

Shooting on Public Lands

The California Desert Conservation Area offers a variety of recreational activities, including hiking, camping, off-highway vehicle use, hunting, and recreational shooting. A question often asked is, "Where can I legally go target shooting or hunt in the desert?"

Target shooting is allowed on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 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.

Many assault style weapons and ammunition types are banned in the State of California. For information on California firearms laws and policies, please visit the **Firearms Division, California**

Department of Justice web site.
<http://caag.state.ca.us/firearms/>
Or call **(800) 952-5225**

Fire Restrictions may prevent target shooting in high risk areas. Play safe and use caution. Use backstops to eliminate injuring people at great distances.

Things to consider

- Find a safe backstop. Shots fired across open desert can travel more than a mile.
 - ♦ Shoot only retrievable, freestanding targets. It is illegal to shoot glass, trees, or Historical Structures. Shooting clay targets (Clay Pigeons) is not allowed on public lands. Take all used targets with you.
 - ♦ Do not shoot within 150 yards of any man-made object, camp, domestic livestock, occupied dwelling, or campsite.
 - ♦ Check with the local sheriff or land management agencies before using an area for shooting. Do not shoot on Private Land without the owner's permission.

Check with local Land Management Agencies regarding paintball gun use

Leave No Trace

Plan ahead, pack out litter, respect others, and leave natural and cultural resources as you find them.

Please enjoy shooting and hunting on public lands, **pick up your brass and targets**. Please take care of the land like it's your own, because **IT IS!**

Hunting

One of many recreational pursuits on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management is hunting.

All hunting in the desert is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game. You must have a valid hunting license. It is your responsibility to know all laws and regulations related to the use of firearms in California.

Is legal hunting permitted on public lands within the Needles

FAQ

field region?

Yes. You must have a valid hunting license.

Are there areas BLM managed public lands which are closed to legal hunting and shooting?

Yes. The discharge or use of firearms at all Patton Camps and The Amboy Crater National Natural Landmark is strictly prohibited.

Where can I get more information on hunting in California?

From the California Department of Fish and Game. For California hunting seasons and regulations, visit <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/> or call (916) 445-0411

CALIFORNIA

Hunting & Shooting



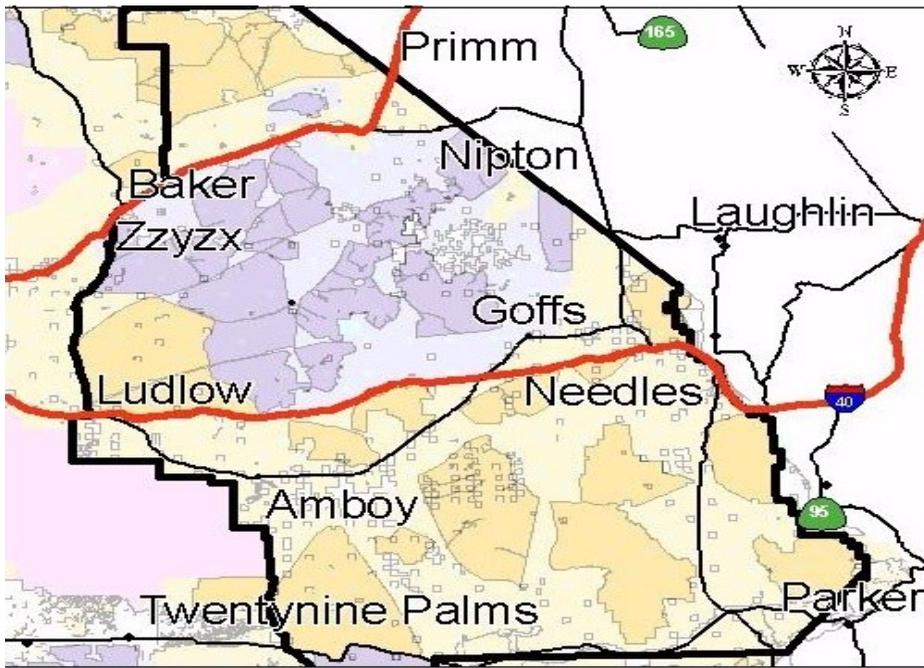
**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**Needles Field Office
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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 designated routes of travel only.

NO CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL

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.