

Bureau of Land Management

RECREATION

On Public Lands in California



BLM

California 2009

BLM California has got the edge...

A thousand mile edge of the continent and an edge on recreation with 15.2 million acres in California and another 1.6 million acres in Nevada -- and it's all managed for multiple use by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

BLM-managed public lands in the Golden State offer a sense of adventure for more than 9 million visitors annually with 13 recreation rivers, 48 campgrounds, 53 trails, and dozens of recreation areas supplying plenty of fun. The experiences are as varied as the landscapes with Sierra campgrounds amid conifer forests near crystalline streams and the vast California desert with gothic rock formations and wind sculpted dunes perfect for off-highway vehicle enjoyment. In fact, there are more than 500,000 acres of open areas in the desert!

Every breed of hiker can find a hiking challenge from coastal nature walks to the awesome Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Wet and wild adventures await the visitor on the Golden State's many rivers and anglers will discover challenges landing trout and salmon in Northern California.

Spectacular scenery can be found among the scenic vistas of the California Coastal National Monument, in the ancient redwood forest of the Headwaters Forest Reserve, along the foggy bluffs of the King Range National Conservation Area, and with the valley of golden flowers in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. In all, there are 82 wilderness areas, 530 miles of National Scenic and Historic Trails, 70 miles of National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and more than 800 wildlife species to view. There's even a lighthouse to explore and learn about California's history.

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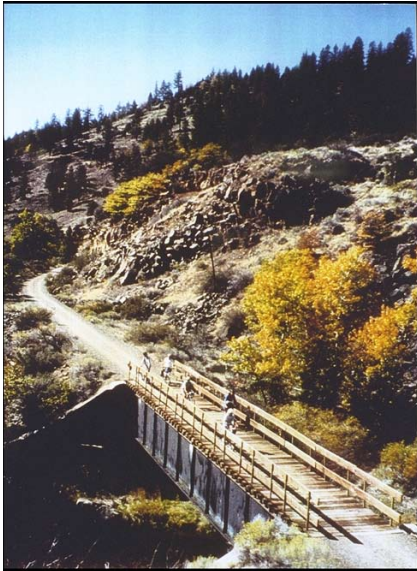
In addition to the many free recreation areas, there are 38 selected sites where a nominal fee is charged to help enhance the recreation experience. The fee program has been a great success by supporting operation and maintenance of highly visited areas.

This publication offers a sampler of the recreation opportunities available on BLM managed public lands. They are to be enjoyed, so...

Let's Play!



Northern California



Bizz Johnson Trail

There's plenty of room to ramble and space to roam over thousands of acres of untamed country where herds of antelope and wild horses still race each other and the wind.

Take an adventure in the past along the Bizz Johnson Trail near Susanville while you soak up some spectacular scenery along part of the region's colorful railroad history. In winter, the trail becomes a snowy wonderland for cross-country skiers.

Camp out and put a line in the water on the Pit River or partake of the water sports at Eagle Lake, California's second largest natural lake. The North Eagle Campground uses recreation fees to provide a base of operations to fish for trophy size trout. Or step over the border into Nevada for that masterpiece of erosion—High Rock Canyon. Touch a little history in the still preserved wagon ruts marking emigrant travels along the fabled Lassen-Applegate Trail.



Sacramento River

If you're in Redding, get out for a hike on the Sacramento River Rail Trail, soon to connect downtown Redding and Shasta Dam. You can enjoy the Clear Creek Greenway or venture to the Chappie-Shasta OHV area with over 200 miles of roads and trails. The Wild and Scenic Trinity River is home to world famous fly fishing or, if you're more adventurous, ride the whitewater below Pigeon Point.



Headwaters Forest Reserve

Quieter playtime can be found on the coast by hiking the trails through old growth forest at the Headwaters Forest Reserve near Eureka. Gain an appreciation for California's rugged lands by walking along Black Sands Beach near Shelter Cove. Then you can go from the sea to the summit on more than 80 miles of trails through the King Range National Conservation Area. You can play just about anyway you want at the Samoa Dunes where you can find hiking, surfing, fishing, sightseeing, beachcombing, picnicking, birdwatching, and OHV use.



Samoa Dunes

Central California



Wildflowers near Carrizo Plain National Monument

Your public lands cut a broad and beautiful swath across the center of California from the border with Nevada to the Pacific. Pick your pace in this part of the Golden State from the high energy hiking on the trails of North Cow Mountain to the rough and ready hills of South Cow Mountain. Perhaps you can visit the Alabama Hills and see the pass where countless cinema cowboys always brought down the bad guys.

Explore the volcanic wonders of Crater Mountain or enjoy the room at the top of Conway Summit. And for a real walk on the wild side, you can't beat the Pacific Crest Trail.

You have to see the Carrizo Plain National Monument in springtime when the state's largest nature preserve turns into a seasonal jetport for migrating birds and spectacular

wildflowers cover the Temblor Mountains and the San Joaquin Valley floor. And make way for ducklings at Cosumnes River Preserve near Sacramento. There you'll find wetlands and sloughs that create wonderful meanders and more than a hint of bayou country.

Near the fabulously overdone Hearst Castle at San Simeon is the beautiful central California Coast where Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area offers a sunbaked shore for seal lions and elephant seals in the shadow of the 1875 lighthouse.



Tour of Piedras Blancas Light Station

There's almost no better way to carve out quality family time than with a whitewater family rafting trip! Adventure and pure fun inspire families to discover and delight in themselves and in one another, as never before. World class whitewater can be found on the Kern, the American, and the Merced Rivers.



Hikers on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail



Rafters on the Lower Kern River

California Desert

Plan on being awed by the sense of space, history, and natural beauty of the California Desert. Sawtooth Mountains, salt-crusted playas, weird but wonderful Joshua tree forests, gothic spires of rock, haunting flat-topped mesas, crumbling Army posts, Spanish-style train depots, gigantic etchings in the sand, and soft-sculptured dunes that sing or sigh.



Resting Spring Range

Some rock groups come and go but most of ours have been on the charts for millennia. See the fossils of exotic ancients like the huge bear-dog and saber-tooth cat at Rainbow Basin or explore the nooks and crannies of Afton Canyon, the Grand Canyon of the Mojave. Experience our

trio of preserves near Palm Springs—Big Morongo, Coachella Valley, and Dos Palmas—all supplying exceptional birding and other wildlife viewing, Native American rock art, and webs of hiking trails in a serene setting of artesian springs and rustling palms. Start a day of adventure at the visitor center. Then view rugged scenery and look for wildlife in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.



Land Sailing at El Mirage



El Mirage off roading

Land sailing and hang gliding fans will find abundant dry lake beds and willing winds at El Mirage and vista points. Slow down long enough to prospect for petrified wood or gemstones, explore the otherworldly Trona Pinnacles. Or search for paths of history along the Old Spanish Trail.

Of course, there is nothing like the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation

Area, the largest mass of sand dunes in California. The dune system extends for 40 miles in a band averaging 5 miles wide providing unsurpassed opportunities for OHV enthusiasts. One of the most successful areas in the BLM Fee Program, use fees are put back into the Recreation Area to improve the quality of your experience. And if OHV is not your thing, you'll find endless miles of quiet solitude and fabulous scenery in the North Algodones Dunes Wilderness.



Imperial Sand Dunes

And There's More!



You'll find 800 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish in California. Thanks to the Watchable Wildlife Project, you can enjoy viewing wildlife at locations all across the state. One of more than a dozen partners in the project, BLM has nominated 26 of the total 300 sites being considered for the new wildlife viewing guide. Just look for the brown road sign with the white binoculars

symbol—the guidepost to memorable opportunities to enjoy the great state's wildlife bounty.



Pronghorn at Carrizo Plain National Monument



One of the BLM's most important partnerships is designed to let you enjoy the Golden State's many water trails. It's the California Department of Boating and Waterways' Boating Trails Program which provides for better access to the many rivers found in the state. In its work with BLM, Cal Boating has been involved with projects on the Kern, the Sacramento, the American, and the Trinity Rivers, as well as Clear

Creek near Redding. So grab your paddle and get ready for adventure as you will find easy access to some of California's wettest trails.



Rafting on Lower Kern River



If you're looking for a great place to bring the kids, then the opportunities in California are almost endless. BLM is actively engaged in getting kids outdoors with "Take It Outside!" and "Get Fit With US." In particular, the BLM's partnership with the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism has worked to promote the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, a life list of activities each child should experience before reaching high school. You can enjoy each of the ten list items on BLM lands all across California.



In California, off road enthusiasts pay fees through the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (Green Sticker). The OHMVR uses the money for grants to public agencies to provide quality recreation opportunities. You'll enjoy the benefits of these grants on BLM managed public lands when you come to play at any one of a number of OHV areas.

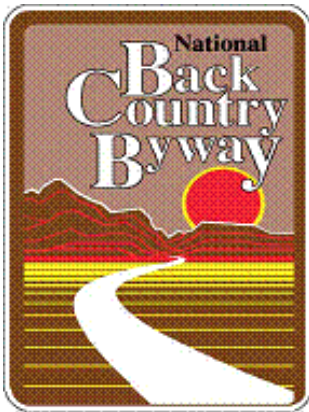


Learning to grind acorns at San Joaquin River Gorge

Recreation Links



BLM California State Director, Mike Pool, and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Divisions Deputy Director, Daphne Greene, open the new visitor center at El Mirage October 2008.



For experiencing the heart and soul of America, nothing beats traveling one of BLM's five Back Country Byways. Of course, there are breathtaking vistas, but the byways are also where ancient and modern history come alive; where native arts and culture can be discovered; and where you'll find scenes of friends, families and strangers sharing their stories.

If you still have a need for happy motoring, the Bishop Field Office has put together some outstanding family fun trips in their Motor Touring in the Eastern Sierra guides and, if

you're a movie buff, then you'll have to travel the routes of the Movie Road guide of Alabama Hills.

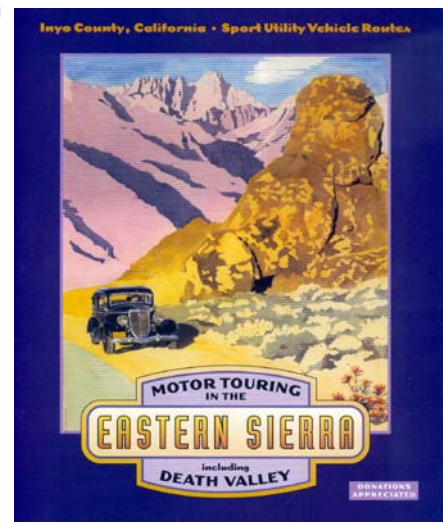
If you want to know more about these opportunities, check out the following websites:

California Watchable Wildlife <http://www.cawatchablewildlife.org>

California Boating Trails <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/BoatTrails.aspx>

California Recreation Roundtable <http://calroundtable.org/index.html>

California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division <http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>



Come on - Let's Play!



Bureau of Land Management California Jurisdiction

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