

Red Cliffs NCA Plan

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area

Through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Congress designated the 45,000 acre Red Cliffs NCA in Washington County, Utah “to conserve, protect, and enhance...the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the National Conservation Area and to protect each species that is located in the National Conservation Area and listed as a threatened or endangered species...”

Resource Values and Special Features

The Red Cliffs NCA is located where the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin and Mojave Desert overlap in Washington County. In this transition zone, unusual plant and animal species have evolved, including the dwarf bear-claw poppy and Shivwits milkvetch, small native plants that grow nowhere else. The hot, arid Mojave Desert provides habitat for diverse wildlife species, such as the kit fox, Gila monster, and the Mojave Desert tortoise, listed as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Dinosaur tracks, Ancestral Puebloan rock art sites, and mid-19th century Mormon farmsteads are preserved on public lands in the Red Cliffs NCA. Hikers, mountain bikers, and trail riders enjoy miles of designated trails in the NCA, just a few miles drive from local communities. The newly-designated Cottonwood Wilderness is within the boundaries of the NCA, while the Red Mountain Wilderness forms the western boundary of the NCA. Opportunities for solitude, natural quiet, and wilderness experiences abound for hikers, backpackers, and equestrians in these wilderness areas, where motorized and mechanized vehicles are not authorized.

