Rockhounding

Is one of many recreational pursuits on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Collecting small, noncommercial quantities of rock is allowed free of charge on lands managed by BLM. Commercial collecting for the purpose of sale or barter is not allowed without special permit. Only hand tools such as shovels and picks may be used.

Rockhounds are welcome to collect limited amounts of rocks, minerals, and gemstones from most federal lands, but there are some exceptions. Some lands are withdrawn or reserved for certain purposes such as outstanding natural areas, research natural areas, recreation sites, national historic sites, etc. Other lands are not open to collecting due to the presence of mining claims. The local BLM offices can provide information about collecting areas and areas that are closed.

Collecting Guidelines

1. Know whose property you are on.
2. Get permission when collecting on private property and mining claims.
3. Don't use blasting materials or mechanized earth moving equipment.
4. Limit excavation depth to four feet and fill in holes before you leave.
5. Collect only what you can reasonably use until your next trip.
6. Leave all gates as you found them.
7. Find out if any fire restrictions are in effect.

Camp Site Selection

Dispersed camp sites exist along most secondary roads. And may or may not be marked. They can be recognized by the telltale flat disturbed area that has been used as a camp site before. Not all flat spots are sites, please use existing sites. To further protect your public lands, campers must not dispose of any refuse, hazardous materials, sewage, or in any manner pollute the surrounding area.

Camping or engaging in any other recreational activity with in 200 yards of a wildlife watering source for a period of more than thirty (30) minutes is prohibited. Water is a very precious resource in the desert save it for wildlife!

Leave No Trace

Help minimize impacts by staying on designated routes to reduce erosion, packing out litter, respecting others, and leaving natural and cultural resources as you find them.

PACK IT OUT.

Please enjoy camping on public lands, but please take care of those lands like they were your own --- because they are!

Dispersed Camping

Dispersed Recreation Camping

Camping on public lands away from developed recreation facilities is referred to as "dispersed camping". Most of the remainder of public lands in California are open to dispersed camping, as long as such use does not conflict with other authorized uses or occurs in areas posted "closed to camping," or in some way adversely affects wildlife species or natural resources.

Dispersed camping is allowed on public lands in California for a period not to exceed 14 days within any period of 28 consecutive days. The 28 day period begins when a camper initially occupies a specific location on public lands. The 14 day limit may be reached either through a number of separate visits or through 14 days of continuous overnight occupation during the 28 day period. After the 14th day of occupation, the camper must move outside of a 25 mile radius of the previous location until the 29th day since the initial occupation. The purpose of this special rule is to prevent damage to sensitive resources caused by continual use of any particular areas. In addition, campers must no leave any personal property unattended for more than 10 days.

CALIFORNIA

DISPERSED

Desert Camping

Needles Field Office
1303 South U.S. Hwy 95
Needles, CA 92363

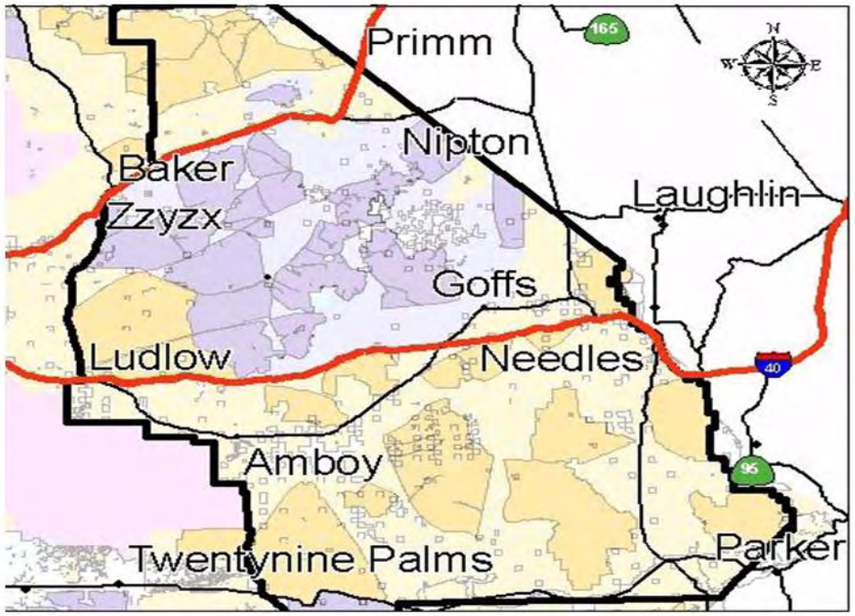
Phone: (760)326-7000
Fax: (760)326-7099
www.blm.gov/ca/needles

Public Lands USA: Use, Share, Appreciate

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM

Needles Field Office



OHV Use

Off-highway vehicles (OHVs) provide fun, entertainment, and discovery. However, many of the desert's most attractive and fragile resources can be destroyed if vehicle access is not properly controlled. Resources, cultural and natural, can be unintentionally damaged or destroyed by uncontrolled vehicle use. We all have the responsibility for the proper use of vehicles, so please remember to TREAD LIGHTLY on public and private lands. Stay on open routes of travel

NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

BLM/CA/GI-2009-013+8300

Please Be Advised

Military explosives can be found most anywhere in the desert. Large areas of the desert were and still are used for bombing ranges and maneuvers by the U.S. Armed Forces. There may be unexploded devices that can cause serious bodily injury or death if handled. Report any such devices to the Federal Interagency Communications Center toll free at (888) 233-6518 or call 911.

The Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center borders the western edge of the Needles Field Office Area of responsibility. This is a live bombing range. Do NOT enter the bombing range!

Desert Safety

- Summer temperatures routinely exceed 110° Fahrenheit. Each year people are lost, injured, and sometimes die while visiting desert areas. Take precautions to prevent finding yourself in an emergency situation.

- Always tell someone your plans, or leave a visible note on the dash of your vehicle with your expected route, destination, and time of return. Stick to your itinerary.

- Carry plenty of water. Drink at least a gallon per day.

- Take food or snacks. In the heat, you may not feel hungry, but your body needs nourishment.

- Never go alone.

- Take a good map and compass.

- Carry a first aid kit, signal mirror, flashlight and matches.

- Take a CB radio or cellular phone.

- Wear sunscreen and sunglasses.

- Dress in light colored, loose fitting clothes. Long-sleeves, long pants, a hat, and sturdy shoes will help protect you from the sun, coarse volcanic material, and sharp, spiny vegetation.

- Bring a jacket with you, as evening temperatures may drop 30 degrees or more.

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition. Check your tires, spare tire, jack, lug wrench, and fluid levels. Always start with a full tank of gas and try not to let it fall below half a tank before filling up again.

- If you are stranded, stay with your vehicle. Don't panic. Your vehicle is easier to spot than a person walking. Lift your hood. Attempt to signal for help using a mirror or by using newspapers to make an X on the ground.

- Watch for snakes, spiders, and scorpions among the rocks.

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In Case of Emergencies Contact the Federal Interagency Communications Center (FICC) at (888)233-6518 or call 9-1-1.