



February 2012

Southern Nevada Agency Partnership







WILD VEGAS

Las Vegas is the central gateway to more than 7.2 million acres of magical public lands that inspire superlatives - the world's largest canyon, the lowest and hottest spot in the United States, the largest National Park and Wildlife Refuge in the lower 48 states, the highest density of National Parks in country, and a global hot spot for endangered wildlife and plants. For every flamboyant performer on the Vegas strip, there is likely an equally flamboyant natural display happening in the wild places just beyond the neon glow.

In the mountains of the 1.6 million acre Desert National Wildlife Refuge the crash of bighorn rams locking horns during the rut echoes into valleys marked with ancient petroglyphs by the earliest Native Americans. Gently gurgling springs deliver "fossil water" from deep within the earth, creating specialized habitat for a small fish that exists nowhere else in the world. And the light - that big hot desert sun casts a glow on rock faces and canyons that cannot be re-created outside of nature.



The City of Las Vegas boasts similarly impressive statistics as a premiere international entertainment destination. It is the largest tourist attraction in the United States, hosts more hotel rooms than any other city, and is Southwest Airlines' largest service destination in a state where the number one industry is

tourism. Las Vegas is a fast growing city, ethnically diverse city that in many ways is demographically emblematic of the future of America.

Yet, even though millions of visitors travel through Las Vegas every year, relatively few of them associate Las Vegas with its magnificent public lands and the opportunity to hike, bike, take pictures, rock climb, view wildlife or just gaze



across a scenic overlook. Perhaps even fewer of the 2.2 million Las Vegas residents recognize and take advantage of the world class natural wonderland they live within - and that without it, they would not have the water, energy, clean air or other "ecosystem services" they need to survive and thrive.

This lack of connection between wild Las Vegas and the Las Vegas wild life represents a missed business development opportunity - particularly in a period of economic downturn straining gambling and entertainment numbers. Meanwhile participation and spending by outdoor enthusiasts is increasing, a market that Southern Nevada could capture more effectively. Nevada's nature economy has the capacity to fuel a more diversified and robust regional economic growth and improve quality of life of residents and citizens alike.

The outdoor recreation industry is an often underestimated and expanding powerhouse in the national economy. A 2006 study by the Outdoor Industry Foundation (OIF) found that outdoor recreation contributes more than \$730 billion annually, and supports nearly 6.5 million jobs across the country. Statistics from the CEO of Eastern Mountain Sports, indicate that while every other major industrial sector in the national economy has experienced zero or negative growth since 2008, the outdoor recreation industry experienced 6% annual growth. Las Vegas is the gateway city to millions of acres of public lands, including some of the best-known and most visited natural treasures in the country. A larger share of this national market could be benefiting Las Vegas.

Nevada's nature tourism and outdoor recreation resources share the world-class status of the state's entertainment and hospitality industries. The Mojave Desert harbors some of the most rugged and unique wilderness areas in the world, and along with them, wildlife that is found nowhere else - from tiny desert fish to charismatic desert bighorn sheep. Thousands of international visitors travel to Death Valley to experience one of the planet's most extreme climates. Nevada's National Parks drew 6.4 million visitors in 2010, and other federal lands, including Refuges, Monuments and Recreation Areas draw millions more each year.

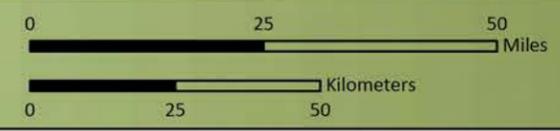
The State of Nevada Department of Wildlife estimates the economic benefit of wildlife and boating-related recreation at nearly \$2 billion annually - this includes hunting, boating, sport fishing and wildlife watching, and hundreds of thousands of more participate in bicycling, camping, and hiking. The Bureau of Land Management alone estimates that recreation on its Nevada lands contributed about \$458 million to the economy in 2010 and supported nearly 5,000 jobs. Finally, the OIF study estimates that the recreation industry contributes nearly 20,000 jobs, generates \$116 million in annual sales tax revenue and produces \$1.8 million in annual retail sales in Nevada.

There is great potential for growth in this sector. According to a US Fish and Wildlife Service report, Americans spent an estimated \$35 billion on bird watching in 2006, which in turn supported 671,000 jobs nationwide and generated \$10.5 billion in state and federal tax revenue. Birders, drawn to unique desert species, are a wealthy demographic that could be expanded in this region. Nationally, almost 66 million people participated in bird watching and wildlife viewing in 2006, yet only 330,000 participated in these activities in Nevada - a percentage of the total that does not nearly reflect all the Las Vegas area has to offer.

Environmental tourism is an economic sector that is poised for growth with greater exposure and targeted marketing efforts. Through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), the four public land management agencies represented by SNAP are in the process of investing more than \$500 million in world class visitor services infrastructure and programming - the time is now to seize the opportunity for these new facilities to generate an exponential return on investment in the greater community.



WILD VEGAS ROAD TRIP - Las Vegas Route



- ★ Visitor Information
- Las Vegas Route
- Wild Vegas Destinations**
 - Las Vegas Area Destinations
 - Other Destinations
- National Forest
- Designated Wilderness



WILD VEGAS PROJECT - LAS VEGAS ROUTE

Desert NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Established in 1936, Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest refuge in the lower 48 states (1.5 million acres).

- Elevation ranges from 2,500 feet valley floors to 10,000 feet mountain summits.

- Creosote bush and white bursage is the dominant plant community at the lowest elevations, transitioning through desert shrub, desert woodlands, and coniferous forest. Above 10,000 feet bristlecone pine can be observed.

GETTING THERE...

Corn Creek Field Station is the primary access point for this refuge. From Las Vegas, travel north on Highway 95 approximately 20 miles to NWR turnoff.



Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

US Forest Service



- The closest opportunity to Las Vegas to take a scenic drive or hike through cool temperatures and coniferous forests, the Spring Mountains are an island of biodiversity.

- The most accessible areas are Kyle and Lee Canyons which offers a scenic drive loop and access to numerous hiking trails.

- Plant communities range from desert shrub to subalpine coniferous forest offering visitors an uncommon opportunity for wildlife and wildflower viewing.

- There are 58 plant and animal species that occur only in the Spring Mountains.

GETTING THERE...

Travel the Mt. Charleston loop off of Highway 95 via Highway 156.



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Bureau of Land Management



- The Keystone Thrust is the most striking geological feature of the conservation area. Older gray limestone was thrust on top of the younger red sandstone by tectonic forces tens of millions of years ago.

- The visitor center and interpretive displays are outstanding.

- The Red Rock Scenic Loop is within 30 minutes of downtown Las Vegas and offers access to superb trails and wildlife viewing opportunities.

GETTING THERE...

Travel south on Interstate 15 to the Blue Diamond exit (Highway 160). Travel west on Highway 160 and turn right on Highway 159 which leads to the Red Rock scenic loop.



Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area

Bureau of Land Management



- Preserved for its cultural significance, Sloan Canyon contains over 300 rock art panels or sites.

- The rock art is believed to date back as much as 2,000 years representing the presence of early hunter-gatherers.

- The canyon offers solitude, scenery, and wildflower and wildlife viewing opportunities. Here you have a likely chance of seeing desert bighorn sheep.

GETTING THERE...

Travel south on Interstate 15 to the Sloan exit (Exit 25). Turn left under the freeway on to Las Vegas Blvd. for 0.1 miles. Turn right on a gravel road following a powerline. Turn right just past pole number 12084.



Pahrnagat NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Pahrnagat NWR was established in 1963 primarily to preserve waterfowl habitat.

- One of only a handful of desert marsh ecosystems the refuge offers stunning spring and fall migratory waterfowl viewing.

- Walk along the margins of the marshes and watch for waterfowl and secretive marsh birds.

GETTING THERE...

The refuge is approximately 90 miles north of Las Vegas. Travel north on Interstate 15 to Highway 93. Travel north on Highway 93 to NWR entrance.



Moapa Valley NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- The refuge was established in 1979 to protect the endangered Moapa dace and several other endemic aquatic invertebrate species such as springsnails.

- A fish viewing structure provides an underwater view of the Moapa dace and White River springfish in their aquatic habitat. Trails wind along the stream and through the restored riparian habitat.

GETTING THERE...

Approximately one hour north on I-15 off of the Glendale exit (Exit 91). Travel west on Highway 168 for seven miles. Left on Warm Springs Road and drive 1.4 miles to the refuge entrance. The refuge has limited hours, check with USFWS prior to visiting.



Lake Mead NRA

National Park Service



- Lake Mead NRA encompasses 1.5 million acres of three major desert ecosystems; Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin.

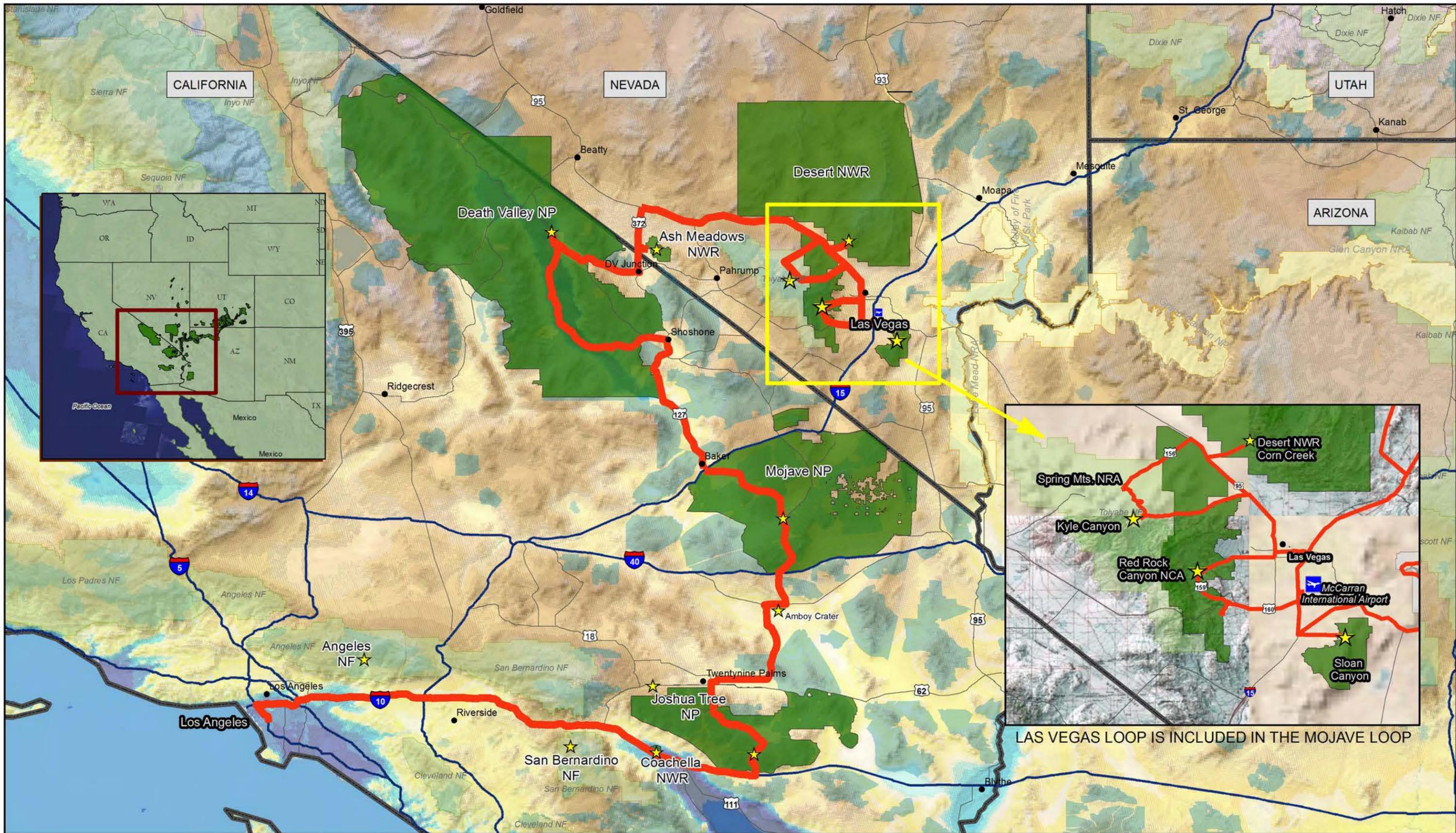
- Springtime displays of wildflowers are often best between April and May.

- Numerous scenic drives across plateaus, through canyons, and across desert ranges offer access to this rugged terrain.

GETTING THERE...

Travel North on I-15 to Highway 169. Access to Lake Mead is South of Overton Nevada. Lake Mead NRA surrounds over 100 miles of the lower Colorado River corridor from the Grand Canyon downstream to Laughlin, NV.

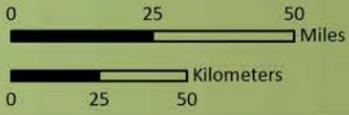




LAS VEGAS LOOP IS INCLUDED IN THE MOJAVE LOOP



WILD VEGAS ROAD TRIP - Mojave Route



- ★ Visitor Information
- ★ Wild Vegas Destinations
- ★ National Forest
- Mojave Route
- Mojave Route Destinations
- Designated Wilderness
- Other Destinations



WILD VEGAS - MOJAVE ROUTE

Las Vegas Loop

Various Agencies



This route also includes the Las Vegas Loop which highlights the following places of interest:

- Desert National Wildlife Refuge
- Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
- Red Rock National Conservation Area
- Proposed Desert Tortoise National Wildlife Refuge
- Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area
- Pahrnatagat National Wildlife Refuge
- Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Valley of Fire State Park



Ash Meadows NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- The refuge was established to protect Federally listed endangered plant and animal species.
- Home to more than 24 species found nowhere else on earth.
- Greater concentration of endemic life than any other local area in the U.S.
- 40+seeps and springs
- 3 Interpretive Boardwalks; Crystal Spring, Point of Rocks, and Longstreet Spring.

GETTING THERE...

From Death Valley travel east on Highway 190. Travel north on Highways 127 and 373 to the west entrance of the refuge.



Death Valley National Park

National Park Service



- Largest National Park in the U.S. - 3.3 million acres.
- Badwater, the lowest place in Western Hemisphere is 282 ft below sea level.
- Telescope peak summits at 11,049 ft.
- Temperatures commonly exceed 120F during the summer months.

GETTING THERE...

From Kelso continue northwest on Kelbaker Road to Baker. Travel north in Highway 127 to Shoshone. Enter the park via Highway 178.



Amboy Crater

Bureau of Land Management



- 250-foot-high Volcanic Cinder Cone.
- Last eruption occurred approximately 10,000 years ago.
- Amboy lava field covers approximately 43 square miles.
- Hiking trails lead to the mouth of dormant volcano.
- Recognized as a National Landmark in 1973 for its visual and geologic significance.
- Excellent wildflower viewing opportunities from March to May.

GETTING THERE...

From Twentynine Palms, travel north on Utah Trail and Amboy Road. The crater is approximately 3 miles SW of the town of Amboy.



Mojave National Preserve

National Park Service



- Mojave National Preserve encompasses portions of three of North America's four desert ecosystems - The Great Basin, the Sonoran and the Mojave.
- World's largest concentration of Joshua trees.
- Designated as Cinder Cone National Natural Landmark in 1973.
- 32 cinder cones to explore along roads and trails
- Mitchell Caverns Natural Preserve - a true geologic wonder!
- 700 ft-tall Kelso Dunes

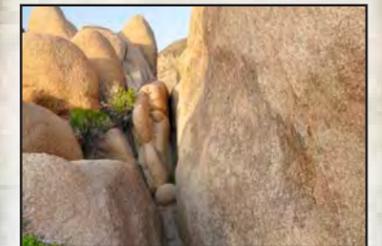
GETTING THERE...

Travel north from Amboy via National Trails Highway and Kelbaker Road.



Joshua Tree National Park

National Park Service



- Joshua Tree NP is located within both the Mohave and Sonoran Deserts.
- Cholla cactus gardens
- Fan palm oasis
- Massive boulder fields, excellent climbing, bouldering, and hiking opportunities.
- View of the San Andreas Fault - from 5,185 ft!
- 6 species of rattlesnake occur in Joshua Tree.
- Excellent birding and wildflower viewing opportunities in the spring.

GETTING THERE...

From Los Angeles, travel east on Interstate 10 to the Joshua Tree National Park south entrance.





WILD VEGAS - MOJAVE ROUTE

Coachella Valley NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- In combination with the Coachella Valley Preserve, this refuge preserves the only remaining undeveloped sand dune ecosystem within the Coachella Valley.
- The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is found nowhere else in the world except Coachella Valley.
- Several other species are endemic to the dune ecosystem including the Coachella Valley round-tailed ground squirrel, two crickets, and the Coachella Valley milk vetch.

GETTING THERE...

Drive east on Interstate 10 from Los Angeles. Travel south on Highways 86 and 111.



San Bernardino National Forest

US Forest Service



- At almost 750,000 acres, this forest boasts camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, skiing and horseback riding opportunities in addition to stellar wildlife viewing and bird watching.
- The World Scenic Byway and Palms to Pines Scenic Byway offer a diversity of landscapes and ecosystems.
- Year-round outdoor recreation.

GETTING THERE...

Approximately 100 miles east of Los Angeles, the National Forest lies on both sides of the interstate.



Angeles National Forest

US Forest Service



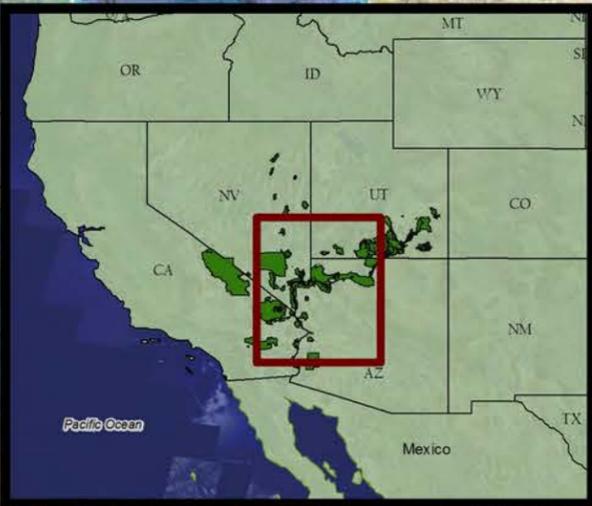
- Elevations range from 1,200 to 10,640 feet offering spectacular scenery and photographic opportunities.
- The forest is dense chaparral which transitions into pine and fir covered slopes on rugged peaks at higher elevations.
- Trails throughout the forest accommodate hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers and OHV enthusiasts.

GETTING THERE...

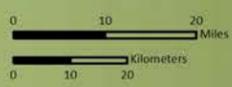
Approximately 50 miles east of Los Angeles.







WILD VEGAS ROAD TRIP - Lower Colorado River Route



★ Visitor Information
 Lower Colorado River Route

Wild Vegas Destinations
 Lower Colorado River Destinations
 Other Wild Vegas Destinations
 National Forest
 Designated Wilderness



WILD VEGAS - LOWER COLORADO RIVER ROUTE

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

National Park Service



- Lake Mead NRA encompasses 1.5 million acres of three major desert ecosystems; Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin.

- Springtime displays of wildflowers are often best between April and May.

- Numerous scenic drives across plateaus, through canyons, and across desert ranges offer access to this rugged terrain.

GETTING THERE...

Lake Mead NRA surrounds over 100 miles of the lower Colorado River corridor from the Grand Canyon downstream to Laughlin, NV.

Mount Tipton Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- Mount Tipton wilderness covers over 30,000 acres

- A hike to the top of Mount Tipton (7,148 ft) offers exceptional views passing through remnant ponderosa pine forests.

- Visit the Cerbat Pinnacles, tusk-like spires rising high above the valley floor

- Ideal for hiking, wildlife viewing, camping, photography and backpacking.

GETTING THERE...

From Las Vegas, travel south on Highway 93 for approximately 70 miles. A 4-wheel drive vehicle and guidebook or backcountry map is required for this area.

Warm Springs Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- Exceptional springtime wildflower displays

- Black Mesa is a 10-mile long escarpment dissected into a maze of winding canyons.

- Warm springs for extended camping opportunities

- Historic trails and numerous burro trails for backcountry hiking opportunities.

GETTING THERE...

Exits 13, 20, 26 and 28 on Interstate 40 provide access to the wilderness. A 4-wheel drive vehicle and guidebook or backcountry map is required for this area.

Havasu NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Havasu NWR protects 30 miles of the Colorado River from Needles, California to Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

- Offering some of the best birding on the lower Colorado River the refuge is home to four endangered species including the Yuma clapper rail, peregrine falcon, southern bald eagle, and the southwestern willow flycatcher.

- Tour the Topock Marsh for wildlife viewing opportunities.

GETTING THERE...

Travel south from Las Vegas on Highway 95. Turn east on Interstate 40 to Exit 1 and follow the signs to the refuge.

Bill Williams River NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Bill Williams River NWR protects riparian habitat along a tributary to the Colorado River.

- Habitat within the refuge attracts vibrant neotropical migratory birds such as the summer tanager, yellow warbler, and vermilion flycatcher.

- Potential wildlife viewing includes bobcat, mule deer, javelina, kit fox, coyote, and mountain lion.

GETTING THERE...

From Kofa NWR travel north on Highway 95 toward Parker, AZ.

Kofa NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Established in 1939, Kofa NWR protects over 650,000 acres of pristine desert.

- Rugged mountain ranges rise from searing desert plains.

- Visit Palm Canyon to see the only native palm, the California Palm, that occurs in Arizona. The palm trees in Kofa NWR are likely remnant populations from a time when the region experienced a cooler and more moist climate.

GETTING THERE...

The refuge office is located in Yuma, AZ. To reach the refuge travel north on Highway 95.

Cibola NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Located on the floodplain of the lower Colorado River, Cibola NWR is a haven for migratory waterfowl.

- As many as 288 species of birds have been counted at Cibola NWR.

- Drive the auto tour loop in early morning or late evening for an opportunity to see desert mule deer, bobcat, and coyote among other wildlife.

GETTING THERE...

From Havasu NWR travel south on Highways 95 and 78 to Neighbors Bridge. Cross the bridge and follow signs to the refuge for 3.5 miles.

Imperial NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Imperial NWR protects 30 miles of the lower Colorado River and more than 15,000 acres of the refuge is designated as wilderness.

- Several lookout points offer views of the lower Colorado River valley.

- Desert bighorn sheep can be seen along the river in the late afternoon and early evening.

GETTING THERE...

Travel 25 miles north from Yuma on Highway 95 turning west on Martinez Lake Road for 13 miles to the refuge visitor center.





WILD VEGAS - LOWER COLORADO RIVER ROUTE

Big Maria Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- This wilderness site encompasses nearly 45,000 acres of gently sloping bajadas and rough craggy peaks.
- No developed trails exist in this wilderness, however, old jeep tracks which are now closed off to the public can provide foot access.
- Unique geologic features (Maria Fold and Thrust Belt) make up this remote landscape.

GETTING THERE...

From Blythe California, drive north on Highway 95 for approximately 15 miles. The wilderness is west of the Highway.

Riverside Mountains Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- Riverside Mountains Wilderness covers over 24,000 acres.
- This area contains remnants of a bygone era, with several old mining relics in the northern section of the wilderness.
- Sensitive plants including Foxtail and California barrel cactus are scattered across the landscape.
- Ideal for hiking, wildlife viewing, camping, hunting, photography and backpacking.

GETTING THERE...

From Blythe California, drive north on Highway 95 for approximately 30 miles. The wilderness is west of the Highway.

Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- This wilderness encompasses nearly 85,000 acres of the rugged granitic Chemehuevi Mountains.
- Numerous springs and seeps occur here making this site ideal for backpacking trips.
- Species diversity is rich in this remote wilderness because of its placement between the Mojave and Sonoran desert ecosystems.
- Great site for wildlife viewing, bird-watching.

GETTING THERE...

From Blythe California, drive north on Highway 95 for approximately 105 miles. The wilderness is east of the Highway.

Dead Mountains Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- This remote wilderness area is approximately 54,000 acres.
- Highest point is Mount Manchester at 3,598 feet.
- Portion of the wilderness is critical habitat for the threatened Desert tortoise
- This site is ideal for hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, hunting, camping, birdwatching and wildlife viewing.

GETTING THERE...

From Blythe California, drive north on Highway 95 to Interstate 40. Drive West on Highway 40 for approximately 5 miles to the southern end of the wilderness. The wilderness is north of the Interstate.

Bigelow Cholla Gardens Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- This wilderness site encompasses nearly 15,000 acres and is located at the northern end of the Sacramento Mountains.
- The highest density of Bigelow Cholla cactus in the California Desert occur in this wilderness.
- This area is great for hiking, backpacking, hunting, photography, bird-watching, wildlife-viewing, and horseback-riding.

GETTING THERE...

This wilderness is located approximately 18 miles west of Needles California on Interstate 40. The wilderness is south of the interstate.

Clipper Mountain Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- The Clipper Mountain Wilderness encompasses approximately 35,000 acres.
- Potential wildlife viewing opportunities include desert bighorn sheep, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, roadrunners, snakes, raptors and a variety of lizards.
- This wilderness area adjoins the southern boundary of the Mojave Preserve.

GETTING THERE...

Approximately 50 miles west of Needles California, on Interstate 40. This wilderness site lies south of the Interstate.

Piute Mountain Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- The Piute Mountain Wilderness encompasses nearly 50,000 acres of bajadas and extensive aprons of alluvium spilling from the mountains.
- This wilderness area contains Critical Habitat for the threatened Desert tortoise.
- Extruding volcanics offer contrasting color and texture to this arid Mojave desert landscape.
- This site is ideal for hiking, backpacking, horseback-riding, photography, bird-watching, wildlife-viewing and hunting.

GETTING THERE...

Approximately 75 miles west of Needles California on Interstate 40. The wilderness area is on the south side of the interstate.

Trilobite Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- The Trilobite Wilderness was designated in 1994 and encompasses nearly 37,000 acres.
- This site is a narrow volcanic range extending 12 miles in a northwest-southwest direction.
- A population of approximately 150 desert Bighorn sheep call the Trilobite Wilderness area home.

GETTING THERE...

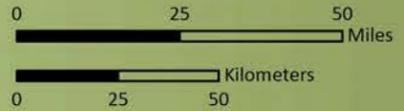
Approximately 95 miles west of Needles California on Interstate 40. The wilderness area is on the south side of the interstate.







WILD VEGAS ROAD TRIP - Grand Canyon Route



- ★ Visitor Information
- Grand Canyon Route
- - - Link
- Wild Vegas Destinations
 - Green: Grand Canyon Route Destinations
 - Yellow: Other Destinations
- National Forest
- Designated Wilderness



WILD VEGAS - GRAND CANYON ROUTE

Lake Mead NRA

National Park Service



- Lake Mead NRA encompasses 1.5 million acres of three major desert ecosystems; Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin.
- Springtime displays of wildflowers are often best between April and May.
- Numerous scenic drives across plateaus, through canyons, and across desert ranges offer access to this rugged terrain.

GETTING THERE...

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Dead Mountains Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



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- Highest point is Mount Manchester at 3,598 feet.
- Portion of the wilderness is critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise
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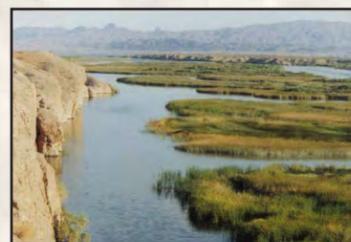
GETTING THERE...

From Las Vegas, travel south on Highway 95 for approximately 90 miles. A 4-wheel drive vehicle and guidebook or backcountry map is required for this area.



Havasu NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



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- Offering some of the best birding on the lower Colorado River the refuge is home to four endangered species including the Yuma clapper rail, peregrine falcon, southern bald eagle, and the southwestern willow flycatcher.
- Tour the Topock Marsh for wildlife viewing opportunities.

GETTING THERE...

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Warm Springs Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



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- Black Mesa is a 10-mile long escarpment dissected into a maze of winding canyons.
- Warm springs for extended camping opportunities
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GETTING THERE...

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Mount Tipton Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management



- Mount Tipton wilderness covers over 30,000 acres
- A hike to the top of Mount Tipton (7,148 ft) offers exceptional views passing through remnant ponderosa pine forests.
- Visit the Cerbat Pinnacles, tusk-like spires rising high above the valley floor
- Ideal for hiking, wildlife viewing, camping, photography and backpacking.

GETTING THERE...

From Las Vegas, travel south on Highway 93 for approximately 70 miles. A 4-wheel drive vehicle and guidebook or backcountry map is required for this area.



Grand Canyon NP (South Rim)

National Park Service



- The Grand Canyon is one of the seven wonders of the world, with the Colorado River cutting a 5,000 feet deep gorge over the past 10 million years.
- The layers of rock observed from the rim stretch back more than 500 million years and are underlain by rock as old as 2 billion years.
- The Desert View Drive is a great way to see the canyon from multiple vantage points.
- It is important to be prepared for extremely hazardous and hot conditions when hiking or backpacking through the canyon.

GETTING THERE...

From Highway 93, travel east on Interstate 40 for approximately 115 miles. Turn north at Highway 64 and proceed approximately 50 miles to the south entrance.





WILD VEGAS - GRAND CANYON ROUTE

Kaibab NF

US Forest Service



- Nestled on the Colorado Plateau, this National Forest borders the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.
- The highest point in the forest is Kendrick Mountain at 10,418 feet.
- Expect to see bison in meadows within the forest.
- There are over three hundred miles of trails.
- Home to the elusive Kaibab squirrel.

GETTING THERE...

Travel south from Kanab, Utah on Highway 89A to Jacob Lake. Take Highway 67 south, through the National Forest.



Glen Canyon NRA

National Park Service



- Glen Canyon NRA protects 1.2 million acres of the Colorado Plateau. Much of the NRA is north of Lee's Ferry and can be explored further time permitting.
- Stop at the Navajo Bridge interpretive center en route to the North Rim.
- Hike Cathedral Wash Trail for an easy access inner canyon experience.
- A deeper exploration of the NRA promises slot canyons, hanging gardens, sweeping vistas, buttes, plateaus, ancient ruins, and a lifetime of discovery.
- Excellent wildflower viewing opportunities from from April to June.

GETTING THERE...

Lees Ferry is en route to the North Rim on Highway 89A.



Grand Canyon NP (North Rim)

National Park Service



- The North Rim has a much cooler climate than the South Rim.
- Aspen trees, Ponderosa Pine and Douglas fir are scattered along the rim.
- Track the elusive Kaibab squirrel in the Ponderosa pine forests.
- The North Rim is 1,000 feet higher than the South Rim and allows visitors to travel through meadows and coniferous forests
- Viewed from the north rim, the south rim is only 12 miles away, but by automobile it's 215 miles, and 5 hours to the other side

GETTING THERE...

From the South Rim travel east on Highway 64. Travel north on Highways 89 and 89A to Highway 67.



Vermillion Cliffs National Monument

Bureau of Land
Management



- Established in 2000 this National Monument encompasses nearly 249,000 acres.
- Home to Desert Bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and at least 20 species of raptors including California Condors.
- Spectacular backpacking, hiking, photography, wildlife viewing, bird watching and geologic sightseeing.
- High density of archeological sights can be found within the Monument.

GETTING THERE...

From Kanab Utah, travel south on Highway 89A and then east on 89A to the southern edge of the Monument..



Zion National Park

National Park Service



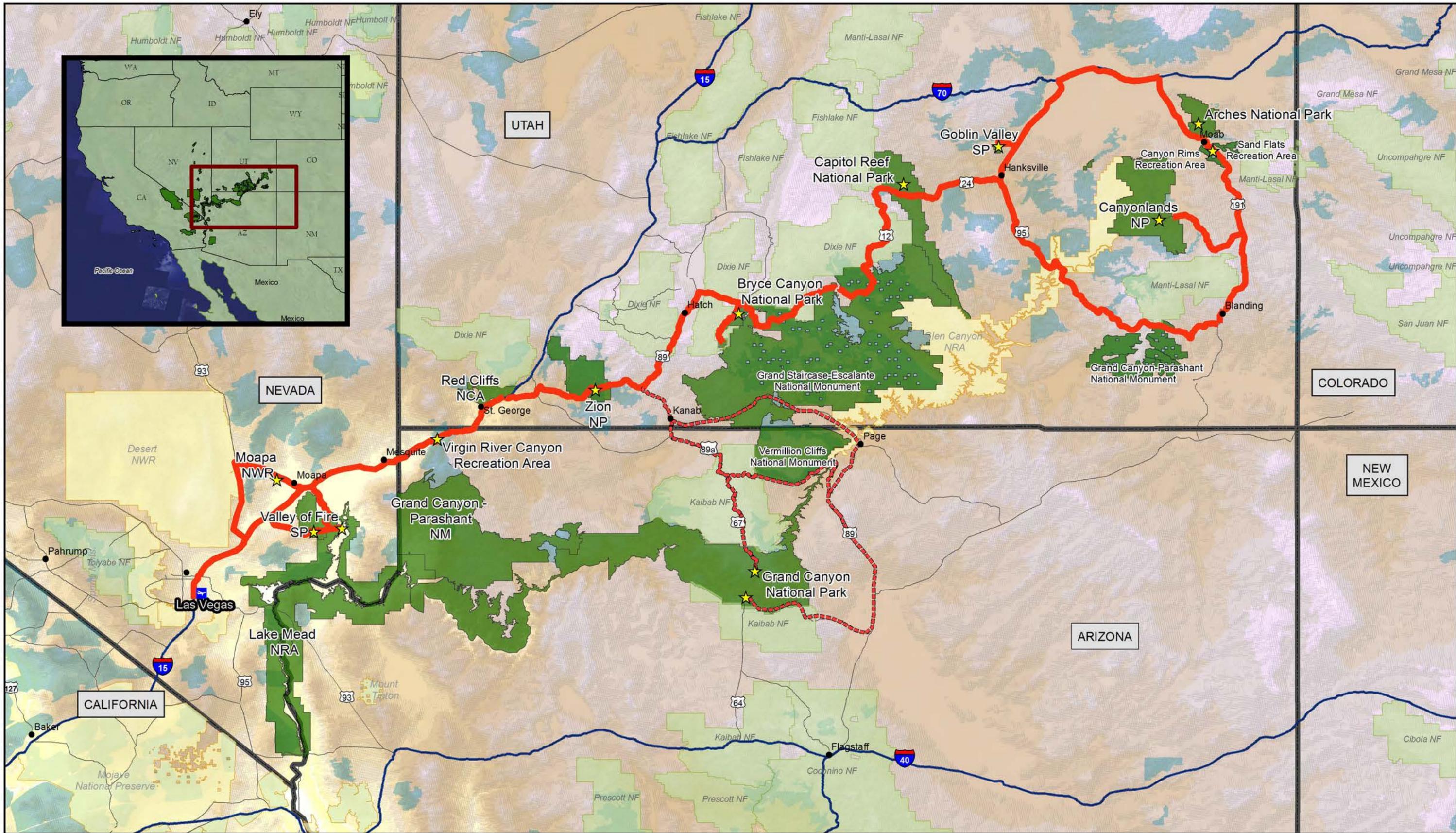
- Exposures of the Navajo sandstone create cliffs towering as high as 2,000 feet above the valley floor.
- Iron in the sandstone creates multiple hues on the towering cliff faces.
- The Virgin River, a tributary to the Colorado River, is the aquatic centerpiece of the park.
- Hiking trails lead into canyons and up to canyon rims.
- View the hanging gardens, search for wildflowers, and listen to birdsong on a riverside trail.

GETTING THERE...

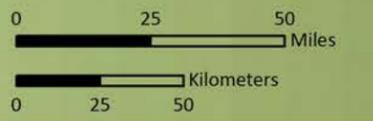
Travel I-15 north to exit 16. Travel east on Highway 9 to the south entrance.







WILD VEGAS ROAD TRIP - Utah Route



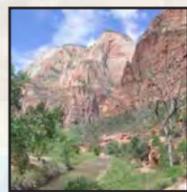
- ★ Visitor Information Wild Vegas Destinations
- Utah Route
- - - Spur
- National Forest
- Utah Route Destinations
- Other Wild Vegas Destinations
- Designated Wilderness



WILD VEGAS - UTAH ROUTE

Zion National Park

National Park Service



- Exposures of the Navajo sandstone create cliffs towering as high as 2,000 feet above the valley floor.
- Iron in the sandstone creates multiple hues on the towering cliff faces.
- The Virgin River, a tributary to the Colorado River, is the aquatic centerpiece of the park.
- Hiking trails lead into canyons and up to canyon rims.
- View the hanging gardens, search for wildflowers, and listen to birdsong on a river-side trail.

GETTING THERE...

Travel I-15 north to exit 16. Travel east on Highway 9 to the south entrance.



Bryce Canyon National Park

National Park Service



- The park is most known for its unusual rock formations known as hoodos.
- The geologic forces of sedimentation, uplift, and erosion have created a landscape of fantastic proportions.
- Vegetation zones include spruce/fir, Ponderosa Pine, and Pinyon Pine/juniper.
- Overlooks along the scenic drive offer views into Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.
- Several short trails allow access into the heart of the geologic features.

GETTING THERE...

Bryce Canyon is accessible from several possible routes depending on your itinerary. Visit Bryce Canyon via Highway 89 after Zion National Park.



Grand Staircase National Monument

Bureau of Land Management



- Part of the National Conservation Landscape system this site encompasses nearly 1.9 million acres
- Springtime displays of wildflowers are often best between April and May.
- Awesome exploration opportunities of some of Uta's best slot canyons.
- Dinosaur fossils exist in the geological formations within the Wahweap formation of the National Monument.
- Various opportunities for hiking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding, wildlife and viewing.

GETTING THERE...

From Kanab Utah, drive East on Highway 89 through the National Monument.



Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

Bureau of Land Management



- Established in 2000 this National Monument encompasses nearly 249,000 acres.
- Home to Desert Bighorn sheep, pronghorns and at least 20 species of raptors including California Condors.
- Spectacular backpacking, hiking, photography, wildlife viewing, bird watching and geologic sightseeing.
- High density of archeological sights can be found within the Monument.

GETTING THERE...

From Kanab Utah, travel south on Highway 89A and then east on 89A to the southern edge of the Monument..



Kaibab National Forest

US Forest Service



- Over 300 miles of trails to explore
- This National forest encompasses approximately 1.6 million acres and is bordered on the south by the Grand Canyon, on the east and the west by tributary canyons of the Colorado River.
- There are 4 designated wilderness areas located within the boundaries of the Forest.
- Home of the rare Kaibab squirrel - isolated to the ponderosa pine forests of the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

GETTING THERE...

From Kanab Utah, follow Highway 89A South to Jacob Lake and Highway 67 through the Kaibab National Forest.



Capitol Reef National Park

National Park Service



- First established as a National Monument in 1937, Capitol Reef was eventually enlarged and designated as a National Park in 1971.
- The Waterpocket Fold, a 100 mile long geologic structure of tilted sedimentary rock creates the backbone of this national park.
- Capitol Reef is rich in cultural history. The Fremont Indians inhabited the area between 800 and 1,500 AD. Signs of their culture abound in dwellings, artifacts, and petroglyphs.
- Spend time observing the plant, reptile, and bird life along the Fremont River.

GETTING THERE...

From Bryce Canyon travel approximately 115 miles east on Highway 12.



Arches National Park

National Park Service



- The refuge was established to protect Federally listed endangered plant and animal species.
- Home to more than 24 species found nowhere else on earth
- Greater concentration of endemic life than any other local area in the U.S.
- 40+seeps and springs
- 3 Interpretive Boardwalks

GETTING THERE...

From Capitol Reef, travel east on Highway 24 to Highway 95. Travel north on 95 and east on Interstate 70 to Highway 191. Travel south on Highway 191 toward Moab to the Arches National Park entrance.



Canyonlands National Park

National Park Service

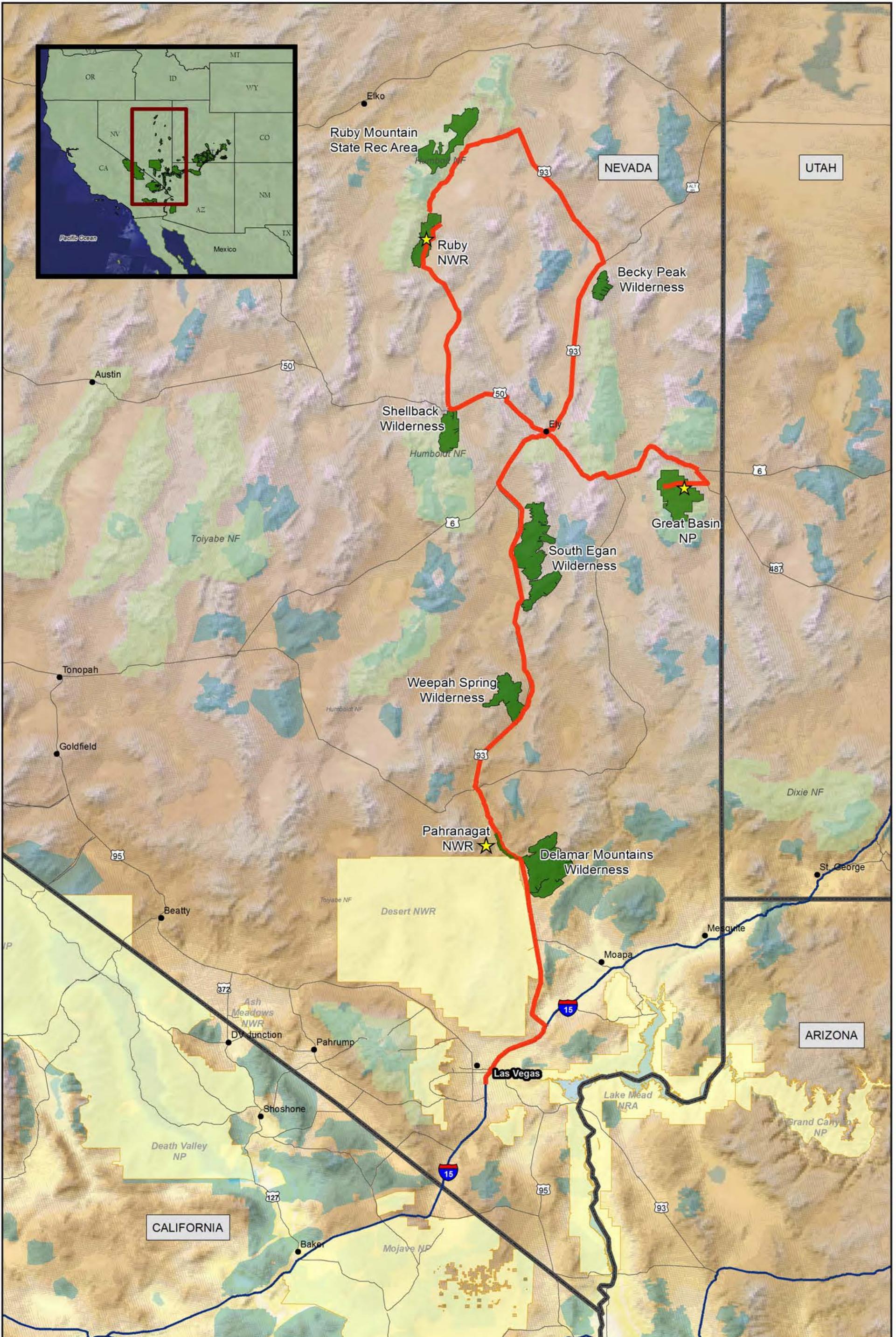


- Canyonlands National Park rivals all others for its stark beauty and agoraphobic, yawning views. This park is a must see.
- The elevation range from 3,700 to 7,200 feet creates a biological ladder highlighting the biodiversity of the Colorado Plateau.
- As with other desert locations, the best wildlife watching is often at dusk and dawn. Ask a park ranger for the best wildlife watching locations and attend a ranger presentation.

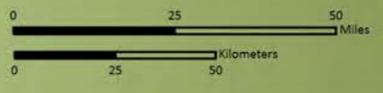
GETTING THERE...

From Arches National Park take Highway 313 to the north entrance and Grandview Point or travel south on Highway 191 to the east entrance and the Needles.





WILD VEGAS ROAD TRIP - Great Basin Route



- ★ Visitor Information
- Great Basin Route
- Wild Vegas Destinations
- Great Basin Route Destinations
- Designated Wilderness
- Other Destinations
- National Forests



WILD VEGAS - GREAT BASIN ROUTE

Pahranagat NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Pahranagat NWR was established in 1963 primarily to preserve waterfowl habitat.
- One of only a handful of desert marsh ecosystems the refuge offers stunning spring and fall migratory waterfowl viewing.
- Walk along the margins of the marshes and watch for waterfowl and secretive marsh birds.

GETTING THERE...

The refuge is approximately 90 miles north of Las Vegas. Travel north on Interstate 15 to Highway 93. Travel north on Highway 93 to the refuge entrance.



Delamar Mountains Wilderness

BLM



- This site was designated as wilderness in 2004 and is approximately 111,000 acres.
- Delamar Mountains Wilderness is part of the Mormon Mesa Desert Tortoise Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- This area contains: ancient lithic scatter sites, native shelters, rock art, milling sites and an obsidian quarry
- This site offers a variety of hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing and bird watching opportunities.
- *GETTING THERE...*

From Las Vegas, travel north on I-15. From I-15 take Highway 93 North for approximately 20 miles. A road map and 4-wheel drive vehicle are essential for this trip.



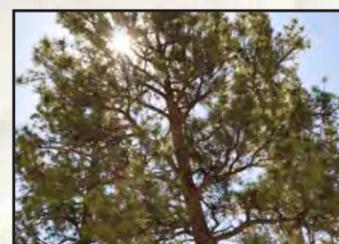
Weepah Springs Wilderness

BLM



- Largest stand of ponderosa pine in Eastern Nevada.
- One of the largest and most well-known petroglyph sites in Nevada including shelter caves, hunting blinds and campsites
- Natural arches and volcanic hoodoos are some of the unique geologic features found at this site
- This site offers a variety of hiking, backpacking, hunting and horseback riding.
- *GETTING THERE...*

From Las Vegas, travel north on I-15. From I-15 take Highway 93 North for approximately 110 miles. (approximately 35 miles past Alamo).



South Egan Wilderness

BLM



- This site was designated in 2006 and contains nearly 67,000 acres of wilderness.
- This wilderness site runs nearly the entire length of the White River Valley allowing for spectacular 4,000 foot views from the tops of the ridges.
- Several spring-fed riparian areas provide habitat for a multitude of wildlife species and make for fantastic backpacking.
- This site offers great hiking, backpacking, camping, bird watching, wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.

GETTING THERE...

From Las Vegas, travel north on I-15. From I-15 take Highway 93 North for approximately 160 miles. A road map and 4-wheel drive vehicle are essential for this trip.



Ruby Lake NWR

US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Established in 1938, Ruby Lake NWR provides 17,000 acres of marsh habitat for migratory waterfowl.
- Marshes, meadows and grasslands blend into the alpine scenery of the Ruby Mountains which form the western boundary of the refuge.
- The refuge bird list contains more than 200 species of birds. Thousands of waterfowl can be observed with greatest density occurring in spring and fall. The refuge is also home to the Greater Sage Grouse and the greatest number of nesting Greater Sandhill Cranes in northern Nevada.

GETTING THERE...

A road map is essential for this long trip. Travel approximately 250 miles north from Las Vegas on Interstate 15 and Highways 93, 318 and 50. The road from Highway 50 into the refuge is over 50 miles of rough road of which at least half is gravel.



Great Basin National Park

National Park Service



- With as much as 8,000 feet in elevation gain from the valley floor to the summit of Wheeler Peak, Great Basin NP spans numerous ecological zones and provides a vast array of wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Do not miss the gnarled and twisted 5,000 year old trees in the bristlecone pine forest.
- Take advantage of a ranger led astronomy program. The remoteness of Great Basin NP and lack of light pollution makes it an ideal location for star gazing.
- Include a tour of Lehman Caves as part of your park visit. All types of cave formations including stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone and shield formations can be seen in the cave.

GETTING THERE...

From Ruby Lake NWR travel approximately 230 miles on Highways 93, 50, and 487 to the turn off for Great Basin National Park.



Wild Vegas Tours and Outreach for Expanding Outdoor Experiences

The Wild Vegas tours establish a range of sightseeing opportunities for visitors and locals alike. Intended to highlight and increase awareness of the natural wonders surrounding the Las Vegas area, these tours focus on visitors using Las Vegas as a destination for the existing tourism draw but expanding tourism horizons to include national parks, national wildlife refuges, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and state parks. In addition, the tours highlight nearby resources for locals and individuals less likely to travel great distances from the Las Vegas area by bringing greater attention to natural wonders in close proximity to the Las Vegas metro area. The six tours include the Las Vegas Loop, Mojave Route, Lower Colorado Loop, Grand Canyon Route, Utah Route, and Great Basin Loop.

Las Vegas Loop

This route includes natural wonders within 1 hour of the Las Vegas Strip as well as the opportunity for a full day excursion. Not to be missed and so close to downtown, the Spring Mountains portray the delicate and beautiful aspects of the desert that surrounds the glitter of Las Vegas. Visit numerous recreation areas and natural features including Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area, Kyle Canyon, Valley of Fire State Park, Lake Mead National Recreation Area. If bird watching is your desire be sure to visit Corn Creek and Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge. A hike through Sloan Canyon will lead you along a desert wash to view petroglyphs and possibly desert bighorn sheep.

Red Rocks National Conservation Area – Bureau of Land Management

Red Rock Canyon was designated as Nevada's first National Conservation Area (NCA). Red Rock Canyon is located 17 miles west of the Las Vegas Strip on Charleston Boulevard/State Route 159. The area is 195,819 acres and is visited by more than one million people each year. In marked contrast to a town geared to entertainment and gaming, Red Rock Canyon offers enticements of a different nature, including a 13-mile scenic drive, more than 30 miles of hiking trails, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, road biking, picnic areas,

nature observation areas, and a visitor center with exhibit rooms and a bookstore.



The unique geologic features, plants and animals of Red Rock Canyon NCA represent some of the best examples of the Mojave Desert. In 1990, special legislation supported by the Nevada congressional delegation, changed the status of the Red Rock Recreation Lands to a National Conservation Area (NCA), the seventh to be designated nationally. This legislation provides the funding to protect and improve the area. Las Vegas residents, as well as visitors from the United States and many foreign countries, enjoy Red Rock

Canyon NCA. One million visitors each year enjoy the spectacular desert landscape, climbing and hiking opportunities, and interpretive programs sponsored by the BLM.

Recreational Opportunities:

- New visitor center
- New visitor center exhibits
- Sunrise trail system
- Cool, shaded creeks in deep and narrow canyons
- Cottonwood Valley trail network
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Campground expansion
- Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center Amphitheater
- Improvements to tour road
- Extensive system of trails and backcountry camping
- Rock climbing opportunities

Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area – Bureau of Land Management

Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area's 48,438 acres provide peace and solitude for those who visit the unique scenic and geologic features and extraordinary cultural resources. Surroundings can vary from lowland dry lakebeds to volcanic rock peaks reaching more than 5,000 feet.

The centerpiece of the area is the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site, one of the most significant cultural resources in Southern Nevada. Archeologists believe the more than 300 rock art panels with 1,700 individual design elements were created by native cultures from the Archaic to historic era.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Existing trail network
- Viewing of ancient rock art
- Adopted trails master plan that calls for new trails and visitor center

Spring Mountains National Recreation Area – U.S. Forest Service

The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) is part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Better known to locals as Mount Charleston, it is located just 30 minutes from downtown Las Vegas and encompasses more than 316,000 acres of remarkable beauty and surprising diversity.

Here, you can enjoy snow-capped mountain peaks that are surrounded by desert and are home to over 50 sensitive plants and animals, some of which are found only in the Spring Mountains. The panoramic



mountain range provides a quick getaway and a haven for solitude .

Recreational Opportunities:

- Kyle Canyon visitor center
- Macks Canyon trail
- Mary Jane Falls and Trail Canyon
- Improvements at Dolomite Campground
- Kyle Canyon visitor center interpretive displays
- Fletcher View and Kyle RV campground
- Improved signage
- Upper Kyle Canyon day use improvements
- Blue Tree/Sawmill trail system development
- Trail enhancement
- Spring Mountains recreation and information center
- Lovell Canyon trail and trailhead
- Cathedral Rock picnic area improvements
- Dolomite and McWilliams campground renovations
- Archery Range campground construction
- Kyle Canyon campground renovation
- Mahogany Grove campground rehabilitation
- Foxtail Group picnic area rehabilitation
- Desert View overlook
- Lovell Canyon road reconstruction
- Extensive system of trails and back country camping
- Skiing and winter sports
- Wildlife viewing

Lake Mead National Recreation Area – National Park Service

Lake Mead NRA offers year-round recreational opportunities. Its waters cater to boaters, swimmers, and fishermen while its desert rewards hikers, wildlife photographers, and roadside sightseers. It is also home to



thousands of desert plants and animals, adapted to survive in an extreme place where rain is scarce and temperatures soar.

Recreational Opportunities:

- River Mountain trail loop
- Boulder shoreline fishing access
- Improvements to picnic areas at Park campgrounds
- Restroom rehabilitation
- Construct Hemenway Group trails
- Replace boat ramp at Echo Bay
- Improve trailheads to Wetland trail, River Mountain loop trail and Bluffs trail
- Replacement of boat ramps
- Boulder Beach water safety center
- Replace floating restrooms
- Lake Mead Fish Hatchery Visitor Center
- Improve River Mountain Loop trail
- Renovate Pyramid Island causeway
- Rehabilitate picnic shelters
- Improve Hemenway Group campground
- Trailhead kiosks
- Replace back-country toilets
- Pave Boulder Beach road
- Echo Bay launch parking lot
- Improve campgrounds
- Improve picnic areas
- Upgrade canoe launch at Hoover Dam
- Upgrade Park infrastructure
- Callville Bay visitor contact station
- Rehabilitate Alan Bible visitor center
- Replace courtesy boat docks
- Improve Willow Beach
- Replace exhibits at Cottonwood Cove
- Improve Overton Beach marina
- Extensive trails
- Boating
- Wildlife viewing
- Canoeing/rafting/kayaking

Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The complex consists of four refuges located in southern Nevada: Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Pahrangat National

Wildlife Refuge, Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Desert National Wildlife Range - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



The Desert National Wildlife Refuge was established May 20, 1936, and encompasses 1.5 million acres of the diverse Mojave Desert in southern Nevada. It is the largest National Wildlife Refuge in the lower 48 states. The Refuge contains six major mountain ranges, the highest rising from 2,500-foot valleys to nearly 10,000 feet. Annual rainfall ranges from less than four inches on the valley floors to over fifteen inches on the highest peaks. Refuge staff work at the Corn Creek Field Station, located

approximately 23 miles north of Las Vegas. This is the major access point to the range and can be reached by traveling north on U.S. Highway 95. A sign on the east side of the highway marks the four-mile gravel road to Corn Creek.

Perpetuating the desert bighorn sheep and its habitat is a primary objective of the range. The Refuge actively improves bighorn habitats by developing new water sources and maintaining and improving existing ones. Numerous other wildlife species share the range with bighorns, including bats, desert tortoise, endemic fish and rare migratory birds. Plant communities and wildlife found on the Refuge vary with altitude and climate. Most of these plant species can be seen



while driving the Mormon Well Road. The desert shrub community, composed of creosote bush and white bursage are the dominant shrubs in the hottest, lowest elevations of Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Above the valley floor, Mojave yucca and cactus become abundant. At the upper edge of the desert shrub communities, between approximately 4,200 feet to 6,000 feet, black-brush and Joshua tree are dominant. Above 6,000 feet desert woodlands, composed of single-leaf pinyon, Utah juniper, and big sagebrush begin. The coniferous forest communities begin around 7,000 feet. From 7,000 to 9,000 Ponderosa pine and white fir are the dominant trees. Near 10,000 feet where the growing seasons are the shortest, the only trees surviving are bristlecone pines. Numerous recreational opportunities are available on the Refuge, including camping, hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding. Limited hunting for bighorn sheep is permitted. Bird watching is also a popular activity, with a bird list available at the Refuge or online. An active volunteer program provides additional opportunities to enjoy the refuge.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Rehabilitate Mormon Wells picnic area
- Construction of new Corn Creek visitor center underway
- Exhibits in Corn Creek visitor center
- Trail enhancement and interpretive panels
- Existing trails and back-country camping
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, established June 18, 1984, is located approximately 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas in the Amargosa Valley of southern Nye County, Nevada.



Approximately 24,000 acres of spring-fed wetlands and alkaline desert uplands are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Refuge provides habitat for at least 24 plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Four fish and one plant are currently listed as endangered.

This concentration of indigenous life distinguishes Ash Meadows NWR as having a greater concentration of endemic life than any other local area in the United States and the second greatest in all of North America. Ash Meadows provides a valuable and unprecedented example of desert oases that are now extremely uncommon in the southwestern United States.

Stop by the Refuge visitor center to view interpretive displays, obtain brochures, and walk the Crystal Spring Interpretive Boardwalk Trail. Opportunities for observing the endangered Ash Meadows pupfish exist at all springs, but are best via the improved boardwalks at Crystal, Point of Rocks and Longstreet Springs.



Numerous recreational opportunities are available at Ash Meadows. Wildlife observation, picnicking, and hunting are all popular activities enjoyed by refuge visitors. Swimming is only allowed in Crystal Reservoir. Bird watching is also a popular activity, with a bird list available at the headquarters or online. An active volunteer program provides additional opportunities to enjoy the Refuge. Be sure to bring plenty of water, sun screen, and hats during the hot summer months. Caution should be used while driving on and around the Refuge during wet weather. Secondary roads quickly become flooded and impassable during/after rains (FWS Ash Meadows NWR 2011).

Recreational Opportunities:

- New visitor center planning underway
- Visitor center interpretive materials
- Headquarters spring boardwalk and interpretation

- Point of Rocks boardwalk, trail, amphitheater, and interpretive materials
- Wildlife viewing

Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge - US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 90 miles north of Las Vegas in Lincoln County, Nevada, is located in the Pacific Flyway, and encompasses 5,380 acres. The name, Pahranagat, comes from the Paiute Indian word meaning "valley of shining waters." Established to provide habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl, the Refuge is a unit of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

More than 230 different species of birds use Refuge habitats. The abundance and diversity of birds is highest during spring and fall migrations when large numbers of songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors are present. Refuge habitat ranges from cattail marshes to arid Mojave Desert uplands. The lakes and marshes at Pahranagat NWR are a rare sight in southern Nevada.



Recreational Opportunities:

- New visitor contact station and administrative facilities planning underway
- Improved campground
- Black Canyon interpretation
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting and fishing
- Existing trails

Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established on September 10, 1979, to secure habitat for the endangered Moapa dace. This small fish, the sole member of the genus Moapa, is endemic to the Muddy River system. During the last several decades Dace populations have declined due to habitat alteration and the introduction of nonnative fish species.

This modest but ecologically significant refuge of 106 acres is located in Clark County, Nevada, 60 miles north of Las Vegas and is critical to the recovery the Moapa dace. Dace habitat on the refuge consists of stream channels supported by several thermal springs emerging near the center of the refuge. Recently, a fish viewing chamber has been completed, allowing visitors a chance to observe these rare fish up close in their natural habitat.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Fish viewing chamber
- Picnic area
- Interpretive material
- Handicap accessible trail
- Trail and valley overlook
- Wildlife viewing



Mojave Route

This route includes highlights within 1 hour of the Las Vegas Strip that can be explored if time is short. This route can also be made into a 2-3 day roadtrip and is intended as a one way trip from Las Vegas to Los Angeles, the Mojave Route explores the hidden wonders of the Mojave many of which are in close proximity to some of the most traveled highways in America yet appear to remain desolate and isolated. In the spring time, as a wildflower tour or the summer to experience the true scorch of the Mojave, the full route will lead you into Death Valley, through Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Monument. This route is also a nostalgic review of early transcontinental automobile travel as it crosses the famed Route 66 on its way toward Los Angeles.

Death Valley National Park – National Park Service

Hottest, Driest, Lowest: An unmatched desert of streaming sand dunes, snow-capped mountains, multicolored rock layers, water-fluted canyons and 3 million acres of wilderness.

Home to the Timbisha Shoshone people and to plants and animals unique to the harshest conditions (NPS Death Valley NP 2011).



Recreational Opportunities:

- Furnace Creek visitor center
- Scotty's Castle visitor center
- Artist's Drive
- Badwater Basin - lowest point in the United States
- More than 81 miles of hiking trails
- Backcountry hiking and exploration
- Rock climbing
- Horseback riding
- Wildlife viewing
- Campgrounds

Mojave National Preserve – National Park Service

Singing sand dunes, volcanic cinder cones, Joshua tree forests, and carpets of wildflowers are all found at this 1.6 million acre park. A visit to its canyons, mountains and mesas will reveal long-abandoned mines, homesteads, and rock-walled military outposts. Located between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Mojave provides serenity and solitude from major metropolitan areas (NPS Mojave NP 2011).

Recreational Opportunities:

- Kelso Depot Visitor Center
- Zzyzx Desert Studies Center
- Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center
- Joshua Tree Forests
- Black Canyon Group and Equestrian Campground
- Wild Horse Canyon Road
- Numerous trails
- Mitchell Caverns and Providence Mountains State Recreation Area
- Granite Mountains Natural Reserve
- Hole-in-the-Wall Campground

Joshua Tree National Park – National Park Service

Viewed from the road, this desert park only hints at its vitality. Closer examination reveals a fascinating variety of plants and animals that make their home in this land shaped by strong winds, unpredictable torrents of rain, and climatic extremes. Dark night skies, a rich cultural history, and surreal geologic features add to the attraction of this place. Come see for yourself! (NPS Joshua Tree NP 2011)



Recreational Opportunities:

- Joshua Tree Visitor Center
- Cottonwood Visitor Center

- Black Rock Canyon area
- Indian Cove area
- Arch Rock
- Cholla Cactus Garden
- Many trails
- Many camping opportunities
- Hiking and backcountry camping
- World renowned rock climbing

San Bernadino National Forest – U.S. Forest Service

The San Bernardino National Forest is comprised of three Ranger Districts encompassing 676,666 acres in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, serves as southern California's outdoor year-round recreation destination while also providing watershed protection. Drive the scenic Rim of the World Scenic Byway and Palms to Pines Scenic Byways to discover the National Forest. The Big Bear Discovery Center is an educational and informational portal to the San Bernardino National Forest and is located within the heart of the Big Bear Valley.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Big Bear Visitor Center and Discovery Center
- Camping
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Skiing
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Scenic driving
- Wildlife viewing
- Bird watching

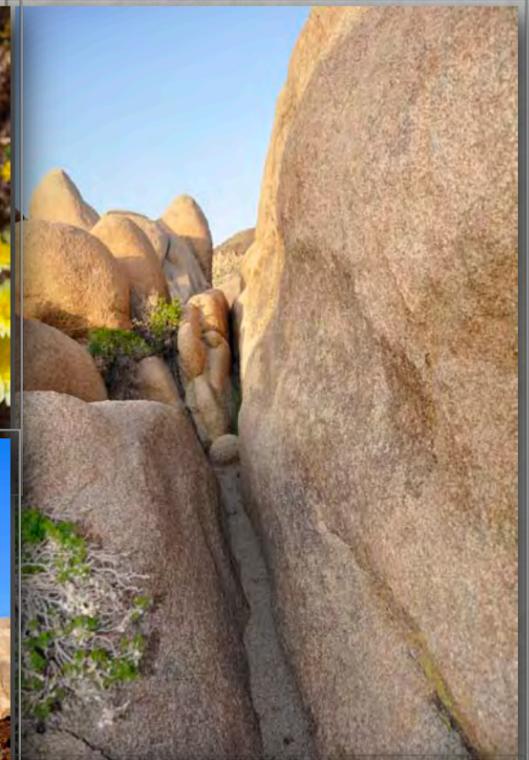
Angeles National Forest - U.S. Forest Service

The Angeles National Forest was established in 1892. Encompassing over 650,000 acres, the Forest serves as the nearest outdoor and natural playground to the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The Angeles National Forest manages the watersheds within its boundaries providing drinking water to southern California while protecting surrounding communities from catastrophic floods. The landscape within the Forest is as diverse in appearance and terrain as it is in recreational opportunities. Elevations range from 1,200 to 10,064 feet. Much of the Forest is covered with dense chaparral which transitions to pine and fir-covered slopes on the rugged peaks of the higher elevations. The Angeles National Forest offers natural environments, spectacular scenery, developed campgrounds and picnic areas, swimming, fishing, skiing and the solitude of wilderness areas. Trails throughout the forest accommodate hikers, equestrians, mountain bikers and off-highway vehicle enthusiasts.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Sand dunes
- Camping
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Backpacking
- Fishing
- Mountain biking
- Skiing
- Swimming
- Scenic driving
- Wildlife viewing
- Birdwatching



Lower Colorado Loop

Intended as a multi-day excursion along the Colorado River and through wildlands of the Mojave Desert, the Lower Colorado River highlights the ribbon of life associated with the Colorado River as it flows from Hoover Dam to Yuma, Arizona. This route passes a great number of wilderness areas including Trilobite, Clipper Mountain, Piute Mountains, Dead Mountains, Bigelow Cholla Garden, Riverside Mountains, Big Maria Mountains, Chemehuevi, Warm Springs and Mount Tipton Wilderness Areas. Each wilderness area highlights a special feature of the region and the Mojave Desert. Take sufficient time to explore the vast array of geologic features at Mojave National Preserve including lava flows, volcanic domes and craters, sand dunes, and limestone caverns. Make the stop at Kofa, Bill Williams and Havasu National Wildlife Refuges for viewing wildlife and waterfowl.

Mount Tipton Wilderness – Bureau of Land Management

The 30,760-acre Mount Tipton Wilderness is located in Mohave County, 25 miles north of Kingman, Arizona. This wilderness area encompasses the northern half of the imposing Cerbat Mountains. Although the skyline is dominated by Mount Tipton Peak, at 7,148 feet, the focal point and primary scenic attraction are the Cerbat Pinnacles. The Cerbat Pinnacles are imposing tusk-like rows of maroon-colored spires which stand above the open, tawny-colored valleys.



The Mount Tipton Wilderness provides a range of recreation opportunities including hiking, backpacking, photography, and horseback riding opportunities. Visitors capable of climbing to the top of Mount Tipton can view a remnant stand of large ponderosa pine located below the peak, and will enjoy views to the horizon in all directions. As with all remote areas, especially wilderness areas, extensive planning should be part of your preparation for visiting these areas.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Wildlife viewing
- Camping
- Photography
- Backpacking

Warm Springs Wilderness – Bureau of Land Management

The 112,400-acre Warm Springs Wilderness is located approximately 30 miles southwest of Kingman, Arizona and 30 miles north of Lake Havasu City, Arizona. The Warm Springs Wilderness area is a vast and pristine desert landscape. Black Mesa, a 10-mile long escarpment one thousand feet above the surrounding desert, dominates the wilderness. The edges of the mesa are dissected into a maze of winding canyons while the surrounding alluvial fans are interrupted by remnant mesas and isolated hills. The springtime brings an exceptional wildflower display, including ocotillos, blooming annuals, shrubs, and cacti. No formal hiking trails exist in this wilderness area. As with all remote areas, especially wilderness areas, extensive planning should be part of your preparation for visiting these areas.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Wildlife viewing
- Photography
- Spring wildflower viewing
- Camping
- Horseback riding

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge– U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

From desert bighorn sheep to the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, birds and other animals at Havasu National Wildlife Refuge rely on the life-giving waters of the lower Colorado River. The Refuge protects 30 river miles - 300 miles of shoreline - from Needles, California, to Lake Havasu City, Arizona. One of the last remaining natural stretches of the lower Colorado River flows through the 20-mile-long Topock

Gorge. A great river in a dry, hot land attracts wildlife and people like a powerful magnet. Today, many thousands of visitors annually flock to the Refuge to boat through the spectacular Topock Gorge, watch waterbirds in Topock Marsh, or hike to the Havasu Wilderness Area



Recreational Opportunities:

- Observation tower
- Campground
- Boat launches
- Boating
- Wildlife viewings
- Hunting and fishing

Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

With its majestic rock cliffs; its ribbon of cool water running through classic Sonoran Desert; and its cattail-filled marsh harboring rails and waterfowl, Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge offers a little bit of something for both wildlife and people. This 6,105-acre refuge holds one of the last stands of natural cottonwood-willow forests along the lower Colorado River, creating a rare ecosystem that provides habitat for resident and migratory wildlife. There are few places where one can stand, look at a Saguaro cactus, a cattail stand, and a cottonwood tree together. This unique blend of upland desert, marsh, and desert riparian habitat provides for a diverse array of birds, mammals, and reptiles. This diversity of wildlife includes: the southwestern willow flycatcher, vermilion flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, western tanager, Lazuli bunting, Yuma clapper rail, beaver, bobcat, mountain lion, gray

fox, javelina, mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, ringtailed cat, Razorback sucker and bonytail chub.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Refuge visitor center
- Colorado River overlooks
- Bill Williams River road
- Wildlife observation
- Boating
- Hunting and fishing

Cactus Plain Wilderness Study Area - Bureau of Land Management

The Cactus Plain Wilderness Study Area (59,100 acres) is 15 miles southeast of Parker, and three miles north of Bouse, Arizona. The Wilderness Study Area includes the western two-thirds of the Cactus Plain, an expansive area of stabilized and semi-stabilized sand dunes. The dunes vary in type and color and are a unique feature in western Arizona.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Backpacking
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Photography
- Wildlife viewing

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge - US Fish and Wildlife Service

Established in 1939, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 665,400 acres of pristine desert. The Refuge provides essential habitat for Desert Bighorn Sheep, the California Fan Palm, and other wildlife and plants. Desert Bighorn Sheep are found chiefly in the two mountain ranges that dominate the refuge landscape - the Kofa and Castle Dome Mountains. Although these mountains are not especially high, they are extremely rugged and rise sharply from the surrounding desert plains, providing excellent bighorn sheep habitat. 80% of Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, 516,300 acres, is federally designated wilderness. Wilderness is protected to ensure that nature, not people is the primary influence on this quiet, scenic place.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Trails
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting

Cibola National Wildlife Refuge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Cibola NWR is located in the floodplain of the lower Colorado River and surrounded by a fringe of desert ridges and washes. The refuge encompasses both the historic Colorado River channel as well as a channelized portion constructed in the late 1960's. Along with these main water bodies, several important backwaters are home to many wildlife species that reside in this portion of the Sonoran Desert. Because of the river's life sustaining water, wildlife here is able to survive in an environment that reaches 120 degrees in the summer and receives an average of only 2 inches of rain per year. Visit and enjoy the many wildlife-



oriented activities the refuge has to offer and enjoy the scenic beauty of this oasis in the desert .

Recreational Opportunities:

- Refuge Headquarters
- Wildlife viewing auto tour
- Boating
- Hunting and fishing

Imperial National Wildlife Refuge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Colorado River and associated backwater lakes and wetlands of Imperial National Wildlife Refuge are a green oasis, contrasting with the surrounding desert mountains. Consisting of over 26,000 acres, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge protects wildlife habitat along 30 miles of the lower Colorado River in Arizona and California, including the last unchannelized section before the river enters Mexico. Imperial National Wildlife Refuge also contains more than 15,000 acres of federally designated wilderness. Wilderness is protected to ensure that nature, not people is the primary influence on this quiet, scenic place. In addition to the Visitor Center, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge provides opportunities to hike, fish, hunt, and watch wildlife.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Visitor center
- Trails
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting and fishing

Big Maria Mountains Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

At approximately 45,000 acres the terrain of the Big Maria Mountains Wilderness varies from gently sloping bajadas to numerous rough, craggy peaks dissected by steep canyons. The northern boundary is located to the south of a major drainage known as Big Wash, and the eastern boundary parallels State Highway 95 and the Colorado River. No developed trails exist in the wilderness area. However, older jeep tracks now closed to vehicle traffic provide foot access.



Recreational Opportunities

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting

Riverside Mountains Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

In close proximity to the Colorado River, the Riverside Mountains Wilderness is approximately 24,000 acres. The area varies from gently sloping bajadas to a rugged interior with numerous peaks forming a jagged skyline. Canyons dissected into the interior range emerge onto washes that divide the bajadas. Big Wash traversed the western section and provides foot access. Artifacts from several old mining operations can be observed in the northern section. Foxtail and California barrel cactuses, both sensitive plant species, dot the landscape.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting

Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

The Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness contains approximately 85,000 acres of the rugged, granitic Chemehuevi Mountains. A large central valley with low rolling hills covered by dense stands of cholla and other cacti, ocotillo, and an occasional agave is enclosed by the horse-shoe shaped mountain range. The striking light, almost white, granite peaks contrast sharply with the rich green creosote and cactus-covered bajada. Closer to the Colorado River, the mountains change dramatically from light-colored granite to dark red and gray volcanic spires and mesas. Red Rock and Trampas Washes cross the wilderness from west to east and are sandy and tree-lined. Numerous springs and seeps occur in the area. The flora and fauna in the area are rich in species diversity due to the position of the wilderness area between the Sonoran and Mojave Desert ecosystems and the occurrence of river species and species principally found in eastern Arizona. Commonly observed wildlife includes bighorn sheep, wild burros, desert mule deer, mountain lions, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, roadrunners, quail, rattlesnakes, and several species of lizards. The extreme southwestern portion of the wilderness also provides critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Horseback riding
- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting

Bigelow Cholla Garden Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

Bigelow Cholla Garden Wilderness is located approximately 18 miles west of Needles, California. Interstate 40 runs along the northern boundary of the wilderness. Covering approximately 15,000 acres, the wilderness area is located at the northern end of the Sacramento Mountains. The mountains are composed of dark, highly eroded volcanic rock. Elevations range from 1,400 feet in the washes and alluvial fans to 3,314 feet on the top of Bannock Peak. The predominant vegetation types are creosote bush desert scrub and desert wash scrub. The wilderness area contains the highest density of Bigelow cholla cactus observed in the California Desert. Common Mojave Desert wildlife likely to be encountered includes coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, quail, roadrunners, rattlesnakes, and several species of lizards. In addition, the wilderness provides habitat for migrating desert bighorn sheep, while the western half of the wilderness area provides critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Hunting

- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Horseback riding

Dead Mountains Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

At approximately 54,000 acres the wilderness area encompasses the jagged, steep, rust-colored Dead Mountains and the alluvial fans sweeping to the west towards Piute Valley and east towards the Colorado River. Mount Manchester is centered in the northern half of the wilderness and is the highest point, at an elevation of 3,598 feet. A major wash transects the wilderness and the wilderness is bordered on the west by Piute Wash. Creosote bush desert scrub and desert wash scrub are the predominant vegetation types. Smoketrees are found within the washes and represent the northern most occurrence of

smoketrees in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). Mojave Desert wildlife likely to be encountered include a small herd of bighorn sheep, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, roadrunners, chukar, quail, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, rattlesnakes, and several species of lizards. In addition, the eastern and northeastern portions of the wilderness provide critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Backpacking
- Hunting
- Camping
- Bird watching

- Wildlife viewing

Piute Mountains Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

The Piute Mountains Wilderness is approximately 50,000 acres and encompasses the Piute Mountains and surrounding bajadas and extensive aprons of alluvium. Elevations within the wilderness range from 2,000 to 4,132 feet. The Piute Mountains exhibit contrasting color and texture that varies from very angular, jagged volcanics to rounded, smooth granite hills while the ridges are cut by numerous canyons and washes. Dominant vegetation is typical of much of the Mojave Desert, consisting of creosote bush scrub, gradually changing to mixed desert scrub at higher elevations. In the dry washes catclaw acacia, smoketree, cheesebush, desert lavender, little-leaf ratany, and desert almond can be observed. Wildlife includes coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, quail, roadrunners, rattlesnakes, and several species of lizards. Because the Piute Mountains are too small and too sparsely watered to accommodate permanent populations, the area provides transient ranges for mule deer and bighorn sheep. Prairie falcon eyries are known to exist within the wilderness area. The large bajadas provide excellent habitat for the threatened desert tortoise and the entire wilderness area has been identified as critical habitat for the desert tortoise.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Horseback riding
- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting

Clipper Mountain Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

The Clipper Mountain Wilderness, covering approximately 35,000 acres, is approximately 28 miles east of Ludlow, California and 50 miles west of Needles, California. Geologic highlights of the wilderness include rugged yellow and dark brown, horizontally striped mesas; narrow canyons with hidden springs; and sparsely vegetated alluvial fans. Clipper Mountain obtains an elevation of 4,625 feet before dropping off in series of sharp cliffs overlooking the Clipper and Fenner Valleys. Castle Dome, a local landmark, can be easily observed from Historic Route 66 to the south and east. The predominant vegetation types are creosote bush desert scrub and desert wash scrub. The alluvial fans turn yellow with brittlebush and other wildflowers during the spring. Typical Mojave Desert wildlife includes a herd of 40-50 bighorn sheep, coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, roadrunners, chucker, quail, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, rattlesnakes, and several species of lizards.

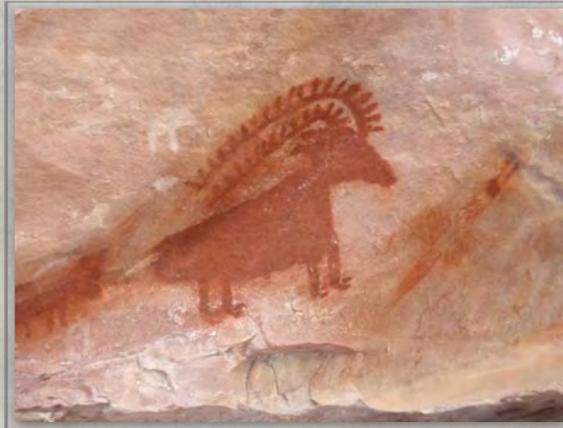


Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Hunting
- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Horseback riding

Trilobite Wilderness- Bureau of Land Management

Designated in 1994, the Trilobite Wilderness encompasses approximately 37,000 acres of the Marble Mountains. The Marble Mountains are a narrow volcanic range extending 12 miles in a northwest-southwest direction. Alternating dark brown and light brown strata have been tilted by geologic forces resulting in a marbled appearance to the range. Several yellowish sandstone peaks with long talus slopes are prominent within the center of the wilderness area.



Eastward from the mountain range, the wilderness area includes low rolling hills and sloping bajadas. Vegetation typical of the lower Mojave Desert prevails, consisting of creosote bush scrub and desert wash scrub. Wildlife observed may include coyote, black-tailed jackrabbits, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, quail, roadrunners, red tail hawks, prairie falcons, rattlesnakes, and several species of lizards. A population of approximately 150 bighorn sheep occurs within the area.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hunting
- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing

Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

In passing the Endangered Species Act, Congress recognized that threatened and endangered plants and wildlife have educational, scientific, historical, and aesthetic values and should thus be preserved as part of the nation's natural heritage. As a result of this legislation, the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge was created. Established in 1985 as part of the Coachella Valley Preserve, the Refuge provides a sanctuary for the rare Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and many other desert dwelling species. This lizard, federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, is not found anywhere else in the world.

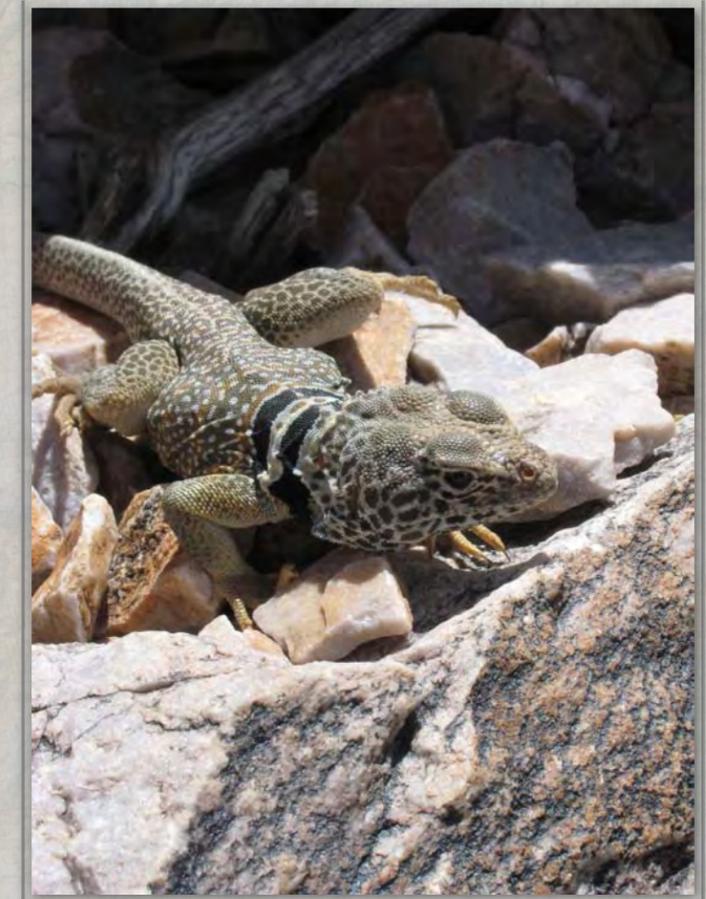


The 3,709-acre Refuge is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Preserve, on the other hand, is cooperatively managed by The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Center for Natural Lands Management. Both the Refuge and the Preserve protect the only remaining undeveloped sand dune ecosystem within the Coachella Valley. This blow-sand habitat is home to one of the most ecologically diverse communities found in the deserts of North America. Furthermore, many of the species of plants and animals that the dunes provide a home for are extremely rare, found only in this particular area. These species have evolved through time leaving them dependent on this dynamic sand dune habitat.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Thousand Palms Visitor Center – The Nature Conservancy
- Small trail

- Wildlife viewing



Grand Canyon Route

The Grand Canyon Route explores the diversity and expanse of the Colorado River traversing portions of the Mojave Desert as well as the Colorado Plateau. Intended as a multi-day trip, this adventure will lead you to some of the most spectacular scenery in the world! Although the North and South rims of the Grand Canyon are the biggest attractions on the Grand Canyon Route, additional solitude awaits in remote wilderness areas such as Mount Tipton, Warm Springs and the Dead Mountains Wilderness areas. Birdwatching during spring and fall migration can be outstanding on the lower Colorado River in the vicinity of Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Vermillion Cliffs National Monument, and Zion National Park are additional highlights on the northern end of this route.

Grand Canyon National Park – National Park Service

A powerful and inspiring landscape, the Grand Canyon overwhelms our senses through its immense size; 277 river miles (446km) long, up to 18 miles (29km) wide, and a mile (1.6km) deep. There are entrances to the Canyon on both the North and South Rim with several visitor contact stations.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Canyon View Information Plaza
- North Rim Visitor Center
- Tusayan Ruin and Museum
- Desert View
- Miles and miles of trails
- Backcountry camping and hiking
- Rafting

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area – National Park Service

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area encompasses over 1.2 million acres and offers unparalleled opportunities for water-

based & backcountry recreation. The recreation area stretches for hundreds of miles from Lees Ferry in Arizona to the Orange Cliffs of southern Utah, encompassing scenic vistas, geologic wonders, and a vast panorama of human history (NPS Glen Canyon NRA 2011).

Recreational Facilities:

- Carl Hayden Visitor Center
- Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center
- Dangling Hope Marina
- Rainbow Bridge National Monument
- Visitor Center at Bullfrog
- Numerous campground and picnic facilities
- Boating
- Backcountry use

Vermillion Cliffs National Monument – Bureau of Land Management

The Vermilion Cliffs form a 3,000-foot escarpment and reveal a layer-cake of geologic formations. This remote 294,000-acre national monument is a geologic treasure of towering cliffs, deep canyons, and spectacular sandstone formations, containing the Paria Plateau, Vermilion Cliffs, Coyote Buttes and Paria Canyon. Elevations range from 3,100 to 6,500 feet. The spectacular geology of the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument encompasses sandstone formations, high cliffs, and rugged canyons. The Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness is located mostly within the national monument. Backpacking Paria Canyon is an outstanding four to five-day wilderness experience. The national monument is home to desert bighorn sheep, pronghorns, and at least twenty species of raptors including California Condors. Visit the Paria Contact station on Highway 89 which is open March 15 to November 15.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Paria Contact Station
- Camping
- Hiking
- Geologic sightseeing
- Photography
- Numerous viewpoints and overlooks
- Wildlife viewing
- Bird watching

Kaibab National Forest – U.S. Forest Service

The Kaibab National Forest offers numerous opportunities for peace, solitude and discovery. The forest is nestled on the Colorado Plateau and extends from the Mogollon Rim north to the Grand Canyon and beyond. Grand Canyon National Park bisects the center of the forest. Elevations range from about 3,000 feet to 10,418 feet at the top of Kendrick Mountain. Beginning as low elevation grasslands and sagebrush, habitats transition from forests of pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine to fir, spruce and aspen. Summer thunderstorms build up quickly and sweep across the region in July and August during the monsoon season. Snow may linger in the higher elevations through March. Over 300 miles of trails, some of which cling to the rims of the Grand Canyon, allow you to explore the remote and uncrowded landscape. Four designated Wilderness Areas occur within the vast forest boundary. Travel the Kaibab Plateau-North Rim Scenic Byway through meadows and forest on your way to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Camping
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Numerous scenic viewpoints and overlooks
- Wildlife viewing

Utah Route

Completed in entirety, the Utah Route is intended to be a multi-day excursion of the southwest red rock country and a considerable portion of the Colorado Plateau. However, smaller portions of the route can be explored if your time is restricted to one or two days. National Park highlights of the Utah Route include Zion, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, and Arches National Parks. Additional stops along the route include national monuments, national recreation areas, and state parks such as Valley of Fire, Lake Mead, Virgin River canyon, Vermillion Cliffs, Goblin Valley, Grand Canyon-Parashant, Canyon Rims, and Sand Flats.

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument – Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service

The splendor of Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument provides a sense of solitude to those who venture into its isolated domain. Located on the edge of one of the most beautiful places on earth, the Grand Canyon, the Monument's expansive landscape encompasses a chronicle of natural and cultural history. This Monument is co-managed by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management (NPS Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument 2011).



Recreational Opportunities:

- Interagency Information Center – St. George Utah
- Whitmore Canyon Overlook
- Hells Hole amphitheater
- Nanpawep Trail
- Grand Gulch Mine
- Tassi Ranch
- Pakoon Springs

Red Cliffs National Conservation Area

The overlap of the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin Desert, and Mojave Desert ecoregions of in the 45,00 acre Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (NCA) results in a great diversity of species and habitat types. The Red Mountain and Cottonwood Canyon Wilderness areas are part of the NCA. More than 130 miles of non-motorized recreation trails (hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail riding) are available for public use. Travel within the NCA is primarily limited to non-motorized, non-mechanized forms of travel.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Horseback riding
- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Camping

Zion National Park – National Park Service

Massive canyon walls ascend toward a brilliant blue sky. To experience Zion, you need to walk among the towering cliffs, or challenge your courage in a small narrow canyon. These unique sandstone cliffs range in color from cream, to pink, to red. They could be described as sand castles crowning desert canyons



Recreational Opportunities:

- Zion Canyon Visitor Center
- Zion Human History Museum
- Zion Canyon Scenic Drive with Zion Lodge
- Kolob Canyon's Viewpoint
- Lava Point Overlook

- Hiking and backcountry camping
- Big-Wall Rock Climbing
- Canyoneering
- Bicycling
- Wildlife Viewing

Bryce Canyon National Park – National Park Service

Bryce Canyon National Park is unlike any other park. Carved by wind, water and freeze-thaw cycles, crumbling red, orange, pink and tan rock forms badlands, spires, and amphitheaters. Natural bridges and mudstone columns capped with sandstone boulders, known as hoodos, or rocks balanced precariously on stone towers, are numerous (NPS Bryce NP 2011).



Recreational Opportunities:

- Visitor Center
- Bryce Amphitheater
- Numerous overlooks
- Miles of trails
- Hiking and backcountry camping

Dixie National Forest - U.S. Forest Service

The southern rim of the Great Basin, near the Colorado River, provides spectacular scenery composed of numerous canyons, brightly colored cliffs, and steep-walled gorges. The Dixie National Forest covers approximately two million acres of these outstanding resources across 170 miles in southern Utah. The Forest stretches along the divide between the Great

Basin and the Colorado River physiographic regions. Elevations vary from 2,800 feet near St. George, UT to 11,322 feet at Blue Bell Knoll on Boulder Mountain. The Forest is divided into four geographic areas. High altitude forests in gently rolling hills characterize the Markagunt, Pansaugunt, and Aquarius Plateaus. Boulder Mountain, one of the largest high-elevation plateaus in the United States, contains hundreds of small lakes 10,000 to 11,000 feet above sea level. The Forest has many climatic extremes with precipitation ranging from 10 inches in the lower elevations to more than 40 inches per year near Brian Head Peak. Most of the annual precipitation falls as snow at higher elevations. Thunderstorms can produce heavy rains and are common during July and August. Temperature extremes can be impressive, with summer temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit near St. George and winter lows exceeding -30 degrees Fahrenheit in the higher elevation plateaus. The vegetation of the Forest transitions from sparse, desert-type plants at the lower elevations to stands of low-growing pinyon pine and juniper dominating the mid-elevations. Aspen and conifers such as pine, spruce, and fir are prevalent in the higher elevation areas.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Camping
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Cross Country and Resort Skiing
- Canoeing
- Sailing
- Snowmobiling
- Water skiing
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Scenic driving

- Wildlife viewing
- Bird watching

Capitol Reef National Park – National Park Service

The Waterpocket Fold, a 100-mile long wrinkle in the earth's crust known as a monocline, extends from nearby Thousand Lakes Mountain to the Colorado River (now Lake Powell). Capitol Reef National Park was established to protect this grand and colorful geologic feature, as well as the unique natural and cultural history found in the area.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Visitor Center
- Fruita Historic District
- Fruita campground
- Hiking and biking
- Several picnic areas

Arches National Park – National Park Service

Arches National Park preserves over 2,000 natural sandstone arches, like the world-famous Delicate Arch, as well as many other unusual rock formations. In some areas, the forces of nature have exposed millions of years of geologic history. The extraordinary features of the park create a landscape of contrasting colors, landforms and texture (NPS Arches NP 2011).

Recreational Opportunities:

- Visitor Center at Park Headquarters
- Numerous overlooks
- Picnic facilities
- Campground
- Numerous day use trails

Manti La Sal National Forest - U.S. Forest Service

The Manti La Sal National Forest was created by the merger of the Manti Forest and La Sal Forest Reserves in 1949. The landscape ranges from deep sandstone canyons to mountaintops and alpine meadows. From the Abajo and La Sal mountain ranges in southeastern Utah to the Wasatch Plateau and Sanpitch mountains hundreds of miles away in central Utah, the Forest landscape and resources are broad and diverse. There are more than 1,600 miles of streams and 8,100 surface acres of lakes and reservoirs to fish. Hundreds of miles of trails are available for hikers, bikers and horseback riders. In addition, more than 1,000 miles of roads and trails are available to OHV users. Scenic byways guide motorists through unparalleled scenery and toward stunning vistas. Those seeking quiet solitude, adventure, and exploration will find it in the Manti-La Sal National Forest.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Camping
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Cross Country Skiing
- Canoeing
- Snow kiting
- Snowmobiling
- Water skiing
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Scenic driving
- Wildlife viewing
- Bird watching

Sand Flats Recreation Area - Bureau of Land Management

The Sand Flats Recreation Area (SFRA) near Moab, Utah is a nationally significant public lands treasure at the heart of the Colorado Plateau. A high plain of slickrock domes, bowls and fins, it rises on the south to meet the colorful mesas and nearly 13,000 foot peaks of the La Sal Mountains. To the north lies the deep gorge of the Colorado River and a hundred mile vista beyond Arches National Park. The famous Slickrock Bike Trail is a key highlight of the recreation area enjoyed by over 100,000 visitors annually. The 9,000 acre SFRA is also popular for camping. The Sand Flats Recreation Area is managed through a unique partnership between Grand County and the Bureau of Land Management. In 1995 this area was developed through the collaborative efforts of Americorps, the BLM, Grand County and the Moab community.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Bird watching
- Camping
- Hiking
- Rock climbing
- Mountain biking
- Backpacking
- Scenic driving
- Wildlife viewing
- Bird watching

Canyon Rims Recreational Area - Bureau of Land Management

Canyon Rims Recreation Area is a vast and diverse landscape located between the towns of Monticello and Moab in southeastern Utah. Within the expansive area, visitors may

tour scenic overlooks by automobile, camp, explore off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails, hike, backpack, mountain bike and rock climbing. The majority of Canyon Rims Recreation Area is public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In addition, sections of Utah state land and several parcels of private land are included within the boundary of Canyon Rims Recreation Area. Canyon Rims is part of a high-desert ecosystem providing habitat for a variety of wildlife. Animals have adapted in various ways to survive the harsh temperature extremes and low annual precipitation typical of the sagebrush and pinyon-juniper habitat. Visitors may observe American pronghorn antelope on Hatch Point. These animals rely on extreme speed and excellent vision to escape predators in open country. Desert bighorn sheep can occasionally be observed on the steep, rugged talus slopes or in canyons throughout the area. Observing Peregrine falcons is rare but they may occasionally be seen along the many cliffs within the recreation area. Sage grouse are also rare in this area, but are occasionally observed in the dense stands of sagebrush near Hatch Point. Mule deer can be found throughout the area all year while large numbers of deer migrate from the Abajo Mountains to their winter range in the Beef Basin and Harts Point areas during autumn. Although not as numerous, elk may be seen during the winter in the Beef Basin area. The desert teems with life and there is much for the visitor to see, the only requirements are patience and attention.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Camping
- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Rock climbing
- Mountain biking
- Scenic driving
- Wildlife viewing
- Bird watching

Canyonlands National Park - National Park Service

Canyonlands National Park preserves a colorful landscape eroded into countless canyons, mesas and buttes by the Colorado River and its tributaries. The rivers divide the park into four districts: the Island in the Sky, the Needles, the Maze and the rivers themselves. While these areas share a primitive

desert atmosphere, each retains its own character and offers different opportunities for exploration

Recreational Opportunities:

- Island in the Sky Visitor Center
- Stunning overlooks
- Picnic Areas
- Willow Flat Campground
- Backcountry hiking and camping

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument - National Park Service

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument spans nearly 1.9 million acres of America's public lands. From its spectacular Grand Staircase of cliffs and terraces, across the rugged Kaiparowits Plateau, to the wonders of the



Escalante River Canyons, the Monument's size, resources, and remote character provide extraordinary opportunities for geologists, paleontologists, archeologists, historians, and biologists in scientific research, education, and exploration

Recreational Opportunities:

- Escalante Interagency Visitor Center
- Three other visitor centers
- Paria Contact Station
- Hog Canyon OHV Trail System
- Numerous overlooks
- Miles of trails down washes and through constricting canyons
- Numerous picnic facilities
- White House Campground

Great Basin Loop

If sweeping vistas, endless horizons and dozens of mountain ranges captures your interest, then the Great Basin Route will deliver you to the interior of the Great Basin. Intended as a 3-5 day loop from Las Vegas. to numerous remote and pristine wilderness areas such as the Delamar Mountains, Weepah Spring, South Egan, Shellback, and Becky Peak Wilderness Areas portray the diversity of landscapes and habitat throughout the Great Basin. If Birdwatching is top on your list, waterfowl are abundant during spring and fall migration at Pahrnagat and Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuges. Visit Great Basin National Park where you can summit Wheeler Peak (13,065 feet) or explore thousand-year old bristlecone pine forests and limestone caverns all in one day.

Delamar Mountains Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

Designated in 2004, the Delamar Mountains Wilderness encompasses approximately 111,000 acres. Several deep, winding canyons dissect the the central core region and emerge onto the southern bajada. The eastern mountainous region contains numerous hills, peaks, washes and draws. Dramatic cliffs occur in many of the canyon areas. Steep, rugged terrain contains desert bighorn sheep and a variety of raptors. Long sloping bajadas around the periphery of the wilderness area



provides critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise. The Delamar Mountains Wilderness encompasses a portion of the Mormon Mesa desert tortoise Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Sensitive species likely to be encountered in the wilderness area include the white bearpoppy and banded Gila monster. The cultural resources for this area include over a dozen sites including lithic scatters, shelters, rock art, milling sites, and an obsidian quarry.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Camping
- Backpacking
- Photography
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing

Weepah Spring Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

The Weepah Spring Wilderness was established in 2004 and encompasses approximately 51,000 acres. Complex geology forms a complicated landscape of isolated peaks, canyons, walls of fossil bearing rocks, natural arches and volcanic hoodoos. A rugged land, the Seaman Range and Timber Mountain consist of individual peaks and a maze of canyons extending from the highlands. The area also contains the largest stand of ponderosa pine in eastern Nevada as well as 4,000 year old rock art. Although most stands of ponderosa in eastern Nevada are relic stands, this one is unique because active regeneration is obvious. You will observe young ponderosa pine saplings growing adjacent to trees greater than three feet in diameter. Please do not cut or remove live vegetation. Gathering wood for campfires, when permitted, is limited to dead and down material. The White River Narrows Archaeological District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, represents one of the largest and most well-known petroglyph concentrations in the state. Other prehistoric sites include shelter caves, hunting blinds and prehistoric campsites.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Horseback riding
- Hunting
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing
- Photography

South Egan Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

Designated in 2006, the South Egan Range Wilderness contains approximately 67,000 acres of Nevada wilderness. The South Egan Range Wilderness is a striking and rugged mountain spine running nearly the entire length of the White River Valley. Spectacular vistas give a sense of exhilaration as the landscape falls away dramatically to the valley floor, 4,000 feet below. Numerous riparian areas and pockets of quaking aspen serve to attract an abundant variety of wildlife species which include mule deer, elk, and a variety of upland game birds, such as sage grouse. Several springs feed small, intermittent creeks throughout the wilderness. Three routes provide access to the ridgeline toward the center of the wilderness area. The West Parker Spring route (not suitable for full-sized vehicles) leads to the ridge and provides views of Mt. Wheeler to the east and over a number of mountain ranges to the west.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Camping
- Hunting
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing

Shellback Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

Designated in 2006, the Delamar Mountains Wilderness encompasses approximately 36,000 acres. The Shellback Wilderness is located in the Northeast White Pine Range. The key feature of the wilderness area is a

long alpine ridge above 9,000 feet. The west side of the ridgeline contains spring fed basins of aspen stands and linear limestone formations while the east side is more arid with pinyon juniper forests and deep rocky canyons.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking
- Backpacking
- Camping
- Hunting
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge lies at the southern end of the Ruby Valley in northeast Nevada. Located at an elevation of 6,000 feet and flanked on the west by the rugged and scenic Ruby Mountains, it is one of the most remote refuges in the lower 48 states.

The Refuge encompasses 39,928 acres and consists of a marsh bordered by meadows, grasslands, and brush-covered uplands. It serves as a magnet for a wide diversity of wildlife species and is



strategically located along migration corridors serving both the Pacific and Central Flyways. The Refuge has been identified as one of 500 Globally Important Bird Areas by the American Bird Conservancy.

The National Park Service designated the South Marsh a National Natural Landmark because of the biological diversity and pristine condition of the habitat. The Refuge is one of the

most important waterfowl nesting areas in the Great Basin and intermountain West.

The South Marsh supports the largest population of nesting canvasback ducks west of the Mississippi River (outside Alaska), and holds the highest concentration of nesting canvasbacks in North America. Due to habitat loss elsewhere in the Great Basin, the Refuge has become increasingly important to resident wildlife, including mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and sage grouse. The Refuge fishery is popular with local anglers (FWS Ruby Lake NWR 2011).

Recreational Opportunities:

- Boating and canoeing
- Visitor contact station
- Boat launches
- Boating and canoeing
- Wildlife viewing
- Hunting and fishing
- U.S. Forest Service campground adjacent to NWR

Becky Peak Wilderness - Bureau of Land Management

Designated in 2006, the Becky Peak Wilderness area encompasses over 18,000 acres. The Becky Peak Wilderness is located at the northern end of the Schell Creek Range in eastern Nevada. Vegetation primarily includes desert brush and grass at the lower elevations and a scattering of pinyon pine and juniper stands on the upland slopes of Becky Peak and surrounding hillsides. Bristlecone and limber pine trees can be observed on Becky Peak (9,859 feet). Please do not cut or remove live vegetation. Gathering wood for campfires, when permitted, is limited to dead and down material. Wildflowers can be abundant in the spring and include yarrow, prickly poppy, prickly pear cactus, larkspur, lupine, paintbrush, and Sego lilies. Pronghorn antelope are commonly seen in the sagebrush lowlands. Other animals that may be spotted within the Becky Peak Wilderness area include mule deer, wild horses, lizards and a variety of birds.

Recreational Opportunities:

- Hiking

- Backpacking
- Camping
- Hunting
- Bird watching
- Wildlife viewing

Humboldt National Forest– U.S. Forest Service

The spectacular 6.3 million acres of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest makes it the largest national forest in the lower 48 states. One look at the Nevada state map and you will see that at least a portion of every mountain range in the state comprises part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The Forest offers year-round recreation of all types. Numerous access points exist along the *Wild Vegas* Great Basin Route. The landscape and multi-use nature of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest results in a wide variety of recreational activities.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Visitor contact station
- Camping
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Scenic driving
- Wildlife viewing
- Bird watching

Great Basin National Park – National Park Service

In the shadow of 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak, 5,000 year old bristlecone pine trees grow on rocky glacial moraines. Come to Great Basin National Park to experience the solitude of the desert, the smell of sagebrush after a thunderstorm, the darkest of night skies, and the beauty of Lehman Caves. The Great Basin is a region of diverse wildlife and recreation opportunities that awaits your discovery.



Recreational Opportunities:

- Great Basin Visitor Center and Headquarters
- Lehman Caves Visitor Center
- Osceola self guiding trail
- Many campgrounds and picnic facilities
- Backcountry hiking and camping
- Winter activities including snowshoeing and cross country skiing
- Wildlife viewing

Improving Public Awareness of These Outstanding Recreational Resources while Increasing Access

Today the public land sites surrounding Las Vegas compete with each other to command the attention and interest of the American public in an extremely crowded “entertainment” marketplace. To position the public lands with relevance, weight and importance in the Las Vegas community, the public lands should be presented to the American public as ONE integrated easy-to-access system that educates the public about all the lands and all the opportunities available. The public should understand the public lands as a series of diverse opportunities that can be enjoyed in an afternoon or over a two-week vacation. *Wild Vegas* suggests that the public lands around Las Vegas be organized as:

- A series of visitor driving routes and (one way) spurs that radiate out from Vegas:
- With the best use of technology and new media to provide the broadest communication platform for the public to learn about the many opportunities of *Wild Vegas*; and
- Take advantage of public transportation to make the facilities near Las Vegas accessible to resident and tourist alike.

The visitor driving routes and spurs will also take advantage of the National Park Service “Crown Jewels” located outside of Las Vegas. These Parks include Death Valley, Grand Canyon, and Zion. “Crown Jewels” are well known by the American public and can be used to attract initial visitor interest in *Wild Vegas* to discover the many other lesser-known opportunities closer to Las Vegas.





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