

# BEAVER DAM WASH NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

## What is a National Conservation Area?

Through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Congress designated the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area (NCA) in Washington County, Utah "to conserve, protect, and enhance... the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources" of these public lands. The new NCA comprising roughly of 63,500 acres is managed by the BLM's St. George Field Office.



## Where is the Beaver Dam Wash NCA?

Located in the southwest corner of Washington County, Utah, the Beaver Dam Wash NCA is approximately 22 miles west of St. George, Utah and roughly 13 miles northwest of Littlefield, Arizona. The Nevada and Arizona state lines, border the western section of the NCA and Interstate 15 and the Virgin River parallel its southern boundary. U.S. Highway 91 is the only paved highway through the NCA.

## What Are the Special Values of the Beaver Dam Wash NCA?

This NCA is within an ecological transition zone between the Mojave Desert and the Great Basin. Creosote bush, white bursage, and other desert shrubs grow at lower elevations and provide habitat for desert bighorn sheep and the Mojave Desert tortoise, a threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Joshua trees and dense stands of blackbrush cover the slopes of the Beaver Dam Mountains, which rise along the eastern boundary of the NCA. Surface water flows in the upper reaches of Beaver Dam Wash, but rarely travels all the way through the NCA. Riparian vegetation along the stream channel is important habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

## Are there developed Recreation Sites or Trails in the Beaver Dam Wash NCA?

At this time, there are no developed recreation facilities in the NCA. The St. George Field Office is preparing a Management Plan that will address recreation uses and the types of facilities needed to provide for quality visitor experiences, while protecting the special values of the NCA.

## Are there Special Restrictions in the Beaver Dam Wash NCA?

Congress restricted all motorized vehicle travel, including off-highway vehicles, in the NCA to designated roads and, in certain areas, only to the specific roads shown on the map on the back of this page.

## More Information

Additional information about the new NCA can be found on the St. George Field Office website at: [http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/st\\_\\_george.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/st__george.html)