



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
RIDGECREST FIELD OFFICE



# EL PASO MOUNTAINS



**AREA DESCRIPTION:** The roads and trails of the El Paso Mountains will lead you into a region known for its dazzling multihued canyons, historic mining areas and primitive desert landscapes. This area is managed as a **limited use area** by the Bureau of Land Management and is open to motorized vehicle use on **existing routes and trails** (unless posted closed). The El Pasos offer great opportunities for exploring with a sport utility vehicle, dual sport motorcycle, mountain bike, horse or on foot.

**TO GET THERE:** To start with you will need a copy of the BLM's Desert Access Guides for Cuddeback Lake and Ridgecrest. A high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle equipped with desert survival gear is essential.

From the southwest, use SR 14 to the Red Rock-Inyokern Road approximately 3.0 miles north of Red Rock State Park. Follow this graded dirt road north to Hart Road, and then proceed into the heart of the El Pasos by traveling east. This is a great way to get to the Burro Schmidt Tunnel, Bickel Camp and Last Chance Canyon.

From the south try the Mesquite Canyon Road located 1.0 mile west of the intersection of Red Rock-Randsburg Road and Garlock Road.

To enter the El Pasos from the north travel west from the intersection of US 395 and "Old 395" approximately 3.5 miles to EP18, a paved road leading to a large sand and gravel pit. This road turns into a rough unmaintained dirt road in 1.5 miles and is popular with mountain bikers, jeeps and equestrians.

**SERVICES:** Food and fuel are available in Ridgecrest. The nearest medical facilities are located in Ridgecrest at Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, telephone 760-446-3551. BLM Rangers also frequently patrol the area to offer assistance and information.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

- Camping is permitted anywhere, but is limited to a maximum of 14 days.
- Green Sticker OHV registration is mandatory for ALL vehicles that are not "street legal"/licensed.
- Vehicles must have legal headlights and tail lights if they are used at night.

- The draining of holding tanks is prohibited.
- The El Pasos are home to the Desert Tortoise. Collecting tortoises is prohibited. Please avoid handling or disturbing these desert creatures.
- All historic and prehistoric features and artifacts are protected. Do not collect or otherwise damage these relics of our heritage.

Pets are allowed, but please keep your pets under control at all times.

Horses are permitted, however, you may be required to carry feed.

**CAMPING:** Camping is permitted, limited to 14 days. After 14 days, campers must relocate at least 25 miles from previous site.

Gathering wood for campfires, when permitted, is limited to dead and down materials. Live vegetation can not be cut.

Practice *Leave No Trace* Principles:



- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces
- Pack It in Pack It Out
- Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Use and Impact of Fires

For additional information contact:

Bureau of Land Management  
Ridgecrest Resource Area  
300 S. Richmond Rd.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
Telephone: (760) 384-5400

Jawbone Station  
28111 Jawbone Canyon Rd., P.O. Box D  
Cantil, CA 93519  
Telephone: 760-373-1146