



Photo Credit: Sendi Kalcic

Rainbow Mountain Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management

Southern Nevada District Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89103
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.1.html>

Size: 24,997 acres
Elevation Range: 3,960 - 7,070 feet
Designation: Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002

Area Description



Photo Credit: Sendi Kalcic

Just 12 miles west of Las Vegas, the colorful, bare sandstone of the aptly named Rainbow Mountain Wilderness emerges from the valley floor, standing guard over the surrounding pinyon-juniper forest and Mojave Desertscrub below. Its sheer, towering red and white cliffs are cut by rugged, narrow, twisting canyons lined with willow, ash, and hackberry trees.

Encompassing 24,997 acres, this desert wonderland dominates the western view of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and is managed jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

With springs, sandstone 'pothole' water tanks, and an elevation range of 3,000 feet, topping out at the 7,070-foot summit of Mount Wilson, the wilderness supports a wide variety of wildlife and unique plant communities. Deep, cool canyons host chain ferns as much as six feet tall and ponderosa pines, which usually thrive at higher elevations like the rocky outcrops further up the mountainsides.

Desert bighorn sheep, mountain lion, bobcats, mule deer, coyote, foxes, bats, squirrels, and numerous bird species also make their home in the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness.



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Directions

The east side of the area is easily accessed from the scenic drive at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Access is also available from paved roads to the west and south of the wilderness, as well as from dirt, four-wheel drive roads to the north.

Recreation

The Rainbow Mountain Wilderness provides a unique and beautiful backdrop for hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and camping. Bring a field guide to discover one of Rainbow Mountain's endemic plant communities found nowhere else on earth, or enjoy a trip back in time, pondering the meaning of the many petroglyphs and pictographs telling stories of the area's earlier inhabitants.

Motorized vehicles, mechanized equipment, and mechanical transport are not permitted in designated wilderness.

Maps

USGS 7.5 Quadrangle Maps: La Madre Spring, La Madre Mountain, Mountain Springs, Blue Diamond, and Cottonwood Pass.

Additional Information

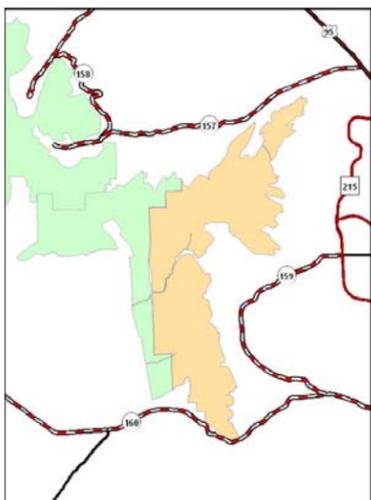
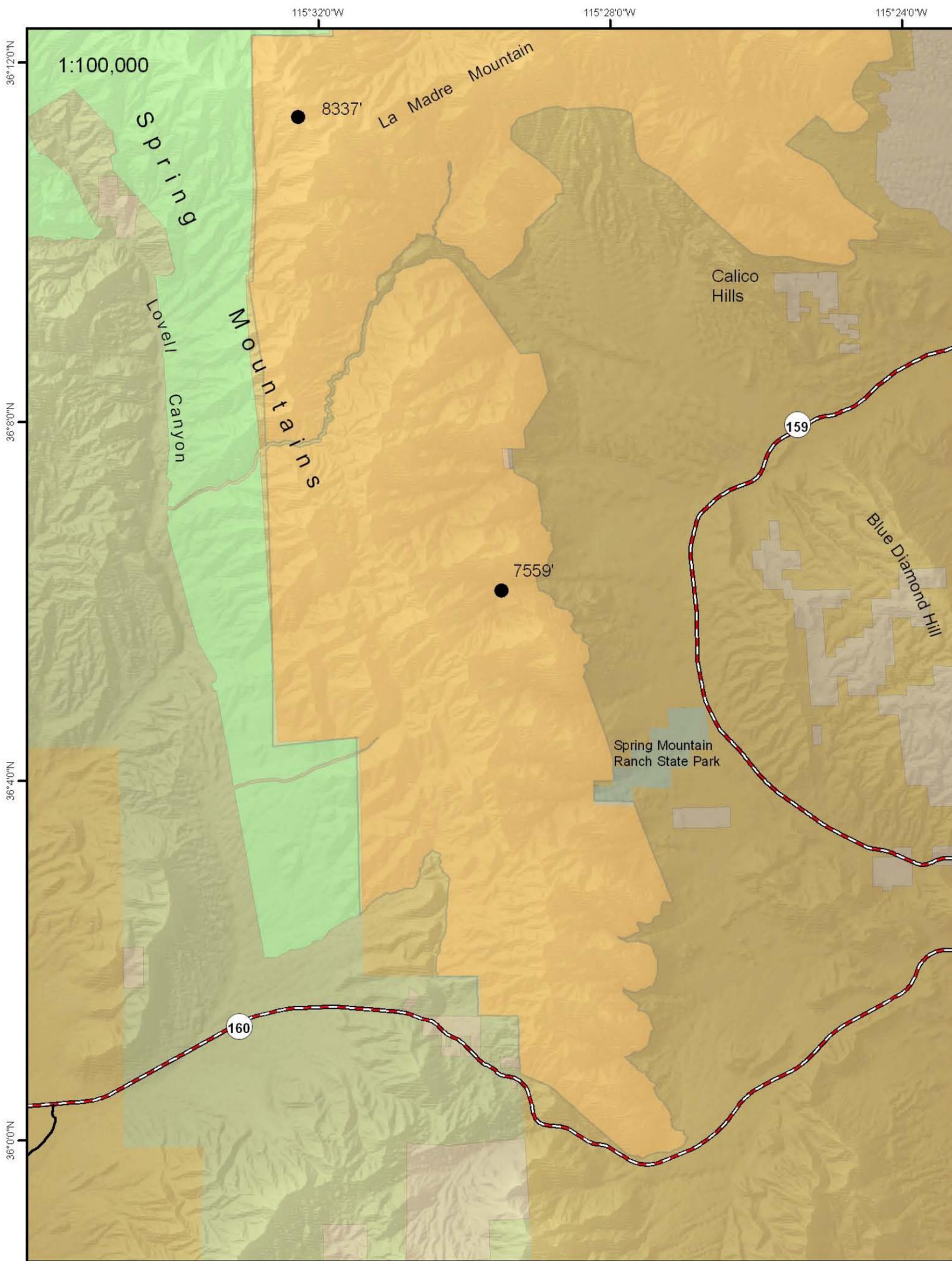
- Please limit group sized to 12 members.
- Maximum length of stay: 14 days
- Camping is prohibited within one-quarter mile of springs and riparian areas.
- No rock climbing within 50 feet of petroglyphs and pictographs.
- Target shooting is prohibited.
- Other than incidental browsing, riding and pack stock animals may be fed only packed-in, certified, weed-free feed.
- Non-commercial hunting and trapping is permitted subject to applicable state regulation.
- Alteration of any rock surfaces by gluing, chipping, and chiseling is not allowed.



Photo Credit: Scott Massey



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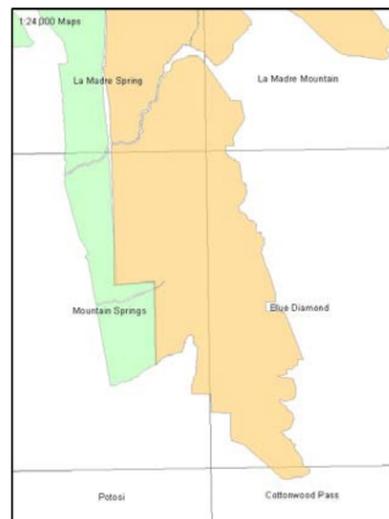


Legend

- US Highway
- State Highway
- County Highway
- Arterial
- Highest point
- Bureau of Land Management Wilderness
- Forest Service Wilderness
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Nevada State
- Private



Southern Nevada Agency Partnership



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