

Williams Hill

Public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management surrounding William’s Hill, near San Ardo in Monterey County, offer a multitude of outdoor recreational opportunities.

Visitors of all ages can enjoy what Williams Hill has to offer. Take a mountain bike or a horse over the improved roads found intersecting the recreation area. When the sun retires for the day, enjoy spectacular views of the night sky at 2,700 feet above sea level. Don’t miss the opportunity to walk among knobcone pine trees, bush poppies, and Eastwood manzanitas or to catch a glimpse of wild cats, raccoons, or skunks. Go out, explore, and be a part of Williams Hill’s history. (emphasize views more)

Religious Retreat



Mission San Antonio de Padua, BLM photo

Standing tall among the hills of the Salinas Valley, Williams Hill watched as some of California’s most important history took place. Missions were important to the Spanish Empire to convert Native Americans to Christianity, as well as serve as a refuge for travelers. Upon selecting the site for Mission San Antonio de Padua on July 14th, 1771, ceremonial bells rang on the limbs of an oak tree, making it the third oldest mission in Alta California. Unreliable water forced the mission site to be moved further up the Los Robles Valley in 1773.

When Mexico declared independence, all missions were secularized and the building went into a state of neglect. After California became apart of the United States, the mission and 33 acres were formally given back to the church in 1863. An estimated 1300 people lived at the Mission during its height, but that was only the beginning of the people that Williams Hill would welcome.

Star Gazing

For centuries people have turned to the night sky for calendar development, global positioning and even predicting the future. For as long as humans have been walking California’s lands, the sky has been something to appreciate. Among the popular times to watch the sky is when meteor showers happen. Almost every month of the year a meteor shower can be seen.

A special thank you to Joan Steele of the Mission San Antonio de Padua and staff at Ft. Hunter Liggett for their help in preparation of this brochure.



Star trail, BLM photo

Look to the sky in late December/early January for the Quadrantids, April is ripe to see the Lyrids, August hosts the Perseids and November shows the Leonids—just to name a few. Finding a spot at Williams Hill to view the night sky is easy. Knobs and clearings are among the better spots and can be found along road W1 heading south from the campground. Modern star gazing can be simple or complex. If simplicity is the intended goal, take a blanket, bug spray and a red-filtered flashlight to read star charts and books. Allow 20 to 30 minutes for your eyes to adjust. Sit back, relax and enjoy the night sky.



Volunteers working on public lands, BLM photo

How can I help?

Each year, thousands of pounds of trash are hauled off public lands. Helping to make sure these lands stay clean is up to everyone using them. Pack out all garbage and do not litter. It is illegal to pollute or dump trash on any public lands or waters. If you see anyone pollute or dump trash, please do not approach. Instead, call 1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258) twenty four hours a day, seven days a week

In California on any public lands to report the polluting or trashing of lands, water, plants, habitat, or the poaching of wildlife. Want to volunteer on your public lands? Anyone over the age of 18 years can volunteer. Youths must volunteer with a parent/guardian or be a part of an organized school, civic or church group with written consent. To become a volunteer, apply at [Volunteer.gov](#) and/or contact the Volunteer Coordinator in the Central Coast Field Office 831-582-2200.

Camping

Established in 2010 with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, a campground with seven sites awaits your arrival. Each campsite is equipped with a covered picnic table and fire ring. There are vault toilet restrooms available at this location, but no other facilities exist. Camping is limited to 14 days within



Campsite at Williams Hill, BLM photo

any 28 day period at a particular site on all BLM public lands. Primitive, dispersed camping opportunities are also available but vehicles are restricted to designated routes and there is no camping within 200 yards of any wildlife water improvement.



Please practice Leave No Trace® principles when visiting all public lands.

Raptors

Golden Eagles are in the Accipitridae family and in North America are among fifty-four other species in twenty-four genera. Hawks, eagles, and kites are for the most part solitary birds with a few exceptions, migration and an abundant food source.

The Golden Eagle is known for being capable of taking prey that approaches them in size. In some countries they are trained as hunters and have been reported to prey on animals weighing up to 100 lbs. The scientific name Aquila chrysaetosis from the Latin word “aquila” and the Greek words “chrysos” and “aetos” meaning golden and eagle respectively. A group of eagles has many collective nouns including an “aerie”, “convocation”, “jubilee”, “soar”, and “tower” of eagles.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk, named after its very thin exposed lower leg, has been observed passing food to their young mid-air. They will hover briefly and kick the prey outward just as the fledgling arrives.

Golden Eagle, BLM photo

Large numbers have been seen during migration. Over 11,000 were seen one day at Cape May Point, New Jersey.

Hunting

Hunting opportunities on BLM public lands within the Williams Hill area consist primarily of upland game birds, wild pig and deer. BLM and California Department of Fish and Game manage game animals for hunting by providing watering sites (guzzlers) and planting cover shrubs. Field office regulations also stipulate no shooting within 100 yards (300 feet) of any developed area.

OHV Best Practices

OHV riders should wear protective helmets.

- Observe posted signs. Fenced areas mark sensitive wildlife and plant habitat, and are “closed” to vehicle use. The “open” riding areas are also posted and those on foot should be aware of their locations.
- All vehicles must be registered with the appropriate State agency where required.
- Motorcycles should be equipped with an approved spark arrester and muffler that meets State regulated noise standards.
- Tall flags on the vehicle is a best practice for visibility and safety.
- Consult a tide table booklet if operating on the coast.
- Please respect private property.

Tips for Responsible Recreational Shooting

Never shoot if you do not have a clear view of your target and beyond

- Shooting sites should have high dirt berms free of rocks and vegetation
- Don’t shoot upon or across roads, waterways or trails
- Don’t shoot glass or other objects that can shatter
- Remove your target materials, shells and trash
- Don’t shoot at trees, cactus or other living things
- Don’t shoot household appliances or other objects dumped
- Practice target shooting only in areas open to recreational shooting
- Report unlawful activity to authorities by calling 9-1-1

Don’t let target shooting end with a wildfire

- Steel core ammunition is prohibited
- Incendiary or tracer rounds are prohibited
- Exploding targets are prohibited



Other Local Resources

Fort Hunter Liggett

20 miles south of King City
Jolon, CA 93930
US Army
(831) 386-3310

Lake San Antonio Recreation Area

2091 New Pleyto Rd., Bradley, CA 93426
Monterey County Parks Dept
1 (800) 588-2267

Lake Nacimiciento County Park

16 Miles NW of Hwy 101 in
Paso Robles, CA 93446
Monterey County Parks Dept
1 (800) 588-2267

San Lorenzo County Park

1160 Broadway St., King City, CA 93930
Monterey County Parks Dept
(831) 385-1484

Los Padres National Forest

Monterey Ranger District Office
406 S. Mildred St., King City, CA 93930
US Forest Service
(831) 385-5434



Bureau of Land Management Central Coast Field Office

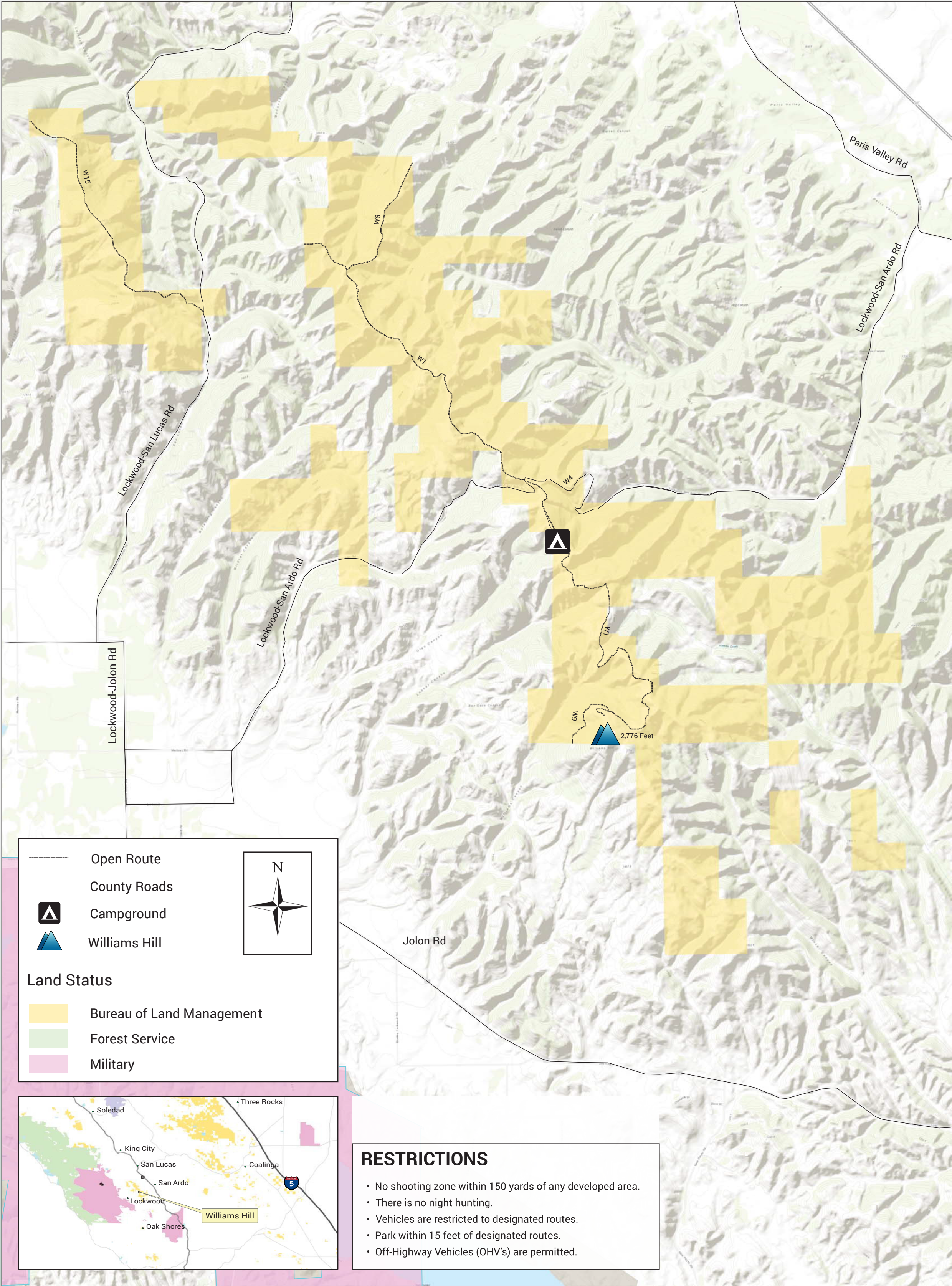
940 2nd Avenue
Marina, CA 93933
(831) 582-2200
[blm.gov/california](#)



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

Williams Hill Management Area

Map & Guide



This map should not be used for navigation or legal purposes. It is intended for general reference use only.

The Ten Essentials

Packing these items whenever you venture into the backcountry, even on day hikes or drives, is a good habit. On a routine trip you may only use a few of them. Yet you'll probably never fully appreciate the value of the Ten Essentials until you really need one of them:

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Sunglasses and Sunscreen
4. Extra Clothing
5. Headlamp/Flashlight
6. First Aid Supplies
7. Fire-starting Material
8. Matches
9. Knife
10. Extra Food & Water



As more people use parks and recreation facilities, LEAVE NO TRACE® guidelines become even more important for outdoor visitors. Leave No Trace is a plan that helps people to be more concerned about their environment and to help them protect it for future generations. Leave No Trace applies in the frontcountry as much as it does in the wilderness (backcountry).

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Heritage Resources

Please respect both prehistoric and historic archeological sites by observing the following guidelines:

- Treat all rock art sites, historic structures and buildings, and archeological sites with respect;
- Do not damage historic structures or archeological sites. Avoid moving things around, touching or climbing on the roof or walls of any site, building, or structure;
- Enjoy rock art features by viewing, sketching, or taking photographs of them. Never chalk, trace or touch the art;
- Do not make camp or build fires in, on or near an archeological site.

If you discover an artifact or fossil, leave it in place for others to enjoy and report your find to the BLM. Collecting without a permit is illegal. Please report any known or suspected looting or vandalism of archeological or paleontological sites to the BLM or other local law enforcement authority.

Rules Regarding Fire Use



Campers are required to have a Free California Campfire Permit for any fire outside of designated fire rings. Permits can be obtained from the Central Coast Field Office and are generally not issued during the dry season (summer). Additional requirements

include carrying water and a shovel to make sure the campfire is dead out before leaving the area. Never attempt to build a campfire during a windy day or leave the campfire unattended.

Restriction on Lead Ammunition

In order to prevent the accidental poisoning of California condors, lead ammunition has been banned for most kinds of hunting.