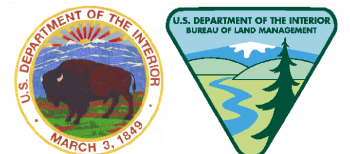
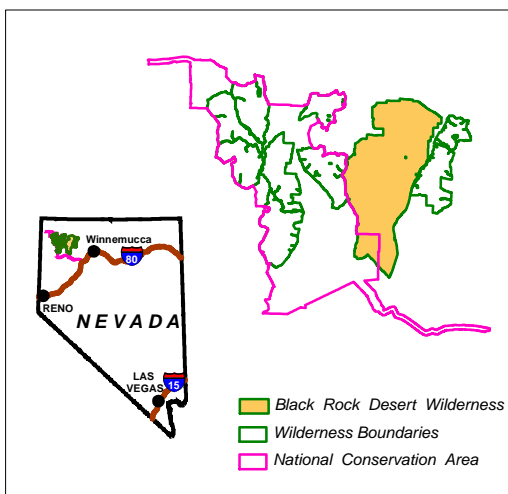


Black Rock Desert Wilderness Area
314,829 Acres

- Bureau of Land Management
- Native American Reservation
- Private Land
- Intermittent Water
- Woodland
- Contour Line
200 foot interval
- Spot Elevations (in feet)
- Wilderness Area
- Wilderness Study Area
- National Conservation Area Boundary
- Applegate National Historic Trail
- 2049 BLM Roads
- 214 County Roads (Paved)
- 214 County Roads (Unpaved)
- Motorized Trails
- Other Dirt Roads



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

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.

Black Rock Desert Wilderness Area



Location

The Wilderness is located in western Humboldt County and can be accessed by driving 53 miles west from Winnemucca on Jungo Road to the historic town site of Sulphur and then driving north along the Sulphur /Jackson Road which forms the eastern boundary of the Wilderness. The Wilderness can also be reached by taking the Leonard Creek Road south from State Highway 140.

Description

The Black Rock Desert Wilderness, which encompasses the eastern arm of the Black Rock Desert playa, is the largest Wilderness managed by the Bureau of Land Management (covering 314,829 acres). This area contains the remains of the prehistoric Lake Lahontan which consists of a large, dry alkali lakebed. Scattered vegetation of saltbrush, greasewood and sage brush create an unusual mosaic pattern of cover throughout the Wilderness. When it flows, the Quinn River meanders through the Wilderness and is eventually swallowed up by the dry lakebed. Although the area is virtually flat, the western edge rises in elevation to 5,931 feet on top of Elephant Mountain, which allows for spectacular views of the Wilderness. In recent years the remains of several woolly mammoths and a saber tooth tiger, believed to have been trapped in the ancient lake's muddy shoreline, have been discovered. Reptile species, such as lizards, desert horned toads and snakes make their home the lakebed itself. The Black Rock Desert has long been recognized as an outstanding place to get away from it all.

Recreational Opportunities

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

Why Wilderness?

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

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

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

Allowable Uses of Wilderness

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

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

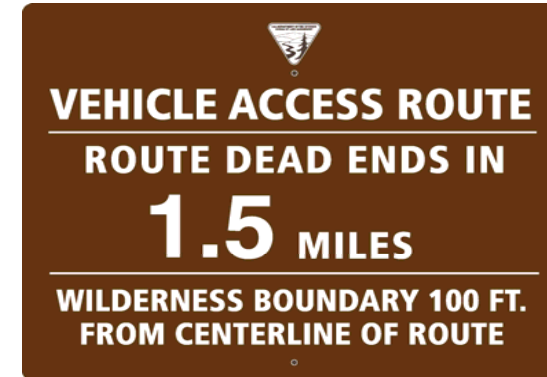
Hunting

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

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

Motorized Access

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



The wilderness boundaries and routes closed to motorized use within the boundaries are identified with a wilderness boundary post like the one to the right. BLM strives to maintain the boundary signing along the Wilderness Areas, but it is the visitor's responsibility to know where the boundaries are.



Traveling and Safety:

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

Climate and Special Equipment Needs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Further Information Contact

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

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

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

Emergency Numbers

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

