



In an Emergency Call 911

Injured Person

It is generally best not to move an injured person from an accident scene until medical professionals arrive. Improper movement can worsen injuries, especially those involving the head, neck, or back. Cell phone coverage is limited in some areas, but when possible, call 911. Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates are extremely useful in locating the victim quickly.

Emergency Medical Services

Ridgecrest Hospital	(760) 446-3551
Antelope Vly Hospital	(661) 949-5000
Tehachapi Hospital	(661) 823-3000

BLM Ranger Dispatch

(Emergency Only) (909) 383-5652

Kern County

Kern County Sheriff (661) 861-3110

California City

Police Department (760) 373-8606

California Highway Patrol

CA Highway Patrol (800) 835-5247

Information Listings

Bureau of Land Management

Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760) 384-5400

Jawbone Station Visitor Center

Friends of Jawbone (760) 373-1146
P.O. Box 1902 jawbone@wildblue.net
Cantil, CA 93519 www.jawbone.org

California Highway Conditions

Caltrans (800) 427-7623

I certify that I obtained this map from the BLM, will have it in my possession while riding in the RMMA, and will only operate motorized vehicles on posted legal designated open routes identified on this map.

Signature	Date
Printed name	Phone #
Address	Zip Code

BLM Desert Planning

The **Federal Land Policy and Management Act** of 1976 (FLPMA) established the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) current mission to manage public lands for multiple uses for present and future American generations. FLPMA requires that public lands are managed to protect scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, and environmental resources; preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; and provide outdoor recreation and other uses including grazing, mineral development, and fish and wildlife habitat.

The **California Desert Conservation Area** (CDCA) was established in FLPMA and encompasses more than 25 million acres, including about 11 million acres of BLM managed public land. The California desert and its resources, including certain rare and endangered species of wildlife and plants, and archaeological and historic sites are threatened by increased uses. The desert environment is an extremely fragile ecosystem, easily scarred, and slow to heal. The CDCA Plan and its subsequent amendments included extensive public input. The CDCA Plan was approved in 1980.

The **Rand Mountain Management Area** (RMMA) has been popular with OHV enthusiasts, rockhounds, and environmentalists since the 1960s. After the federal listing of the desert tortoise, the BLM developed the Rand Mountains Fremont Valley Management Plan (Rand Plan) to evaluate the complex management issues and implement necessary solutions.



Mine Safety

In 1895, gold was discovered near Randsburg. The RMMA encompasses a portion of the historic Atolia and Rand mining districts, the latter getting its name from a prosperous mining district in South Africa. Silver and tungsten have also been mined in the area. There are many dangers associated with old and abandoned mines and should be observed from a safe distance. You should never enter or disturb any physical hazards associated with mines. More than one hundred years of mining in the Randsburg area has resulted in high concentrations of arsenic in mine tailings and some desert washes. The BLM has completed hazardous materials remediation to reroute or close routes near contaminated areas. The best way to avoid exposure to these substances and abandoned mines is to stay on the posted legal designated open routes.

Education and Permit Program

In 2005, the West Mojave (WEMO) plan amendment to the CDCA Plan directed the BLM to implement a visitor use education and permit program (EPP) for motorized vehicle use in the RMMA.

The EPP provides an overview of the RMMA designated route system and includes information about vehicle use safety, sensitive restoration areas, habitat values, and recreational opportunities.

The goal of the RMMA EPP is to educate visitors and increase compliance with the applicable rules and regulations.

All motorized vehicle users in the RMMA are required to obtain a permit and certify they understand the designated route network on this map and **agree to only operate motor vehicles on the posted legal designated open routes identified on this map.**

A federal court found the BLM's 2019 WEMO Route Network Project plan and decision did not comply with the law. Under the January 23, 2026 court order, all routes in desert tortoise and Lane Mountain milk-vetch critical habitat are closed to off-highway vehicle recreation, including street legal vehicles, until further notice.

Designated Route Network

The CDCA Plan designated four geographic multiple-use categories based on the sensitivity of resources and uses for all BLM managed lands in the CDCA, which includes motorized vehicle access. The categories are: Controlled (Class C), Limited (Class L), Moderate (Class M), and Intensive (Class I). Controlled use areas do not allow motorized access (e.g., wilderness) and intensive use areas allow unrestricted access (e.g., open areas). Limited use areas allow motorized vehicle use on approved routes of travel. The RMMA is a limited use area where **routes of travel are closed unless specifically signed open.**

In 1994, the Rand Plan approved a designated route system of 129 miles to allow for continued recreational use and access while minimizing impacts on the desert tortoise population and habitat. The legally designated open route system is posted with brown signs signifying the management area and route number. The WEMO Plan (2005) amendment to the CDCA Plan and Western Mojave Desert Off Road Vehicle Designation Project (2003) designated the current route network through extensive planning and attempted to balance the needs of all desert users.

No person may use, drive, or otherwise operate a motorized vehicle except on those designated routes of travel that are identified by open route signs. (43 CFR 8364.1) (Federal Register Vol. 59 No. 115; June 16, 1994)

STAY ON DESIGNATED OPEN ROUTES

Violations of 43 CFR 8364.1 are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or 12 months in jail.

Desert Tortoise

The desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) is California's official state reptile. This adaptable creature has been around in its current form for 18 million years and has successfully adapted to changing environments. The Mojave species was separated from the larger population five million years ago after the creation of the Grand Canyon and resulting Colorado River. Desert tortoises have been observed to live up to 80 years, and longer, in the wild. As recent as the 1970s, desert tortoise population densities in the Fremont Valley were as high as 250 per square mile. Today, that number has declined to less than 20.

In 1990, the desert tortoise was listed as a federally threatened species under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The RMMA, and much of the surrounding area, is listed as critical habitat for the desert tortoise. Desert tortoises are most active during the late winter and spring months, but remain active from March through September. During the hot summer months, tortoises are most active during the morning and evening hours when temperatures are less extreme.



In general, desert tortoises hibernate from October through February, but may be active in the fall and winter months. In the event of rare desert rainstorms, desert tortoises are likely to emerge from their burrows for water, even during the winter hibernation months. Avoid contact with tortoises and stay on the posted legal designated open routes of travel.

Threats to the Desert Tortoise

There are many threats to the survival of the Mojave species of desert tortoise.

Habitat fragmentation occurs as a result of highways, urban development, and route proliferation throughout the Mojave Desert. Habitat fragmentation impedes mobility of tortoises for mating, foraging, and juvenile dispersal. It also increases vehicle mortality and disturbance from human interaction, and destroys vegetation that provides shelter, shade, moisture retention, and wind protection that are essential for tortoise survival.

Upper Respiratory Disease Syndrome has had a devastating impact on the desert tortoise population and occurs as a result of human interaction with tortoises and increased in the 1970s when many domesticated "pet" tortoises were released in to the wild.

The Mojave Desert entered a period of **severe drought** in the late 1980s reducing the amount of available annual native plant forage desert tortoises depend on for nutrition and water.

Predation from ravens, feral dogs, and coyotes has increased with more human use and development in the desert.

Invasive plant species are brought into the desert and spread by cars and other vehicles, where they crowd out and outcompete native plant species because they are adapted to different environments. Native plants are more nutritious and beneficial for the desert tortoise.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

An ACEC as an area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes.

The **Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area** (DTNA) was created as an ACEC in 1977. The RMMA is adjacent to the DTNA and both management areas are desert tortoise critical habitat. Motorized travel in the DTNA is prohibited. For more information, visit the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee web site at www.tortoise-tracks.org.

The **Western Rand Mountains ACEC** was designated as an ACEC for habitat and wildlife resources under the 1980 CDCA Plan. It was expanded under WEMO to include the Fremont Valley area.

Most of the RMMA lies within the Fremont-Kramer **Desert Wildlife Management Area** (DWMA). DWMA's were included in WEMO as recommended by the FWS Route Network Project. DWMA's are areas that are essential to the long-term recovery, viability, and genetic diversity of the species.

Desert Habitat Restoration

The BLM Ridgecrest Field Office, in partnership with



California State Parks and Recreation Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division, has completed extensive habitat restoration in the RMMA associated with closed trail rehabilitation.

Habitat restoration accelerates native revegetation, reclaims degraded lands, and reduces habitat fragmentation. Avoid impacts to the restoration areas and **stay on the posted legal designated open routes of travel.**

Other Listed & Species of Concern in the RMMA

The federally-threatened desert tortoise is not the only species the BLM has to manage habitat for in the RMMA. Many other listed and sensitive animal species depend on habitat in the RMMA including the Mohave ground squirrel, LeConte's thrasher, burrowing owl, northern harrier, golden eagle, prairie falcon, ferruginous hawk, California leaf-nosed bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and pallid bat.

Biodiversity is essential for the health of an ecosystem and the planet, and the BLM works to protect ecological and environmental resources. Wildlife depend on vegetation, and diverse plant species provide essential nutrients and shelter for survival.

RMMA Rules and Regulations

STAY ON DESIGNATED OPEN ROUTES

Limited Use Area:

The RMMA is a Limited Use Only area. A legal route is marked with a brown numbered post. It is illegal to ride anywhere in the RMMA, except on posted designated open routes identified on this map.

Environmental Damage:

No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle (OHV) in a manner likely to cause environmental damage.

Camping:

Camping is only allowed in designated areas. If you camp, remember to "Pack It Out" and leave the area cleaner than you found it.

Firearms:

Target shooting is prohibited. No person may discharge a firearm at any time except shotguns in the upland and mountains portion of the area. The BLM encourages all hunters to use lead-free, nontoxic shot, which reduces the risks of lead poisoning of wildlife and minimizes negative impacts on the environment.

Helmet Usage:

All terrain vehicle (ATV) riders must wear an approved safety helmet.

Noise Restrictions:

Noise emission of OHVs shall be limited to not more than 96 dbA if manufactured on or after January 1, 1986, and not more than 101 dbA if manufactured prior to January 1, 1986.

Required Equipment:

Any OHV must be equipped with an approved muffler, brakes, and spark arrester. Headlight and at least one red tail light are required for operation at night.

No Alcoholic Beverages Allowed While Riding on BLM Lands:

No person shall drink an alcoholic beverage, have in their possession or on their person any open container that contains an alcoholic beverage while operating a motor vehicle on public lands managed by the BLM in California. No person under age 21 shall be in possession of alcoholic beverages.

Parental Supervision:

No person under the age of 14 shall operate an ATV unless that person satisfies the requirements of 38503 C.V.C (safety certification) and is accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian.

Rider Safety:

No person under the age of 18 shall operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) unless he or she has received the safety course or is under the direct supervision of an adult who has the appropriate safety certification in his or her possession. Do not carry a passenger in an ATV on public lands, unless the ATV is designed to carry a passenger.

Registration:

- Vehicles operated on federal and state highways or county roads must be licensed for highway use.
- OHVs owned by CA residents must be registered with the CA Department of Motor Vehicles and properly display a valid registration tag.
- OHVs that do not have a valid registration or permit from the owner's home state are required to display a CA nonresident permit available through vendors in California, Nevada, and Arizona. Permits may be purchased at the Jawbone Station Visitor Center or from California Department of Parks and Recreation.

For more information on CA OHMVR Division go to: ohv.parks.ca.gov



