

## Ward Valley Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)

**Management Objective:** Designate this area as an Extensive Recreation Management Area. To manage for outstanding views and dispersed recreational use. Ward Valley ERMA runs south in from I-40 at the Water Road Exit in an inverted “V” shaped linear corridor, along the Bigelow Cholla Garden and Piute Mountain Wildernesses. The east leg of the “V” continues southeast down the Chemehuevi Valley, bounded by the Sacramento Mountains SRMA and the Stepladder Wilderness, and ending at US 95 and Turtle Mountain Road. The West leg of the “V” follows Ward Valley to the southwest, bordered by the Old Woman, Stepladder, and Turtle Mountains Wildernesses and ending at CA 62 and warping around the southern end of the turtle Mountains. The Metropolitan Water District’s Water Road and High Tower power lines cross this expanse of land and provide the primary routes through the ERMA. The area is valued by local communities, visitors, and the Native American Tribes for cultural and historic values. Historic resources within the area include ranching, railroading, mining, military training, and back country touring (2002 Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert Management (NEMO) Plan).

The ERMA also contains many Mojave Adventure Routes. The Needles Field Office has developed a system of designated trails entitled the Mojave Adventure Routes in regards to the 2002 Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan item 3.8.7 California Back Country Discovery Trails. These routes are an outstanding network of 4x4 vehicle backcountry touring routes for motorized recreation. These routes were developed for the purpose of traveling to areas not often seen by many people. This network will be shared-use trail system providing recreation opportunities for all persons, including those who use street-legal and non-street legal (Green Sticker) vehicles, hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. It will also provide a backcountry opportunity for non-traditional trail users such as persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and families with small children.

**Activities:** Camping, Hiking, Photography, Star Gazing, Walking for Pleasure, Picnicking, Nature Studies

**Experiences:** Historical and Geological Discovery and time spent with family and friends.

### **Benefits:**

*Personal:* Solitude from the busy urban life in a stress-free environment.

*Community/Social:* An increase in tourism and revenue for the local economy. Provide ownership in the history of the area.

*Environmental:* Protect the visual resource by designing facilities which blend naturally into the harsh landscape.

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### **RMZ: Iron Mountain WWII Divisional Camp Historic Site**

#### **Objective Statement:**

***Iron Mountain Divisional Camp will be managed as a living museum which focuses on the role the American Deserts have played in training troops during World War II.***

Iron Mountain WWII Divisional Camp Historic Site is a one of the Desert Training Center California – Arizona Maneuver Area Camps, also known as the one of Patton WWII Divisional Headquarters Camps. The camp is located in southern ward Valley, in the shadow of its namesake and north of CA 62. This is the best known of the historical WWII camp which provided US serviceman with desert terrain combat training before being sent to battle fields in Africa and Europe, and is a popular visitor destination for history

enthusiast, servicemen and their families. In 1980 the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA) designated Patton's Iron Mountain Camp an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This closed the interior of the camp to vehicular traffic to maintain integrity (1986 Desert Training Center, California – Arizona Maneuver Area, Interpretive Plan).

Creating a RMZ would allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage the Iron Mountain WWII Divisional Camp Historic Site RMZ in an activity plan and the surrounding area in a custodial manner to ensure quality of dispersed recreation experiences and opportunities, reducing impact to the original footprint of the site.

**Activities:** Camping, Hiking, Photography, Star Gazing, Walking for Pleasure, Picnicking, Nature Studies

**Experiences:** Historical and Geological Discovery and time spent with family and friends.

**Benefits:**

*Personal:* A feeling of pride in the sacrifice that the American military endured to protect our nation.

*Community/Social:* Increased tourism and revenue for the local economy. Provide ownership in the history of the area.

*Environmental:* Protect the visual resource by designing facilities which blend naturally into the harsh landscape.

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**RMZ: Rice WWII Historic Site**

**Objective Statement:** Rice Camp will be managed as a living museum which focuses on the role the American Deserts have played in training troops during World War II.

Only a handful of the Desert Training Center California – Arizona Maneuver Area Camps are still visible on the desert landscape, and those that do, are visited by hundreds of military families and history enthusiasts each year.

Rice WWII Historic Site is a one of the Desert Training Center California – Arizona Maneuver Area Camps, also known as the one of Patton WWII Divisional Headquarters Camps. The camp is located in southern Ward Valley, south of State Route 62. This historical WWII camp provided US serviceman with desert terrain combat training before being sent to battle fields in Africa and Europe, and is a popular visitor destination for history enthusiast, servicemen and their families.

Creating a RMZ would allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage the Iron Mountain WWII Divisional Camp Historic Site RMZ in an activity plan and the surrounding area in a custodial manner to ensure quality of dispersed recreation experiences and opportunities;

**Activities:** Camping, Hiking, Photography, Star Gazing, Walking for Pleasure, Picnicking, Nature Studies

**Experiences:** Historical and Geological Discovery and time spent with family and friends.

**Benefits:**

*Personal:* A feeling of pride in the sacrifice that the American military endured to protect our nation.

*Community/Social:* Increased tourism and revenue for the local economy. Provide ownership in the history of the area.

*Environmental:* Protect the visual resource by designing facilities which blend naturally into the harsh landscape.

**Management Actions and Allowable Uses**

**Recreation and Visitor Services Program:**

- Routine maintenance of the Mojave Adventure Trails System shall occur including installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, barriers, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to system roads and trails.
- Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impact no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads and trails designated open in the land use or accompanying activity level plans.
- Any developed recreation sites that would be impacted by renewable energy development would be mitigated through establishment of alternate recreation sites in a similar, suitable location.
- Maintain interpretive developments and material which enhance recreation opportunities and public enjoyment and to better appreciate the significance of this historic site.
- Routine maintenance of the Mojave Adventure Trails System shall occur including installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, barriers, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to system roads and trails.

**Acres on BLM Lands:**

No Action	Preferred Alternative
0	552578

**Other Programs:**

Visual Resource Management Classes

Ward Valley – Class II

Utility and Transportation Corridor

Hightower Power Corridor – Class IV

Water Power Corridor – Class IV

Saltmarsh – Class IV

Desert Training Center (DTC)/California-Arizona Maneuver Area (C-AMA)

Iron Mountain Divisional Camp – Class II

Granite Mountain Camp – Class II

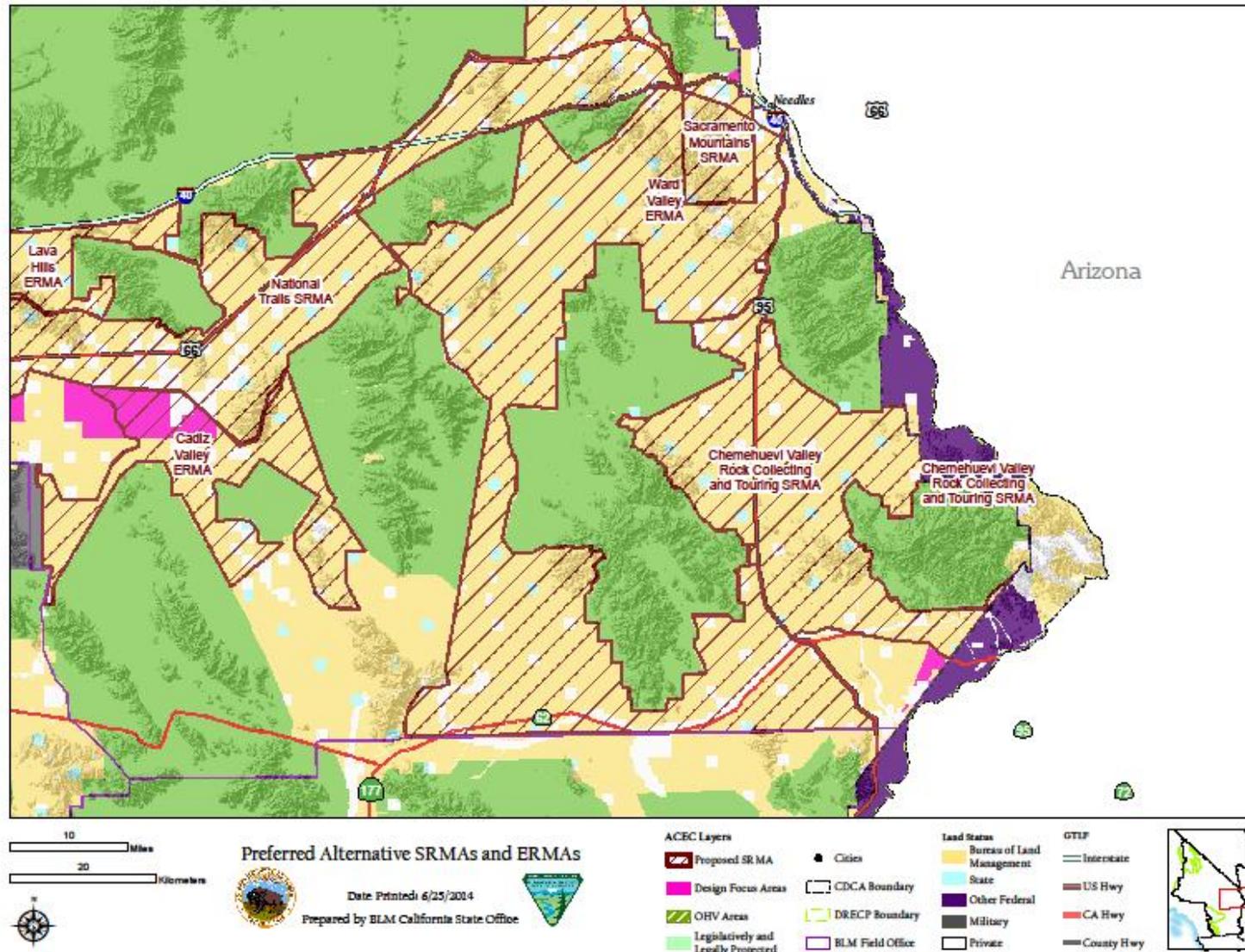
Rice Army Air Camp – Class II

Wildlife Game Guzzler Program

Grazing Allotment (Taylor Grazing Act)

Horse and Burro Herd Program

# Ward Valley ERMA



The information and maps shown on this system should be used for planning purposes only. It should not be the sole source for determining map boundary locations