

2023 Basin and Range National Monument Bioblitz

Questions and Answers

The Basin and Range National Monument is remote and without paved roads or services. To safely enjoy your outing, please recognize the unique challenges that visiting the monument presents. Being prepared will make your visit even more enjoyable.

What is a Bioblitz?

A Bioblitz is an event composed of volunteer citizen-scientists and subject matter experts in various fields of study, e.g., botanists, ecologists, herpetologists, and ornithologists, that work together to collect as much observational data as possible in a short time period, in this instance a weekend. The data collected will be used to better inform and shape future land management decisions.

What experience is required?

No prior experience is necessary to participate in the Bioblitz. Volunteers are encouraged to join any group(s) that pique their interest.

Will I be working by myself?

Volunteers will be part of a group but may be required to collect data individually.

Groups will be led by subject matter experts looking for their particular taxon of interest. For example, if a volunteer is interested in native plants, he or she may choose to join a group led by a botanist.

How do we collect the data?

Data will be recorded using the iNaturalist application. Volunteers may collect the information on their smart phone or other device using the iNaturalist application or use a notebook and upload the information collected with any pictures and/or audio recordings to iNaturalist when they return home.

Volunteers collecting information on their smart phone or other device are encouraged to download the iNaturalist application prior to leaving home due to limited cellphone service in and around the monument. Demonstrations on how to use the iNaturalist application will be provided onsite.

When is the Bioblitz?

The Bioblitz is scheduled Friday and Saturday, June 2-3. It will focus on the northwestern portion of the monument. Details, including a map to this year's group camping area near the Freiberg Historic Mining District, will be available in May.

Am I required to participate both days?

Individuals may volunteer to participate on one or both days.

Is there lodging available in the area?

Motels are located in Alamo and Rachel. RV parks are in Rachel, Alamo, and Ash Springs. Individuals interested in volunteering are encouraged to reserve lodging prior to departing for the Bioblitz.

Is camping allowed?

Primitive camping is allowed on public lands within and outside the monument. A group site for Bioblitz participants will be identified inside the monument. Access to the group site requires a high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle. There are no facilities or electrical hookups within the monument.

Campgrounds in the vicinity are the Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge on U.S. Highway 93 south of the monument and Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area on State Route 318 north of the monument. Both are first-come, first-serve and offer limited amenities.

What should I bring?

Water, food, and other supplies are the responsibility of the volunteer. Water sources are extremely limited in the monument.

For hiking, select sturdy, closed-toed shoes with a comfortable fit, ankle stability, and protection against brush and cactus spines. Wear clothes and carry items that provide protection against the sun, wind, dust, and cold temperatures (such as hats, long sleeves, long pants, sunglasses, etc.) and apply sunscreen. Dressing in layers is recommended due to the changeable weather.

Volunteers may find field guides for taxa of interest, and binoculars or hand lenses useful. A data collection device, such as a smart phone or tablet with the iNaturalist app is strongly encouraged.

Remember, there are no facilities, electrical hookups, or cell service within the monument so plan accordingly. Additional Monument information is available online at <https://on.doi.gov/3TOYvoR>

Is a high-clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle necessary?

Yes. Please make sure the gas tank is filled. Gas and full services are available in Alamo and Ash Springs on U.S. Highway 93 south of the monument and at Alien Cowpoke Gas on State Route 375, in Rachel. Also check to ensure that the vehicle's tires, including spares, are properly inflated.

Who can I contact with questions?

Additional project information is available online at <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. Click on Community, open Projects and enter *2023 Basin and Range National Monument Bioblitz* or follow the link: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2023-basin-and-range-national-monument-bioblitz>.

Interested individuals may also contact Monument Manager Alicia Styles at (775)726-8100 or astyles@blm.gov.