

Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA

Recreation Opportunities



Camping

Camping is restricted in only a few areas in the NCA, there are designated campsites in the Soldier Meadows ACEC and in High Rock Canyon. Everywhere else there is unrestricted camping. Please note that fires are not allowed directly on the floor of the Black Rock Playa.



Hiking

There is only one designated walking trail in the NCA, north from Stevens Camp along the Applegate Trail, but hiking is a popular activity all around the NCA and there are dramatic landscapes to investigate in many areas, including the ten associated wilderness areas.



Bicycling

Bicycling is allowed everywhere except in designated Wilderness Areas, but be sure to carry plenty of water as it can be a long walk back to civilization if you have mechanical problems.



ATVs

ATV riding (and other driving) in the NCA is restricted to existing roads and two-tracks, except on the playa where off-road driving is allowed.



Wildlife and Wild Horse Viewing

Visitors often encounter wildlife and wild horses (also occasional burros) around the NCA. Golden eagles and hawks, antelope, and smaller creatures such as lizards, pygmy rabbits and kit foxes are common, but sightings of bighorn sheep are a special treat.



Historic Trail Touring

The Applegate and Nobles Trails have been marked with signs containing emigrant trail diary entries from each location. Trail visitors enjoy traveling between markers, reliving the route of the early emigrants. Occasional trail re-enactors can be seen with actual wagons pulled by oxen or horses.



Rock Climbing

There are several canyons in the NCA where steep vertical walls are attractive to rock climbers. Rock Climbing is allowed in all areas with the exception of the High Rock Canyon.