



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
National Landscape Conservation System

LAS CIENEGAS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Location

The approximately 42,000-acre Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA) was designated by congress in 2000 and is located in southeastern Arizona, about 50 miles southeast of Tucson.

Brief Description

The lands within the NCA form a scenic landscape of vast desert grasslands and rolling oak-studded hills that connect several “sky island” mountain ranges. Cienega Creek, with its perennial flow and riparian corridor is the heart of the NCA. The area is home to a rich diversity of vegetation and wildlife, including several threatened or endangered species. The Empire Ranch, a historic ranch house, is one of the first large ranches established in southeast Arizona. Through a partnership with the Empire Ranch Foundation, the historic structures are currently being stabilized and restored.

Access

There are two main access points to the NCA. The first is located off State Road 83 about seven miles north of Sonoita, and a less developed entrance located five miles east of Sonoita off State Road 82.

Permits Required

Permits are not required to visit the NCA. However, commercial, competitive and large organized group events require a special recreation permit. Recreation activities on state trust land in the area requires a permit from the State of Arizona.

Recreational Opportunities

Dispersed and permitted recreation opportunities on the NCA include hiking, camping, mountain biking, picnicking, horseback riding, birding, back-country road touring, hunting and photography. Off-State Route vehicle use is limited to designated roads.

Facilities

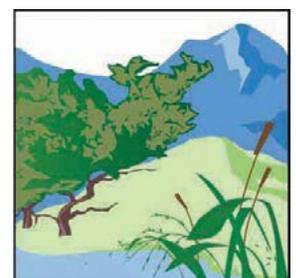
Dispersed and designated primitive camping, at least 1/4 mile from wildlife watering areas, is allowed for up to 14 days. There is one public restroom at the Empire Ranch Headquarters and one restroom at the Air Strip Group site. The nearest services are available in Sonoita.

Safety

Potential hazards exist, including rugged and unmarked roads, sink holes, poisonous reptiles and insects, extreme heat and flash floods. Visitors should bring plenty of water and gasoline, and stay on improved roads.

Contact

BLM Tucson Field Office
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Tucson, AZ 85748-7208
(520) 258-7200
www.blm.gov/az/st/en.html



Las Cienegas National Conservation Area

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private
- Military
- National Forest
- National Conservation Area
- Access Road

