



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Castle Mountains  
National  
Monument

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**Superintendent's  
Compendium- 2019**

Of Designations, Closures, Permit  
Requirements and Other Restrictions  
Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved:

*Todd S. Sues*  
Todd Sues, Superintendent

10/15/19  
Date

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the proper management, protection, government and public use of those portions of Castle Mountains National Monument under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7. The Compendium must be read in conjunction with Title 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7. It cannot be read as a stand-alone document. Title 36 CFR can be located at <https://www.ecfr.gov>.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

**PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

**36 CFR §1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES**

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours:

- 1 Any areas not posted as closed to public access are open to the public twenty-four hours a day.
- 1 Park Headquarters is open Monday through Friday 0800 hours until 1600 hours except on federal holidays, unless otherwise posted.

- The discharging of weapons is prohibited within one half mile of all structures and facilities within the National Monument.

*Justification: The restriction is necessary in order to protect visitors that may be involved in recreational activities, and neighbors/employees who live/work within the National Monument.*

- Rock climbing is allowed inside the National Monument with the following restrictions:
  - Bolt drills or devices may not be used for placing or replacing bolts except when authorized by the Superintendent.
  - Chipping of rock faces, the gluing of holds onto rock, or the intentional removal of vegetation is prohibited.
  - Technical climbing is prohibited within 500 feet of any prehistoric or historic pictograph or petroglyph site, or any other cultural resource.
  - Existing bolts and other fixed anchors that are deemed unsafe by climbers may be replaced on a piece-by-piece basis with approval from the Park Superintendent.
  - Only neutral or rock-colored fixed anchors are permitted.
  - Leaving fixed ropes, webbing, etc. for extended periods for the purpose of ascending and descending (rappelling) rock walls is prohibited.

*Justification: These conditions are necessary to protect cultural and natural resources, and recreational experiences from visual or physical impacts.*

- *Geocaching and similar recreational activities (e.g., letterboxing) are not authorized in the National Monument.*

*Justification: Geocaching and similar recreational activities (e.g., letterboxing) are treasure hunt games that involve hiding a container and then navigating to that container using a GPS device. The container is typically filled with trinkets or other small items of value that the treasure hunter swaps out for a trinket of his/her own. Geocaching is in violation of the abandoned property regulations found in 36 CFR § 2.22. Additionally, geocaches are typically hidden and activities such as digging or camouflaging with natural material are often associated with this recreational activity.*

- Camping length of stay restrictions.

#### Backcountry and Roadside Camping

- Backcountry or roadside camping is limited to a maximum of 14 consecutive days per visit/stay and 30 total days per year.

*Justification: Length-of-stay restrictions allow more of the public to utilize a limited number of available campsites. Additionally, in a fragile ecosystem, it allows areas that have been impacted by camping activities to recover.*

#### Closures

- Employee residential areas, park offices, and maintenance facilities are open to the public only when authorized by a park employee or resident.

*Justification: This is necessary to protect government and personal property from vandalism and theft, and to ensure the privacy of resident employees.*

- *Launching, landing or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Castle Mountains National Monument is prohibited, except as approved in writing by the superintendent.*

*Justification: This restriction is to protect the public from hazards and preserve the park's natural, aesthetic, and scenic values. The use of machine airborne or controlled devices, such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones, has the potential to interfere with public safety by posing an in-flight hazard to helicopter use in the National Monument. The use of these devices also has the potential to disrupt wildlife by interrupting migration, nesting, mating, and hunting activities to include, but not limited to, protected species such as the bighorn sheep, golden eagle, and desert tortoise, as well as native birds and mammals. This restriction is in accordance with NPS Management Policy 8.2 which prohibits recreational uses that conflict with the scenic values and natural soundscapes the park was designated to protect and the associated activities in which individuals seek solitude and tranquility with an expectation of privacy. Launching and landing of UAS's in the National Monument has a heightened risk of adverse impacts to the Wilderness' character and values. Inadvertent landings can invite violations to the Wilderness Act, which prohibits the operation of motorized vehicles or mechanized transport.*

**36 CFR §1.5 (a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:**

Camping:

- Please refer to 36 CFR §2.10 for detailed camping area designations.

**36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT**

**36 CFR §1.6(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required:**

For permit information/application contact the Special Park Uses coordinator 760-252-6107 or email at [moja\\_sup@nps.gov](mailto:moja_sup@nps.gov).

- §1.5(d) The following activities related to Public Use Limits:
  - Special Use Permit required for all organized events or for a group containing 25 or more people and/or more than 7 vehicles or 7 horses; and
- §2.5(a) Specimen collection, except under the auspices of a research collection permit.
- §2.12 Audio Disturbances:
  - § 2.12(a)(2) Operating a power saw in developed areas.
  - § 2.12 (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas.
  - § 2.12 (a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51.
- §2.17 Aircraft & Air Delivery:
  - §2.17 (c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft and all component parts.
- §2.22 Property: The installation of any game or trail cameras requires a permit from the Superintendent's office.

- §2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money goods or services (Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit issued under §2.50, §2.51 or §2.52).
- §2.38 Explosives:
  - (a) Use, possess, store, transport explosives, blasting agents or explosive materials.
  - (b) Use or possess fireworks.
- §2.50(a) Conduct a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, and similar events.
- §2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades, and other public expressions of views require a permit when the activity involves more than 25 persons or is requested for a location outside the identified designated areas. Smaller groups may still apply for a permit in order to guarantee their use of a particular area. The following locations are designated for First Amendment activities:
  - Kelso Depot Visitor Center, at least 50 feet away from the SW side of the visitor center building.
  - Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Center, at east end of the visitor center parking lot.
  - Barstow Headquarters, at least 50 feet away from the building in the SW corner of the parking lot.

*Justification: To conform to the National Park Service Special Uses Program Changes*

- §2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising.
  - Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in 36 CFR 2.51 and 2.52 are not required to have a permit for activities listed in 2.51(a) and 2.52(a).
- §2.60(b) Livestock use
  - Domestic sheep and goats are prohibited.

*Justification: prevent exposure of Bighorn sheep to pathogens carried by domestic sheep and goats*

- §2.61(a) Residing on federal lands
  - Residing on federal lands is prohibited.
- §2.62 Memorialization:
- §2.62 (a) Installation of monuments (Requires approval from the Director)
- §2.62 (b) Scattering human ashes from a cremation
- §4.11(a) Exceeding of established vehicle load, weight and size limits
- §5.1 Advertisements – (Display, posting or distribution)
- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (Requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations)
- §5.4(a) Commercial transportation of passengers by motor vehicles

- §5.5 Commercial filming, still photography, and audio recording: a) Commercial filming and still photography activities are subject to the provisions of 43 CFR part 5, subpart A. Failure to comply with any provision of 43 CFR part 5 is a violation of this section.
  - (b) Audio recording does not require a permit unless:
    - (1) It takes place at location(s) where or when members of the public are generally not allowed;
    - (2) It uses equipment that requires mechanical transport;
    - (3) It uses equipment that requires an external power source other than a battery pack; or
    - (4) The agency would incur additional administrative costs to provide management and oversight of the permitted activity to:
      - (i) Avoid unacceptable impacts and impairment to resources or values; or
      - (ii) Minimize health or safety risks to the visiting public.
  - (c) Cost recovery charges associated with processing the permit request and monitoring the permitted activity shall be collected.
- 43 CFR 5.2 (a) All commercial filming requires a permit.
  - (b) Still photography does not require a permit unless:
    - (1) It uses a model, set, or prop as defined in §5.12; or
    - (2) The agency determines a permit is necessary because:
      - (i) It takes place at a location where or when members of the public are not allowed; or
      - (ii) The agency would incur costs for providing on-site management and oversight to protect agency resources or minimize visitor use conflicts.
    - (c) Visitors do not require a permit for filming or still photography activities unless the filming is commercial filming as defined in §5.12 or the still photography activity involves one of the criteria listed in §5.2 (b).
  - §5.6(c) Use of commercial vehicles on park area roads (The Superintendent shall issue a permit to access private lands within or adjacent to the park when access is otherwise not available) – Authorization may be obtained through the Superintendent’s office at Mojave National Preserve headquarters.
  - §5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, path, structure, etc
  - Part 8 Labor Standards – Employees of Concessioners to the NPS
  - Part 9 Minerals Management
    - Prior to the issuance of a permit for access to any claim or claims, the operator must file with the Superintendent a plan of operations pursuant to 36 CFR §9.9
    - No permit shall be issued until the plan of operations has been approved in accordance with 36 CFR §9.10 (36 CFR §9.3)
    - §9.3 Address Access Permits to mining claims.
    - §9.15 Addresses Use of [NPS] Roads by Commercial Vehicles.

- §9.15(a)(1) A fee shall be charged for such registration based upon a posted fee schedule, computed on a ton-mile basis. The fee schedule posted shall be subject to change upon 60 days notice.

## **PART 2 – RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION**

### **36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

**(a)(4) Dead wood on the ground may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the park in the following areas:**

- Using or possessing any wood or kindling of any kind gathered from within the National Monument is prohibited.

**(a)(5) The following conditions are in effect for walking, climbing, entering, ascending or traversing the listed archeological or cultural resource, monuments or statues:**

- Technical climbing within 500 feet of any known archeological site is prohibited.

**(c)(1), (c)(2) The following fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or use or consumption restrictions:**

- Edible pine nuts may be collected by hand for personal use or consumption. The total quantity that may be collected is limited to one quart per person per day.

### **36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

**(d) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:**

- In accordance with applicable state and federal laws for the taking of wildlife.

**(e) The following areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light:**

- All areas of the National Monument are closed.

### **36 CFR §2.4 – WEAPONS, TRAPS, AND NETS**

**(a)(2)(i) Weapons, traps, or nets may only be carried, possessed or used at the following designated times and locations:**

- Target shooting is prohibited within the National Monument.
- A person may possess, carry, and transport concealed, loaded, and operable firearms within the National Monument in accordance with California state laws except as otherwise prohibited by applicable federal law.
- The collection of amphibians and reptiles will not be permitted without a valid research permit issued by the Superintendent.



## **36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE**

**(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:**

- Roadside camping will be allowed in previously used or disturbed sites outside of the “day-use-only” areas. At any location in the backcountry with the following conditions:
  - Campsites must be more than 200 yards from any natural or constructed water source.
  - Camping is prohibited within ¼ mile of paved roads, unless formally designated as a camping area (previously disturbed sites).

*Justification: These conditions are established to protect the natural and cultural resources in the park, provide for the enjoyment of the public, and provide for public safety.*

**(d) Conditions for the storage of food are in effect, as noted, for the following areas:**

- All food and food containers must be stored in a manner that will prevent access to any wildlife.

*Justification: This is necessary to prevent food conditioning and habituation of wildlife.*

## **36 CFR §2.11 – PICNICKING**

All areas of the park are open to picnicking.

## **36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES**

**(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:**

Designated Areas: Developed campgrounds and existing roadside campsites with fire rings (metal or rock) or with the use of a fire pan. New fire rings may not be established.

Receptacles Allowed: Fire pans are approved for fires in designated areas with ash removal required.

### **Established Conditions for Fires:**

**(a)(2) The following restrictions are in effect for the use of stoves or lanterns:**

- Stoves and lanterns (that are gas combustible) must be monitored at all times when in use. Lanterns are not permitted to be hung from vegetation.

**(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:**

- All fires must be fully extinguished (cool to the touch) when leaving a campsite.

**(c) High fire danger closures will be in effect as noted:**

- When designated and posted at visitor centers, campground bulletin boards, internet web site and social media by order of the Superintendent.

*Justification: These conditions are necessary to prevent wildland fires.*

**36 CFR §2.14 – SANITATION and REFUSE**

**(a)(2) The use of government refuse receptacles or facilities for dumping household, commercial or industrial refuse, brought as such from private or municipal property may be allowed under the following conditions:**

- Is prohibited throughout the National Monument.

**(b) Conditions for the disposal, containerization, or carryout of human body waste have been established for the following:**

- Dispose of solid human waste in individual catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep and 6 to 8 inches in diameter and at least 200 feet from water, camp, roads, parking areas and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products.

*Justification: These conditions are necessary to provide for public sanitation, health, and safety.*

**36 CFR §2.15 – PETS**

**(a)(3) Pets may be left unattended and tied to an object under the following conditions:**

- Leaving a pet tied and unattended within the park is prohibited.

**(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed in accordance with the following conditions:**

- All pet excrement must be collected immediately and disposed of in garbage receptacles.

*Justification: These conditions are necessary to protect the park's natural resources and provide for public health and safety.*

**36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES and PACK ANIMALS**

**(a) The following animals are designated as pack animals:**

- Horses, llamas, and mules.

**(b) The use of horses or pack animals is permitted on the following trails, routes or areas:**

- All trails, backcountry roads and open country (including wilderness areas) within the National Monument.

**(d) Free-trailing or loose-herding is permitted on the following trails/routes, subject to the conditions noted:**

- Free-trailing or loose-herding is prohibited throughout the National Monument.

**(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:**

- All feed must be brought into the park; ranging/grazing is prohibited.
- All feed must be certified weed free.
- Horse camps shall be at least 200 yards from a water source.
- All manure from camp and staging areas must be removed from the National Monument.
- Up to 7 animals are allowed per group; otherwise a special use permit is required.



*Justification: These conditions are necessary to protect the parks natural resources.*

### **36 CFR §2.17 – AIRCRAFT and AIR DELIVERY**

**(a)(1) The following areas have been designated pursuant to special regulations for operating or using aircraft:**

- There are no designated airstrips on National Monument lands for public use.
- Private aircraft must be in accordance with all FAA regulations, including a recommended minimum altitude of 2,000 feet.

**(c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof is allowed, subject to written authorizations from the Superintendent, under the following terms and conditions:**

The removal of all downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof requires the approval of the park Superintendent through a special use permit.

*Justification: The removal of downed aircraft requires careful planning in order to limit further damage to natural and cultural resources and wilderness character. Aircraft, especially military aircraft, may contain numerous hazardous materials including explosive devices.*

### **36 CFR §2.18 – SNOWMOBILES**

**(c) Snowmobiles may be operated only on the following routes, designated pursuant to special regulations:**

- No routes are designated for the use of snowmobiles.

### **36 CFR §2.19 – WINTER ACTIVITIES**

**(a) The following park roads and/or parking areas open to motor vehicle traffic may be used for skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, innertubing, tobogganing, and similar winter activities under the conditions noted:**

- Skiing, snowshoeing, sledding and tobogganing and similar non-motorized winter sports are permitted on secondary park roads.

**(b) The towing of persons on skis, sled or other similar device by motor vehicle or snowmobile is allowed in the following areas:**

- The towing of persons on skis, sled or other similar device by motor vehicle is prohibited throughout the National Monument.

*Justification: This is necessary to provide for visitor safety and prevent user conflicts with vehicles which might be on the road.*

### **36 CFR §2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVICES**

**The use of roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are allowed in the following areas:**

- The use of roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are prohibited throughout the National Monument.

### 36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking:

- All public buildings and within a 20 foot distance of the exterior of any public structures
- Smoking is prohibited within fifty (50) feet of aircraft or automotive refueling pumps.

*Justification: This is necessary to prevent user conflict and provide for a healthy environment.*

### 36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) The following describes areas where property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours, and the conditions under which property may be left:

Food and water may be cached for 14 days. Caches must be wildlife proof, tagged with the hiker's name, phone number, and date placed.

### 36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES

(b) Recreation fees, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:

#### Entrance Fee Areas:

- No entrance fees are collected at this time.

### 36 CFR §2.35 –ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:

- The interior of any government structure which is open to the general public
- The interior of any caves within the National Monument

*Justification: These conditions are necessary to provide for visitor and employee safety.*

### 36 CFR §2.60 – LIVESTOCK USE AND AGRICULTURE

(a) Absent a permit, the running-at-large, herding, driving across, allowing on, pasturing or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area for agricultural purposes is prohibited. Additionally, a permit can only be issued in the following circumstances:

- (a)(1) As specifically authorized by Federal statutory law; or
- (a)(2) As required under a reservation of use of rights arising from acquisition of a tract of land; or
- (a)(3) As designated, when conducted as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene

**36 CFR §2.61 – RESIDING ON FEDERAL LAND**

- Absent a permit, lease or contract, residing in park areas on other than private land, is prohibited.

**36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION**

(b) A permit from the park Superintendent is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated human remains.

- The scattering of remains by persons on the ground is to be performed at least 100 yards from any trail, road, developed facility, or body of water.
- No scattering of remains from the air is to be performed over developed areas, facilities, or bodies of water.
- The scattering of remains from the air is performed at a minimum altitude of 2000 feet above the ground.

*Justification: These conditions are established for resource protection and human health and safety.*

**36 CFR §3.21 – SWIMMING AND BATHING**

(a)(1) The following areas are closed to swimming and bathing:

- All park waters are closed to swimming and bathing including tanks and other artificial impoundments.

**36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES**

(a) Park roads, open for travel by motor vehicle are those indicated in the following publications:

- A current AAA map of San Bernardino County
- A current National Geographic Trails Illustrated map
- A current Mojave National Preserve brochure map

(b) The following routes and/or areas, designated pursuant to special regulations, are open for off-road vehicle travel under the terms and conditions noted:

- No routes or areas are designated for off-road vehicle travel within the park. California “Green Sticker” and “Red Sticker” programs are not recognized in the National Monument. All OHV vehicles operating within Castle Mountains National Monument must be street legal in accordance with California DMV requirements for on-highway use.

(c)(1) Track-laying motor vehicles, or other motor vehicles equipped with a similar traction device may be operated on the following routes under the terms and conditions noted:

- No routes are designated for track-laying motor vehicles within the park

**36 CFR §4.11 – VEHICLE LOAD, WEIGHT AND SIZE LIMITS**

(a) The following load, weight and size limits, which are more restrictive than State law, apply to the roads indicated under the terms and conditions, and/or under permit as noted:

- The park contains no load, weight, or size limits that are more restrictive than State or County laws.

### **36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES**

(a) Bicycle and e-bike use is permitted on park roads, parking areas, and on the following designated routes:

- No additional routes are designated for bicycle use within the park.

*The term “e-bike” means a two- or three-wheeled cycle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 h.p.). E-bikes are allowed in Castle Mountains National Monument where traditional bicycles are allowed. E-bikes are prohibited where traditional bicycles are prohibited. Except where use of motor vehicles by the public is allowed, using the electric motor to move an e-bike without pedaling is prohibited. A person operating an e-bike is subject to the following sections of 36 CFR part 4 that apply to the use of traditional bicycles: sections 4.12, 4.13, 4.20, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, and 4.30(h)(2)-(5). Except as specified in this Compendium, the use of an e-bike within Castle Mountains National Monument is governed by State law, which is adopted and made a part of this Compendium. Any violation of State law adopted by this paragraph is prohibited.*

### **36 CFR §4.31 – HITCHHIKING**

Hitchhiking is permitted in the following areas under the terms and conditions noted:

- Hitchhiking, or the soliciting of transportation, is allowed anywhere in the National Monument as long as the person is off the paved roadway on the shoulder, and visitor safety and traffic flow are not adversely affected.

*Justification: Hitchhiking is commonly engaged in by persons who have been hiking and need transportation back to their starting point, or by persons or who are traveling without a personal vehicle.*