

# Basin and Range National Monument

## Basin and Range NATIONAL MONUMENT

Established in 2015, Basin and Range National Monument protects and preserves a valuable part of the nation's natural and cultural heritage. The 704,000-acre (2,850-square-kilometer) monument showcases iconic western landscapes, geology, ecology, and cultural history. Located more than 2 hours from any major population center, visitors to the monument can experience remoteness and space on a grand scale. They can see rugged mountains, explore vast valleys, and witness clear examples of cultural history that connect us to priceless parts of our national heritage.

### HOME FOR MANY CULTURES

People have lived in the area of Basin and Range National Monument for at least the last 13,000 years. Cultural artifacts preserved in the monument give visitors a glimpse into the lives of the Indigenous cultures, and historical and modern inhabitants of the Basin and Range region. They help us understand how landscapes shape past, present, and future human experience.

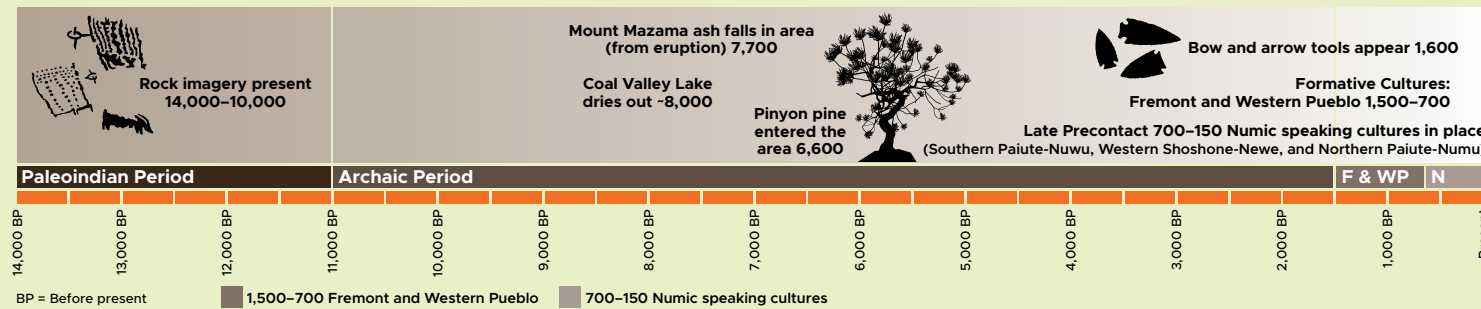
This area was first inhabited by nomadic Paleoindian cultures who hunted and foraged for food on the shores of Pleistocene lakes and marshes. As the climate became increasingly warm and dry,

foraging groups used the area's springs, caves, and rock shelters. Cultural groups like the Fremont and Virgin Ancestral Puebloans frequented the area, leaving behind their distinctive rock art styles. The Southern Paiute and Western Shoshone tribes consider the area in and around the monument as a part of their ancestral homelands. Your help conserving and protecting this landscape honors the tribes who call this area home.

In the mid-19th century, European settlers moved into the area for mining and ranching. Livestock grazing is a permitted

use in the monument. Visitors may see range improvements or livestock.

#### GREAT BASIN NATIONAL MONUMENT timeline

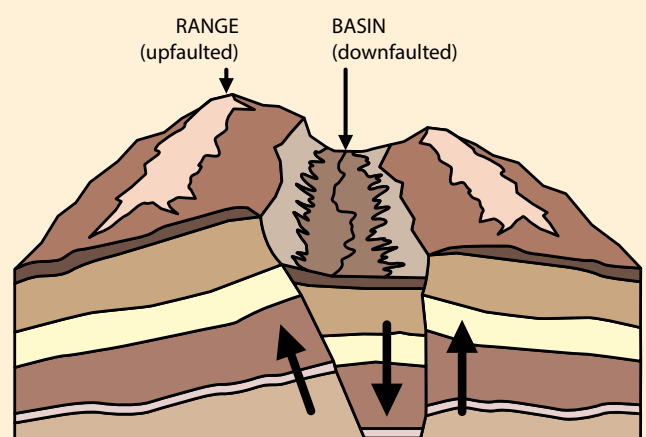


Pleistocene lakes of southern Nevada, 16,000 BP

### A Changing Landscape's Story

For hundreds of millions of years, geologic forces worked to create the rugged landscape of Basin and Range National Monument. The forces of wind, water, and tectonic shifting sculpted the landscape through a slow and steady process that continues today. Today's landscape tells visitors a vivid story over millions of years of geologic change.

Alternating low desert valleys and steep mountain ranges are characteristic of the Basin and Range region. Beginning 30 to 40 million years ago, powerful tectonic forces pulled and stretched the continental crust from east to west. Over time, the stretching created fractures in the crust, the topmost layer of the earth's surface. These fractures, or faults, let sections of the crust slip and settle. That settling created the characteristic basin and range topography visible in the monument today.



### Refuge for Diversity

Basin and Range National Monument preserves connected, intact ecosystems that provide a sanctuary for diverse plant and animal communities. The abrupt elevation changes in basin and range topography create many ecosystems in a relatively small area.

In the low deserts, visitors can often find pronghorn roaming through a sea of saltbush and sagebrush. The ecosystem quickly turns into a belt of pinyon pine and juniper as the elevation increases. At the top of the monument's peaks, visitors can experience a subalpine environment with bristlecone and ponderosa pine. Ecotones, the transition zones between ecosystems, blend these environments and create space for even more diversity.



### Before You Visit the Monument:

- Cellphone service is extremely limited in the monument. Plan ahead; let someone know your travel plans and when you will return.
- Roads on a map or app may not be safe to drive. Use your judgment about which roads to travel on, and expect to be self-supported.
- Bring emergency items with you (extra food, water, first aid, tools, spare tire, shovel, blanket, fire extinguisher, etc.).
- Areas of the map in white indicate private property. Please respect NO TRESPASSING signs. Stay on existing roads, slow down, and leave gates as you found them.

**VISITORS ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY.**

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/nv/basin-and-range-national-monument>

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#### For more information, contact:

The national monument offers recreation including camping, stargazing, climbing, hiking, bicycling, hunting, and off-highway vehicle riding. Visiting Basin and Range National Monument requires planning and preparation. The monument is remote and does not have designated hiking trails. Visitors should prepare for the challenges that come with recreation in a remote environment and should expect to be self-supported.

#### Visiting Basin and Range National Monument