-Kings Canyon and Yosemite National parks or purchased from the manufacturer, Garcia Machine.

You should assume that all water sources are contaminated with giardia or other microorganisms. Either boil water for five minutes or use an approved filter.


Wilderness maps can be purchased from the Forest Service and Park Service. These agencies also have free handouts and Web sites that will help you plan and enjoy your trip. You can call or visit one of the offices listed as contacts.


 **Whether a four-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicle is recommended** in order to reach the trailheads for the wilderness.


 **Whether you need a permit to enter the wilderness.** Some of the most popular areas require permits for both day and overnight use. Permits are free, but there may be a charge to reserve a permit in areas that have quotas. If you are found without a permit in an area where permits are required, you can be cited.

 **Whether there's a quota** on the number of people allowed into the wilderness each day. The quota may be on overnight use only, or on day and overnight use. The quota may apply to the entire wilderness or just the most popular trails.

If there's a limit on how many people and pack or saddle stock can travel and camp together.

 **If fires are allowed.** You must have a state campfire permit, obtainable at any ranger station or park office, to have a fire on public land. Note that possession of a campfire permit does not authorize you to have a fire in an area where fires are restricted. Campfire permits may also be suspended on short notice in areas that have received little rain. Where the risk of wildfire is high, you may be required to have a campfire permit to use a camp stove.

 **If pets are allowed.** In many wilderness areas, dogs must be leashed. Pets are prohibited from wilderness areas in state and national parks.

 **Whether any portion of the wilderness is currently closed.** Closures may be needed to protect sensitive species or fragile ecosystems.

Great Hikes:

Hoover Wilderness

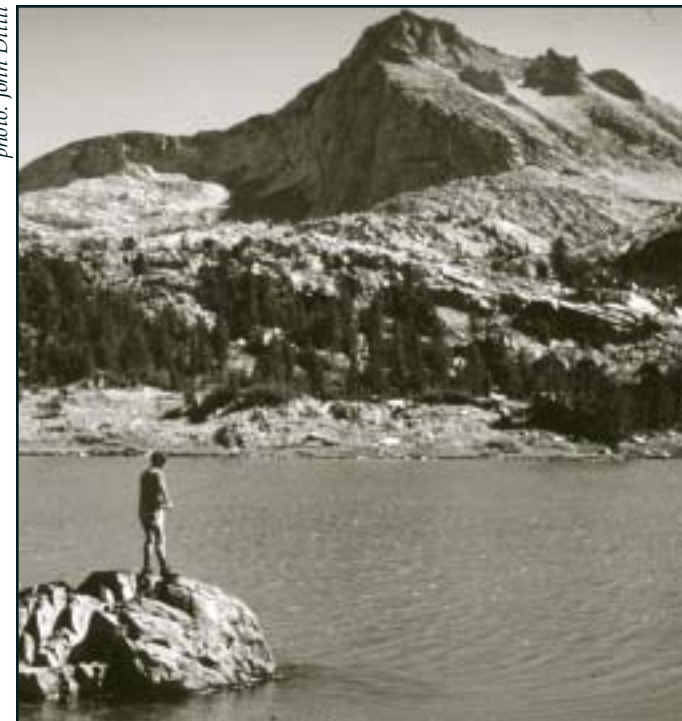
Trail Name: Steelhead Lake
Distance: 4 miles, one way
Difficulty: moderate
Best time to go: summer
Elevation: 10,087 - 11,200 feet



Features: This breathtaking hike begins at scenic Saddlebag Lake, which at just over 10,000 feet is the highest lake you can drive to in California. There are campgrounds in the vicinity of Saddlebag, as well as a small store, boat rentals, and a small ferry service that will deliver hikers to popular trails at the far edge of the lake. From here, the trail continues to two more alpine lakes - pristine Greenstone and Wasco - before finally arriving at Steelhead Lake (10,270 feet) near the historic Hess Tungsten Mine. Steelhead Lake is nestled among peaks that reach up to 12,000 feet, and offers such wilderness amenities as rustic picnic spots, as well as cross country hikes and climbs that offer great views of the Yosemite backcountry.

Directions: From Lee Vining, take Tioga Pass Road (Highway 120) west 10 miles toward the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park. A few miles before the park you'll see a sign for Saddlebag Lake Road. From there it's another two miles to the trailhead. Hikers should proceed slowly at the onset, as it may take time to acclimate to the high altitudes.

photo: John Dittli



Steelhead Lake, Hoover Wilderness

Ventana Wilderness

Trail Name: Cone Peak
Distance: 2.3 miles, one-way
Difficulty: moderate
Best time to go: spring and fall
Elevation: 300 - 1,780 feet



photo: Jim Rose



Arroyo Seco River, Ventana Wilderness

Features: For hikers who are up for a climb, this hike provides fantastic views of the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Lucia Range. The trail passes through a wide range of native vegetation, including oak woodlands, Coulter and sugar pine, and the rare Santa Lucia fir. Cone Peak exemplifies the dramatic terrain that characterizes the Ventana. It rises one mile vertically in only three lateral miles and is the third tallest peak in the Ventana Mountains.

Directions: Turn off highway 1 by the Mill Creek Picnic area onto Nacimiento-Fergusson Road. This is a scenic, winding route that continues 7.5 miles up the mountains to Redwood Springs Campground, at which point it intersects with the Coast Ridge Road (also known as Forest Road 20S05). From the trailhead parking area, follow the closed road a short way, then turn onto a separate trail to continue the hike.

Northwest California



1. Redwood Heritage/Jedediah Smith State Park



Reasons to visit: this predominately old-growth coast redwoods park contains the Smith River, which is the last major free-flowing river in California.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 people, 20 stock

Fires: no

Pets: allowed on designated trails only

Closed areas: Mill Creek Trail may be closed due to budget cuts

Note: Fees apply; no guns; day use only in wilderness; strict food storage rules due to bears; bring stock feed/no grazing

Contact: Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, Crescent City, (707) 464-6101 ext. 5100

www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=413

2. Siskiyou



Reasons to visit: one of the world's largest concentrations of lily species including the rare Bolander Lily.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: none

Note: NW Forest Pass fee may apply in Oregon; terrain not amenable to stock; hay or unprocessed grain (for stock) prohibited; watch for rattlesnakes; no shooting within 150 yards of campsite or occupied area

Contact: Happy Camp RD, Klamath NF, Happy Camp, (530) 493-2243 or Orleans RD, Six Rivers NF, Orleans, (530) 627-3291

www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou/siswild.htm

3. Red Buttes



Reasons to visit: diverse vegetation, some of it found nowhere else on earth.

4WD recommended: only for Bee Camp/Lilypad Lake

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 people, 12 stock

Fires: yes

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: no camping within 100' of lakes

Note: Azalea Lake has designated horse and hiker camps; NW Forest Pass required for parking at designated trailheads; carry water in summer; no shooting over lakes

Contact: Rogue River NF, Medford, OR, (541) 858-2200 or Applegate RD, Jacksonville, OR, (541) 899-3800

www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue/wilderness_redbutte.html

4. Murrelet/Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park



Reasons to visit: tallest trees in the world (coast redwoods), lovely camping adjacent to beach.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 per camp site

Fires: no

Pets: allowed on designated trails only; dogs ok on beach with leash

Closed areas: none

Note: Fees apply; no guns; strict food storage rules due to bears; bring stock feed/no grazing

Contact: Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Orick, (707) 464-6101 ext. 5100

www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=415

5. Redwood National Park



Reasons to visit: a World Heritage Site, this park's mosaic of habitats include prairie/oak woodlands, mighty rivers and streams, and 37 miles of pristine Pacific coastline; cultural landscapes reflect Native American history.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: yes, for camping or collecting wood along Redwood Creek

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 per camp site

Fires: only in designated fire pits

Pets: allowed on designated trails only; dogs ok on beach with leash

Closed areas: Little Bald Hills Trail during wet season due to Port Orford cedar disease; some areas of Redwood Creek may be closed in wet season due to flooding; bridges removed in winter on Redwood Creek and Trestle trails; no camping within 1/4 mile of Tall Trees Grove

Note: No guns; no motorized vehicles on trails; strict food storage rules due to bears; camping limited to 5 consecutive days and 15 total days; bring stock feed/no grazing

Contact: Redwood National and State Parks, Crescent City, (707) 464-6101 or REDW_Information@nps.gov

www.nps.gov/redw

photo: California Wilderness Coalition



6. Marble Mountain



Reasons to visit: beautiful scenery and lakes, spectacular 1000' Marble Rim looks into Rainy Valley.

4WD recommended: usually

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, no limit on stock

Fires: permit required for both stoves and fires

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: none

Note: no shooting near campsites; before July 1 bring food for stock; bring certified weed-free feed for stock

Contact: Scott River RD, Klamath NF, Fort Jones, (530) 468-5351 or Happy Camp RD, Klamath NF, Happy Camp, (530) 493-2243 or Ukonom RD, Klamath NF, Orleans, (530) 627-3291

www.r5.fs.fed.us/klamath/recreation/wilderness/marbles/index.shtml

7. Russian



Reasons to visit: pristine glaciated lakes, high conifer diversity.

4WD recommended: usually

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: none

Note: bring certified weed-free food for stock

Contact: Scott River RD, Klamath NF, Fort Jones, (530) 468-5351

www.r5.fs.fed.us/klamath/recreation/wilderness/russian/index.shtml

8. Trinity Alps



Reasons to visit: rugged mountain peaks and solitude.

4WD recommended: not in most cases

Permit: overnight

Quota: no

Group size limit: 10 people

Fires: seasonally restricted during extreme fire conditions; discouraged where sparse vegetation, including some higher elevation lakes

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: none

Note: bears frequent trailhead parking lots; check on status of trails and roads; bring certified weed-free feed for stock

Contact: Weaverville RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, Weaverville, (530) 623-2121 or Scott River RD, Klamath NF, Fort Jones, (530) 468-5351 or Lower Trinity RD, Six Rivers NF, Willow Creek, (530) 629-2118

www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity/recreation/trmu/taw.shtml

9. Mt. Shasta



Reasons to visit: alpine wildflowers July to Sept., glaciers have shown advance over last 50 years.

4WD recommended: not for 6 main trailheads

Permit: day and overnight

Quota: no

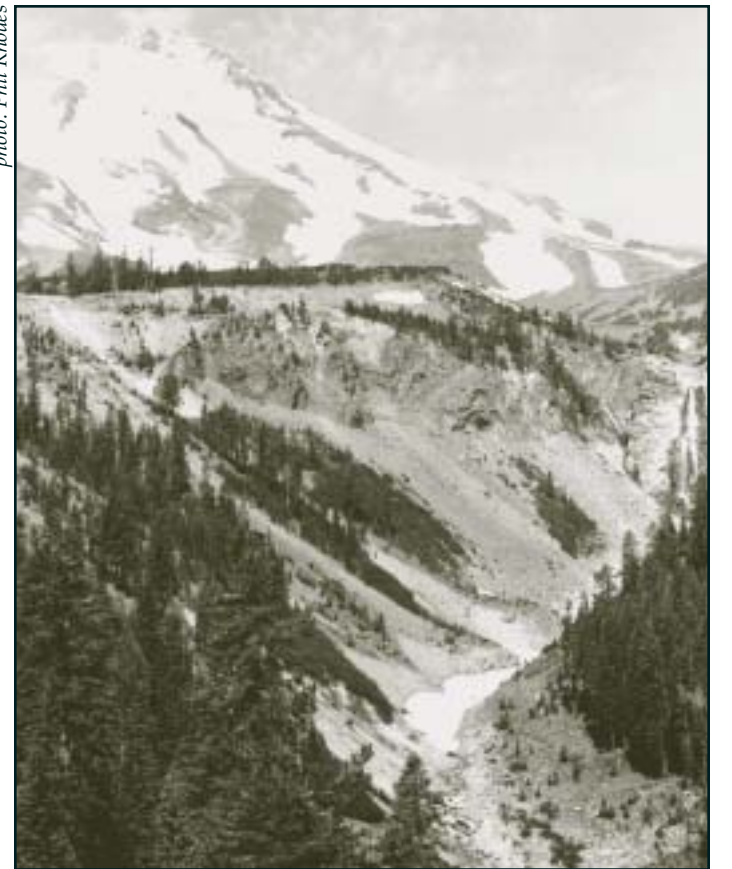
Group size limit: 10 people, 10 stock

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: spring-fed meadows closed, except on trails; don't camp/wash/cook within 100' of streams or trails

photo: Phil Rhodes



East side of Mount Shasta, Ash Creek Canyon and Falls, Mount Shasta Wilderness

Note: all climbers above 10,000' will need a summit pass; for solitude, avoid weekends; no overnight stock use; no target shooting; no guns on Sierra Club land; visitors must pack out human waste (bags provided)

Contact: Mount Shasta RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, Mount Shasta, (530) 926-4511; call (530) 926-9613 for current route, snow and weather conditions

www.r5.fs.fed.us/shastatrinity/recreation/smmu/wilderness/shasta-wilderness.shtml

10. Castle Crags



Reasons to visit: granite towers, rare wildflower, southeast extent of Brewer spruce.

4WD recommended: yes at Soapstone, Gray Rock and Bradley.

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: yes, but not recommended

Pets: yes

Closed areas: all areas during snow season

Note: climbers may not place new bolts; pets not allowed on trails in state park; no shooting; camp/wash/cook 100' from water

Contact: Mount Shasta RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, Mount Shasta, (530) 926-4511. www.r5.fs.fed.us/shastatrinity/recreation/smmu/wilderness/shasta-wilderness.shtml

11. Carl Anderson/Humboldt Redwoods State Park



Reasons to visit: California's largest redwood state park with many miles of trails.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: yes

Quota: no



Brewer Spruce (endemic to the Klamath Mountains), Marble Mountain Wilderness

Group size limit: 7 people

Fires: no

Pets: developed areas only

Closed areas: none

Note: Fees may apply; trail camp stays limited to 3 nights; no guns, bows, or slingshots

Contact: Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Weott, (707) 946-2263 or (707) 946-2409

www.humboldtredwoods.org

12. Bull Creek/Humboldt Redwoods State Park



Reasons to visit: California's largest redwood state park with many miles of trails.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: yes

Quota: no

Group size limit: 7 people

Fires: no

Pets: developed areas only

Closed areas: none

Note: Fees may apply; trail camp stays limited to 3 nights; no guns, bows, or slingshots

Contact: Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Weott, (707) 946-2263 or (707) 946-2409

www.humboldtredwoods.org

13. Chanchelulla



Reasons to visit: popular for deer hunting.

4WD recommended: Potato Creek Trailhead during wet season

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 10 people, 10 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted; campfires may be prohibited above 6000' in 2003

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: all areas closed during snow season

Note: all trails renovated; scarce water

Contact: Yolla Bolla RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, 2555 State Highway 36, Platina, CA 96076; (530) 352-4211 or Hayfork RD, Trinity Street, Hayfork, CA 96041; (530) 628-5227

www.r5.fs.fed.us/shastatrinity/

14. North Fork



Reasons to visit: popular for fall hunting.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: none

Contact: Mad River RD, Six Rivers NF, Bridgeville, (707) 574-6233

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sixrivers/recreation

15. Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel



Reasons to visit: Wild and Scenic Middle Eel River, solitude, historic trails, abundant wildlife in a natural setting, an undisturbed landscape, wildflowers, and breathtaking panoramic views (within the wilderness you can see the Pacific Ocean, several counties, plus a large portion of the Sacramento Valley).

4WD recommended: high clearance recommended but not necessary

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: Special Use Permit required for groups over 50 people

Fires: seasonally restricted; need permit for campfire or stove

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: camp at least 100' from water bodies and trails; Shasta-Trinity areas closed during snow season; some parts of streams have permanent fishing closures

Note: keep food out of reach of bears; mountain lions also present; keep stock at least 200' from water sources and do not pack in hay

Contact: Covelo RD, Mendocino NF, Covelo, (707) 983-6118 or Corning RD, Mendocino NF, Corning, (530) 824-5196 or Yolla Bolla RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, Platina, (530) 352-4211 or Mad River RD, Six Rivers NF, Bridgeville, (707) 574-6233; call (530) 926-9613 for current route, snow, and weather conditions

www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino/recreation/wild/ybme

www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity/

16. Snow Mountain



Reasons to visit: Snow Mountain East Peak offers great scenic views of the Sacramento Valley.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: no camping on private lands within wilderness; no shooting except in hunting season

Contact: Mendocino NF, Stonyford, (530) 963-3128

www.fs.fed.us/r5/mendocino/recreation/wild/snowmt/



Northeast California

17. Lava Beds National Monument



Reasons to visit: vistas and solitude.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: no limit

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: possible during high fire danger; specific caves may be closed to protect unique cave resources; no camping in caves or within 50 yards of a cave entrance or within 100 yards of a trail, or within one mile of any developed area or road

Note: carry water (be prepared for no shade or available water); very rough terrain; no firearms

Contact: Lava Beds National Monument, Tulelake, (530) 667-2282 ext. 233 or 232; labe_administration@nps.gov

www.nps.gov/labe/

18. South Warner



Reasons to visit: breathtaking scenery, few visitors, ample opportunities for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. Contains snowcapped peaks, mountain meadows, sparkling streams, a profusion of colorful flowers and shrubs, and countless birds and small animals.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: yes

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: no shooting or firearms in state game refuge

Note: recent Blue Fire (Aug. 2001) burned 7,000 acres at the south end; East Creek and Patterson trailheads affected; use caution on East Creek Trail and in burned areas

Contact: Warner Mountain RD, Modoc NF, Cedarville, (530) 279-6116

www.fs.fed.us/r5/modoc/recreation/swwwwilderness/index.shtml

19. Thousand Lakes



Reasons to visit: volcanic and glacial formations, rocky ravines, mountain slopes, open meadows, and stands of lodgepole pine and red fir.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: this wilderness is closed to outfitter guide service

Note: no shooting across trails or in campgrounds

Contact: Hat Creek RD, Lassen NF, Fall River Mills, (530) 336-5521; summer visitor center (530) 335-7517

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/recreation/wilderness/thoulakes.shtml

20. Lassen Volcanic National Park



Reasons to visit: extinct and dormant volcanoes, mudpots, fumaroles, boiling springs, towering forests, flowering meadows, streams, lakes, and waterfalls. With more than 150 miles of hiking trails and elevations that range from 5,600' to 10,400'.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight

Quota: no

Group size limit: 20 people can hike together, 10 can camp together, 10 per permit; 10 stock

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: areas open to backcountry camping differ in winter and summer; some areas closed to camping, fishing or stock; list is provided with permit

Note: entrance and campground fees; stay on established trails and boardwalks especially in thermal areas where ground may be thin; no overnight stock use; no off-road vehicle or snowmobile use; no weapons; camping limited to 14 days; hang food and garbage; dig latrine and bury human waste at least 6" deep, 100' from park waters; camp at least 300' from other groups, 100' from high water marks, and one mile from developed areas

Contact: Lassen Volcanic National Park, Mineral, (530) 595-4444; TDD phone for the deaf (530) 595-3480; (530) 595-4444 ext. 5184 for corral information

www.nps.gov/lavo



Ishi Wilderness

21. Caribou



Reasons to visit: solitude, majestic views of the mountains from Red Cinder Peak.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: possible during high fire danger

Note: Heavy trail maintenance 2004-2005; expect lots of blown-down trees across trails; no target shooting; no shooting across trails or in campgrounds

Contact: Almanor RD, Lassen NF, Chester, (530) 258-2141

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/recreation/wilderness/caribou.shtml

22. Ishi



Reasons to visit: homeland of Ishi, the last survivor of the Yani tribe.

4WD recommended: for Rancheria Kingsley Cove

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: possible due to fire danger

Note: guns and shooting restricted inside game refuge; heavy maintenance during spring 2004 on Mill Creek Trail

Contact: Almanor RD, Lassen NF, Chester, (530) 258-2141

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/recreation/wilderness/ishi.shtml

Central Coast California



23. Phillip Burton/Pt. Reyes National Seashore



Reasons to visit: lots of hiking trails, lovely beaches and forests.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight

Group size limit: 25 people, 8 stock (none at Glen Camp)

Quota: overnight

Fires: no wood fires allowed

Pets: no

Closed areas: no

Note: camping fees; camping allowed only in designated sites by permit only; no guns; reservations suggested

Contact: Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes Station, (415) 464-5137;

for backcountry reservations call (415) 663-8054

www.nps.gov/pore

24. Muir Woods National Monument

Reasons to visit: the last old-growth coast redwood forest in the San Francisco Bay Area; has good hiking trails.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: none

Note: entrance fee; day use only

Contact: Muir Woods National Monument, Mill Valley, (415) 388-2596

www.nps.gov/murwo/index.htm

25. West Waddell/Big Basin Redwoods State Park



Reasons to visit: largest coastal redwood forest south of Humboldt with wonderful waterfalls.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight

Group size limit: 6 people per campsite

Quota: overnight

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: stock restricted to specific trails

Note: carry water; fees apply; reservations required for camping; apply for permits at Big Basin office; camp at developed sites only; no firearms; no bikes on trails; no hunting; fishing restricted; horses must overnight at horse camp

Contact: Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Boulder Creek, (831) 338-8860 or

(831) 338-8861

<http://bigbasin.org> and www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=540

26. Orestimba/Henry Coe State Park



Reasons to visit: mild winter camping, great spring wildflowers.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight

Quota: overnight

Group size limit: 8 people, 8 stock

Fires: no; stoves ok

Pets: no

Closed areas: possible with high fire danger

Note: fees apply; carry water in summer; purify water; no guns

Contact: Henry W. Coe State Park, Morgan Hill, (408) 779-2728

www.coepark.org

27. Ventana



Reasons to visit: stands of redwoods, subalpine plants and bare rock mountaintops.

4WD recommended: only when very muddy

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: possible during fire season

Note: Adventure Pass fee; rough hiking conditions; trees often down

Contact: Monterey RD, Los Padres NF, King City, (831) 385-5434 or Big Sur

Station, Los Padres NF, Big Sur, (831) 667-2423

www.ventanawild.org and www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

28. Pinnacles National Monument



Reasons to visit: rich diversity of wildlife and spring flowers, spectacular remains of an ancient volcano.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no, except required for any commercial guiding

Quota: limited by parking availability

Group size limit: no limit except for climbing in some locations

Fires: only seasonal restrictions; charcoal only, in established picnic area grills

Pets: only in developed areas; cannot be left unattended in vehicles

Closed areas: no overnight use; seasonal rock/cave closures, see Visitor

Center Advisories

Note: summer temps in 100s so hike early morning/late afternoon then;

no camping or collecting; carry water; entrance fee; no stock use allowed;

no weapons

Contact: Pinnacles National Monument, Paicines, (831) 389-4485 ext. 235

www.nps.gov/pinn

29. Silver Peak



Reasons to visit: famous Big Sur coastline has dramatic scenery and moderate to challenging hiking.

4WD recommended: only when very muddy

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: possible during fire season

Note: Adventure Pass fee

Contact: Monterey RD, Los Padres NF, King City, (831) 385-5434 or Big Sur

Station, Los Padres NF, Big Sur, (831) 667-2423

www.ventanawild.org

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

photo: Phil Farrell



Berry Creek Falls, Big Basin State Park

30. Santa Lucia



Reasons to visit: this lightly visited area has lush streamside vegetation and ancient stands of oaks.

4WD recommended: yes, if coming from the south

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed in campground

Closed areas: none

Note: Adventure Pass fee; use designated campsites; no shooting within 150' of trail; smoking restricted to designated recreation sites

Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, Santa Maria, (805) 925-9538

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

31. Garcia



Reasons to visit: panoramic views, solitude, and a variety of lush wildflowers in spring.

4WD recommended: only when very muddy

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed in campground

Closed areas: no

Note: Adventure Pass fee; no shooting within 150' of trail; smoking restricted to designated recreation sites

Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, Santa Maria, (805) 925-9538

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

photo: Phil Farrell



Lake Helen area, Lassen Volcanic National Park



Sespe Wilderness

32. Machesna Mountain



Reasons to visit: high peaks, chaparral, oak woodlands and conifer forests. The prairie falcon and tule elk live here. Research Natural Area is dedicated to the study of a unique strain of Coulter pine.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed in campground

Closed areas: possible due to condor release site

Note: Adventure Pass fee; no shooting within 150' of trail; smoking restricted to designated recreation sites

Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, Santa Maria, (805) 925-9538

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

33. Carrizo Plain National Monument



Reasons to visit: amazing spring wildflowers.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: only for groups of 20 or more people or more than 5 vehicles

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: stoves preferred

Pets: must be leashed; no dogs allowed at Painted Rock

Closed areas: 1/4 mile of Sulphur Springs; Painted Rock is closed except by guided tour from 3/1 to 7/15; camp at least 200 yards from water; additional seasonal closures may apply

Note: carry water and a full gas tank (no services in vicinity); camping limited to 14 days month, and 28 days per year; no target shooting; no shooting within 1/4 mile of any campground or developed site

Contact: BLM, Bakersfield, (661) 391-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/carrizoplain.html

34. San Rafael



Reasons to visit: abundant wildflowers March through June and more than 125 relatively rugged miles of trails that receive moderate human use.

4WD recommended: only when very muddy

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed in campground

Closed areas: condor sanctuary and Pool Rock archaeological site

Note: Adventure Pass fee; use designated campsites; no shooting within 150' of trail; smoking restricted to designated recreation sites

Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, Santa Maria, (805) 925-9538

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

35. Dick Smith



Reasons to visit: beautiful stands of mixed conifers, massive sandstone outcroppings.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: possible short closures due to fires

Note: Adventure Pass fee

Contact: Santa Barbara RD, Los Padres NF, Santa Barbara, (805) 967-3481

or Mount Pinos RD, Los Padres NF, Frazier Park, (661) 245-3731

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

36. Chumash



Reasons to visit: solitude amid some of the highest and most rugged terrain in Los Padres National Forest.

4WD recommended: for most trailheads

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: possible short closures due to fires

Note: Adventure Pass fee; trailheads may be inaccessible in winter

Contact: Mount Pinos RD, Los Padres NF, Frazier Park, (661) 245-3731

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

37. Matilija



Reasons to visit: the majestic Matilija poppy, which grows in clumps up to two-feet high, black bears, deer, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, hawks, eagles, and California condors.



Sespe Wilderness

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: Cherry Canyon (during part of year)

Note: Adventure Pass fee; carry water in summer

Contact: Ojai RD, Los Padres NF, Ojai, (805) 646-4348

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

38. Sespe



Reasons to visit: part of the fourth largest roadless region left in the Lower 48, and the one closest to a large metropolitan area, the Sespe contains a Wild and Scenic River, hot springs, wildlife and miles of trails.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: Lion, Piedra Blanca, Blue Point, Beaver Creek; possible short closures due to fires

Note: Adventure Pass fee; carry water in summer

Contact: Ojai RD, Los Padres NF, Ojai, (805) 646-4348 or Mount Pinos RD,

Los Padres NF, Frazier Park, (661) 245-3731

www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation/wild.html

39. Channel Islands National Park



Reasons to visit: beautiful hiking, rare plants, provides a hint of what California was like 200 years ago.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: overnight

Group size limit: limited by number of campsites

Fires: no, except seasonally at Scorpion Beach on Santa Cruz Island

Pets: no

Closed areas: possible; check with park staff

Note: camping reservation required; reservation fee; for detailed information, call and request a park newspaper

Contact: Channel Islands National Park, Ventura, (805) 658-5730 or email:

chis_interpretation@nps.gov

www.nps.gov/chis/

40. Boney Mountain/Point Mugu State Park



Reasons to visit: more than 70 miles of hiking trails, five miles of coastline and interesting scenery. Boney Mountain has massive outcroppings of exposed bedrock.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: recommend no more than 15

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: possible during high fire danger

Note: fees may apply; wilderness and trails are closed during red flag warnings; park is known mountain lion habitat; carry water; no stock overnight; no camping; no smoking; no weapons

Contact: Point Mugu State Park, Malibu, (805) 488-1827. Fire closure

information: (805) 488-8147

www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=630



Sierra

41. Bucks Lake



Reasons to visit: vegetation varies from brush fields to conifers, oaks and pure stands of red fir. Bare rock slopes, cliffs, quaking bogs and small mountain meadows are found at the higher elevations. Where the Pacific Crest Trail crosses, there is a spectacular view of the forest to the east and north. Mount Lassen is visible on clear days.

4WD recommended: not in summer; can't reach trailhead in winter

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 people, 25 stock

Fires: yes

Pets: yes

Closed areas: this wilderness is closed to commercial outfitting and guiding

Note: carry water; 14-day camping limit

Contact: Mt. Hough RD, Plumas NF, Quincy, (530) 283-0555

www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas/recreation/

42. Granite Chief



Reasons to visit: headwaters of the American River, Pacific Crest Trail, southern part of the wilderness is forested with mixed conifer, red fir and lodgepole pine at higher elevations, and deciduous and evergreen woodlands further down. Wilderness is lightly used except for Five Lakes Basin.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 12 people; 12 stock (day), 8 stock (overnight)

Fires: yes

Pets: must be leashed; no dogs May 15 to July 15 in game refuge

Closed areas: no camping/fires within 600' of Five Lakes Basin; no stock within 600' of any lake, no camping/fires within 250' of Whiskey Creek cabins

Note: no guns in Picayune Valley or in Middle Fork American River area

Contact: Truckee RD, Tahoe NF, Truckee, (530) 587-3558 or Foresthill RD,

Tahoe NF, Foresthill, (530) 367-2224

www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe/recreation/gchief.html



Big Whitney Meadow from Cottonwood Pass, Golden Trout Wilderness

43. Desolation



Reasons to visit: beautiful subalpine forests, glacial lakes and valleys, and granite peaks. An easy drive to trailheads from Bay Area or Sacramento. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail/Tahoe Rim Trail crosses the area.
4WD recommended: no
Permit: day and overnight
Quota: overnight (from Friday before Memorial Day weekend to Sept. 30)
Group size limit: 12 people, 2 stock per person, max 12 stock per group
Fires: no; campstoves ok
Pets: must be leashed
Closed areas: none

Note: Most heavily used wilderness in the country; fees apply; parking fee at Eagle Falls and Pyramid Creek trailheads
Contact: Pacific Ranger Station, Pollock Pines, (530) 647-5415 or Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, South Lake Tahoe, (530) 573-2600
www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/wild/deso/index.html and www.sierranevadawild.gov

44. Mokelumne



Reasons to visit: incredible plant diversity and rugged terrain.
4WD recommended: for Wet Meadows.
Permit: overnight
Quota: no
Group size limit: 12 people (day), 8 overnight; 12 stock except 4 per group in Mokelumne Canyon
Fires: prohibited in Carson Pass Management Zone, Blue Hole area, Mokelumne Canyon Zone and above 8000'; seasonally restricted; do not build new fire rings
Pets: must be leashed in Carson Pass Management Area; elsewhere must be under control
Closed areas: no camping within 300' of Emigrant Lake (except for snow camping); no camping within 200' of streams, trails, and high water mark

of lakes

Note: bear canisters recommended; camping in Carson Pass Management Area in designated sites only; no target shooting; 14 day limit; weed-free feed for stock required; dispose of human waste in holes 6" deep and 200' from water, trails, and camps

Contact: Amador RD, Eldorado NF, Pioneer, (209) 295-4251 or Carson RD, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Carson City, NV, (775) 882-2766 or Calaveras RD, Stanislaus NF, Hathaway Pines, (209) 795-1381 or Groveland RD, Stanislaus NF, Groveland, (209) 962-7825
www.sierranevadawild.gov; www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/wild/moke/index.html;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/visitor/mokelumne.shtml;
www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/visitor/wildernessregs.shtml

45. Carson-Iceberg



Reasons to visit: rugged landscape of great scenic beauty with volcanic ridges and peaks; from some vantage points one can view vast desert to the east and dense conifer forest to the west.

4WD recommended: for Corral Valley trailhead
Permit: overnight
Quota: no
Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock
Fires: no campfires where wood is scarce; don't build new fire rings; stoves preferred
Pets: must be leashed or under voice command
Closed areas: no camping within 100' of water; reaches of the Carson River, Silver King Creek and tributaries closed to fishing
Note: proper food storage required; bear canisters recommended; no target shooting; please take only small groups to less-traveled areas; weed-free feed for stock; 14-day limit; dispose of waste at least 200' from water
Contact: Calaveras RD, Stanislaus NF, Hathaway Pines, (209) 795-1381 or Summit RD, Stanislaus NF, Pinecrest, (209) 965-3434 or Carson RD, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Carson City, NV, (702) 882-2766
www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/visitor/carson.shtml
www.sierranevadawild.gov

46. Emigrant



Reasons to visit: glaciated landscape of great beauty.
4WD recommended: no
Permit: overnight
Quota: no
Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock
Fires: prohibited above 9000' and within half mile of Emigrant Lake; no fires when wood is scarce; don't build new fire rings
Pets: must be under control
Closed areas: no camping within 100' of water
Note: bear canisters recommended; please take only small groups to less-traveled areas; dispose of waste at least 200' from water; no target shooting; no guns in Picayune Valley or Middle Fork American River area
Contact: Summit RD, Stanislaus NF, Pinecrest, (209) 965-3434 or Mi-Wok RD, Stanislaus NF, Mi Wuk Village, (209) 586-0643 or Groveland RD, Stanislaus NF, Groveland, (209) 962-7825
www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/visitor/emigrant.shtml
www.sierranevadawild.gov

47. Hoover



Reasons to visit: rugged mountains, alpine lakes and rushing streams. Steep canyons lead to pleasant meadows. Home to deer, bear, bobcat and coyote, as well as an occasional mountain lion.
4WD recommended: no
Permit: overnight
Quota: overnight (June 28 to Sept. 15)
Group size limit: 15 people (Sawtooth Ridge zone: 8 people), 25 stock
Fires: yes, except in: Sawtooth Ridge zone, Barney and Peeler Lakes, and above 9000'
Pets: must be leashed; prohibited in some areas
Closed areas: no camping within 100' of Barney Lake
Note: camping at Barney Lake restricted to one night; reservation fee; no target shooting; food storage requirements in some areas
Contact: Bridgeport RD, Toiyabe NF, Bridgeport, (760) 932-7070 or Mono Lake Visitor Center, Inyo NF, Lee Vining, (760) 647-3044. For Inyo NF wilderness reservations, contact Wilderness Reservations, Inyo NF, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93513; (760) 873-2485
www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild.html and www.sierranevadawild.gov

48. Yosemite National Park



Reasons to visit: a beautiful wilderness that receives few visitors.
4WD recommended: no
Permit: overnight
Quota: overnight
Group size limit: 15 people (8 cross-country), 25 stock (on trails)
Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: no
Closed areas: none
Note: bear-resistant food canisters strongly recommended and required in some places; reservation fee for permits; reservation procedure may change, firearms prohibited except lead packer may carry an unloaded weapon
Contact: Wilderness Center, Yosemite, (209) 372-0200; (209) 372-0740 for reservations
www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/index2.htm

49. Ansel Adams



Reasons to visit: gorgeous alpine scenery, Pacific Crest and John Muir Trails.
4WD recommended: no
Permit: overnight
Quota: overnight
Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock
Fires: no wood fires above 10,000' or where camping restrictions
Pets: must be under control
Closed areas: camp at least 100' from lakes; camping restrictions on Rainbow Lake, Lillian Lake, Cora Lake and Sadler Lake
Note: Proper food storage required; reservation fee for permit; shooting only allowed for game
Contact: Mono Lake RD, Inyo NF, Lee Vining, (760) 647-3000 or Mammoth RD, Inyo NF, Mammoth Lakes, (760) 924-5500 or Bass Lake RD, Sierra National Forest, North Fork, (559) 877-2218 ext. 3136 during summer for general info or ext. 0 for permits. For Inyo NF wilderness reservations, contact Wilderness Reservations, Inyo NF, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93513; (760) 873-2485
www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild.html and www.sierranevadawild.gov

50. Devils Postpile National Monument



Reasons to visit: the Devils Postpile formation is a rare sight in the geologic world, ranking as one of the earth's finest examples of columnar basalt. Its columns tower 60' and display an unusual symmetry.
4WD recommended: no
Permit: no
Quota: no
Group size limit: none
Fires: in campground designated fire pits only
Pets: must be leashed or under control
Closed areas: monument closed during winter
Note: fees apply; shuttle bus service from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area mandatory between 7 am and 7 pm.
Contact: Devils Postpile National Monument, Mammoth Lakes, (760) 934-2289
<http://www.nps.gov/dep/>

51. Kaiser



Reasons to visit: Kaiser Peak provides a commanding view of the central Sierra Nevada.
4WD recommended: no
Permit: overnight
Quota: overnight
Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock
Fires: not allowed above 10,000'
Pets: must be under control
Closed areas: no camping within 200' of upper and lower Twin and Nellie Lakes
Note: no target shooting; reservation fee; use bear canisters; camp away from water
Contact: High Sierra RD, Sierra NF, Prather, (559) 855-5360
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/wilderness/areas.shtml#kaiser
www.sierranevadawild.gov

52. John Muir



Reasons to visit: highest peak in the lower 48 states - Mt. Whitney at 14,495'. Numerous streams, tarns, lakes, and glacially carved canyons sculpt the area.
4WD recommended: no



Ansel Adams Wilderness

Permit: day (Whitney zone) and overnight

Quota: day (Whitney zone) and overnight May 1 to Nov. 1

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: prohibited in some locations

Pets: yes, except in bighorn habitat

Closed areas: portions of California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area; stock excluded from Mt. Whitney and Meysan lakes trails; no camping at Trailside Meadow or Mirror Lake

Note: new visitor center will open in Lone Pine in 2005; proper food storage required; bear canisters required in some locations; no target shooting; special permit needed for Whitney zone; reservation fee

Contact: High Sierra RD, Sierra NF, Prather, (559) 855-5360 or Mount Whitney RD, Inyo NF, Lone Pine, (760) 876-6200. For Inyo NF wilderness reservations, contact Wilderness Reservations, Inyo NF, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93513; (760) 873-2485

www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild.html

www.sierranewadawild.gov; www.sierrawildbear.gov

53. Dinkey Lakes



Reasons to visit: scenic beauty characterized by moderately sloping terrain with high peaks near Dinkey Lakes, stands of white fir, red fir and Jeffrey pine interspersed with mountain meadows and barren rocky slopes.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight

Quota: overnight

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: yes, except above 10,400'

Pets: must be under control; leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: no target shooting; reservation fee; bear boxes not available, so use canisters; camp 100' from water; stoves recommended

Contact: (summer only) Dinkey Ranger Station, Dinkey Creek, (559) 841-3404 or High Sierra RD, Sierra NF, Prather, (559) 855-5360

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/wilderness/index.shtml

www.sierranewadawild.gov

54. Monarch



Reasons to visit: Mountain meadows, shallow lakes, and spectacular geological formations contribute to the area's overall beauty. The Monarch provides some of the most primitive wilderness experiences in the area.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight (Sierra NF only)

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: yes

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: none

Note: road accessing trailhead closed Nov. 15 to Apr. 15; fees apply; no target shooting inside the wilderness; use stoves and bear canisters; carry water

Contact: Hume Lake RD, Sequoia NF, Dunlap, (559) 338-2251 or Kings River RD, Sierra NF, Sanger, (559) 855-8321

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/recreation/wilderness.html

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/wilderness/index.shtml

www.sierranewadawild.gov

55. Giant Sequoia National Monument



Reasons to visit: contains giant sequoias - the biggest trees on earth.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight (Golden Trout Wilderness)

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people and 25 stock (in wilderness areas)

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: Fees may apply; ORVs and mountain bikes on designated routes only; no shooting near occupied dwellings, across water or roads, near campgrounds or administrative sites

Contact: Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest, Porterville, (559) 784-1500

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/gsnm.html

56. Jennie Lakes



Reasons to visit: wildflowers, virgin stands of red fir, lodgepole, and western white pine, beautiful Weaver and Jennie lakes.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: yes

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: none

Note: entrance fees

Contact: Hume Lake RD, Sequoia NF, Dunlap, (559) 338-2251

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/recreation/wilderness.html

57. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks



Reasons to visit: The highest of the High Sierra offers spectacular alpine terrain.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: day (Whitney zone only) & overnight

Quota: day (Whitney zone only) & overnight

Group size limit: 15 people, 20 stock

Fires: depends on location

Pets: no

Closed areas: check with park

Note: portable bear-proof canisters required in some areas; fees apply; guns prohibited; grazing restrictions apply

Contact: Wilderness Office, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, (559) 565-3766 or (559) 565-3341

www.nps.gov/sequoia/bcinfo.htm

58. Golden Trout



Reasons to visit: good area for beginner backpackers with hundreds of miles of trails.

4WD recommended: for Monache Meadows

Permit: overnight

Quota: some areas (contact Inyo NF)

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: wildfires in 2003: be aware of potential tree hazards; new visitor center will open in 2005 in Lone Pine; proper food storage required; reservation fee; no target shooting; grazing restrictions apply

Contact: Mount Whitney RD, Inyo NF, Lone Pine, (760) 876-6200 or Cannell Meadow RD, Sequoia NF, Kernville, (760) 376-3781. For Inyo NF wilderness reservations, contact Wilderness Reservations, Inyo National Forest, 351

Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93513; (760) 873-2485

www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild.html

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/recreation/wilderness.html

www.sierranewadawild.gov; www.sierrawildbear.gov

59. South Sierra



Reasons to visit: dotted with large meadows, intermittent streams, diverse pine forests, and a rare ecosystem of montane chaparral. Contains the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Kern River. Craggy peaks and forested ridges combine ancient granite features with volcanic rock formations and boulders. Signs of human presence at least 6,000 years old.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: wildfires in 2003: be aware of potential tree hazards; new visitor center will open in 2005 in Lone Pine; proper food storage required; reservation fee; no target shooting; grazing restrictions apply

Contact: Cannell Meadow RD, Sequoia NF, Kernville, (760) 376-3781 or

Mt. Whitney RD, Inyo NF, Lone Pine, (760) 876-6200

www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/recreation/wild.html

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/recreation/wilderness.html

www.sierranewadawild.gov; www.sierrawildbear.gov

60. Dome Land



Reasons to visit: granite domes and unusual geologic formations. Because of its lower elevations, visitors especially enjoy this wilderness during the spring and fall seasons. Several ecosystems here join to form unique plant and animal communities. Contains the South Fork of the Kern River, the southernmost golden trout habitat in the state.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: No target shooting; carry water; watch for snakes

Contact: Cannell Meadow RD, Sequoia NF, Kernville, (760) 376-3781 or BLM, Bakersfield, (661) 391-6000

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/recreation/wilderness.html

www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/wilderness.html

www.sierranewadawild.gov

61. Chimney Peak



Reasons to visit: valleys, canyons, alluvial fans and steep hills lead to rugged, granite mountains. Interesting mix of vegetation with Joshua trees, creosote bush, and desert shrubs in the valleys; cottonwood trees, cacti, and pinyon pine at higher elevations. The historic Sacatar Trail, an old wagon road, now trails faintly across the wilderness.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: 14-day limit; carry water

Contact: BLM, Bakersfield, (661) 391-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/chimneypk.html

www.sierranewadawild.gov

62. Bright Star



Reasons to visit: the varied habitats of the Mojave Desert, Sierra Nevada, San Joaquin Valley and Transverse Ranges contain a wide diversity of wildlife.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/brightstr.html

www.sierranewadawild.gov

63. Kiavah



Reasons to visit: solitude and beautiful scenery that blends the ecosystems of the Mojave desert with those of the Sierra.

4WD recommended: high clearance 2WD needed to access some trailheads; 4WD needed for Horse Canyon

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: camp at least 100' from water

Note: carry water; watch for snakes; bury human waste 200' from water and 6" deep; completely extinguish fire and mix water with ashes

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400 or Cannell Meadow RD, Sequoia NF, Kernville, (760) 376-3781 or Greenhorn RD, Sequoia NF, Lake Isabella, (760) 379-5646

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/recreation/wilderness.html

www.sierranewadawild.gov



Southwest California

64. San Gabriel



Reasons to visit: this area encompasses some extremely rugged terrain ranging in elevation from 1,600 to 8,200'. Lower elevations are covered with dense chaparral, which rapidly changes to pine- and fir-covered slopes and majestic peaks. Glimpses of wildflowers and a variety of wildlife as you enter the upper elevations.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 10 people, 8 stock

Fires: no; only campstoves with permit allowed

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: Upper Bear Creek Trail

Note: Adventure Pass fee; 14-day camping limit; terrain not amenable to stock use; no shooting, prospecting, or gold panning

Contact: San Gabriel River RD, Angeles NF, Glendora, (626) 335-1251 or Los Angeles River RD, Angeles NF, San Fernando, (818) 899-1900
www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/recreation/wild-sangabriel.shtml

65. Sheep Mountain



Reasons to visit: rich diversity of wildlife, including Nelson bighorn sheep, deer, coyotes, bears, and mountain lions. Elevations range from 2,400' to over 10,000'.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: day and overnight (for entry from East Fork Trailhead only)

Quota: no

Group size limit: 10 people, 10 stock

Fires: no

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: western 15% of wilderness burned; Adventure Pass fee; terrain not amenable to stock use; no target shooting, prospecting, or gold panning; 14-day camping limit

Contact: San Gabriel River RD, Angeles NF, Glendora, (626) 335-1251 or Santa Clara/ Mojave River RD, Angeles NF, Saugus, (661) 296-9710
www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/recreation/wild-sheepmountain.shtml

66. Cucamonga



Reasons to visit: steep and challenging hiking trails.

4WD recommended: no, but may need chains in winter

Permit: day and overnight

Quota: day and overnight

Group size limit: 12 people, 8 stock

Fires: no campfires; propane stoves ok with permit

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: Adventure Pass fee; terrain not amenable to stock use; hunting allowed but no target shooting

Contact: Lytle Creek RD, San Bernardino NF, Lytle Creek, (909) 887-2576
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/recreationactivities/wilderness/index.html

67. Bighorn Mountain



Reasons to visit: a rare transition zone between the yucca- and Joshua tree-covered desert floor and stands of Jeffrey pine in the higher country. Mule deer, mountain lions, and bobcats make their homes here, and golden eagles soar in the bright skies.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 25 on national forest land; contact BLM if large party

Fires: no campfires on NF land; seasonally restricted on BLM land

Pets: must be leashed (NF); no packs of dogs for hunting allowed (BLM)

Closed areas: potential for closures due to high fire danger; contact

Big Bear RD

Note: Adventure Pass fee; carry water; no stock grazing; no shooting on National Forest land except during hunting season and in designated areas; no hang gliding in BLM wilderness

Contact: Big Bear RD, San Bernardino NF, Fawnskin, (909) 866-3437 or BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000
www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/bighorn.html

68. San Mateo Canyon



Reasons to visit: wonderful wildflower displays in spring, picturesque streams and waterfalls in spring/early summer.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 to 20 people/stock

Fires: no campfires; stoves allowed

Pets: must be leashed with leash no longer than 6'

Closed areas: none

Note: Adventure Pass fee; no potable water available; suggest visitors not hike alone as mountain lions are in the area; no guns or shooting except during hunting season; no alcohol at Tenaja Falls trailhead

Contact: Trabuco RD, Cleveland NF, Corona, (909) 736-1811
www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/recreation/index.shtml

69. San Geronio



Reasons to visit: the highest peak between the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the Mexican border, Mt. San Geronio offers unparalleled views of metropolitan Los Angeles and the Mojave Desert.

4WD recommended: only when raining

Permit: day and overnight (NF only)

Quota: day and overnight

Group size limit: 12 people (8 if have 8 stock), 8 stock

Fires: no campfires; gas stoves only (in NF)

Pets: must be leashed (NF only)

Closed areas: none

Note: Fees apply; no target shooting or stock grazing; carry water and be prepared for altitude sickness above 10,000'; carry bear canisters

Contact: Mill Creek RD, San Bernardino NF, Mentone, (909) 794-1123 or BLM, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800
www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/san_gorgonio_wilderness.html
www.sgwa.org

photo: California Wilderness Coalition



Coyote Mountains Wilderness

70. Mt. San Jacinto



Reasons to visit: an island of wilderness solitude surrounded by urban areas.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: day and overnight

Quota: overnight

Group size limit: 15 people on state land, 12 people on federal land; same for stock

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: none

Note: Adventure pass fee may apply; carry water; camp only in designated areas in state wilderness; weather changes rapidly; trails not maintained during snow season and visitors must have cross-country navigational experience to safely travel then; skis with metal edges, snowshoes, ice axes and crampons may be needed during snow season; no stock off trails; no weapons; no bulldozing or RVs

Contact: Mt. San Jacinto State Park, Idyllwild, (909) 659-2607, or San Jacinto RD, San Bernardino NF, Idyllwild, (909) 659-2117

www.sanjac.statepark.org

71. San Jacinto



Reasons to visit: two exceptional rock-climbing areas: Tahquitz Rock, with sustained routes of up to 1,000', and Suicide Rock.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: day and overnight

Quota: day (Devil's Slide Trail) and overnight

Group size limit: 12 people, 8 stock

Fires: only in designated sites with permit

Pets: only in NF; must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: See also Mt. San Jacinto Wilderness listing; carry water; no grazing of stock; no shooting in state game refuge

Contact: San Jacinto RD, San Bernardino NF, Idyllwild, (909) 659-2117
www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/recreationactivities/wilderness/index.html

72. Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains National Monument



Reasons to visit: five distinct climate zones, ranging from desert to pine forest and arctic pine at the summit. Hiking and horseback trails cross the hills, offering spectacular views.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: depends on location

Fires: none in NF; seasonally restricted (BLM)

Pets: dogs prohibited east of Palm Canyon

Closed areas: Carrizo Canyon 1/1 to 6/30; voluntary hiking closure on certain trails 1/1 to 6/30 to protect bighorn sheep; Dunn Road closed to vehicles
Note: Carry water; call for updates

Contact: BLM, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800 or San Jacinto RD, San Bernardino NF, Idyllwild, (909) 659-2117
www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/santarosa/santa_rosa_national_monument.html

73. Agua Tibia



Reasons to visit: an island of diversity in urban southern California.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 25 stock

Fires: fuel stoves only

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: Dripping Springs Campground closed 3/1 to 5/30 due to breeding of the endangered arroyo toad

Note: Adventure Pass fee; carry water; no overnight stock use; use weed-free feed; highline stock; no target shooting

Contact: Palomar RD, Cleveland NF, Ramona, (760) 788-0250
www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=wildView&wname=Agua%20Tibia
www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/recreation/index.shtml



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

74. Santa Rosa



Reasons to visit: desert and mountain environments blend together to form unique plant habitats, which thrive in oases.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 12 people, 8 stock (NF only)

Fires: none in NF; seasonally restricted (BLM)

Pets: must be leashed (NF); no dogs in BLM portion except seeing-eye and search-and-rescue

Closed areas: voluntary hiking closure on Boo Hoff, Guadalupe, and Bear Creek Oasis trails 1/1 to 6/30 to protect bighorn sheep

Note: Carry water; no shooting in state game refuge, no stock grazing

Contact: San Jacinto RD, San Bernardino NF, Idyllwild, (909) 659-2117 or BLM, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/santa_rosa.html

www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/recreationactivities/wilderness/index.html

75. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park



Reasons to visit: the largest state park in the western U.S., Anza-Borrego is a geological and plant wonderland.

4WD recommended: for some trailheads

Permit: overnight in Borrego Palm Canyon

Quota: limited by parking availability

Group size limit: 25 people, unless special permit granted

Fires: only in metal container that you bring

Pets: dogs only in developed areas on 6' leash

Closed areas: Coyote Canyon 6/1 to 10/1; stock must stay on roads and trails; some trails are designated for equestrians

Note: fees may apply; backcountry camping allowed along any dirt road but do not damage plants or geologic features; carry water; no guns

Contact: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Borrego Springs, (760) 767-4205, (760) 767-4399 or (760) 767-5311

www.anzaborrego.statepark.org

76. Sawtooth Mountains



Reasons to visit: more than 200 plant species have been identified here, many under consideration for threatened or endangered status. You may see San Diego horned lizards, spotted bats, willow flycatchers, golden eagles, prairie falcons, Cooper's hawks, and other raptors.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 voluntary limit 1/1-6/30

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed; voluntary pet closure 1/1-6/30

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of destination; carry 1 gallon water per day per person; wilderness is bighorn sheep critical habitat

Contact: BLM, El Centro, (760) 337-4400

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/sawtooth_mountains.html

77. Cuyamaca Rancho



Reasons to visit: possibility of amazing wildflowers in spring 2004 due to last year's fire.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: overnight

Quota: overnight

Group size limit: 8 people per campsite

Fires: will be allowed when park re-opens

Pets: no

Closed areas: park was burned in Cedar Fire; will gradually re-open areas during 2004; entire park expected open in 2005

Note: fees apply; camp in designated sites; camp areas are on the edge of the wilderness; no horse camping in 2004; carry water (water is not available or is not treated all year); mountain lions inhabit area; no weapons

Contact: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Descanso, (760) 765-3020

www.cuyamaca.statepark.org

78. Pine Creek



Reasons to visit: gently sloping terrain populated by deer, mountain lion, coyote, gray fox, hawks, owls and reptiles.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: day and overnight

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 8 stock

Fires: no

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: Adventure Pass fee; wilderness currently is used by smugglers and may be unsafe; no target shooting

Contact: Descanso RD, Cleveland NF, Alpine, (619) 445-6235

www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/recreation/index.shtml

79. Cabrillo National Monument

Reasons to visit: annual migration of gray whales occurs December through February. Coastal sage scrub usually at peak bloom between February and April, spectacular views of San Diego Bay, Mexico, and surrounding ocean during winter. Excellent tidepooling November through March.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: none

Note: fees apply; no camping

Contact: Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego, (619) 557-5450

<http://www.nps.gov/cabr/>

80. Otay Mountain



Reasons to visit: the world's largest stand of Tecate cypress and at least 37 rare or endangered plant species are found in this wild and relatively undisturbed vestige of California's natural landscape.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: no

Pets: must be under control

Closed areas: areas along border are closed due to illegal border activities

Note: rugged area (no trails); camping not recommended due to extreme fire danger; carry water; hunting only, no target shooting

Contact: BLM, Jamul, (619) 669-1268, or BLM, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/otay_mtns_wilderness.html

81. Hauser Mountain



Reasons to visit: more than 135 species of birds. Pacific Crest Trail cuts for one mile across the extreme southeast corner of the wilderness, and the Hauser Creek Trail follows Hauser Canyon for four miles just outside of the southern boundary. No other trails exist, and humans seldom use the rest of area.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: day and overnight

Quota: no

Group size limit: 15 people, 8 stock

Fires: no

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: Adventure Pass fee; carry water; no target shooting; Hauser Canyon currently is a smuggling route and may be unsafe; water level at Hauser Creek varies due to dam releases.

Contact: Descanso RD, Cleveland NF, Alpine, (619) 445-6235

www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/recreation/index.shtml

82. Carrizo Gorge



Reasons to visit: some of the most expansive views in the entire California desert, with vistas often extending more than 100 miles. This area represents the only ecological transition zone in the National Wilderness Preservation System between the low Colorado Desert and the dry California coastal mountains.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 voluntary limit 1/1-6/30

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed; voluntary pet closure 1/1-6/30

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of destination; summer temps often exceed 113 F; carry 1 gallon water per day per person; wilderness is bighorn sheep critical habitat; no shooting from escarpment

Contact: BLM, El Centro, (760) 337-4400

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/carrizo_gorge.html

83. Jacumba



Reasons to visit: the Jacumba Mountains are a broad range made up of ridges and intervening valleys. Each successive ridge is lower than the next, creating a great staircase that descends dramatically from the peninsular ranges into the Colorado Desert.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 voluntary limit 1/1-6/30

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed; voluntary pet closure 1/1-6/30

Closed areas: Valley of the Moon area is closed to target shooting

Note: notify others of destination; summer temps often exceed 113 F; carry 1 gallon water per day per person; wilderness is bighorn sheep critical habitat; due to smuggling, camping is not recommended and Border Patrol operates in wilderness

Contact: BLM, El Centro, (760) 337-4400

<http://www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/jacumba.html>

84. Fish Creek Mountains



Reasons to visit: with jagged ridges and peaks standing above twisting canyons and small, hidden valleys, this pristine desert/mountain area is worthy of a wilderness adventure.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 voluntary limit 1/1-6/30

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed; voluntary pet closure 1/1-6/30

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of destination; summer temps often exceed 113 F; carry 1 gallon water per day per person; wilderness is bighorn sheep critical habitat

Contact: BLM, El Centro, (760) 337-4400

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/fish_creek_mountains.html

85. Coyote Mountains



Reasons to visit: a group of unusual sandstone rock formations, believed to be six million years old, add to the character of this region. Part of the Carrizo Badlands lie within the northern portion of the wilderness, their narrow and twisting gullies giving the landscape its austere, forbidding appearance.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: 8 voluntary limit 1/1-6/30

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: must be leashed; voluntary pet closure 1/1-6/30

Note: notify others of destination; summer temps often exceed 113 F; carry 1 gallon water per day per person; wilderness is bighorn sheep critical habitat

Contact: BLM, El Centro, (760) 337-4400

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/coyote_mountains.html



Desert

86. Piper Mountain



Reasons to visit: at the base of the Inyo Mountains, you'll discover one of the northernmost stands of Joshua trees.

4WD recommended: yes, except Eureka Valley Road

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/woa/areas/piper_mountain.html

87. Sylvania Mountains



Reasons to visit: the Last Chance Range, Piper Mountain and Fish Lake Valley can all be viewed from this wilderness, providing a sense of vastness.

4WD recommended: need high clearance

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, CA 93555; (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/sylvania.html

88. Inyo Mountains



Reasons to visit: because of the sheer ruggedness of the terrain, these mountains have maintained most of their pristine character and beauty. The vegetation includes creosote, shadscale scrub, big sagebrush, lush riparian areas in most of the canyons on the eastern slope, with pinyon-juniper woodland, bristlecone and limber pine on the higher elevations.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: yes, except in bristlecone pine areas

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; see also Death Valley Wilderness listing

Contact: Mt. Whitney RD, Inyo NE, Lone Pine, (760) 876-6200 or BLM, Bishop, (760) 872-4881 or BLM, Ridgecrest, (619) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/inyomts.html

89. Death Valley National Park



Reasons to visit: land of extremes, Death Valley encompasses the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere at 282' below sea level. Subtle beauties and a treasure trove of scientific information about ancient earth.

4WD recommended: for some trailheads

Permit: backcountry permit may be required; check with park

Quota: overnight

Group size limit: 15 people, 15 stock

Fires: no

Pets: no

Closed areas: some mines, caves, and archaeological and historic sites; horses restricted on some trails

Note: carry water; avoid low desert in hot weather; no weed feed for stock; no guns; no collecting; few maintained trails, numerous cross-country opportunities

Contact: Death Valley National Park, Death Valley, (760) 786-3200

www.nps.gov/deva

90. Malpais Mesa



Reasons to visit: rugged valleys, deep canyons, sheer mountainsides and mesas all within a short distance of each other, as well as foraging and nesting habitat for golden eagles.

4WD recommended: no, except need high clearance for Santa Rosa Mine Trail

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/malpais.html

91. Coso Range



Reasons to visit: Vermillion Canyon, located in the western side of the wilderness, and Joshua Flat are especially scenic, with outstanding views of the Owens Valley and the eastern Sierra Nevada from Joshua Flat.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/coso.html

92. Darwin Falls



Reasons to visit: nesting and foraging habitat for prairie falcon.

4WD recommended: no, but need high clearance

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/darwin.html

93. Funeral Mountains



Reasons to visit: dry, desolate and trail-free, a land of rugged and cheerfully colorful limestone that lies in striking bands. Desert bighorn sheep on the peaks and few humans.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding in BLM wilderness

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/funeralmntn.html

94. Sacatar Trail



Reasons to visit: the Sacatar Trail Wilderness encompasses the rugged pristine eastern face of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Valley, canyons and alluvial fans lead to steep hills that lead to granite peaks and ridgetops reaching over 7,800'. Vegetation ranges from creosote bush and Joshua trees on lower elevations to pinyon-juniper woodland on the upper slopes. Several canyons have springs with habitats of cottonwoods, willows and grasses. The Sacatar Trail, an old wagon road and one of the few indications of humankind in this area, provides backcountry access into this wilderness.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: depends on location

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: 14-day limit; carry water

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400 or BLM, Bakersfield, (661) 391-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/sacatar.html

www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/wilderness.html

95. Argus Range



Reasons to visit: dry desert mountains, steep slopes and highly dissected canyons, several of which offer hiking and open on the east side.

4WD recommended: for some areas

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/argus.html

photo: John Kindsater



Joshua Tree National Park

96. Surprise Canyon



Reasons to visit: beautiful hike to a waterfall and extraordinary vistas of the Panamint Valley from mountain summits. Rocky canyon walls sometimes support the rare and endangered Panamint daisy. Most of Surprise Canyon has been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in order to protect wildlife (including desert bighorn sheep and Panamint alligator lizards), vegetation, and historic and cultural resources.

4WD recommended: no, but need high clearance

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/surprise_canyon.html

97. Manly Peak



Reasons to visit: the steep, jagged ridges and the deep canyons of the Panamint Mountains are dotted by historic mining activity.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

http://www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/manly_peak.html

98. Resting Spring Range



Reasons to visit: between Death Valley National Park and the Nevada state line, the Resting Spring Range sweeps up from vast bajadas across rolling hills to a picturesque north-south spine—a line of extremely coarse and rugged rock formations with jagged summits above deep, hidden canyons. From subdued browns and tans, the colors of the mountains sometimes turn to intense pinks, reds, greens, and black.

4WD recommended: only for more remote, higher areas

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/restingsprings.html

99. Nopah Range



Reasons to visit: a desert symphony of dry mountains, hills, and alluvial fans, badlands, playas, plains, and river washes. Creosote, cactuses, yucca, and other desert shrubs cover the bajadas, adding hints of color and life to the barren mountains that rise above.

4WD recommended: for some trailheads

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/nopah.html

100. South Nopah Range



Reasons to visit: shaded with soft colors, the Nopah Range is composed of sedimentary rocks capped at about 4,200'. Vegetation is sparse, but the environment is known to support the ivory-spined agave plant.

4WD recommended: for most trailheads

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if unusually party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/southnopah.html

101. Owens Peak



Reasons to visit: a transition zone between the Great Basin, Mojave Desert and Sierra Nevada ecoregions. Vegetation varies considerably, with a creosote desert scrub community on the bajadas, scattered yuccas, cacti, annuals, cottonwood and oak trees in the canyons and valleys, and a juniper-pinyon woodland with sagebrush and grey pine on the upper elevations. Wildlife includes mule deer, golden eagle and prairie falcon. Evidence of occupation by prehistoric peoples has been found throughout the wilderness. The Pacific Crest Trail passes through along the crest and western side.

4WD recommended: yes, except Aqueduct Road

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: depends on location

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: 14-day limit; carry water

Contact: BLM, Bakersfield, (661) 391-6000 or BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/wilderness.html

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/owens_peak.html

102. El Paso Mountains



Reasons to visit: abundant cultural sites, rock hounding and some of the oldest non-marine fossils ever found in the West – ancient camel- and horse-like animals.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/el paso.html

103. Golden Valley



Reasons to visit: spectacular spring flowers, nesting and foraging habitat for raptors and habitat for desert tortoise and Mojave ground squirrel.

4WD recommended: need high clearance

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/gldnoly.html

104. Grass Valley



Reasons to visit: this expansive valley lies fairly flat, with a series of scattered hills that are yellow to reddish brown in color. Elevations 200-600' above the desert floor to the west. Some Joshua trees, but vegetation is largely creosote bush scrub. Raptors forage here, and desert tortoises and Mojave ground squirrels find suitable habitat in this barren area, which is devoid of both water and trails.

4WD recommended: need high clearance

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; good cross-country navigational skills are necessary (few trails)

Contact: BLM, Ridgecrest, (760) 384-5400

www.ca.blm.gov/ridgecrest/grassvly.html

105. Black Mountain



Reasons to visit: Black Mountain (3,941') rises above an expanse of ancient lava flows.

4WD recommended: not needed for most trailheads

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: if unusually large party, please contact BLM

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding in BLM wilderness

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/blackmntn.html

106. Ibex



Reasons to visit: horizontal rock layers in the mountains are highlighted with distinctive bright red, yellow, and black hues.

4WD recommended: for most trailheads

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding in BLM wilderness

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/fibex.html

107. Saddle Peak Hills



Reasons to visit: with hills cut by curvy faults, this area shares southern and western boundaries with Death Valley National Park. The smallest of the areas designated by the California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/saddlepeak.html

108. Hollow Hills



Reasons to visit: plains, hills, and alluvial fans typical of the California desert.

4WD recommended: yes, very sandy

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/hollowhills.html

109. Kingston Range



Reasons to visit: one of the most botanically diverse areas in the California desert with at least 505 native plant species, 32 of which are viewed as endangered, rare, or limited in distribution, and a relict stand of white fir trees (one of only three such groves in the Mojave desert).

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: recommend notifying others of intended destination; carry water (don't count on springs on maps); no hanggliding

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000 or BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/kingston.html

110. Pahrump Valley



Reasons to visit: unusual plants, the most noticeable of which is the giant Nolina (yucca family).

4WD recommended: only for more remote, higher areas

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party



Mojave National Preserve

Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs
Closed areas: none
Note: carry water; no hanggliding
Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000
www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/pahrump.html

111. North Mesquite Mountains



Reasons to visit: rolling brown foothills, a few steeper mountains, and medium sized buttes comprise the reddish-brown geologic features in the wilderness.
4WD recommended: yes
Permit: required for commercial or organized use
Quota: no
Group size limit: none
Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: leash recommended
Closed areas: none
Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)
Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000
www.ca.blm.gov/needles/nmesquite.html

112. Mesquite Mountains



Reasons to visit: numerous small caves are found in the porous rock of the Clark Mountains with barrel cactus gardens in some locations. Wildlife includes a large herd of bighorn sheep, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, quail, red-tailed hawks, prairie falcons, golden eagles, roadrunners, rattlesnakes, and several species of lizards.
4WD recommended: yes
Permit: required for commercial or organized use
Quota: no
Group size limit: none
Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: leash recommended
Closed areas: none
Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)
Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000
www.ca.blm.gov/needles/mesquite.html

113. Stateline



Reasons to visit: pristine area; steep limestone/dolomite mountains.
4WD recommended: yes
Permit: required for commercial or organized use
Quota: no
Group size limit: none
Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended
Closed areas: none
Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)
Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000
www.ca.blm.gov/needles/stateline.html

114. Newberry Mountains



Reasons to visit: volcanic in origin, the Newberry Mountains rise with relative gentleness toward rather broad flat tops with elevations ranging from 2,200' in the north to 5,100' in the south. Deep, maze-like canyons slice through the mountains in all directions.
4WD recommended: for some trailheads
Permit: no
Quota: no
Group size limit: contact BLM if large party
Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs
Closed areas: none
Note: carry water; no hanggliding
Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000
www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/newberry.html

115. Rodman Mountains



Reasons to visit: colorful escarpments, white mountains splotched with red and black, a maze of canyons, and majestic bajadas come together in Rodman Mountains Wilderness. From northwest to southeast across the middle of the area, a large lava flow forms a long mesa that slices the terrain in two. More than a half-dozen natural tanks lie within the lava. Two of the tanks, named Hidden and Deep, contain thousands of gallons of water. The Rodman Mountains are one of only seven core breeding areas for raptors in the California desert, and golden eagles and prairie falcons thrive here.
4WD recommended: for some trailheads
Permit: no
Quota: no
Group size limit: contact BLM if large party
Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs
Closed areas: none
Note: carry water; no hanggliding
Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000
www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/rodman.html

116. Kelso Dunes



Reasons to visit: large sand dunes.
4WD recommended: yes
Permit: only required for commercial or organized use
Quota: no
Group size limit: none
Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: leash recommended
Closed areas: none
Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)
Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000
www.ca.blm.gov/needles/kelso.html

117. Bristol Mountains



Reasons to visit: extensive opportunities for solitude.
4WD recommended: yes
Permit: required for commercial or organized use
Quota: no
Group size limit: none
Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: leash recommended
Closed areas: none
Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)
Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000
www.ca.blm.gov/needles/bristol.html

118. Mojave National Preserve



Reasons to visit: rose-colored sand dunes, volcanic cinder cones, Joshua tree forests, and mile-high mountains.
4WD recommended: yes, except to visitor center and campground
Permit: required for groups larger than 15 people or more than 7 stock
Quota: no
Group size limit: see permit
Fires: only in fire pans or existing rings; bring your own wood; carry out ashes
Pets: must be on leash no longer than 6'
Closed areas: hunting prohibited in some areas
Note: carry water; no target shooting; area services are limited so bring everything you need; trips limited to 14 days; respect private property; stay out of mine shafts and buildings; rock art is fully protected by law
Contact: Mojave National Preserve, Barstow, (760) 255-8801 or Mojave National Preserve Information Center, Baker, (760) 733-4040. To apply for permit, call (760) 255-8863 or email MOJA_Superintendent@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/moja

119. Trilobite



Reasons to visit: this wilderness covers the Marble Mountains, a narrow volcanic range extending 12 miles in a northwest-southwest direction, in which alternating dark brown and light brown striations have been tilted by geologic processes and give a marbled appearance to the range. With a large, stable population of bighorn sheep.
4WD recommended: yes
Permit: only required for commercial, competitive or organized use
Quota: no
Group size limit: none
Fires: seasonally restricted
Pets: leash recommended
Closed areas: none
Note: recommend notifying others of where you're going, carry water (don't count on springs on maps)
Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000
www.ca.blm.gov/needles/trilobite.htm

120. Clipper Mountains



Reasons to visit: extensive opportunities for solitude and wildlife that includes bighorn sheep, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, roadrunners, chucker, quail, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, rattlesnakes, several species of lizards, and desert tortoise.
4WD recommended: yes
Permit: required for commercial or organized use
Quota: no
Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/clipper.htm

121. Old Woman Mountains



Reasons to visit: Old Woman Statue, a 5,000-foot high granite monolith resembling the figure of an old woman. This wilderness falls within a transition zone between the Lower Colorado and Mojave deserts, and encompasses many different habitat types.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/owoman.html

122. Piute Mountains



Reasons to visit: strong color and texture contrasts that vary from very angular, jagged volcanic rocks to rounded, smooth granite.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: only required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/piute.html

123. Bigelow Cholla Garden



Reasons to visit: densest concentration of Bigelow cholla cactus in the California desert.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/bigelow.html

124. Dead Mountains



Reasons to visit: jagged mountains, including Mount Manchester, the highest peak at 3,498'.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000 or BLM, Lake Havasu, AZ, (928) 505-1200

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/dead.html

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/dead_mountains.html

125. Stepladder Mountains



Reasons to visit: approximately 85 percent of this wilderness consists of flat bajadas and associated washes, which provide excellent desert tortoise habitat. Dominant vegetation consists of creosote bush scrub on the bajadas, and microphyll woodlands within the washes. Palo verde, smoketree, and catclaw in the woodlands, with a small stand of crucifixion thorn and a dense stand of teddy bear cholla also in the area.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/stepladder.html

126. Turtle Mountains



Reasons to visit: located in an ecological transition zone between the Mojave and Sonoran deserts, this area contains a high diversity of plant and animal species. Much of the area has been designated a National Natural Landmark.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/turtle.html

127. Chemehuevi Mountains



Reasons to visit: rugged, granitic mountains and lovely areas along the Colorado River.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: overnight and commercial or organized use

Quota: yes

Group size limit: none

Fires: no

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: no camping

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs); no shooting

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000 or Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Needles, (760) 326-3853 or BLM, Lake Havasu, AZ, (928) 505-1200

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/cheme.html

128. Havasu National Wildlife Refuge



Reasons to visit: quiet desert beauty along 30 miles of river (300 miles of shoreline) on the Colorado.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: overnight and for stock use

Quota: yes

Group size limit: 6 people, 6 stock

Fires: no open fires; stoves ok

Pets: not permitted at night; must be leashed and tended during day

Closed areas: no camping within 1 mile of river

Note: limited trails; no firearms except for authorized hunting

Contact: Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Needles, (760) 326-3853
southwest.fws.gov/refuges/arizona/havasui/index.html

129. Whipple Mountains



Reasons to visit: striking, brick-red, steeply carved volcanics and close proximity to Colorado River.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000 or BLM, Lake Havasu, AZ, (928) 505-1200

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/whipple.html

130. Cleghorn Lakes



Reasons to visit: lands that border Amboy Road have spectacular spring wildflowers during favorable years, and an isolation population of crucifixion thorn.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: contact BLM if large party

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes; no packs of hunting dogs

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water; no hanggliding allowed

Contact: BLM, Barstow, (760) 252-6000

www.ca.blm.gov/barstow/cleghorn.html

131. Sheephole Valley



Reasons to visit: a perfect representation of the basin and range topography typical in the Mojave Desert, with rare and endangered Borrego milkvetch in the sand dunes.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/sheephole.html

132. Cadiz Dunes



Reasons to visit: pristine dunes with beautiful displays of plants in spring.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: required for commercial or organized use

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: leash recommended

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; carry water (don't rely on springs)

Contact: BLM, Needles, (760) 326-7000

www.ca.blm.gov/needles/cadiz.html

133. Joshua Tree National Park



Reasons to visit: desert views, solitude, unusual desert plants and wildlife.

4WD recommended: for some trailheads

Permit: overnight

Quota: no

Group size limit: 12 people (overnight), 12 stock

Fires: in campgrounds only

Pets: only in developed campgrounds; must be leashed

Closed areas: some areas closed to camping; stock use restricted to certain trails; day use restricted in some areas

Note: entrance fee; backpackers must register and park at designated trailheads; carry water; fixed climbing anchor placement by permit only; no climbing bolts; no guns

Contact: Visitor Center, Joshua Tree National Park, Twentynine Palms, (760) 367-5500

www.nps.gov/jotr

134. Palen/McCoy



Reasons to visit: large wilderness known for exceptional landforms and ecological diversity. The desert wash woodland found here provides food and cover for deer, coyote, bobcat, gray fox and mountain lion.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/palen_mcc.html

135. Riverside Mountains



Reasons to visit: foxtail cacti and California barrel cacti, both sensitive plants, dot the landscape.

4WD recommended: not for SE side

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/riverside_mtns_wilderness.html

136. Rice Valley



Reasons to visit: beyond the mountains, this is a wilderness of sand.

4WD recommended: yes, except Midland Rice Road

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/rice_valley_wilderness.html

137. Big Maria Mountains



Reasons to visit: gently sloping bajadas rise to numerous rough and craggy peaks separated by steep canyons in this dry and desolate landscape.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/big_maria_mtns_wilderness.html

138. Mecca Hills



Reasons to visit: California fan palm oases and an extensive “badlands” formation of highly eroded and deeply incised sedimentary materials.

Crossed by the San Andreas Fault Zone, the repeated crustal movements of the earth in this region have created numerous geologic structures, colorful rock surfaces and vivid patterns that amaze and astound visitors.

4WD recommended: yes, except to Box Canyon

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/mecca_hills.html

139. Orocoxia Mountains



Reasons to visit: forces of nature have produced a striking landscape that includes open valleys, ridges and highly colorful and dramatically eroded canyons that are the result of the region’s proximity to the San Andreas fault system. Deep canyons and washes cut across the entire area, exposing walls of color shaded from bright red to black. Bighorn sheep, burro deer, desert tortoise and many small upland game species live among the mountains. The spiny-leaved Orocoxia sage, Alverson’s foxtail cactus, Orcutt’s woody aster and Mecca aster grow unexpectedly in washes, on stony slopes, and in gypsum soils.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/orocopiadmtnswilderness.html

140. Chuckwalla Mountains



Reasons to visit: seemingly endless variety of landforms, textures and colors.

4WD recommended: yes, except for Corn Springs Campground

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/chuckwalla_mtns_wilderness.html

141. Little Chuckwalla Mountains



Reasons to visit: several sensitive plants grow here, including California snakeweed, Alverson’s foxtail cactus, and barrel cactus. You won’t find much in the way of developed trails or water, but you will find an ample supply of solitude.

4WD recommended: yes

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: carry water

Contact: BLM, N. Palm Springs, (760) 251-4800

www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/little_chuckwalla_mtns_wildern.html

142. Palo Verde Mountains



Reasons to visit: saguaro cacti dot the southeastern part of the wilderness.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: no target shooting in Table Mountain area

Note: notify others of intended destination; summer temperatures often exceed 110 F; one gallon water minimum per person per day recommended

Contact: BLM, El Centro, (760) 337-4400

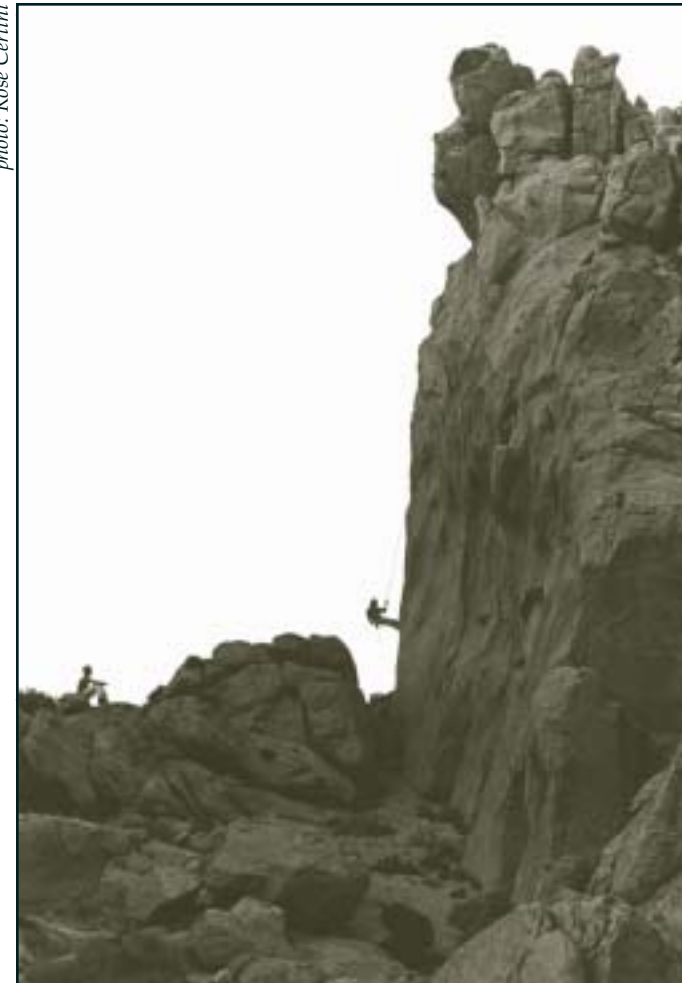
www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/palo_verde_mountains.html

143. North Algodones Dunes



Reasons to visit: the Algodones Sand Dune system covers 1,000 square miles, making it one of the largest dune complexes in North America. The dunes are interrupted in places by basins of flats, which support mesquite, smoke tree, ironwood, palo verde and desert willow trees. The flat-tailed horned lizard, desert tortoise and Colorado desert fringe-toed lizard have all been spotted in the region.

photo: Rose Certini



Walker Pass, Owens Peak Wilderness

145. Imperial National Wildlife Refuge



Reasons to visit: the river and associated backwater lakes and wetlands are a green oasis that contrast with the desert mountains that surround.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: yes

Group size limit: 6 people, 6 stock

Fires: no

Pets: not permitted at night; must be leashed during day

Closed areas: no camping

Note: no firearms except for authorized hunting

Contact: Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, Yuma, AZ, (928) 783-3371

FW2_RW_Imperial@fws.gov southwest.fws.gov/refuges/arizona/imperial.html

146. Picacho Peak



Reasons to visit: Carrizo Falls periodically cascade over a series of rock ledges dropping 40'. A large cattail-lined pool at the base of the falls provides a desert oasis for a variety of wildlife species, including desert bighorn sheep. Desert tortoise burrow in the soft volcanic soils.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: yes

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; summer temperatures often exceed 110 F; one gallon water minimum per person per day recommended

Contact: BLM, El Centro, (760) 337-4400

www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/picacho_peak.html

147. Little Picacho



Reasons to visit: dramatic jutting spires and steep ridges.

4WD recommended: no

Permit: no

Quota: no

Group size limit: none

Fires: seasonally restricted

Pets: must be leashed

Closed areas: none

Note: notify others of intended destination; summer temperatures often exceed 110 F; one gallon water minimum per person per day recommended

Contact: BLM, El Centro, (760) 337-4400

http://www.ca.blm.gov/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/little_picacho.html

front cover photo:
Willow Creek, Fred Farr