

## Responsibilities & Risks

### Wilderness Defined

Stated simply, federal wilderness is public land where, to the greatest extent possible, "the earth and its community of life" are allowed to continue in their timeless course of events, unhampered by human interference.

In 1964 Congress established the National Wilderness Preservation System, which includes all our nation's wilderness areas, to "secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

As defined in the Wilderness Act, the Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness offers *opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation*. These can include hiking, backpacking, photography, dry camping and rockhounding to name a few.

### Responsibilities

All of us, when visiting wilderness, are to protect and preserve these areas for future generations—our children and grandchildren. In particular, please refrain from activities likely to injure wildlife or vegetation, including standing dead trees. Please do not use motorized vehicles or mechanized transport devices in the wilderness, as these are prohibited by the Wilderness Act, except under very specific conditions. The rights of nearby private property owners are always to be respected.

### Risks

When planning to use wilderness, and while using it, you accept the risks that were there when the wilderness was established. Typically, measures have not been taken to protect your safety, whether the risks are natural or the result of human activity before the area became wilderness (old mine shafts, for example). Measures to rescue you will be a priority only during authentic life-threatening emergencies involving personal health or safety.

When planning your visit, contact your local BLM office well in advance. Ask about access and fire conditions, and whether it is reasonable to bring pets. Be advised that natural water supplies may not be suitable for drinking or cooking.

BLM/CA/GI-2008-0013-8500

## Emergency Services

If **Emergency Services** are required, your first response should be to **call 911**. The nearest Ranger can be reached through the **Federal Interagency Communication Center (FICC)** at **(909) 383-5651** or **(888) 233-6518**.

### Lost Person

If a member of your party becomes lost, don't panic. Make a note of where the person was last seen and at what time. Call 911 to report the situation. Active search and rescue teams can be dispatched to assist.

### Injured Person

It is usually best not to transport an injured person away from an accident scene before medical personnel arrive. Moving a victim improperly can make an injury worse, particularly when the injury is to the head, neck, or back area. If possible, send someone to get help or call 911 to report the incident.

### Nearest Hospital

Hi-Desert Medical Center 6601 White Feather Road Joshua Tree, CA 92252 (760) 366-3711	Arrowhead Regional Medical Ctr. 400 N. Pepper Ave. Colton, CA 92324 (909) 580-1608
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### Phone Numbers

BLM Barstow Field Office	(760) 252-6000
BLM Wilderness Coordinator	(760) 252-6042
BLM Volunteer Program	(760) 252-6011

Office hours for the BLM numbers above are:  
Mon.-Fri. 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Managed By:

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau Of Land Management  
2601 Barstow Road  
Barstow, California 92311

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/barstow>

## Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness

The United States Congress established the Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness in 1994 and it now has a total of 33,475 acres. All of this wilderness is in



California, and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Named for the dry lakes near its center, this wilderness has a mountainous east portion and a vast alluvial slope ('bajada') to the west and southwest.

Low mountains and rough hills in the central portion are a southeast extension of the rugged Bullion Mountains. Wildlife and vegetation are typical of the Mojave desert, with, near the east border, an isolated population of crucifixion thorn that seems to reflect Sonoran desert factors. Annual rainfall averages three to six inches. Recreation opportunities are primitive and unconfined, ranging from incised desert washes to vast spaces open to the night skies.

Most summers are very hot and dry. For safety and enjoyment, consider visiting the Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness from October to May. USGS 7.5 minute quad maps are advisable for travel in this wilderness.

BLM-administered wilderness lands are part of the National Landscape Conservation System, which consists of areas that Congress or the President has established to protect, conserve, and restore the natural and heritage resources on the public lands.

Prior to your visit, please visit our website at:

[www.blm.gov/ca/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/cleghorn\\_lakes.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/pa/wilderness/wa/areas/cleghorn_lakes.html)



## Area Specifics

### Directions

The Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness is about 12 miles north-east of Twentynine Palms, CA at the southeast corner of the Marine Corps reservation. The east boundary is offset from Amboy Road which has deep sand at the pavement edge. Deep sand or rough routes also make 4WD advisable for most of the wilderness access points. Along the south boundary, a utility maintenance road provides access but, with spots not suitable for 2WD vehicles, offers continuous driving only for 4WD.

### Description

Vast alluvial slopes (bajadas) characterize the southwest and northeast portions of this wilderness. From an elevation of 1,430 feet, the western bajada rises 4 miles to the northeast, 'topping out' at a 4,079-foot peak (1,243 m.).

The U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center has marked their boundary along the north edge of this wilderness. You should dismiss, promptly, any thoughts of entering the live fire training lands to the north. Noise and ground tremors caused by aircraft and ordinance exercises should be expected.

### Areas of Interest

Natural 'cactus gardens' decorate some rocky slopes, 'smoke trees' inhabit the washes, and 'crucifixion thorn' has been reported near the east boundary. Now and then, when a passing storm drops rain on or near them, the 'dry' lake beds reportedly offer memorable wildflower displays not long after. Natural springs ordinarily are not evident in this wilderness, so opportunities to view wildlife should be expected to reflect this. Some maps still show the site of the Copper World Mine, but residues of its World War II iron ore production are evident only to the informed eye.

### Weather

Temperature extremes range from winter lows well below freezing to summer highs above 100 degrees F. Rainfall is minimal, most of it in the winter, but summer thunder storms can arrive with impressive effect. In summer, layered clothing slows dehydration and minimizes exposure. Good hiking shoes, loose fitting natural-fiber clothing, a wide brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen are recommended. In winter bring extra warm clothing and dress in layers. For weather forecast information go to [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and search on 'Twentynine Palms, CA'.

BLM

Barstow Field Office

## AREA MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS & TIPS

With very rare exceptions, no motorized equipment or mechanical transport is allowed. This is generally true for all federal lands managed as designated wilderness.

Remember, when visiting any wilderness area, always follow these Leave No Trace principles:

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

**Access:** Deep sand and gullies make a high-clearance off-highway vehicle (OHV) the preferred transport. However, a few sites, most of them of the southwest boundary, can be reached with careful use of an ordinary passenger vehicle.

Park your vehicle outside the wilderness. Do not drive around any post & cable barrier, and stop if you see rocks, brush and other natural materials scattered in the trail ahead to alert you. If you make a mistake, brush out your tracks. If you see or hear vehicles in the wilderness, call BLM immediately.

**Private Property:** This wilderness has privately-owned land along parts of its south boundary. Use these lands only with the owner's permission.

**Mine Shafts & Tunnels:** Do not enter mine shafts and tunnels. They are not maintained and are unsafe—you can fall through rotting timber or the mine may cave in. Be safe, stay out!

