

### Rockhounding

Is one of many recreational pursuits on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). More than 8 rock collecting areas where specimens ranging from Chalcedony to trilobite fossils have been identified in the Needles area. Collecting small, noncommercial quantities of rock is allowed free of charge on BLM managed lands. 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.

### Dispersed Recreation Camping

Camping on public lands away from developed recreation facilities is referred to as "dispersed camping". BLM managed lands in California are open to dispersed camping, for a period not to exceed 14 days. Camping can not conflict with other authorized uses or occur in areas posted "closed to camping," or in some way adversely affects natural or cultural resources.

### Shooting and Hunting

Target shooting and Hunting are allowed on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Needles Field Office, taking into consideration any private land, posted signs, and other rules and regulations that would apply. It is the responsibility of the shooter to know the laws of the area where they are shooting or hunting.

### Desert Hiking

In the desert, you won't find many defined, heavily used, marked or interpretive trails, you most likely will not see another soul on your hike unless you bring them along. This is desert wilderness hiking at its best. You will see landscapes accented with colors ranging from deep reds, browns, tans and grays to black and yes, the colors of wildflowers in the spring. Wildlife abounds with hawks, lizards, coyotes, bighorn sheep, and the hardy jackrabbit all eking out an existence in this beautiful but harsh land.

### Wilderness

Wilderness areas are special places where the earth and its community of life are essentially undisturbed. They retain a primeval character, without permanent improvements and generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. There are eighteen wilderness areas partly or completely within the boundary of BLM's Needles Field Office totaling more than 1.3 million acres. For solitude and the real wild west these wilderness areas can't be beat. Hiking, hunting, and rockhounding are just a few of the pursuits to be enjoyed. Come out and experience your desert wilderness.

**For Maps, Brochures and Information on these and many more recreational activities in the "Heart of the Mojave Desert" Contact the Needles Field Office**

### Watchable Wildlife

The Needles Field Office (NFO) supports a wide variety of wildlife species, from the unique bird, the roadrunner, to the majestic desert bighorn sheep. As is true throughout the biological world, certain wildlife forms are endemic to specific life zones. There is somewhat of a general division between species of wildlife found in the high and low deserts. The NFO has components of three deserts: the Colorado, the Mojave, and the Great Basin. The resource area also has the Sonoran Desert life zone in the Whipple Mountains.

### Route 66

Route 66 captures and represents the pioneering spirit of pilgrims set on coming west. It played a major role in the development of the United States in general and the southwest in particular. In California, the original 66 is known as *The National Old Trails Highway*. It runs from west of Needles, CA through Goffs, Essex, Amboy, Ludlow, Newberry Springs, then through Barstow on to L.A. Through numerous clubs, associations, and interested individuals the spirit and grandeur of a pioneer trail that helped to settle the west continues to live on.

## ENJOYING YOUR PUBLIC LANDS



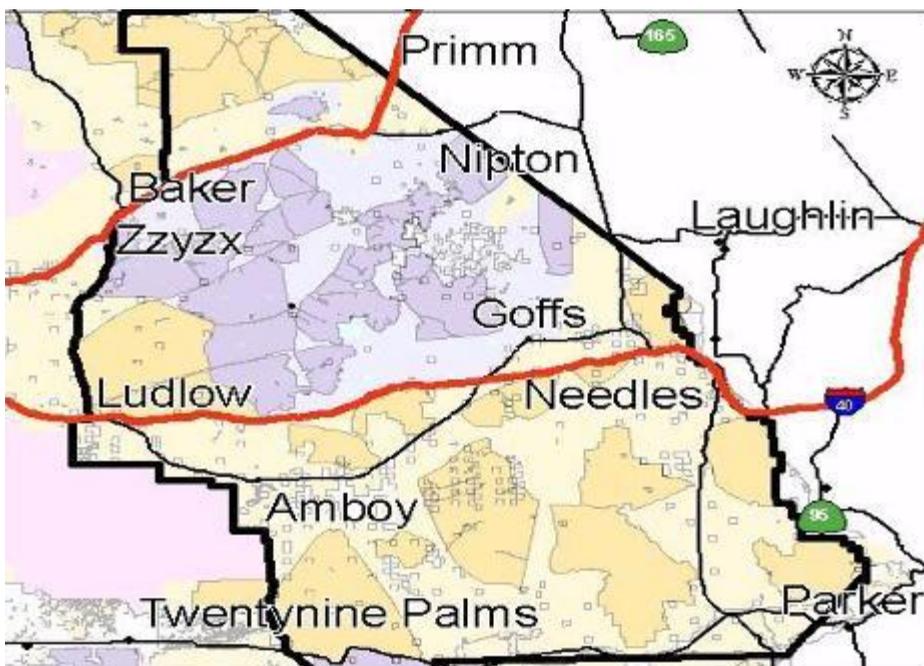
**Off Road Touring  
Rockhounding  
Camping  
Shooting & Hunting  
Hiking/Wilderness  
Watchable Wildlife  
Route 66**

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

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



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



**Off Road Adventures**

The Needles Field Office Area offers over 5200 miles of off road trails. 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 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 designated routes of travel

**NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL**

**Please Be Advised**

Military explosives can be found most any where 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.



Subscribe to News.bytes a FREE Weekly email Newsletter [www.blm.gov/ca](http://www.blm.gov/ca)

**In Case of Emergency call 911. To report Vandalism or environmental damage. Contact the Federal Interagency Communications Center (FICC) at (888)233-6518**