



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
National Landscape Conservation System

SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT

Location

The Sonoran Desert National Monument is located 60 miles southwest of Phoenix.

Brief Description

The national monument contains 487,000 acres of Sonoran Desert landscape. The Sonoran Desert is the most biologically diverse of the North American deserts and the monument exemplifies this setting. The most striking aspect of the plant community is the saguaro cactus forest. The area also contains three distinct mountain ranges: the Maricopa, Sand Tank, and Table Top Mountains, which are separated by wide valleys. Three congressionally designated wildernesses and remnants of several historic trails, including the Anza National Historic Trail, are within the monument.

Access

A four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended. The west side of North Maricopa Mountains Wilderness can be accessed from SR-85 at milepost 135. Interstate 8 provides access to the southern part of the monument, including the Table Top Wilderness, at exit 144 (Vekol Road). Vehicle access to the monument north of SR-238/Maricopa Road is temporarily restricted for repairs. Detailed maps are available to help plan visits in advance.

Permits Required

Permits are not required for general recreation use. A free permit, available from BLM, is required to enter the Sand Tank Mountains, formerly known as Area A. Recreation use by commercial and organized groups (over 25 people) requires a special recreation permit.

Recreational Opportunities

The best time to visit the monument is October to April. Activities include hiking, dispersed camping, hunting, horseback riding, wildlife and wildflower viewing and back-country vehicle travel. Vehicle use off-road is prohibited. Wilderness areas are closed to all vehicles. The collection, removal, or damage to resources - including artifacts, plants (live or dead), and rocks - is also prohibited. Foot and horse travel is allowed in all areas.

Facilities

There are few facilities. Wheelchair accessible vault toilets are available at a few sites.

Safety

Plan ahead. Take plenty of drinking water and gasoline. Cell phone coverage is limited. Hazards include rugged roads, poisonous reptiles and insects, extreme heat and flash floods. Be aware of federal law enforcement activities related to illegal border-crossing and smuggling activities south of I-8.

Contact

BLM Phoenix District
Lower Sonoran Field Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix AZ 85027
(623) 580-5500
www.blm.gov/az/st/en.html

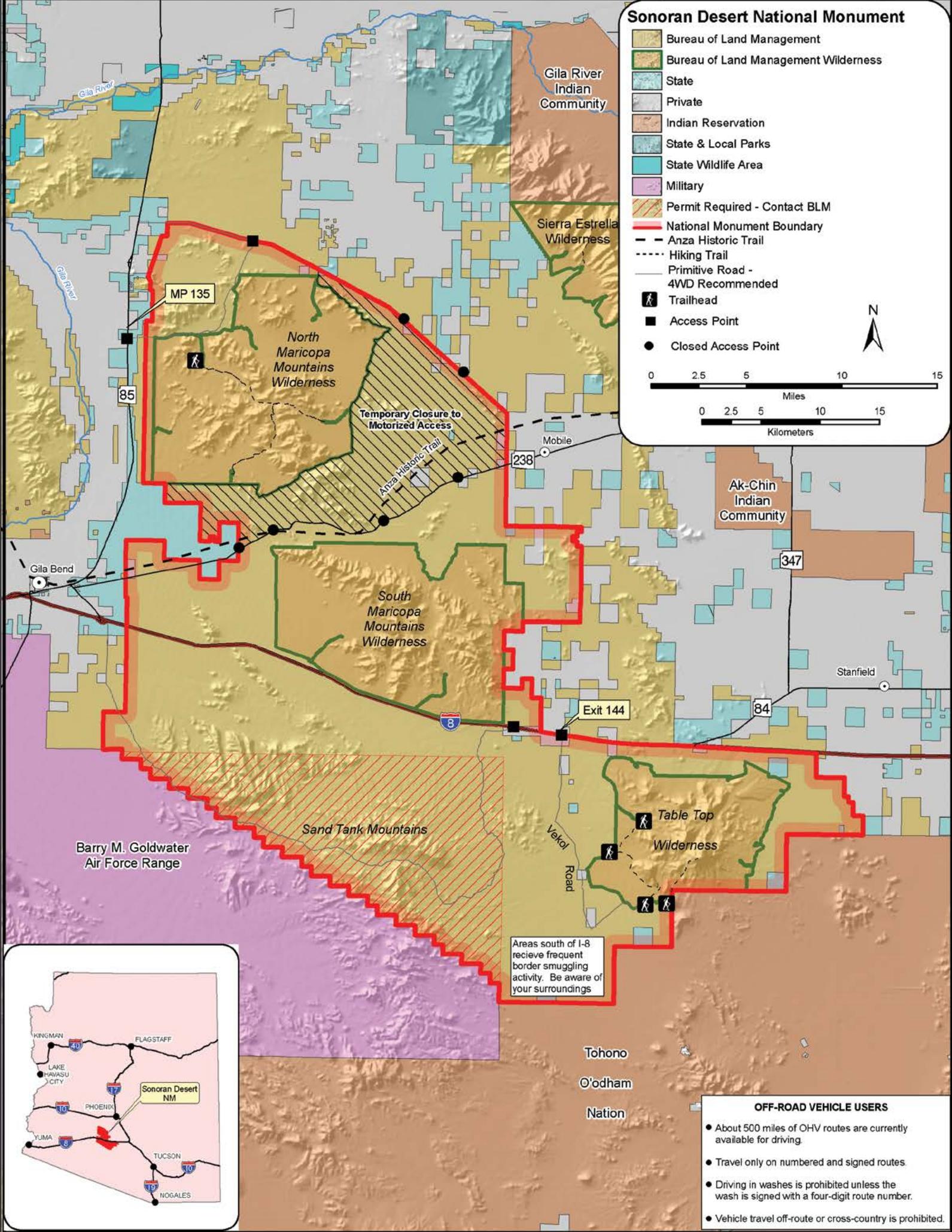


Sonoran Desert National Monument

	Bureau of Land Management
	Bureau of Land Management Wilderness
	State
	Private
	Indian Reservation
	State & Local Parks
	State Wildlife Area
	Military
	Permit Required - Contact BLM
	National Monument Boundary
	Anza Historic Trail
	Hiking Trail
	Primitive Road - 4WD Recommended
	Trailhead
	Access Point
	Closed Access Point

0 2.5 5 10 15
Miles

0 2.5 5 10 15
Kilometers



Temporary Closure to Motorized Access

Areas south of I-8 receive frequent border smuggling activity. Be aware of your surroundings

- OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USERS**
- About 500 miles of OHV routes are currently available for driving.
 - Travel only on numbered and signed routes.
 - Driving in washes is prohibited unless the wash is signed with a four-digit route number.
 - Vehicle travel off-route or cross-country is prohibited.

Tohono
O'odham
Nation

Barry M. Goldwater
Air Force Range

MP 135

85

Gila River
Indian
Community

Sierra Estrella
Wilderness

North
Maricopa
Mountains
Wilderness

Temporary Closure to
Motorized Access

Anza Historic Trail

Mobile

238

Ak-Chin
Indian
Community

347

South
Maricopa
Mountains
Wilderness

8

Exit 144

84

Stanfield

Sand Tank Mountains

Vekol
Road

Table Top
Wilderness

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