

Death Valley National Park

Axe Head and Ibex Hills Proposed Wilderness

Size: Ibex Hills approximately 23,500 acres, Axe Head approximately 8,686 acres

Management Agency:
National Park Service

Location: Southeastern area of Death Valley National Park, Inyo County, CA

Maps: BLM Desert Access Guide
Owlshead Mountains

Photo courtesy of David Lamfrom



Landscape & History:

The 'Axe Head' triangle shaped area in extreme southern Death Valley National Park consists of low hills, desert washes and prime habitat for the threatened desert tortoise. In addition to excellent wildlife viewing, this area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. It is bordered on the north by lightly traveled dirt roads. On the south it would be contiguous with proposed wilderness in the Bowling Alley addition to Death Valley National Park.

The Ibex Hills are in the southwestern corner of Death Valley National Park and contain rugged mountains, remote canyons, tranquil desert washes, and habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, while offering outstanding opportunities for solitude. Its addition as wilderness would allow a connection between the small, isolated Saddle Peak Hills Wilderness managed by BLM with the larger Death Valley Wilderness area to the west.

Wildlife & Plants:

These areas are home to desert tortoises, chuckwalla, grey fox, bobcats, kit fox, coyotes, and red tailed hawks, among many other species. The Ibex Hills were formerly inhabited by desert bighorn sheep, and may be a future site for reintroduction of this once widespread species.

Activity Highlight:

These potential wilderness areas boast amazing vistas and the opportunity to enjoy Death Valley's natural soundscape and solitude. The opportunities for isolation, quiet, and reflection in these areas are outstanding.

For More Information:

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