

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

# Rasor Off-Highway Vehicle Area





Rasor provides for a remote motorized recreation experience amidst an expansive landscape of small rugged mountains and scattered sand dunes.

Rasor Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) open area encompasses nearly 24,000 acres of public land along with a few private sections. This Special Recreation Management Area is located about 50 miles east of Barstow, CA where self-reliant OHV enthusiasts challenge themselves against the elements. The remote and rugged nature of the terrain appeal to those seeking primitive camping opportunities as well as challenging terrain, fabulous scenery, and opportunities for solitude.



#### Recreation



Visitors to Rasor enjoy excellent recreation opportunities including open desert riding on All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), motorcycles, dune buggies, Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs), and camping. In addition to the riding and camping activities this area provides access and support facilities for staging OHV and 4X4 vehicle touring into the adjacent area of the Mojave Trails National Monument (MTNM). This and other surrounding limited use areas require vehicles to travel on designated routes. There is also street legal vehicle access into the Mojave National Preserve along the Mojave Road. Access roads to Rasor are Basin and Rasor Roads via Interstate 15, 12 miles southwest of Baker, CA.



#### **Hunting and Shooting**

The Rasor OHV Area, as well as surrounding Limited Use Areas, are open to recreational shooting with the exception of the Afton Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Afton Canyon ACEC is closed to recreational shooting except legal shotgun hunting outside a ½-mile perimeter of the campground and middle of railroad trestle. Seasons and bag limits vary so be sure to check with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for complete and current hunting regulations. Fire and county ordinance restrictions may apply as well. In the immediate vicinity of wildlife guzzlers, hunting is limited to 30 minutes. It is illegal to shoot within 150 yards of any campsite or to shoot at trees, signs, glass bottles, domestic livestock, outbuildings, or other objects on federal land. On private land, visitors must obtain permission from the landowner to discharge firearms.

### Camping

Camping is permitted anywhere within the open area of Rasor, but is limited to a maximum of 14 consecutive days There is less primitive camping available at the Afton Canyon campground, situated at the west end of the canyon. This newly renovated campground provides several sites, available on a first-come basis for a fee of \$6 per night. There is also a 14-day stay limit. Each site is equipped with a shade structure, parking area, table, fire pit, and grill. Vault toilets are centrally located. Campfire permits are required and may be restricted in the fire season (typically May-October). Fire danger is extreme during most of the year. Campfire permits can be obtained online at www. preventwildfireca.org.

## Historic Highlights

The Mojave Road, an important historic period travel route, bisects the OHV area in a southwest-to-northeast direction. Remnants of the 1906 Tonapah & Tidewater Railroad berm is adjacent to the eastern OHV area boundary, and a portion of the historic and still active Union Pacific Railroad follows the southern boundary.

The Mojave Road was first an Indian trail used by Native Americans as a trade route for thousands of years, followed by early Spanish explorers and traders. In 1829, Mexican explorer Antonio Armijo pioneered the Old Spanish Trail through this area. Evidence of the trail, now designated a National Historic Trail, can still be found at Afton Canyon.

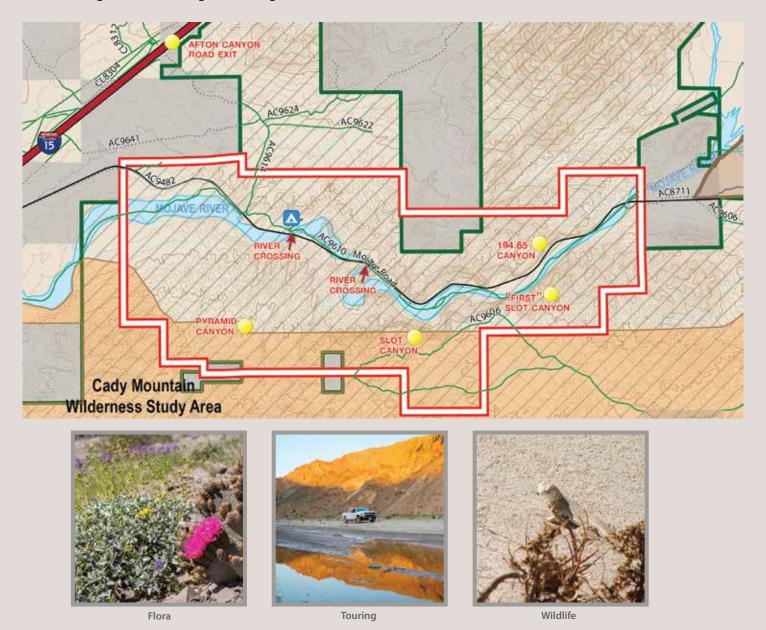
When the Americans began pushing westward, Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, John Fremont and others came this way to reach the pueblos on the coast. When gold was discovered in '49, most of the 'Niners took the northern route, but thousands followed the southern route and took the Mojave Road.

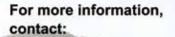
Today, visitors can enjoy this 138-mile 4-wheel drive trail from nearby Camp Cady to the shore of the Colorado River.



Afton Canyon Campground

Located within the Mojave Trails Monument, Afton Canyon is designated an ACEC to protect plant, wildlife, and other resources within the canyon. Recreation opportunities abound for OHV touring, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, and hiking in the ACEC. OHV use is restricted to signed designated "open routes" within the canyon - cross-country travel is not authorized. For more information, contact the Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office, at (760) 252-6000.





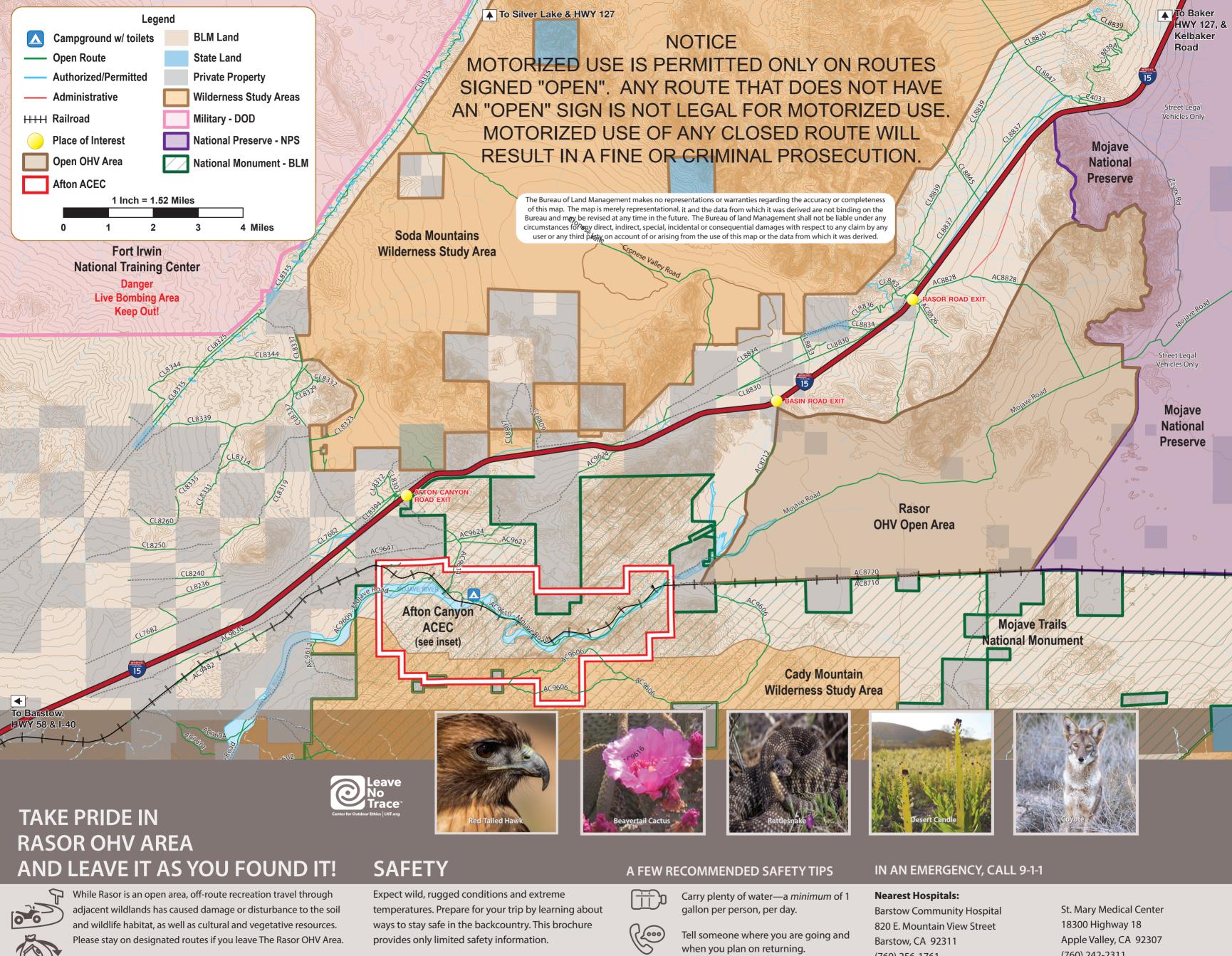
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Barstow Field Office 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311

(760) 252-6000

Public lands in the Rasor OHV Area are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

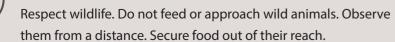
Photos by Keith Daigneault and Kyle Sullivan.







Pack out all trash. Even orange peels and other natural items decompose slowly in the high desert climate.





Be careful with fire. Keep campfires small. Comply with campfire permit requirements and fire restrictions.

If you arrive unprepared, you could become lost, dehydrated, injured, or even die. Your safety is your responsibility.



If you are stranded, stay with your



Dress appropriately for the season and changing weather.



Do not approach or feed wildlife.



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