Welcome

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for 260 wilderness areas and 491 wilderness study areas under the direction of the United States Agency for Public Land Management. These areas provide primitive hunting locations to remote fishing, hiking, and camping spots, these designated areas provide unparalleled opportunities for time spent outdoors.

Wilderness Study Areas

The wilderness study areas within California’s Eagle Lake Field Office offer an amazing opportunity to experience the vast ruggedness of the western Great Basin. Strenuous before you are vast panoramas of sage and rice grasses spreading to Cronk caldera, snow-covered summits, and abundant wildlife. High mountains once famed near Platypus Lake Lahontan. Later these regions formed the boundaries for hunter-gatherer peoples, and still later they were marked by the wagon tracks of emigrants and settlers from the East.

Rugged, quiet, and mostly untamed by humans, these places offer rare opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in an increasingly urbanized world. However, their future is still undetermined.

In 1976 Congress directed the BLM to evaluate all public land under its jurisdiction for wilderness characteristics. These identified areas became WSA set aside for Congress to consider adding to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Until Congress decides to add or end consideration of a WSA, the BLM manages the area to preserve its suitability for designation as wilderness, defined by the Wilderness Preservation Act as “where the earth and community of life have not been subjected to human domination.”

Congress mandated four wilderness characteristics in each WSA that must not be impaired:

Size: at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size so as to make practicable its preservation and use in an uncrowded condition.

Naturality: Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work unobtrusive and unnoticeable.

Outstanding opportunities: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and primitive recreation experience.

Other features: May also contain ecological, geographical, or other features of scientific, historic, scenic, or historical value.

The WSAs managed by the Eagle Lake Field Office are the wilderness qualities. They also contain cattle grazing and limited vehicle access. This field office manages over one million acres of public land, which includes about 130,000 acres of WSAs.

For more information about the WSAs not covered in this guide and map, please contact the field office listed.

Skediddle WSA

Rugged and remote, the core of this WSA is a massive plateau surrounded by mountains and, alluvial slopes of the Skediddle and Amekeque Mountains. This caldera, an eroded volcanic crater, created at 3.162 million years ago as a result of an explosive eruption. The surface is dotted with vegetation that once was a sea of open sagebrush.

The WSA is a great bastion for wildlife. The BLM manages the WSA to preserve its wilderness qualities. The WSA is rich in wilderness characteristics.

Wendel Canyons support willows, wild rose, and sagebrush.

Five Springs WSA

Five Springs WSA is a ridge-like peak: Five Springs Mountain, Cherry Mountain, and Rush Creek Mountain. Fluvially eroded, each mountain now forms multiple peaks separated by wide canyons. Rush Creek, a spur of the main river, is a great bastion for wildlife. The WSA is a quiet bastion for wildlife.

Other Recreation Opportunities

This guide includes the BLM manages several WSAs. These WSAs includes Tule Spring Ring Mountain, Buffalo Hills, Twin Peaks and a portion of the Peaceful Valley WSA.

For a map of these WSAs or other areas, a Recreation Map and Guide is available for purchase and covers the entire BLM Eagle Lake Field Office Boundary.

Additional free maps and guides that depict off-highway vehicle (OHV) use opportunities are available for the敬爱电话 NE area, Rice Crest, Peaceful Valley area at the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office and on the web at wildlifemanagement.ca.gov.

Leave No Trace

• Plan Ahead and Prepare
• Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
• Dispose of Waste Properly
• Leave What You Find
• Minimize Campsite Impacts
• Respect Wildlife
• Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Where to Drive and Bicycle

Cherry Stems and Legal Roads

There are two main types of roads open to vehicle and bicycle access in the WSAs. Cherry stems and legal roads are primitive driving roads that existed prior to 1979. When Congress established WSAs that year, it “grandfathered” these roads, making them legal for driving and bicycling. They are open to street legal vehicles, off-highway vehicles, and bicycles. While they access the WSAs, these cherry stems are not part of the WSAs themselves. The WSAs boundaries follow the edges of the roads.

The legal roads also open to vehicles, OHVs, bikes, and bicycles. For example, Skediddle Ranch Road is legal for vehicle and bicycle use. If you stop out of your vehicle onto Skediddle Ranch Road you are not in a WSA. If you stop off the road, you have entered a WSA.

Unauthorized Routes

Cruising new vehicle tracks (including bicycle tracks), roads or surface disturbances in a WSA is illegal and punishable by law. Visitors using any vehicle must limit their travel to the legal cherry stems and designated roads shown on the included map.

Activities

Hiking

Hiking is a great way to explore the WSAs. Hike on durable surfaces and clean up after use. Campfires are permitted with a current campfire permit, available online or a BLM or Forest Service office. Seasonal fees restrict public access to campsites during periods of high fire danger. Make sure your fire is completely out and cold to the touch when leaving camp. You can get a campfire permit and check on fire restrictions and conditions by checking with the Eagle Lake Field Office.

Horseback Riding

Ride on durable surfaces following Leave No Trace principles. There are no designated trails in the WSAs. Only use your own adventure using maps and orienteering.

Camping

Minimize campfire impacts by choosing durable surfaces and cleaning up after use. Campfires are permitted with a current campfire permit, available online or at any BLM or Forest Service office. Seasonal fees restrict public access to campsites during periods of high fire danger. Make sure your fire is completely out and cold to the touch when leaving camp. You can get a campfire permit and check on fire restrictions and conditions by checking with the Eagle Lake Field Office.

Fishing

Several of the WSAs provide great fishing, including Willow Creek in the Tonopah Mountain Mesa. For fishing regulations contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Nevada Department of Fish and Wildlife, depending on your location.

Bicycles

Bicycles are limited to the cherry stem roads and roads shown on the map. Organized group events are prohibited.

Other Activities

The WSAs are great places for photography, night sky viewing, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing.

For more information contact: Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake Field Office

For more information contact:

Contact Information

Lassen County Sheriff’s Department

North Eastern Rural Health Center

Eagle Lake Field Office

U.S. Department of the Interior

(outdoors, and other wildlife.)

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Activities

Hiking

Hiking is a great way to explore the WSAs. Hike on durable surfaces following Leave No Trace principles. There are no designated hiking trails in the WSAs. Choose your own adventure using maps and orienteering. GPS and phone signals are limited.

Camping

WSAs are great for primitive and dispersed tent camping. There are no developed campsites and potable water is not available. Bring plenty of drinking water and be prepared for harsh desert conditions. Camping is allowed up to 14 days.

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