



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# TEMPORARY CLOSURE ORDER

Bureau of Land Management California

Temporary motorized vehicle closure for Panoche Hills Recreation Management Area

April 4, 2022

**Action:** Pursuant to 43 CFR 9268.3, the Bureau of Land Management hereby provides notice that effective April 4, 2022, the Panoche Hills Special Recreation Management Area will be temporarily closed to motorized vehicle use. This closure is necessary to prevent unnecessary destruction of plant life and wildlife habitat and protect the natural environment. Due to abnormally hot and dry weather conditions, the federally endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard breeding season has begun early this year. Motorized vehicle closure is needed to prevent disturbance to this species and its habitat during this critical period.

The closure will remain in effect until April 15, 2021. The Panoche Hills and Tumey Hills Special Recreation Management Areas are already closed to motorized vehicles from April 15 to October 15 every year.

**Affected Area:** This closure applies to all BLM managed lands within **Panoche Hills Special Recreation Management Area**.

**Prohibitions:** The public must not drive motorized vehicles within this area during the temporary closure.

**Dates:** This closure is effective at 6:00 AM on Monday, April 4, 2022, and will remain in effect until April 15, 2022.

**Supplemental Information:** The following persons are exempt from the provisions of this Order:

1. Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized medical, rescue or firefighting force engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities, or public utility employees engaged in emergency repairs.
2. BLM employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties:
3. Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties.
4. Parties who carry written approval signed by the BLM Authorized Officer allowing access to the described public lands.

**Penalties:** Any person who knowingly and willfully violates this order shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 12 months, or both. Vehicles found in violation of this order may be removed.

**Effective:** This Order is effective at 6:00 AM on Friday, April 4, 2022.

Signed by:

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Field Manager

Date