

Wilderness.net's Table Mountain Wilderness Fact Sheet



Credit:
Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Table Mountain Wilderness in 1989 and it now has a total of 92,627 acres. All of the wilderness is in Nevada and is managed by the Forest Service.

Description

A unique high plateau, or tableland, distinguishes this Wilderness. This rolling, semiforested region attracts hikers and especially horsepackers. The Monitor Range, in which Table Mountain stands, rises above 10,000 feet and provides a home for one of the largest

mule deer herds in the state. A well-established elk herd introduced in 1979 adds incentive for hunters. Five major streams attract anglers seeking trout. Large stands of aspen over much of the mountainsides are unusual in this region of central Nevada. Some of the aspens are carved with dates dating back as early as 1907 and well-preserved samples of Basque sheepherder art. The Barley Creek Trail, entering from the south, is the most used access. After five miles of hiking, you can take a steep one-mile side trail to the top of Table Mountain. Before you get to the side trail you'll pass alongside beaver ponds with good fishing. From where the Barley Creek Trail splits the west fork will take you to Dry Lake and all the way across the Wilderness to the Morgan Creek Trailhead on the north end, for a total walking distance of about 20 miles. Other trailheads can be accessed at Mosquito Creek on the west side, Clear Creek (which goes to Clear Lake) on the east side, and Green Monster Canyon on the east side.

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 Table 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.](#)

Area Management

The Table Mountain Wilderness is part of the 110 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 Table Mountain Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

General Wilderness Prohibitions

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation.

In a few areas some exceptions allowing the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport are described in the special regulations in effect for a specific area. Contact the Forest Service office for more specific information.

These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires management of human-caused impacts and protection of the area's wilderness character to insure that it is "unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Use of the equipment listed as prohibited in wilderness is inconsistent with the provision in the Wilderness Act which mandates opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and that wilderness is a place that is in contrast with areas where people and their works are dominant.

Wilderness-Specific Regulations

Wilderness managers often need to take action to limit the impacts caused by visitor activities in order to protect the natural conditions of wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Managers typically implement 'indirect' types of actions such as information and education measures before selecting more restrictive measures. When regulations are necessary, they are implemented with the specific intent of balancing the need to preserve the character of the wilderness while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The following wilderness regulations are in effect for this area. Not all regulations are in effect for every wilderness. Contact the Forest Service office for more specific information about the regulations listed.

ALL VISITORS

- Do not shortcut switchbacks.
- Pack out all debris, garbage, or other waste. Leave No Trace!
- As with all designated Wilderness, mechanical transportation (including wagons, game carts, and

other vehicles) is prohibited.

Contacts

Austin Ranger District
100 MIDAS CANYON ROAD
PO BOX 130
AUSTIN, NV 89310

Phone: 775-964-2671

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 101-195	December 5, 1989	98,000
Nevada Wilderness Protection Act - Public law 101-195 (12/5/1989) To designate certain lands in the State of Nevada as wilderness, and for other purposes		

 [download 101-195](#)