

High Rock Lake Wilderness Area

59,093 Acres

- Wilderness Area
- National Conservation Area Boundary
- Applegate National Historic Trail
- County Roads (Unpaved)
- BLM Roads
- Motorized Trails
- Motorized Trail, Seasonal Closure
- Other Dirt Roads



United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Winnemucca Field Office
 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
 Winnemucca, NV 89445
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Location

The Wilderness is located in western Humboldt County. The best access to the Wilderness is located along the maintained Soldier Meadows Road (Humboldt County Road 200) that forms the eastern boundary of the Wilderness. The western part of the Wilderness can be accessed from Washoe County Road 34 and the High Rock Lake Road

Description

The High Rock Lake Wilderness contains the northern portion of the Calico Mountains. Much of the area consists of a large mesa which slants downward to the east. The west side of the area consists of rimrock bluffs and the northwest corner is occupied by the intermittent High Rock Lake. High Rock Lake was created about 14,000 years ago after a large rockslide closed the original outlet to High Rock and Little High Rock canyons. The new outlet cut Fly Canyon, a narrow rimbound canyon that empties at Soldier Meadows. A special feature of Fly Canyon is the “potholes”. These are erosional features that have formed in the bedrock of the canyon by the swirling and whirl pool action of the stream. Part of the northern boundary road of the High Rock Lake Wilderness is the route of the Applegate Emigrant Trail. Today’s visitor sees essentially the same landscape that the earlier pioneers saw. Elevation ranges from 4,000 feet to 7,000 feet with scattered vegetation of saltbrush and sage brush providing habitat for the resident mule deer, prong horn antelope, wild horse and sage grouse.

Recreational Opportunities

Major canyons in the area provide for excellent dayhiking and backpacking opportunities. Hunting for deer, antelope and chukar is popular in the area. Rugged dirt routes that form the boundaries of the Wilderness provide excellent four-wheel driving and mountain biking opportunities.

Why Wilderness?

Wilderness is an indispensable part of the American story. Native Americans depended on the bounty of wilderness for survival and held Earth and its wild places as sacred. The great western explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were inspired by the untamed beauty of wilderness that became the forge upon which our uniquely American national character was created. But after just 200 years, the essential wildness of America virtually disappeared. As Americans realized that the long-term health and welfare of the nation were at risk, a vision for conservation emerged.

In 1964 our nation’s leaders formally acknowledged the immediate and lasting benefits of wild places to the human spirit and fabric of our nation. That year in a nearly unanimous vote, Congress enacted landmark legislation that permanently protected some of the most natural and undisturbed places in America. The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System to “...*secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of enduring resource of wilderness.*”

In 2000, ten Wilderness Areas and a National Conservation Area were designated in northwestern Nevada to protect a unique portion of the Northern Great Basin and its associated wildlife, plant life, cultural resources, and the virtually untouched landscape that has been largely unchanged since pioneers traveled the area in the 1800’s on the Applegate Emigrant Trail. These areas are now managed to protect their natural integrity, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Allowable Uses of Wilderness

Wilderness Areas provide for numerous recreation opportunities including: hiking, backpacking, nature study, horsepacking, hunting, rock climbing, rockhounding, cross-country skiing, primitive camping, photography, or just enjoying the views and the solitude. Activities that impact the wilderness characteristics of naturalness, opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation are not permitted; these include: using motorized or mechanical transport, motorized equipment, landing of aircraft, or constructing permanent structures. Mountain bikes and game carriers are considered to be forms of mechanical transport and are not permitted in wilderness. Wheel chairs are permitted in wilderness.

Exceptions to prohibited activities may be granted for some administrative uses, including wildfire suppression or search and rescue operations. Livestock grazing may continue in wilderness areas where it occurred prior to the area being designated. Mining may also continue on valid existing mineral claims.

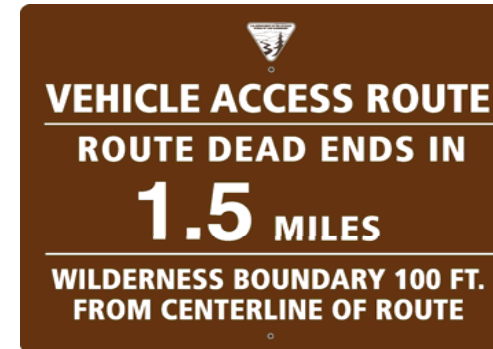
Hunting

Wilderness Areas provide excellent opportunities for primitive hunting experiences. Hunting blinds within a wilderness must be temporary and removed after your hunt is completed. Cutting of vegetation to construct a blind is prohibited as well. Fishing and

hunting regulations are subject to change. Check with Nevada Division of Wildlife for regulations (775) 423-3171.

Motorized Access

Over 800 miles of roads remain open to motorized use in the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. Many of these roads form the boundaries for the ten Wilderness Areas. Besides the boundary roads, 33 “Vehicle Access Routes” were designated that provide access to areas within the wilderness. These “Vehicle Access Routes” are identified with signs, like the one below.



The wilderness boundaries and routes closed to motorized use within the boundaries are identified with a wilderness boundary post, like the one to the right.

BLM strives to maintain the boundary signing along the Wilderness Areas, but it is the visitor’s responsibility to know where the boundaries are.

Traveling and Safety:

The most effective way to prevent mishaps is to adequately prepare for the trip. Knowledge of the area, weather, terrain, limitations of your body, plus a little common sense can help to ensure a safe and enjoyable wilderness trip.

Climate and Special Equipment Needs

The area has a typical climate of the Great Basin; hot summers with temperatures over 100 degrees F and cold winters with temperatures often below 20 degrees F. Although some of the areas contain perennial streams and springs, they should not be relied on as a source of drinking water. You should always carry a sufficient amount of water. Because the area has poor cell phone coverage the only reliable form of communication is by satellite phone. Access roads in the area are very rough and visitors should have high clearance four wheel drive vehicles with extra gas and two spare tires.

Practicing the following tips can help you “Leave No Trace” Plan Ahead and Prepare- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use. Visit in small groups. Call the Winnemucca or Surprise



Field Office to check on current conditions prior to visiting the area.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces- Durable surfaces include established campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, snow, or dry washes and lake beds (if the threat of flash floods is low). Camp at least 300 feet from streams. Be considerate of others and camp away from trails and other visitors.

Dispose of Waste Properly- Pack it in pack it out. Inspect your campsite for trash or spilled food. Bury solid human waste in “catholes” at least 6 inches deep and 200 feet (about 70 adult steps) away from water.

Leave What You Find- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

Minimize Campfire Impacts- Use a lightweight stove for cooking and a candle lantern for light. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Burn wood and coals to ash, put out campfire completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Minimize Horse Impacts- Tether horses with hobbles, highlines using ‘tree saver’ straps or portable ties and fences. Tether stock at least 400 feet away from trails and water sources. Pack in processed feed such as pellets, crimped grain or weed-seed free hay.

For Further Information Contact

Winnemucca BLM Field Office,
5100 East Winnemucca Blvd.,
Winnemucca Nevada 89445 (775- 623-1500),

Surprise BLM Field Office,
602 Cressler,
Cedarville, California, 96104 (503-279-6101)

www.wilderness.net www.publicland.org
www.blackrockhighrockinfo.net www.nevadawilderness.org
www.blackrockfriends.org www.nv.blm.gov/Winnemucca

Emergency Numbers

Humboldt County Sheriff (775) 623-6419 or (775) 623-6429

