

# Wilderness.net's Muggins Mountain Wilderness Fact Sheet



## Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Muggins Mountain Wilderness in 1990 and it now has a total of 7,711 acres. All of the wilderness is in Arizona and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

## Description

Close to the California border stands a cluster of rugged peaks at the western extreme of the Muggins Mountains, a region of colorful geologic strata and scenic landforms. Within Muggins Mountain

Wilderness, elevations range from about 200 to 1,600 feet with the most prominent summits being Muggins Peak at 1,424 feet, Klothos Temple at 1,193 feet, and Long Mountain at 914 feet. Deeply cut drainages, such as Twin Tanks Wash and Long Mountain Wash, dissect the area. Prominent species of vegetation in the area include Creosote Bush, Desert Lavender, White Bursage, Rock Hibiscus, Desert Ironwood, Foothills Palo Verde, Blue Palo Verde, Buckhorn Cholla, Brittle Bush, Ocotillo, Catclaw Acacia, and Saguaro Cactus. Common wildlife includes Black-throated Sparrow, Rock Wren, Great-horned Owl, bats, ringtail, and side-blotched lizards.

A few hardy day hikers, backpackers, and rock climbers make the trek here, but there is an excellent chance you'll have this dry area to yourself. This area only receives 3.8 inches of precipitation each year and July temperatures average between 79.6 and 106.6 degrees Fahrenheit. In December, temperatures average from 42.4 to 68.1 degrees. When crossing the Yuma Military Proving Ground, north of the Wilderness, visitors are required to stay on the main road. Muggins Peak Trail is 5.2 miles long and Muggins Mountains Trail is 5.0 miles.

## 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 Muggins Mountain 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.](#)

## Location

The Muggins Mountains Wilderness area is located approximately 25 miles east of Yuma, Arizona. Access by high-clearance and/or four-wheel drive vehicles is recommended.

To access Muggins Wash, take exit 21 (Dome Valley) from I-8. Pass through Ligorita on Old Highway 80 and turn north onto County Ave. 20E. Turn east onto County 7th Street and Drive Beyond the Dome Valley Transfer Station to the Muggins Wash nonwilderness corridor. The corridor extends into the center of the Wilderness near the southern base of Muggins Peak but becomes rough, four-wheel-drive-only for the last mile or so. It is recommended that you leave your vehicle near the information kiosk or before descending into the wash.

## Area Management

The Muggins Mountain 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 Muggins Mountain Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

There are no developed trails, visitor facilities, or permanent water sources within the Wilderness. A wildlife water catchment is located in the Wilderness about ½ mile from the southeast boundary. A visitor register and informational display is located near the beginning of the Muggins Wash nonwilderness corridor.

## Contacts

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## Links to Other Websites

[Bureau of Land Management, Muggins Mountain 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)
<b>Public Law 101-628</b>	<b>November 28, 1990</b>	<b>8,855</b>

Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 - Public law 101-628 (11/28/1990) To provide for the designation of certain public lands as wilderness in the State of Arizona

 [download 101-628](#)

## Recreational Opportunities

Recreational opportunities include hiking, primitive camping, horseback riding, and hunting. Noncommercial trapping is permitted in accordance with State and Federal laws. Hobby rock collecting is permitted, but limited to hand methods or detection equipment that does not cause a surface disturbance- digging and prying tools are not permitted.

To help preserve Wilderness character through responsible recreation, please:

Choose your equipment in earthtone colors that blend in with the environment.

Hike in small groups when traveling cross-country.

Camp at least ¼ mile from wildlife water sources.

Hide your camp from view and refrain from building camp structures.

Use camp stoves instead of campfires.

If you do build a fire, do not construct a fire ring and use only small sticks. Once the fire is out, scatter ashes and naturalize the area.

Pick up trash and pack it out (yours and others).

Be courteous to other people. Avoid loud music or noise and keep pets under control.

Bury human waste in cat holes 6-8 inches deep and at least 75 paces from your camp or water sources.

## Climate and Special Equipment Needs

Temperatures can be as low as 30° Fahrenheit from December through January,, and can reach above 115° Fahrenheit or greater during June through September. Precipitation generally ranges from 2 to 4 inches per year. Rainfall, which can occur at any time of the year, is often preceded by strong and sudden windstorms. Watch for cloud build up and be aware of possible flash flooding in washes and drainages.

## **Safety and Current Conditions**

For your safety:

Let a friend or relative know where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

Plan your trip. Take plenty of water; there are no permanent water sources or facilities in the Muggins Mountains.

Be prepared for extreme temperatures. Check weather forecasts. Dehydration and heat exhaustion can be life threatening. In colder months, guard against hypothermia.

Be aware of poisonous animals. The Wilderness is home to many reptiles and insects whose bite or sting could ruin your day. Never put hands or feet where you can't see.

Pace yourselves and recognize your limitations as well as your abilities. The terrain is rugged and there are no established trails. Watch your footing.