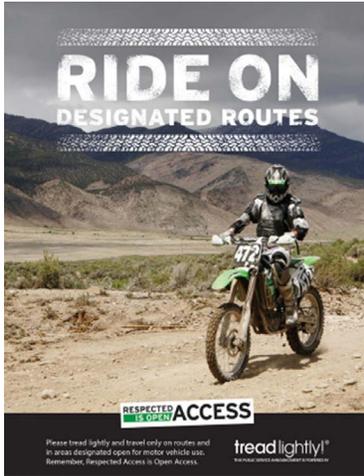


Take the Tour!

This brochure highlights a few interesting sites to see while you visit the Meccacopia Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). While some of these features can be viewed from different places, we have marked some excellent opportunities on the map. Our designated routes allow for all vehicle types, but street legal vehicles are only allowed on Box Canyon Road.

Ride Responsibly

Respect the rights of others, including private property owners. Sharing the trail and only riding on designated routes helps ensure everyone can enjoy exploring their public lands.



Camping

Dispersed vehicular camping and parking are allowed in areas that show prior use and lack of vegetation cover, are within 100 feet of a designated open route (or to the wilderness boundary, if closer), and are at least 600 feet from wildlife watering locations. Additional dispersed campsites further from motorized routes may be accessed on foot or horseback. Camping in any one location is limited to 14 days. Campfire permits are required year-round.

Wilderness

Although OHVs are not allowed to operate within Wilderness boundaries, these areas also provide great opportunities to explore using other means. A designated trail to Sheep Hole Oasis is a great way to experience the Mecca Hills on foot or horseback. Painted Canyon is popular for its geology and hiking opportunities to check out. Always plan ahead, bring a map or GPS, and let others know your plan when exploring wilderness areas.

Ready?

Here are a few tips, designed to help keep you safe while exploring your public lands

- Carry plenty of water—a *minimum* of 1 gallon per person, per day.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.
- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle.
- Dress appropriately for the season and changing weather.
- Stay out of mine shafts and tunnels.
- Do not approach or feed wildlife.
- Wear safety gear appropriate for your activity.

More Information

**Bureau of Land Management
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office**

1201 Bird Center Dr.
Palm Springs, CA 92262
BLM_CA_Web_PS@blm.gov
(760) 833-7100



Explore the Meccacopia SRMA

1 Shaver's Well

Important in the development of Riverside County, it was a welcome source of water for desert travelers. The well has been capped, but dense vegetation indicates the water still flows underground.

2 Wild Places

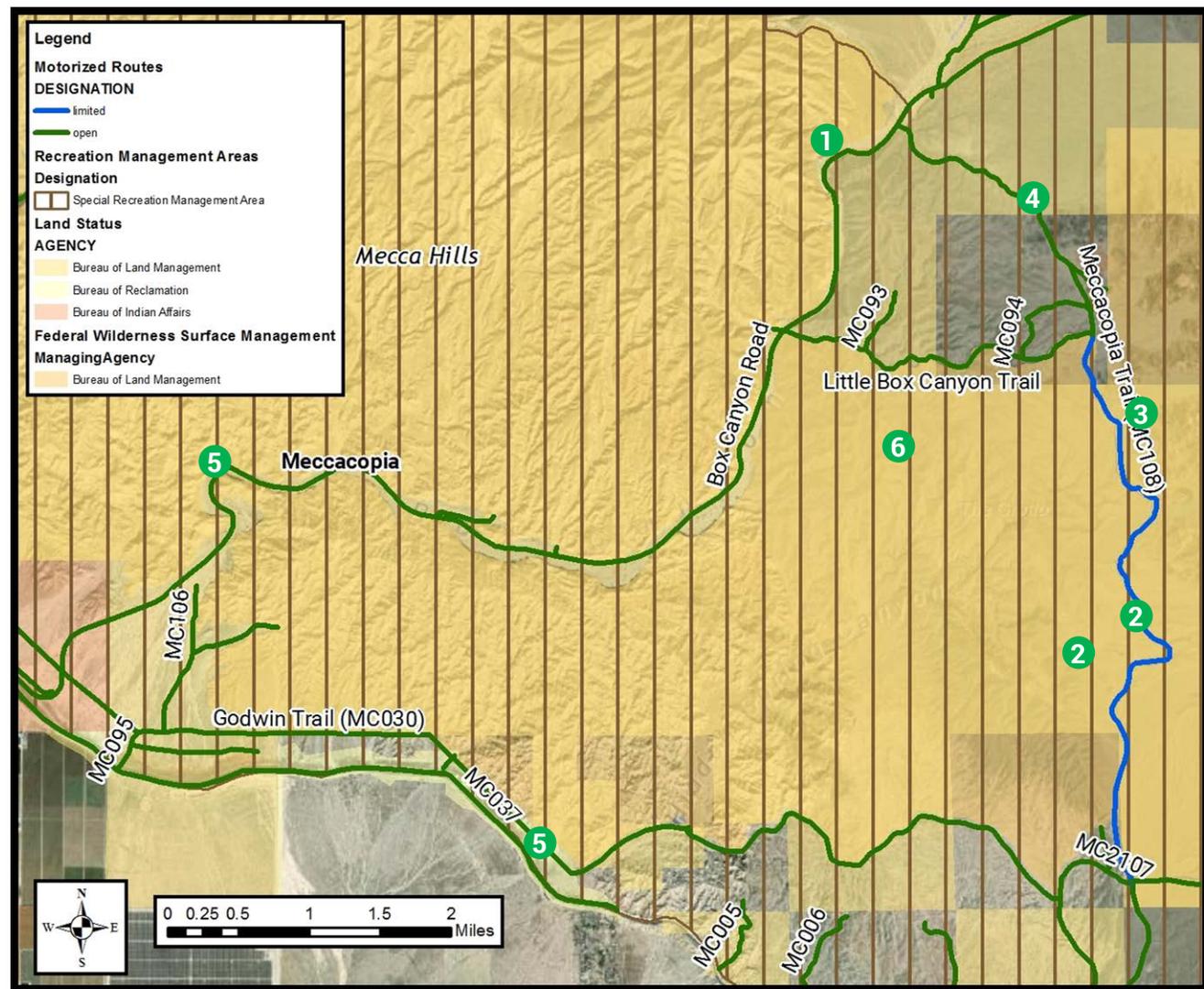
You are between the Mecca Hills Wilderness to the west and the Orocopia Mountains Wilderness to the east. These wild places are part of a system of public lands with unique character and are part of America's identity. While motorized equipment is not allowed within these areas, the OHV routes provide access to some of the less frequently visited areas where opportunities for solitude and exploration abound.

3 Big Horn County

The limited segment of the Meccacopia trail is closed from June 1 to September 30 to protect bighorn sheep's ability to access water in the hottest summer months. The desert's largest herbivore prefers steep, rocky slopes where they are safe from predators. They are well camouflaged, so keep an eye out for movement and white spots.

4 Salton Sea Vista

Flooding of the Colorado River transformed the Salton Basin from dry desert into giant freshwater lake. The last flood event created the Salton Sea, which is more saline than the Pacific Ocean. The Salton Sea is an important stop for migratory bird and wintering waterfowl along the Pacific Flyway.



5 Shake, Shape, Repeat

We love our desert, including our faults! A number of faults underly these hills and mountains, which have helped shape the landscape and created a number of springs and oases to explore. The nearby San Andreas fault separates you from the Salton Sea. Each time these plates “slip” and create an earthquake, the Salton Sea moves northwest and these hills move southeast!

6 Exposed Earth

Little Box Canyon gives you a number of opportunities to get up close to many layers of Earth's history at eye level. Formed as material deposits over time, these areas were uplifted by seismic activity. Water and other forces carve away at the rock forming a steep canyon. Layers of fine materials formed slowly whereas large materials were deposited in flood events. Be cautious, this area can experience life-threatening flash floods.