

Avawatz Mountains

Proposed Wilderness

Size: Approximately 92,000 acres

Management Agency:

Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office

Location:

On the southeastern border of Death Valley National Park, 10 miles northwest of Baker. From I-15, exit at Kelbaker Road/CA-127. Go north from Baker approximately 10 miles and turn left on Harry Wade Road.

Maps: BLM Desert Access Guides Owlshead Mountains and Soda Mountains

Photo courtesy of John Dittli



Landscape

and History: Rising to more than 6,100 feet above the Silurian Valley, the Avawatz Mountains form a commanding backdrop of colorful eroded slopes, rugged ridges, and steep, narrow canyons. These mountains are composed of Precambrian, Paleozoic, and Mesozoic-age sedimentary and igneous rocks with some Tertiary-age sediments.

Archaeological sites in the area indicate a historical presence of Native Americans. Members of the Shoshone Nation continue to visit the area for spiritual and cultural purposes, collecting plants and other materials for crafts and medicines.

Wildlife

and Plants: Nine natural springs supply water to desert animals like bighorn sheep, coyotes, bobcats, and roadrunners. California biologists have identified the Avawatz Mountains as an important link for regional habitat connectivity, enabling wildlife to move across a larger landscape throughout the desert.

Activities:

The Avawatz Mountains are a paradise for rock climbers, cross-country hikers and equestrians willing to brave harsh conditions and carry plenty of water in exchange for solitude and an outstanding back country experience.



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