

Wilderness.net's Little Picacho Wilderness Fact Sheet

Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Little Picacho Wilderness in 1994 and it now has a total of 38,216 acres. All of the wilderness is in California and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Description

Within the southern portion of the Chocolate Mountains, with elevations ranging from 200 feet to 1,500 feet, the Little Picacho Wilderness is characterized by dramatic jutting spires and steep ridges. Little Picacho Peak stands in the northern portion amid numerous ravines that gradually descend and broaden into sandy, tree-lined washes. The slopes and plains are covered with the angular cobbles known as desert pavement--a stark contrast to the nearly white bottoms of the washes. A herd of at least 25 desert bighorn sheep live here. The Picacho wild horse herd inhabits a range in the northwestern corner of the Wilderness. Wild burros roam throughout the area, sharing their abode with desert tortoises and spotted bats.

Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Little Picacho Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

Area Management

The Little Picacho Wilderness is part of the 111 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Little Picacho Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

Unless otherwise specified, no motorized equipment or mechanical transport, with the exception of wheelchairs, is allowed. This is generally true for all federal lands managed as designated wilderness.

Links to Other Websites

[Bureau of Land Management, Little Picacho Wilderness](#)

Links on Wilderness.net

[National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

[Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
Public Law 103-433	October 31, 1994	33,600
California Desert Protection Act of 1994 - Public Law 103-433 (10/31/1994) "California Desert Protection Act of 1994" An Act to designate certain lands in the California Desert as wilderness, to establish the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, to establish the Mojave National Preserve, and for other purposes.		

 [download 103-433](#)