



Mojave National Preserve

Issue 22 / Fall 2012



New York Mountains

Black Homesteaders in Lanfair Valley



Homesteaders loading watermelons to be sold at Claypool's Mercantile Company in Needles, California

Dennis G. Casebier
Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association

Looking out across the vast Joshua tree-forested Lanfair Valley that is largely devoid of human habitation, it is hard to imagine that at one time there were farms, schools, stores, and post offices in this part of the East Mojave, and even a railroad crossing the region.

But a little probing into the history of this place begins to tell the fascinating story of vanished settlements: there was a homesteader boom in this valley beginning in 1910 and continuing into the 1920s. More than 600 homesteading applications were recorded. Two dozen applicants were blacks. The stories of these families of the black homesteading era have largely faded, but, because of interest among some of their descendants and painstaking research, their experiences are slowly being pieced together.

A few hardy people live in Lanfair Valley today, but most landowners use their land more informally than homesteaders did in the first decade of the twentieth century. Only some of what was once life-sustaining farmland in this region remains in the ownership of the families that homesteaded there 100 years ago.

Homesteaders in the East Mojave boom were among applicants for ownership of farmland under a federal law that was aimed at drawing settlers to acreage suitable for dry-land farming. In exchange for the land, homesteaders were required to file an application, improve the property or "prove up" their claim, and file for a deed of title.

The attraction of the valley for prospective homesteaders centered around the railroad that ran up from Goffs, northward into the New York Mountains to Barnwell, and from there northwesterly into Ivanpah Valley, with another branch stretching eastwardly to Searchlight, Nevada.

The presence of the railroad supported a speculation that the land might be worth something someday, and it was there for the asking. All you had to do was file a claim with the General Land Office in Independence, California, pay a small fee, live on the land for seven months each year for three years, clear forty acres or so, plant crops (it didn't matter if the crops came up or not), and file final proof of what you had done. A patent would then be issued by the federal government giving full title to the land. Some homesteads encompassed 160 acres, but modifications to the homestead laws permitted some homesteaders to gain 320 or even 640 acres later on.

The prospect of free land appealed to many, mostly younger and adventuresome, people. The overwhelming number of homesteaders were white, but among them were about two dozen black families who came to the valley from Whittier, Los Angeles, and Long Beach. These homesteaders were drawn by the prospect of a better life, according to an oral history left by a woman who was brought to the Mojave as a young girl by her family.

Most of the black homesteaders of record were men, but seven

were single women. They located together in the southeast part of the valley along Lanfair Road and to the east several miles out toward the Piute Range, but closer to Lanfair itself than to those mountains.

The earliest recorded presence of black homesteaders in Lanfair began in the first decade of the 1900s, when Dr. Charles H. Duvall out of Oakland, California, put up an orphanage in the East Mojave. A building was erected, and a few black boys were brought out. The effort never lived up to expectations, and it was short-lived.

Early in the movement, George W. Harts and Howard Folke filed papers for establishment of a settlement that was to be called Harts Townsite for the advertised purpose of "bringing freedom and independence to a limited number of colored people." The two men arranged for a post office at a site called Dunbar, which was established in 1912 with Mr. Folke as postmaster. But by the end of 1914, the post office was gone for reasons that are unclear.

In the third, and more enduring, effort of black immigration to the valley, individual families took up land on their own and successfully established homesteads.

The record shows that black homesteaders were among the very earliest to file for homesteads in remote Lanfair Valley. Of the 24 black homesteaders who ultimately proved up on their claims and obtained patents to their land, six originally filed claims and moved to the area in 1910, the first year of homesteading in the valley.

That 24 families were able to obtain patents is remarkable for what it says about their persistence and their success in this difficult land. Some of that land remains under the ownership of those families today. Ultimately, only about 40 percent of all applicants nationwide are said to have obtained title to homestead land before the program ended.

What little is known about these rare homesteaders has been told by descendants in oral histories recorded by the Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association (MDHCA), a nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of East Mojave's history. Most of the black Lanfair Valley homesteaders who have given oral history interviews about that experience were children during the period. Some were in their teens and had strong memories; others repeated stories of homesteading in Lanfair Valley that had been told over and over again in their families. Those were fat years in the desert. Rainfall was heavy in the early years of the homesteading era. The fertile soil yielded crops with which homesteaders could sustain themselves.

The children made up their own games and made their own toys, and they played in the wonderland of Joshua trees. From their homesteads, a half-mile or more east of Lanfair, they could see the smoke and hear the whistle of the train rising above the Joshuas as it came through twice a day, once early in the morning from Goffs to Searchlight and later in the day on its return trip.

continued on page 4

Welcome to Mojave!

In this issue we honor noted East Mojave historian Dennis Casebier. His popular book, *Mojave Road Guide*, offers visitors in-depth information on this well known four-wheel drive route. In our cover story, Dennis shares the fascinating account of some Lanfair Valley homesteaders.

Cooler temperatures make fall and winter a perfect time to visit the Mojave Desert, and the softening light as the sun passes lower in the sky offers a bolder, warmer palette for desert photographers. We have several photography exhibitions planned for the fall and winter months in the Desert Light Art Gallery at the Kelso Depot Visitor Center. These exhibits run from two to three months, so stop in often to see what's new.

Mojave's landscape varies tremendously as you travel around the preserve, and I encourage you to take short walks in various areas. Inside this guide, you'll find information on visiting the Kelso Dunes, Cinder Cones & Lava Beds, and the Joshua tree woodland on Cima Dome. On the east side of the park, campgrounds and hiking trails are available for those who have more time to explore.

Over 1000 miles of dirt roads await desert explorers in street-legal vehicles, providing access to old mining sites, springs, and roadside camps. Some routes require high-clearance vehicles, and road conditions change rapidly during rainy weather, so check with a ranger before heading out.

If you would like to learn more about what to see and do, talk to the rangers at Kelso Depot Visitor Center or Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, visit our website, or call the headquarters information desk. Websites and phone numbers are listed on page two.

Stephanie R. Dubois

Stephanie R. Dubois
Superintendent

Essential Information...2

Exploring Mojave...3

Camping...6

Hiking...7

Mojave National Preserve Map...8





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mojave National Preserve

Established in 1994, Mojave National Preserve encompasses 1.6 million acres ranging in elevation from 800' near Baker to 7,929' at Clark Mountain. Although most of the park lies in the Mojave Desert, the southeast section grades into the Sonoran Desert, and elements of the Great Basin Desert are found at higher elevations east of the Granite, Providence, and New York mountains.

Superintendent

Stephanie R. Dubois

Deputy Superintendent

Larry Whalon

Chief Ranger

Mark Peapenburg

Chief, Resource Interpretation

Linda Slater

Newspaper Editor

Norma Sosa

Mailing Address

2701 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311

Web and E-mail

www.nps.gov/moja
For e-mail, click "Contact Us"

Park Headquarters

ph: 760-252-6100
fax: 760-252-6174

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Are There Any Ranger Programs Today?

Do you have a question about that bird or lizard you just saw, about which flowers are blooming, about campsite availability, or about tomorrow's weather forecast? Stop at a Mojave information centers at Barstow, Kelso, or Hole-in-the-Wall, and we'll be happy to provide that information. If you have a little more time, we encourage you to join one of our free ranger-led programs for a closer exploration of Mojave National Preserve.

Ranger programs are offered from November through April. Check bulletin boards for times and locations.

Saturday walks at Kelso Dunes
How did a dune field, ranked in the top three in the U.S. in both size and dune height, form south of Kelso? Designated as wilderness to protect them for the future, Kelso Dunes are permanently closed to vehicle traffic. The Kelso Dunes Jerusalem cricket is an endemic species, meaning that it is found nowhere else in the world. There

are seven species of endemic insects found in Kelso Dunes alone! Learn more about life among the dunes on a morning walk.

Saturday walks at Hole-in-the-Wall
Many people are fascinated by petroglyphs and the connection that they provide between humanity's past and present. How did desert tribes survive in this environment, and what do the images they left behind mean? Some sites are well known and easily accessible, but most locations aren't advertised in order to protect them from vandalism and damage. The small petroglyph site along the Rings Loop Trail may be viewed on your own, but joining the afternoon walk showcases other evidence of the presence of native people in the area.

Saturday evening talks at Hole-in-the-Wall
What goes "bump" in the night, and is it dangerous to humans? What was it like to be a miner here a century ago, and what was mined? What kinds of wildflowers are in the park, and when do they bloom? Where

is the best place to see a desert tortoise, and why were they designated as a threatened species? These are some of the topics for evening programs at Hole-in-the-Wall, offered in the amphitheater outside or inside the visitor center, depending on the weather. Bring the whole family, munch on free popcorn, and enjoy the show!

Sunday morning walks at Hole-in-the-Wall
The many holes of Hole-in-the-Wall, with cliffs looking like chunks of swiss cheese, offer a clue as to how the area got its name, but not how the holes themselves were formed. Start your day with free coffee at Hole-in-the-Wall, then join the ranger to learn how the layers of volcanic material on the nearby Woods Mountains ended up at a distinct angle.

Attending a ranger program allows you to connect with the park on a richer, deeper level. You didn't just drive through or visit Mojave, you discovered some of its secrets. Don't be surprised when the siren song of the Mojave calls you back again and again...



Ranger Greg Thornton leads a group on the petroglyph hike
NPS photo

Essential Information

Dates and Hours of Operation

The preserve is always open. Information centers (see below) maintain regular hours of operation.

Fees and Reservations

There are no entrance fees. See page 6 for information about campground reservations and fees.

Information Centers

Three information centers provide orientation, information, and trip-planning advice. Park rangers are on duty. Western National Parks Association (WNPA) bookstores offer books, maps, and more.

Kelso Depot Visitor Center

Located 34 miles south of Baker, Calif. on Kelbaker Road. Open daily, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center

Located near Hole-in-the-Wall Campground. Winter hours (October–April): Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Summer hours (May - September) Saturday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Headquarters Information Center

Located at 2701 Barstow Road, Barstow, Calif. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Food: The Beanery @ Kelso

The concessioner-operated lunch room offers hot and cold beverages, soups, salads, sandwiches, and snacks. Located at Kelso Depot Visitor Center. Open daily, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Water

Drinking water is available only at Kelso Depot Visitor Center, Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center, Hole-in-the-Wall, Black Canyon campgrounds and Mid-Hills Campground.

Gasoline

There are no gasoline stations within Mojave National Preserve. Gasoline can be purchased along I-40 at Needles, Fenner, and Ludlow, Calif., along I-15 at Baker, Calif., the Cima Road exit, and Primm, Nev., and along U.S. 95 at Searchlight and at the Nev.163 junction south of Cal-Nev-Ari, Nev.

Lodging

There are no motels within Mojave National Preserve. Lodging might be available in Barstow, Nipton, Ludlow, Needles, Baker, and Twentynine Palms, Calif., and in Primm and Searchlight, Nev.

Bicycles

Bicycles are allowed in parking areas, on paved roads, and on existing, open dirt roads. Bicycles are not allowed in Wilderness Areas or for cross-country travel.

Pets

Though not allowed inside information centers, pets are welcome elsewhere. They must be leashed and never left unattended. Dogs used during hunting activities must be under the owner's control at all times. Pet excrement must be collected and disposed of in garbage receptacles.

Permits

Permits are required for all organized events, group events (more than 15 individuals or 7 vehicles), and commercial activities such as filming. Fees apply. Proof of insurance and posting of a bond might also be required. Call 760-252-6107 or visit www.nps.gov/moja for more information.

Hunting and Firearms

Hunting is permitted in accordance with state regulations. All hunting activities require a license; additional permits and tags might apply. Visit the California Department of Fish & Game website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/> for more information.

Target shooting or "plinking" is prohibited. All firearms transported within the preserve must be unloaded, cased, and broken down, except during lawful hunting activities. No shooting is permitted within ½ mile of developed areas, including campgrounds, information centers, Kelso Dunes, Fort Piute, Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, and the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx.

Collecting and Vandalism

Disturbing, defacing, or collecting plants, animals, rocks, historic or archeological objects is prohibited. Leave these resources as you find them for everyone to enjoy. Metal detectors are not allowed.

Private Property

Private inholdings are found throughout the preserve. Please respect the rights of our neighbors. It is your responsibility to obtain permission before hunting, hiking, or entering private property.

Cattle and Fences

Most grazing within Mojave National Preserve occurs on public land. This land is open to you to explore, but please don't disturb cattle, fences, or water tanks. Leave gates as you find them.

Firewood & Campfires

Wood is scarce in the desert. Cutting or collecting any wood, including downed wood, is prohibited. All firewood, including kindling, must be brought in. Firewood might be available for purchase at Baker, Fenner, Needles or Nipton, Calif. Campfires are allowed in campground fire rings and other established sites. To minimize your impact, use a firepan and pack out the ashes. Please do not leave fires smoldering or unattended.

Exploring Mojave

Scenic Cima Road connects I-15 with Cima, Calif., traversing the world's largest concentration of Joshua trees.

Avenues to Adventure

Mojave National Preserve is vast. At 1.6 million acres, it is the third-largest unit of the National Park System in the contiguous United States. While much of Mojave's wild and historic splendor is available only to those who travel its trails and unmaintained roads, the primary roads of the preserve offer endless opportunities for exploration (see map on page 8).

Kelbaker Road

A 56-mile paved road stretching from I-15 at Baker, Calif. in the north to I-40 east of Ludlow, Calif. in the south, Kelbaker Road winds past cinder cones, lava flows, Kelso Depot, Kelso Dunes, and the Granite Mountains.

Cinder Cones & Lava Flows

No signs or services.

About 14 miles southeast of Baker, Kelbaker Road traverses a 25,600-acre area of lava flows and volcanic cinder cones thought to range in age from 10,000 to 7 million years old. In 1973, the area was designated as Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark due to its scenic beauty and exceptional geological value. Aiken Mine Road (19 miles southeast of Baker, Calif.) offers an interesting side trip through the heart of the area and access to a lava tube. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

Kelso Depot Visitor Center

Information, exhibits, orientation film, art gallery, bookstore, food (The Beanery @ Kelso), restrooms, water, picnic area.

Located 34 miles southeast of Baker, Kelso Depot began operation in 1924 and served as train station, restaurant, and employee housing on the Los Angeles and Salt Lake route of the Union Pacific Railroad. Now Mojave National Preserve's principal information center and museum, extensive exhibits describe the cultural and natural history of the preserve. Historically furnished rooms offer a glimpse into Kelso's past.

Kelso Dunes

Self-guiding trail, vault toilets, no water.

About 42 miles southeast of Baker (8 miles south of Kelso Depot), then 3 miles west on a graded dirt road. Nearly 700 feet high and covering a 45-square-mile area, the Kelso Dunes were created over the course of 25,000 years by winds carrying sand grains from the dried Soda Lake and Mojave River Sink located to the northwest. The Providence and Granite mountains served as barriers that trapped the blowing sand. The dunes produce a "booming" or "singing" sound when sand with the right moisture content slides down the steep slopes. Try it for yourself—run down a dune slope (but don't trample vegetation!) to initiate the sound.

Granite Mountains

No signs or services.

An imposing jumble of granite marks the south entrance to the preserve, 50 miles southeast of Baker on Kelbaker Road. Portions of the Granite Mountains lie within the University of California's Desert Research Center; please respect the signs that mark the boundary. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

Clark Mountain

No signs or services.

The only portion of Mojave National Preserve north of I-15, Clark Mountain is also its highest point, at 7,929 feet. A relict white fir grove near the top is one of only three in the Mojave Desert. Check detailed maps or ask a ranger for access information. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

Cima Road

About 26 miles east of Baker, Calif., the paved Cima Road connects I-15 with Cima, Calif., 16 miles to the southeast.

Cima Dome & Joshua Tree Forest

Self-guiding trail, no water.

The near-perfect symmetry of Cima Dome rises 1,500 feet above the surrounding desert and provides ideal habitat for the world's largest concentration of Joshua trees. Although the top of the dome is located west of Cima Road near the Teutonia Peak Trailhead, this unusual geologic feature is best seen from a distance. Try the view looking northwest from Cedar Canyon Road, 2.5 miles east of Kelso Cima Road.

Cedar Canyon & Black Canyon Roads

Mostly unpaved, the 20-mile Cedar Canyon Road connects Kelso Cima Road in the west with Ivanpah Road in the east, paralleling (and sometimes joining) the historic Mojave Road. Black Canyon Road (unpaved north of Hole-in-the-Wall) connects Cedar Canyon Road with Essex Road, 20 miles to the south.

Rock House

Loop trail, wayside exhibits, pit toilet, picnic table. A well-known desert landmark, the Rock House is emblematic of creative desert building styles. 5 miles east of Black Canyon Road on Cedar Canyon Road.

Mid Hills

Campground, trailhead, vault toilets, water. Not recommended for RVs.

About 2 miles west of Black Canyon Road at the north end of Wild Horse Canyon Road, Mid Hills supports pinyon-juniper woodland habitat. The effects of a fire that swept through the area in June 2005 are evident, although several campsites in the popular campground still contain shady stands of pinyon pine and juniper.

Hole-in-the-Wall

Information center, bookstore, campgrounds, picnic area, trailhead, restroom, water, telephone. Just north of the junction of Black Canyon and the south end of Wild Horse Canyon Roads, rhyolite cliffs riddled with holes and hollows are the backdrop for Hole-in-the-Wall.

Piute Spring

About 7.4 miles west of U.S. 95 on the unmarked and unpaved Mojave Road, then 3.1 miles west on an extremely rough unmarked dirt road. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

Fort Piute and Piute Spring

Trails, wayside exhibits, no signs or services.

Willows, cottonwoods, and rushes thrive along a half-mile section of Piute Creek. Fort Piute (still visible) was one in a string of military outposts built along the Mojave Road. Please don't climb on the foundations or remove anything.

Dirt Road Driving

Prepare Your Vehicle

Ensure that your vehicle is in good condition: check tires, oil, and gas gauge.

For emergencies, carry tools, tire jack, towrope, extra water, and fluids for your vehicle.

Know the Rules of the Road

All vehicles operating within Mojave National Preserve must be street-legal in accordance with California DMV requirements, including current registration and tags, lights and turn signals, and valid insurance. California "Green Sticker" and "Red Sticker" programs are not recognized within the preserve.

Off-pavement travel is allowed only on existing, open dirt roads. Do not travel cross-country or create new routes. This rule is strictly enforced; violators will receive citations. Driving in washes is not permitted. Watch for and respect Wilderness Boundary signs; motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed in designated Wilderness Areas.

Check Road Conditions

Road conditions vary widely. Dirt roads might be rough, sandy, or muddy, rendering them impassable, and the unprepared motorist could be trapped many miles from help. Watch for cattle, burros, and other wildlife on roadways.

Not all roads are shown on all maps; traces and illegal shortcuts add to the confusion. Carry a good map, and ask a park ranger for current road conditions.

Zzyzx Road

Six miles southwest of Baker on I-15, Zzyzx Road leads 5 miles south into the preserve along the western shore of Soda Dry Lake.

Zzyzx/Soda Springs

Self-guiding trail, wayside exhibits, vault toilets, non-potable water, picnic area.

Historically known as Soda Springs and later renamed Zzyzx (pronounced ZYE-zix), this oasis is home to the California State University Desert Studies Center. The buildings and pond were developed in the 1940s by Curtis Springer, who operated a health resort at the site. Zzyzx is open to the public—stroll around Lake Tuendae and along the shore of Soda Dry Lake. Please do not disturb participants when classes are in session.

Nipton, Ivanpah & Lanfair Roads

Eleven miles south of Primm, Nev., Nipton Road begins at I-15 and passes through Nipton, Calif., 11 miles east. Ivanpah Road (only the 10 northernmost miles paved) heads southeast of Nipton Road, through the Ivanpah and Lanfair valleys, eventually connecting with the paved Lanfair Road and the Fenner Valley. Together stretching 46 miles, Ivanpah and Lanfair roads connect the northern preserve boundary (bordering Nipton Road) with the southern near Goffs, Calif.

Hotel Nipton

Privately operated hotel, store, campground, & more; for information call 760-856-2335 or email at stay@nipton.com.

Built in 1910, this charming hotel reflects the railroad, ranching, and mining history of the small community at Nipton.

Caruthers Canyon

Primitive camping, hiking, no signs or services.

About 5.5 miles west of Ivanpah Road on New York Mountains Road, then 2.7 miles north on an unsigned road, Caruthers Canyon is located in the rugged New York Mountains. Surrounded by mountains rising over 7,500 feet, a botanical "island" of chaparral plants remains from wetter times of the past. **High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.**

Sand & Mud Driving Tips

- Be sure to carry plenty of drinking water and emergency supplies.

- Engage four-wheel drive before entering deep sand or mud.

- Don't gun the engine—this will spin the tires, dig you in deeper, and could bury your vehicle to the frame. Smooth, easy power is better than too much power; use low gearing and just enough throttle to maintain forward movement.

- If you detect a loss of traction, turn the steering wheel rapidly from side-to-side—this might help to generate traction.

- If your vehicle gets stuck, place solid materials (such as floor mats) under the tires to provide traction.

- If you're really stuck, it's best to stay with your vehicle. A stationary, stranded vehicle is much easier to locate than a person traveling on foot. Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day; stay in the shade of your vehicle.

Lanfair Valley

No signs or services.

South of the New York Mountains along Ivanpah and Lanfair roads, this high valley shelters an impressive Joshua tree forest and was an early ranching and homesteading center. From 1893 until 1923, the Nevada Southern Railway ran up the valley from Goffs, providing services to homesteaders and ranchers in the valley and to miners in the mountains beyond. While little evidence remains of homesteads that once dotted the valley, tracts of private property still exist. Please respect the rights of landowners.

Desert historian's career spans more than six decades

By Norma Sosa

Dennis Casebier remembers his surprise when, interviewing the descendant of a desert homesteader, the man mentioned black farmers. At the time, Casebier had been studying the history of the East Mojave for more than two decades, and he was looking into the early 20th century homesteading movement that brought several hundred families to the desert to establish dry land farms. This interview was a revelation—it was the first word he had heard about any black residents in the desert.

“As soon as I heard this, I wanted to know who they were, how this happened, and where they came from,” he recalled in a recent conversation. He eventually identified about two dozen black homesteader householders.

Casebier's work in recording the stories of desert residents, conducted with his wife and partner, Jo Ann, has made him the East Mojave's best-known historian. A recent Public Broadcasting System program drew heavily from his work about black homesteaders. As Casebier turns 78, he has decided to scale back

the history of the desert. They settled in Goffs, surrounded by land that became part of Mojave National Preserve in 1994. Living in the desert only heightened their interest in the people who had come before them—inspired perhaps by ruined stone walls, weathered mine head frames, broken dishes, and other fragments of vanished households.

The wondering led Casebier to continue his search for official records, newspapers, and other documents. Eventually, he found his way into the role of oral historian: searching out descendants and inviting them to tell the remembered experiences of people who lived and worked in the desert many years before. Using these family stories and photographs as well as archival material found in both regional collections and in Washington, D.C., Casebier has been documenting East Mojave life in the early 20th century.

A prolific author, Casebier's books reveal details of life for homesteaders, railroaders, miners, ranchers—the people who lived and worked in the East Mojave over the past 150 years—as well as his own experiences exploring the desert.

The framework for Casebier's work comes from his earliest experiences in the desert. In 1981, he founded Friends of the Mojave Road, devoted to the preservation of the East Mojave's historic trails. He has travelled those trails for more than five decades and says they left him and Jo Ann addicted to the desert. “You hear it said about many things, but the desert truly gets in your blood,” he says. “It has to do with wide-open spaces, critters, plants, and stories—there are signs of history everywhere in this place.”

In 1993, the Friends group was renamed the Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association

(MDHCA) with a mission to “research and conserve the natural and cultural history of the Mojave Desert region for the purpose of preserving and sharing these resources in perpetuity.” The donor-funded non-profit has led private efforts to steward land of scientific, scenic, or recreational value. About 1,000 acres have been acquired or donated over the last decade, Casebier said.

The group also has mounted restoration efforts of historic structures, including Goffs schoolhouse, which is now a museum and anchor of the Goffs Cultural Center. The 100th

anniversary of the schoolhouse, which is in the National Register of Historic Places, will be celebrated in 2014.

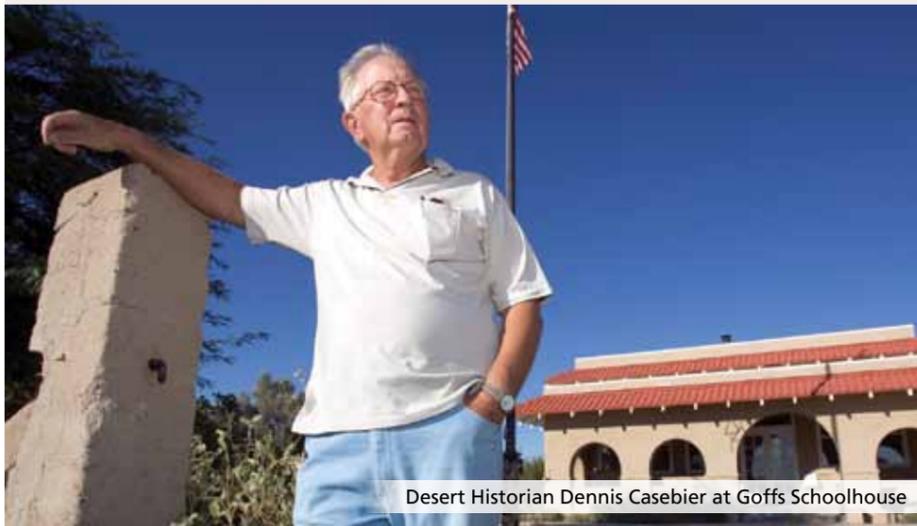
At his home base in Goffs, another of Casebier's interests—the preservation of relics from the past—is the focus of an outdoor museum of desert living and industry that visitors can tour by appointment. Enveloped by this open-air museum is a train station evoking the desert's earlier railroading days. In this building, reconstructed and maintained by the association, Casebier has archived documents, maps, and artifacts that he and MDHCA members have collected over six decades. The collection includes 8,000 volumes of published literature about the region, 120,000 photographs, 6,000 historical maps, 1,500 oral histories, and a rare collection of old area newspapers, periodicals, and pamphlets, making it an important center for desert research. Journalists and historians, professional and amateur, as well as government agencies apply to sort through its maps and archives.

“We have created a national treasure in these oral histories that we have collected,” he says. “I have done a lot of things in my life, but nothing is more satisfying than what I have created in this place.”

He has a wall of awards that praise his efforts in preserving desert history. U.S. Congressman Jerry Lewis, who has represented the East Mojave region for more than 30 years, recently recognized Casebier's work. “The story of the Mojave Desert is more than its awe-inspiring spaces and fragile beauty—it's also the story of people who have loved this land and pioneered a place in it,” he said. “Through the fabulous work of Dennis Casebier and the Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association he founded, we know the stories and personalities of those pioneers and the contributions they made to our wonderful Mojave.”

Casebier has led the MDHCA since its founding. Earlier this year, he decided to step out of that position to concentrate on his oversight role on the organization's board of directors. Hugh Brown, a longtime participant in MDHCA's work, will take on the role of executive director. Brown's agenda includes a formidable list headed by efforts to secure funding for upcoming projects such as increasing and improving storage and management of the collections and developing exhibits. There are plans to expand outreach efforts, including publications, website improvements (www.mdhca.org), and participation in historical events.

As Casebier contemplated the MDHCA's future, he said his strongest concern is that the organization secure the resources that are needed to keep its promises to those who have helped to tell the East Mojave story by protecting and sharing their stories. “There are opportunities here for history-minded, desert-loving volunteers,” he says. “It's important that it all keep going.”



Desert Historian Dennis Casebier at Goffs Schoolhouse

his efforts somewhat. On hearing of his plans, a long-standing supporter, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, sent a letter of commendation to Casebier. “I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for all you and Jo Ann have done to preserve the history of the Mojave Desert, not only in California but in Arizona and Nevada as well,” Senator Reid wrote.

When the Casebiers retired and moved to the East Mojave from the Riverside area more than 20 years ago, they set a course to pursue a passion for researching and preserving

Touring Goffs Schoolhouse, no admission charge—donations accepted.

October 1–May 30: Open Saturday and Sunday, 9 am to 4 pm. May be closed on holiday weekends. June 1–September 30: Call 760-733-4482 at least one day in advance for an appointment.

Getting there: 10 miles northeast of I-40 on Goffs Road at the junction with Lanfair Road. More information: www.mdhca.org.

continued from page 1

They had a fine schoolhouse at Lanfair. There were outings to magical places like Fort Piute and Piute Creek and occasional visits to Goffs and sometimes even to Needles.

No black homesteaders owned water wells, although some efforts, ultimately unsuccessful, were made to develop them. It isn't known where the homesteaders obtained water, but at least several families are said to have obtained their supplies along the water line maintained in the eastern part of the valley by the Rock Springs Land & Cattle Company, the East Mojave's largest rancher.

One common theme expressed about their experience in oral histories gathered by MDHCA has to do with race relations in the East Mojave in that period. Black and white people alike express an almost categorical denial of any prejudice or discrimination between the races in the desert settlements. An examination of the record shows that this was not the case, but it is possible that the intensity and level of racial discord was less than that encountered in many other places in the United States at that time.

One dialogue with a white lady who was a young girl during the teens and attended the Lanfair School with black children, reflects that remembered sentiment:

Question: You were in school with black children. Did you perceive discrimination?

Answer: No. They were kids to me. I didn't care whether they were pink, red, or white.

Question: Was there any discussion amongst the adults?

Answer: No, never heard a word. Never. Mr. Jones [a black man] used to help my dad plow. And my dad helped him plow. One time, we'd gone on Saturday up to the railroad, to the post office with the team of mules, and while we were gone, a flash flood came along. Well we had two

washes. When we came back, we could not get across those washes because they were overflowing. Well we were stuck, and here it was evening, you know. So we stayed all night at the Jones'.

I don't think they ever came to any of our dances. I don't remember any of them coming to the dances. But I'll say this much: I never heard anybody talking about their color.

They were good people.



Richard Wesley Hodnett on the crumbling steps of the old Lanfair School where Wesley attended school 60 years or so earlier.

The Hodnetts family... there were lots of kids in that family. But not all of them were at home. But I knew Mrs. Hodnett. They had a cow, and I'll always remember good old Mrs. Hodnett. She was a little bit of a thing... sort of reddish-haired and freckled-faced doll. We'd come by on horseback from school, and she'd flag us down and give us a glass of buttermilk and a hot biscuit.

These childhood memories aside, some evidence of discrimination survives. It should be noted that the young girl recalled: “I don't think they ever came to any of our dances.” There's a reason for this. The bylaws of the Yucca Club, the social organization that organized monthly dances in Lanfair Valley, stated that a member could be “any white person in the valley.”

Interviews with members of black homesteader families who were children in that era seemed to know little about community picnics, pioneer celebrations held at Lanfair on the 4th of July, and other social occasions, and they did not recall attending any such events. This suggests that their parents did not feel welcome at those gatherings. They must have known that they were not welcome at the community dances held each month.

Nevertheless, the years spent by black families in Lanfair were remembered as a happy time. They are recalled fondly by those who lived there as young people and in stories that have been passed down.

The trail of the hardy people who undertook the challenges of life on this difficult land 100 years ago grows dimmer with the years. More needs to be known about George W. Harts, Charles H. Duvall, and Howard Folke, three men who encouraged homesteading by blacks, for example.

There are many other questions, among them: Whose name was given to the short-lived post office at Dunbar? Was it the celebrated black literary figure Paul Laurence

continued on page 5



continued from page 4

Dunbar, who was well-known at that time and an enduring source of pride among African Americans? The title of Maya Angelou's 1969 autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, was taken from a Dunbar poem.

Descendants of a few homesteaders have been located by MDHCA; these are the source of the little that is known of the history of some black homesteaders in the East Mojave. But little is known of the others who proved up on their homesteads and obtained patent to the land. Their names, from official records, are: Estella (Stella) Baker, William Bronson, Frank Carter, William H. Carter, a civil war veteran, Nanie Mary Craig, Robert Edwards, Mathew Hodnett, Richard W. Hodnett, Ulysses Hodnett, William Hodnett, Stonewall Jackson, Anna Jones, John David Jones, Nathan Lowe, John Massie, Henry Morton, John Richard Moulton, Eliza Louise (Hawthorne) Reynolds, Millie C. Sheppard, Lila A. Smith, Alfred Summers, a former Buffalo Soldier who served in the U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment, Annie Taylor, widow of Thomas Taylor, and William C. Williams.

The African American experience is a major chapter in the history of Mojave National Preserve. At a time when racial discrimination was rampant in America, these people traveled great distances to get here and endured great hardships to develop their claims and prove up, all in the hope of gaining land and finding freedom. Much was accomplished, but, in the end, as with their white counterparts, they found that it was not economically feasible to stay in Lanfair Valley. They gained title to the land and left. They went on to pursue the American experience elsewhere—it is to be hoped—with an enhanced level of confidence, having succeeded in this project. Most homesteaders retained title to their land, and some of the land remains in the hands of their descendants to this day.



MOJAVE DESERT ARCHIVES, GOFFS, CALIFORNIA

The Hodnett family visited the Lanfair Valley with Dennis Casebier in 2000

I recall one day in 1993 or 1994 with great satisfaction when a black man appeared at the Goffs Cultural Center. He explained that his ancestors had once homesteaded in Lanfair Valley. His aged aunt was outside in his vehicle. He said that he and his aunt still owned land in the East Mojave, but that neither had ever seen it.

We consulted our records at the Goffs Cultural Center to

determine exactly where the land was. We shut down the Cultural Center and took them to the homestead site. We stood to one side as they explored the small debris field that represented all that is left of a once-proud homestead: a few boards, glass shards, tin cans, remains of a sturdy fence line still in place.

They picked up a trinket or two. The rest is history.

Mojave Temperatures: Average High / Low		
	Granite Mountain Elevation 4,200 feet	Zzyzx Elevation 930 feet
January	50°F / 36°F	61°F / 34°F
February	54°F / 38°F	69°F / 40°F
March	59°F / 41°F	74°F / 46°F
April	68°F / 48°F	83°F / 53°F
May	75°F / 54°F	93°F / 61°F
June	85°F / 63°F	103°F / 70°F
July	90°F / 67°F	109°F / 77°F
August	89°F / 66°F	107°F / 75°F
September	83°F / 61°F	100°F / 68°F
October	73°F / 52°F	77°F / 55°F
November	59°F / 41°F	73°F / 46°F
December	50°F / 34°F	62°F / 34°F
Average Annual Precipitation	8.5 inches	3.37 inches

People of the Mojave

Photography by Artist in Residence, Ken Schoening



Craig Genovese appreciates the quiet beauty of his remote lifestyle

Now showing in the Desert Light Gallery, October 6, 2012 – January 6, 2013

While many folks are completely unaware of the Preserve, there are others who are aware of it, but take only a passing interest as they drive by or through on their way to and from Las Vegas. And then there are the People of the Mojave.

In *People of the Mojave*, Ken Schoening explores the lives of four very different people who make their homes within the boundaries of Mojave National Preserve. Through photography, Schoening reveals that these people and the land reflect each other in ways that may surprise and even inspire.

Protect the desert tortoise

Check beneath your vehicle before driving away, tortoises sometimes rest in the shade of a car.

Don't release pet tortoises into the wild they may carry diseases that will spread to wild tortoises. Contact a ranger to learn about tortoise adoption programs.

Don't dump or litter. Garbage attracts ravens and other predators that feed on tortoise eggs and hatchlings.



Do not take a tortoise. It is illegal to remove tortoises from the wild.

If you see a tortoise, stay back. Approaching too closely may cause a tortoise to spray urine in self-defense a potentially fatal loss of fluid.

Reduce speeds and watch for tortoises on desert roadways

Camping & Backcountry Travel

Backcountry Guidelines & Regulations

Backcountry travel and camping—backpacking, roadside camping, and horsepacking—require careful planning in order to ensure a safe and rewarding experience. Visitors should adhere to National Park Service regulations and are further encouraged to follow Leave No Trace guidelines to minimize their impact on the fragile desert environment. Additional regulations apply for roadside camping (see below) and horsepacking (talk with a park ranger or visit us online for more information: www.nps.gov/moja).

Leave No Trace principles are rooted in scientific studies and common sense. The message is framed under seven Leave No Trace Principles presented below with accompanying regulations and guidelines specific to Mojave National Preserve:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

- There is no permit or registration system for backcountry camping at Mojave National Preserve; be sure to notify others of your travel itinerary.
- Few established trails exist; carry a good map and familiarize yourself with desert travel and survival skills before beginning your trip.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Reuse existing campsites (required for roadside camping—see below).
- Do not make camp in a dry wash—flash floods develop quickly in the desert.
- Camping is limited to a maximum of 14 consecutive days per visit/stay and 30 total days per year.
- Campsites must be more than 200 yards from any water source.
- Camping is not permitted: within 1/4 mile of any paved road; within 1/2 mile of Fort Piute or Kelso Depot; within 1 mile north (i.e., the crest of the dunes) or 1/4 mile south of the Kelso Dunes access road. (Exceptions may apply for roadside camping—see below.)

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Store all food and garbage in a manner that will prevent access by wildlife. Carry plastic bags and pack out all trash.
- Bury human waste in catholes 6-8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products.
- Pet excrement must be collected and disposed of in garbage receptacles.

4. Leave What You Find

- Disturbing, defacing, or collecting plants, animals, rocks, and historic or archeological objects is prohibited. As part of our national heritage, these resources should be left as they are found for all to enjoy. Metal detectors are not allowed.

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires are allowed in established fire rings only, or with use of a portable firepan (be sure to pack out ashes). Do not leave fires smoldering or unattended.
- Cutting or collecting any wood, including downed wood, is prohibited. All firewood must be brought into the preserve.

6. Respect Wildlife

7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

This copyrighted information has been reprinted with permission from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. For more information or materials, please visit www.LNT.org or call 303-442-8222.



Friends and family enjoy the spectacular setting of Hole-in-the-Wall Campground.

Campgrounds

Hole-in-the-Wall Campground

Facilities: pit toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire rings, picnic tables, dump station; no utility hookups.

Fees: \$12 per site per night, \$6 for America the Beautiful Senior/Access Pass holders.

Reservations: not accepted; campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis.

At 4,400 feet in elevation, Hole-in-the-Wall Campground is surrounded by sculptured volcanic rock walls and makes a great basecamp for hikers (see p.7) and for exploring nearby Mitchell Caverns in the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area. Thirty-five campsites accommodate RVs and tents; two walk-in sites are also available.

Mid Hills Campground

Facilities: pit toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire rings, picnic tables; no dump station or utility hookups.

Fees: \$12 per site per night, \$6 for America the Beautiful Senior/Access Pass holders.

Reservations: not accepted; campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Hackberry Fire swept through the Mid Hills area in June 2005, burning much of the vegetation. About half of the 26 campsites were left unharmed, however—they remain surrounded by pinyon pine and juniper trees. At 5,600 feet in elevation, Mid Hills is much cooler than the desert floor below. The access road is unpaved and is not recommended for motorhomes or trailers.

Black Canyon Equestrian & Group Campground

Facilities: corrals, pit toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire ring, grill, picnic shelter with tables.

Fees: \$25 per group per night.

Reservations: required; call 760-928-2572 or 760-252-6104

Located across the road from Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center. Ideal for both large groups and for riders - bring your own horse! Permits required for large groups (see p.2 for permit information).

Nearby Camping Areas

Afton Canyon

25 miles southwest of Baker on I-15, has a BLM campground with tables and fire rings for \$6 per night.

Commercial camping is also available at Baker, Barstow, Needles, and Nipton, Calif.

Roadside Camping

Roadside vehicle camping is permitted in areas that have been traditionally used for this purpose. By reusing existing sites, you help protect the desert from further damage. Sites with existing rock fire rings should be considered disturbed and suitable for roadside camping. Many roadside camping sites cannot accommodate multiple vehicles; please don't enlarge them. Do not camp along paved roads or in day-use areas, and stay at least 200 yards from all water sources.

The National Park Service encourages roadside campers to use the following, selected sites:

Near Kelbaker Road:

Rainy Day Mine Site

15.2 miles southeast of Baker on Kelbaker Road, then 0.3 miles northeast on the unsigned and very sandy road to the Rainy Day Mine. Four-wheel drive recommended; no RVs.

Granite Pass

6.1 miles north of I-40 on Kelbaker Road, just north of Granite Pass, then west on one of several access roads. Campsites are located just north of the granite spires. High clearance vehicle recommended; no RVs.

Kelso Dunes Mine

4 miles west of Kelbaker Road on the unpaved Kelso Dunes Road. One campsite is located south of the road, 1/4 mile past the marked trailhead. Several others are available 3/4 mile beyond, near a clump of trees. Except at these sites, roadside camping is prohibited along Kelso Dunes Road (including at the trailhead).

Near Cima Road:

Sunrise Rock

12 miles south of I-15 on the east side of Cima Road. Trailhead for Teutonia Peak Trail is nearby on the opposite side of Cima Road.

Near Black Canyon Road:

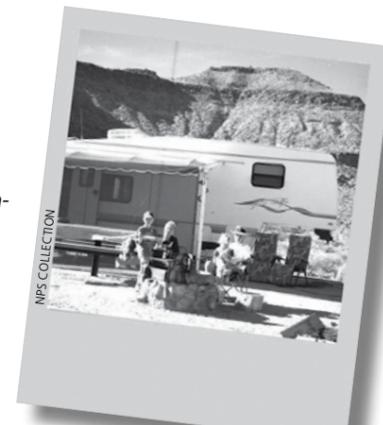
Black Canyon Road (East)

4 miles south of Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center on the east side of Black Canyon Road, above a wash and near a hill with views of the Providence Mountains. Another site is located about 4 miles further south, near rock piles.

Near Ivanpah and Cedar Canyon Roads:

Caruthers Canyon

5.5 miles west of Ivanpah Road on New York Mountains Road, then 1.5 to 2.7 miles north to campsites. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended; no RVs.

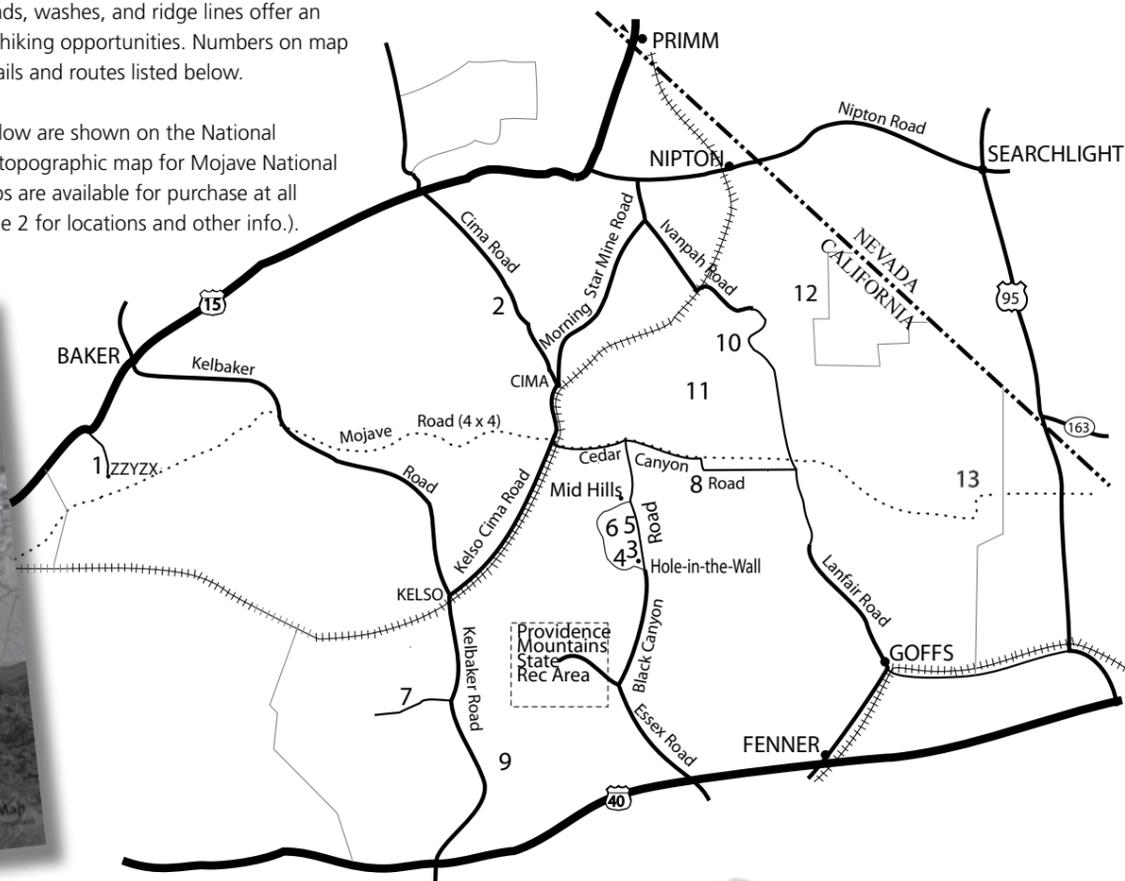
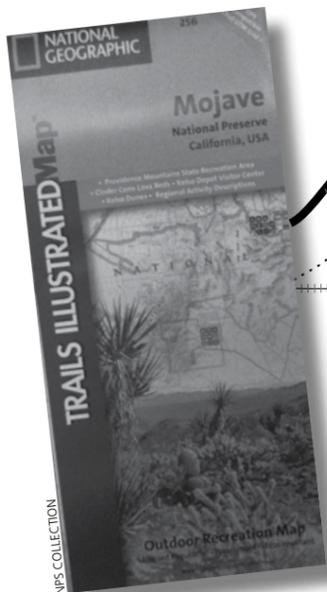


Hiking

Sweeping vistas and opportunities for solitude are a part of every hike in Mojave. Options range from short loop trails to all day cross-country hikes.

Although there are few established hiking trails in Mojave National Preserve, abandoned dirt roads, washes, and ridge lines offer an abundance of cross-country hiking opportunities. Numbers on map show general locations of trails and routes listed below.

All trails and routes listed below are shown on the National Geographic Trails Illustrated topographic map for Mojave National Preserve. This and other maps are available for purchase at all information centers (see page 2 for locations and other info.).



Developed Trails

1) Lake Tuendae Nature Trail

Trailhead: Zzyzx parking area, 5 miles south of I-15 on Zzyzx Road.

Enjoy an easy, self-guided, ¼-mile stroll around Lake Tuendae. Wayside exhibits along the trail reveal the rich cultural and natural history of this oasis on the preserve's western boundary.

2) Teutonia Peak Trail

Trailhead: 12 miles south of I-15, or 5 miles north of Cima, Calif. on Cima Road.

Explore the world's densest Joshua tree forest en route to a rocky peak with expansive views of Cima Dome and beyond. 3 miles round-trip.

3) Hole-in-the-Wall Nature Trail

Trailhead: Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center and Campground, 20 miles north of I-40 on Essex and Black Canyon roads.

Learn to identify desert plants on this easy, ½-mile round-trip hike. Trailheads at Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center and Campground.

4) Rings Loop Trail

Trailhead: Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center parking area, 20 miles north of I-40 on Essex and Black Canyon roads.

Discover how Hole-in-the-Wall got its name as you ascend narrow Banshee Canyon with the help of metal rings mounted in the rock. The 1 mile round-trip hike connects to the Mid Hills to Hole-in-the-Wall Trail (see below).

5) Mid Hills to Hole-in-the-Wall Trail

Trailheads: Entrance to Mid Hills Campground, and about 2 miles west of Black Canyon Road on the south end of Wild Horse Canyon Road.

Hike 8 miles, one-way, through a maze of washes decorated with barrel and cholla cacti, then through the Hackberry Fire burned area. Total elevation gain is 1,200 feet. Watch carefully for trail route markers.

6) Barber Peak Loop Trail

Trailhead: Parking area for walk-in tent sites at Hole-in-the-Wall Campground.

The preserve's newest trail, this 6-mile loop encircles Barber Peak just west of Hole-in-the-Wall Campground, passes the Opalite Cliffs, and returns to Hole-in-the-Wall via Banshee Canyon.

7) Kelso Dunes

Start: 3 miles west of Kelbaker Road on the well-graded, but unpaved Kelso Dunes Road.

Hikers at sunrise and sunset are treated to both cooler temperatures and the rose-colored glow of the dunes. The roughly 3-mile round-trip hike might take several hours as you slog through the sand, then slide down the slopes.

8) Rock Spring Loop Trail

The 1 mile loop trail starts at the Rock House and leads to a well-known watering hole and site of an 1860s military outpost. Trail starts at Rock House, 5 miles east of Black Canyon Road on Cedar Canyon Road.

Recommended Routes

Warning: the routes described below are not established trails; trailheads might be unidentifiable or nonexistent. Check a detailed map or guidebook—available at all information centers—and consult a park ranger for route information.

9) Quail Basin

Start: 12.5 miles north of I-40 on Kelbaker Road, then 1 mile east on an unmarked dirt road. Park at junction with closed dirt road heading south. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.

Follow the route to the south to a road that loops around a small valley. After walking the loop, return via the same route. The 6.5-mile round-trip route leads past jumbled rocks into a small valley of Mojave yucca and juniper surrounded by granite outcroppings.

10) Keystone Canyon

Start: 18 miles south of Nipton Road on Ivanpah Road, then 2.5 miles west on an unmarked dirt road. Bear left at the first fork, right at the second, then continue to a parking area.

Four-wheel drive recommended.

Hike the deteriorating road into Keystone Canyon, ascending the New York Mountains. Continue cross-country to the top of the ridge for spectacular views. Hike is 3 miles one way.

11) Caruthers Canyon

Start: Primitive campsites in Caruthers Canyon, 5.5 miles west of Ivanpah Road on New York Mountains Road, then 2.7 miles north on unsigned road. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.

Hike on an abandoned road through a rocky basin. Mine shafts and abandoned structures are on private property. Do not enter or climb on them as they are unstable and dangerous.

12) Castle Peaks Corridor

Start: 4.9 miles east of Ivanpah Road on signed Hart Mine Road; left at fork, then 0.9 miles, left at fork, then 3.4 miles, crossing an earthen berm; left at fork, then 1 mile more to where road ends. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.

For excellent views of the Castle Peak spires, walk 4 miles one way up the closed road to the ridgetop and beyond into a small canyon.

13) Piute Creek

Start: 9.5 miles east of the junction of Lanfair Valley and Cedar Canyon roads on a dirt utility road, then 0.5 miles north. High clearance and four-wheel drive recommended.

Hike 6.5 miles round-trip through colorful Piute Gorge and explore the ruins of Fort Piute, built and manned in the 1860s to protect mail and travelers on the Mojave Road. A perennial stream near the fort, rare in the Mojave, supports riparian plants and animals. Return to your vehicle via an unused trace of the Mojave Road.

Mitchell Caverns to remain closed indefinitely

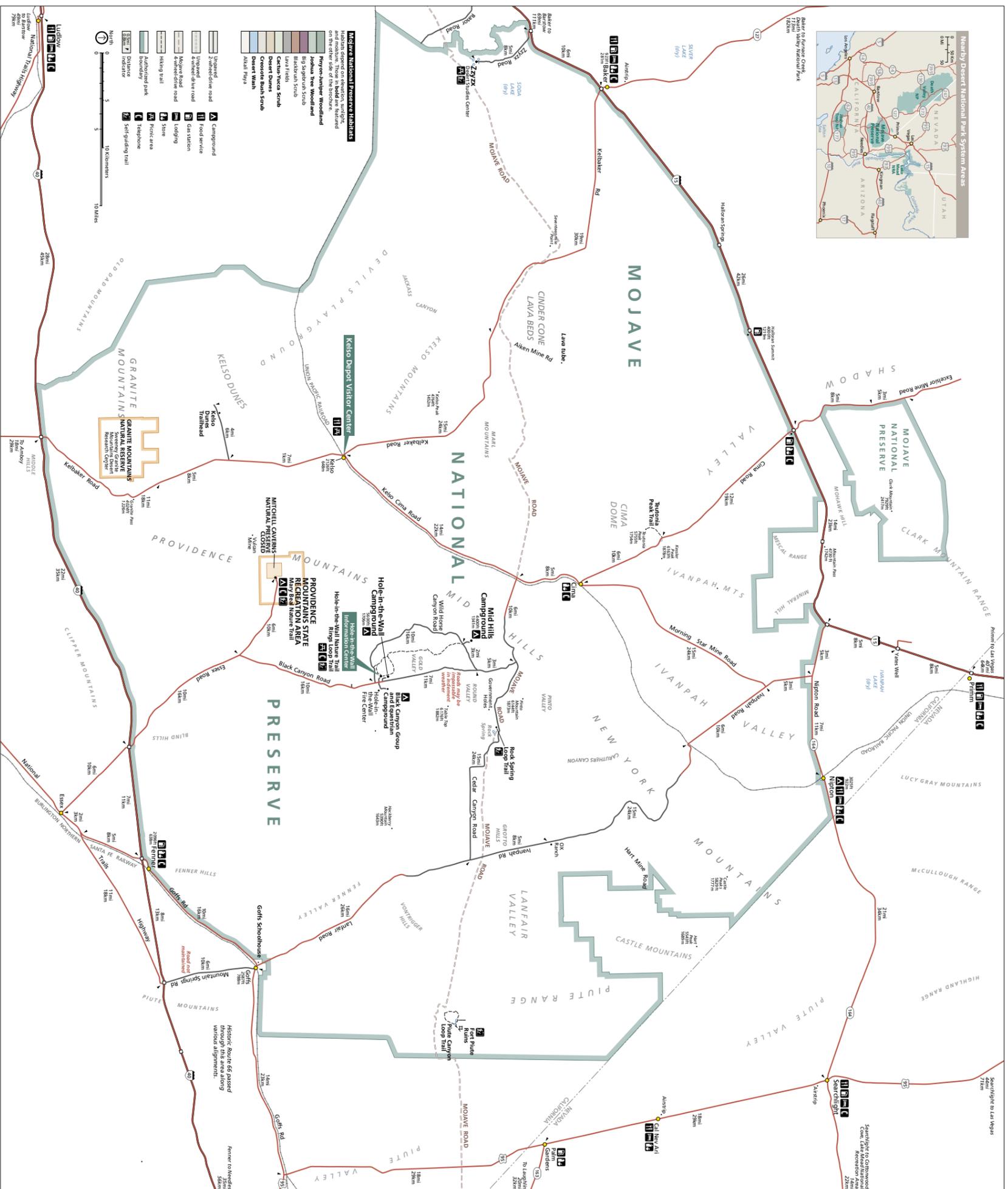
Visitors to Mojave's Hole-in-the-Wall Campground often include a tour of Mitchell Caverns as part of their activities...but no more. State budget problems have forced the shutdown of this beloved desert attraction.

Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, home to Mitchell Caverns, is a California State Park located within the boundaries of Mojave National Preserve. State park officials shut down operations in January 2011. Employee retirements coincided with the development of serious problems with the water system, and state officials decided to temporarily close the park until the system could be repaired.

Meanwhile, shortfalls in the California state budget caused lawmakers in Sacramento to ask that state agencies identify possible budget cuts. In May 2011, California State Parks released its closure list, and Providence Mountains was among the 70 parks included. Although closures for most parks on the list won't go into effect until July 2012, California State Parks officials decided not to invest in repairs to the park's infrastructure during a time of shrinking budgets, so Providence Mountains State Recreation Area remains closed.

Mitchell Caverns was initially developed as a privately operated tourist attraction by Jack and Ida Mitchell in the early 1930s. Jack Mitchell died in 1954, and his family turned the property over to the state. Providence Mountains State Recreation Area was added to the California State Park system in 1956.

Over the years, California State Parks has made many improvements to the caverns, including the development of a safe pathway through the caverns, a tunnel connecting the two principal caves, and installation of a lighting system. However, the caverns' remote location and lack of connection to the electrical grid have contributed to the difficulties in its operation and maintenance. With continuing weakness in the economy and ongoing fiscal issues for California State Parks, the future of Mitchell Caverns remains uncertain.



Telephone Directory

Emergency 911
Federal Interagency Communications Center 909-383-5651
San Bernardino County Sheriff - Baker 760-733-4448
San Bernardino County Sheriff - Needles 760-326-9200

Mojave National Preserve

Barstow Headquarters Office 760-252-6100
Kelso Depot Visitor Center 760-252-6108
The Beanery @ Kelso (lunch room) 760-252-6165
Hole-in-the-Wall Fire Center 760-928-2573
Hole-in-the-Wall Information Center 760-252-6104 or 760-928-2572

Nearby Parklands

Anza Borrego Desert State Park 760-767-4205
Bureau of Land Mgmt. - Barstow Field Office 760-252-6000
Bureau of Land Mgmt. - Needles Field Office 760-326-7000
Calico Ghost Town 760-254-2122
Death Valley National Park 760-786-2331
Joshua Tree National Park 760-367-5500
Lake Mead National Recreation Area 702-293-8990
Providence Mountains State Recreation Area 760-928-2586

Website Directory

National Park Service
www.nps.gov/moja
www.nps.gov/dvna
www.nps.gov/jotr
www.nps.gov/flame
Mojave National Preserve
www.nps.gov/moja
Death Valley National Park
www.nps.gov/dvna
Joshua Tree National Park
www.nps.gov/jotr
Lake Mead National Recreation Area
http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=615

Providence Mountains State Recreation Area
www.wmpa.org
http://biology.fullerton.edu/dsc/
CSU Desert Studies Center (Zzyzx)
www.blm.gov
http://nrs.ucop.edu/Sweeney-Granite.htm
DesertUSA wildflower reports
www.desertusa.com/wildflowerupdates
Desert Tortoise data and information
www.deserttortoise.gov
Desert Discovery Center
www.discoverytrails.org/welcome1.html
Wilderness information
www.wilderness.net
California Desert
www.californiadesert.gov
Leave No Trace
www.lnt.org
US Federal government jobs
www.usajobs.opm.gov

