

Wilderness Study Areas

Eagle Lake Field Office

Map & Guide

Protect your public lands and resources by staying on designated routes and trails!



BLM/CA-IG-2022/003+8000

For more information contact:

**Bureau of Land Management
Eagle Lake Field Office**
2550 Riverside Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-0456

www.blm.gov/office/eagle-lake-field-office

Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return!

Hospital Information

Banner Lassen Medical Center Emergency Room

1800 Spring Ridge Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 252-2000

North Eastern Rural Health Clinic Urgent Care

1850 Spring Ridge Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-5000

Contact Information

Lassen County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency

(530) 257-6121

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lassen County

(530) 254-6644

California State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Division

(916) 324-4442

Emergencies

DIAL 911

Safety

Road conditions can change suddenly in stormy weather. Many of the cherry stems and designated roads that access the WSAs are not maintained regularly.

- Adverse weather, fire, and flooding can all happen in the WSAs. Check local forecasts and be aware of changing conditions.
- Mountain lions are rarely seen, but if you encounter one, do not run. Stand your ground, look bigger by fanning out jackets, make noise and throw rocks.
- Use updated maps and orientation, as GPS and phone signals are limited.
- Bring sunscreen, clothing layers, and plenty of water and food.
- Always filter or boil water from natural sources.
- Be aware of other hunters and visitors and practice safe hunting.
- Range cattle may be encountered in the WSAs year-round, and they may not move for you. Use caution and approach slowly.

Welcome

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for 260 wilderness areas and 491 wilderness study areas in the western United States and Alaska. From primitive hunting locations to remote fishing, hiking, and camping spots, these designated areas provide unparalleled opportunities for time spent outdoors.

Wilderness Study Areas

The wilderness study areas of California's Eagle Lake Field Office offer an amazing opportunity to experience the vast ruggedness of the western Great Basin. Stretched before you are vast panoramas of sage and rice grass uplands rising to eroded volcanic peaks, bisected by canyons and abundant with wildlife. Here mammoths once foraged near Pleistocene Lake Lahontan. Later these regions formed the homelands for hunter-gatherer peoples, and still later they were marked by the wagon tracks of explorers and emigrants from the East.

Rugged, quiet, and mostly untouched by humans, these places offer rare opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in an increasingly urbanized world. However, their future is still undetermined.

In 1976 Congress directed the BLM to evaluate all public land under its jurisdiction for wilderness characteristics. These identified areas became WSA set aside for Congress to consider adding to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Until Congress decides to add or end consideration of a WSA, the BLM manages the area to preserve its suitability for designation as wilderness, defined by the Wilderness Preservation Act as "where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Congress mandated four wilderness characteristics in each WSA that must not be impaired:

Size: At least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

Naturalness: Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

Outstanding opportunities: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation.

Other features: May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The WSAs managed by the Eagle Lake Field Office are rich in wilderness qualities. They also sustain cattle grazing and limited vehicle access. This field office manages over one million acres of public land, which includes about 330,000 acres of WSAs.

For more information about the WSAs not covered in this guide and map, please contact the field office at 530-257-0456.



Skedaddle WSA

Rugged and untamed, the core of this WSA is a massive caldera blending the summits, canyons, and alluvial slopes of the Skedaddle and Amedee Mountains. This caldera, an erupted volcanic crater, crests at Hot Springs Peak (7,558 ft.) where aspen groves overlook sagebrush-covered flats to the north and east. These habitats are essential for sage grouse courtship and nesting and provide for many other species as well.

Hikers atop the ranges to the west are rewarded with views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Honey Lake and will find ample signs of mountain lions and coyotes on these elongated inclines, as well as in the canyons that bisect them. James, Amedee, and Wendel Canyons support willows, wild rose, and berry shrubs at the bases of steep, crumbling cliffs.

Gold rush-era wagon tracks cross the northern sections of the WSA. Smoke Creek Road, along with Skedaddle Ranch Road, are open for OHV use and popular with chukar and antelope hunters.

Dry Valley Rim WSA

Defined by a fault block 20 miles long and rising 1,500 feet over its surroundings, the rim of Dry Valley commands views of Smoke Creek Desert to the east. In the spring, brilliant wildflowers bloom where Pleistocene Lake Lahontan once lapped its shores.

West of there, mule deer and pronghorn antelope browse grasses and sagebrush, attracting animal predators year-round and hunters in the fall.

Chukar partridge is the hunter's favorite bag within the steep rock escarpments on the Nevada side. Hunter access to the east is via Pipe Springs Road



while the north side is accessible from Smoke Creek Road.

The Nobles Emigrant Trail is a window into the past, cutting through Smoke Creek Canyon along the northern edge of the WSA. Ruts left by wagon wheels of the pioneers are visible near the interpretive sign alongside Smoke Creek Road. The landscape is much as it was in the 1850s, when travelers seeking fortune and fresh opportunities faced great risk or lost their lives passing through here.

For more information contact the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office for a map and guide of the Nobles Emigrant Trail.

Five Springs WSA

Central to Five Springs WSA are three ridge-like peaks: Five Springs Mountain, Cherry Mountain, and Rush Creek Mountain. Heavily eroded, each mountain now forms multiple peaks separated by wide canyons. Rush Creek is a riparian corridor with willows, but is mostly perennial, as is nearby Stony Creek.

Remote and surrounded primarily by roadless areas, this WSA is a quiet bastion for wildlife.

Other Recreation Opportunities

In addition to this guide the BLM manages several WSA's which include Tunnison Mountain, Buffalo Hills, Twin Peaks and a portion of the Poodle Mountain WSA. For a map of these WSAs or other lands, a Recreation Map and Guide is available for purchase and covers the entire BLM Eagle Lake Field Office Boundary.

Additional free maps and guides which depict off-highway vehicle (OHV) use opportunities are available for the Fort Sage OHV area, Rice Canyon OHV Area and Dry Valley OHV area at the BLM Eagle Lake Field Office and on the web at www.blm.gov/office/eagle-lake-field-office.

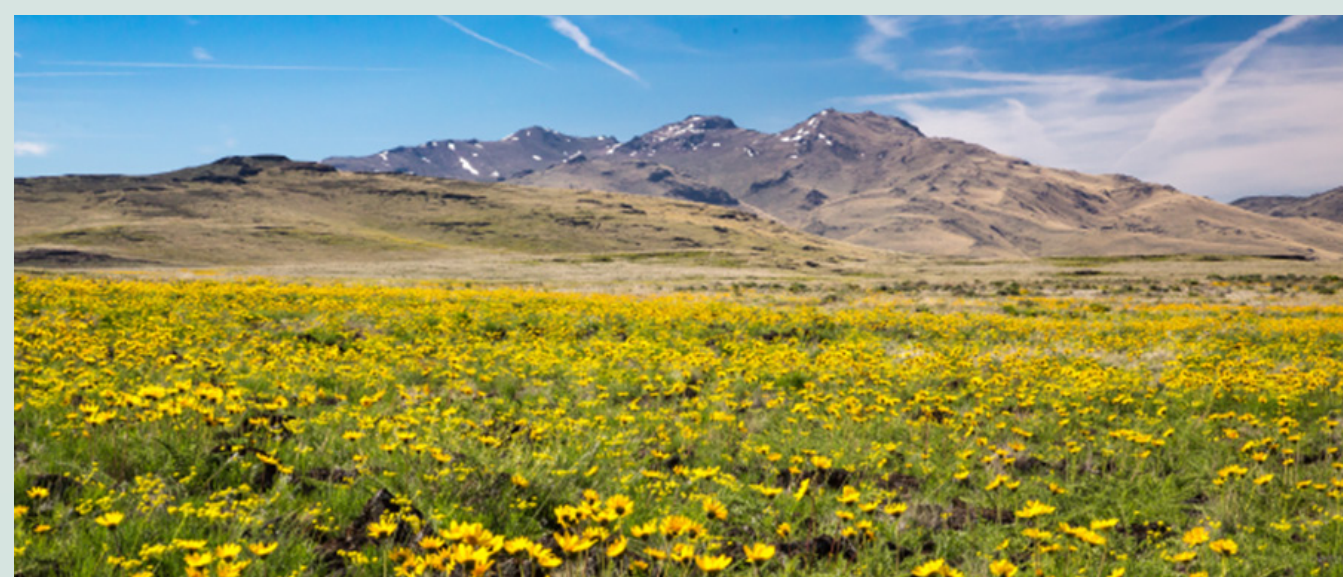
Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Where to Drive and Bicycle

Cherry Stems and Legal Roads

There are two main types of routes open to vehicle and bicycle access in the WSAs: cherry stems and legal roads. Cherry stems are primitive driving routes that existed prior to 1979. When Congress established



WSAs that year, it "grandfathered" these routes in, making them legal for driving and bicycling. They are open to street-legal vehicles, off-highway vehicles, and bicycles. While they access the WSAs, these cherry stems are not part of the WSAs themselves. The WSA boundaries follow the edges of the roads.

The legal roads, also open to vehicles, OHVs and bicycles, are similar. For example, Skedaddle Ranch Road is legal for vehicle and bicycle use. If you step out of your vehicle onto Skedaddle Ranch Road you are not in a WSA. If you step off the road, you have entered a WSA.

Unauthorized Routes

Creating new vehicle tracks (including bicycle tracks), routes or surface disturbances in a WSA is illegal and punishable by law. Visitors using any vehicles must limit their travel to the legal cherry stems and designated roads shown on the included map.



Please adhere to as the map and signs in the WSAs when planning vehicle or bicycle excursions. Respecting these laws is an important part of protecting these lands.

The California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR) grant program funding is used in part to restore and sign these unauthorized routes created by OHV use.

Please respect the lands and stay on the authorized roads and trails! For more information about the grant program funding visit their website at <https://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>

Activities

Hiking

Hiking is a great way to explore the WSAs. Hike on durable surfaces following Leave No Trace principles. There are no designated hiking trails in the WSAs. Choose your own adventure using maps and orienteering. GPS and phone signals are limited.

Camping

WSAs are great for primitive and dispersed tent camping. There are no developed campsites and potable water is not available. Bring plenty of drinking water and be prepared for harsh desert conditions. Camping is allowed up to 14 days

Campfires

Minimize campfire impacts by choosing durable surfaces and cleaning up after use. Campfires are permitted with a current campfire permit, available free online or at any BLM or Forest Service office. Seasonal fire restrictions may prohibit campfires during periods of high fire danger. Make sure your fire is completely out and cold to the touch when leaving camp. You can get a campfire permit and check on fire restrictions and conditions by checking with the Eagle Lake Field Office.

Horseback Riding

Ride on durable surfaces following Leave No Trace principles. There are no designated trails in the WSAs. Choose your own adventure using maps and orienteering.

Hunting

Hunting on foot or horseback is the preferred method in the WSAs. Vehicle use is limited to legal roads and cherry stem routes shown on the map. Respect all private property postings and gain permission to cross private lands. For hunting regulations contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Nevada Department of Fish and Wildlife, depending on your location.

Fishing

Several of the WSA creeks provide good fishing, including Willow Creek in the Tunnison Mountain WSA. For fishing regulations contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

OHVs

OHV use is limited to legal cherry stems and designated roads shown on the map. Please stay on the legal routes. Competitive races are prohibited.

Bicycles

Bicycle use is limited to cherry stem routes and roads shown on the map. Organized group events are prohibited.

Other Activities

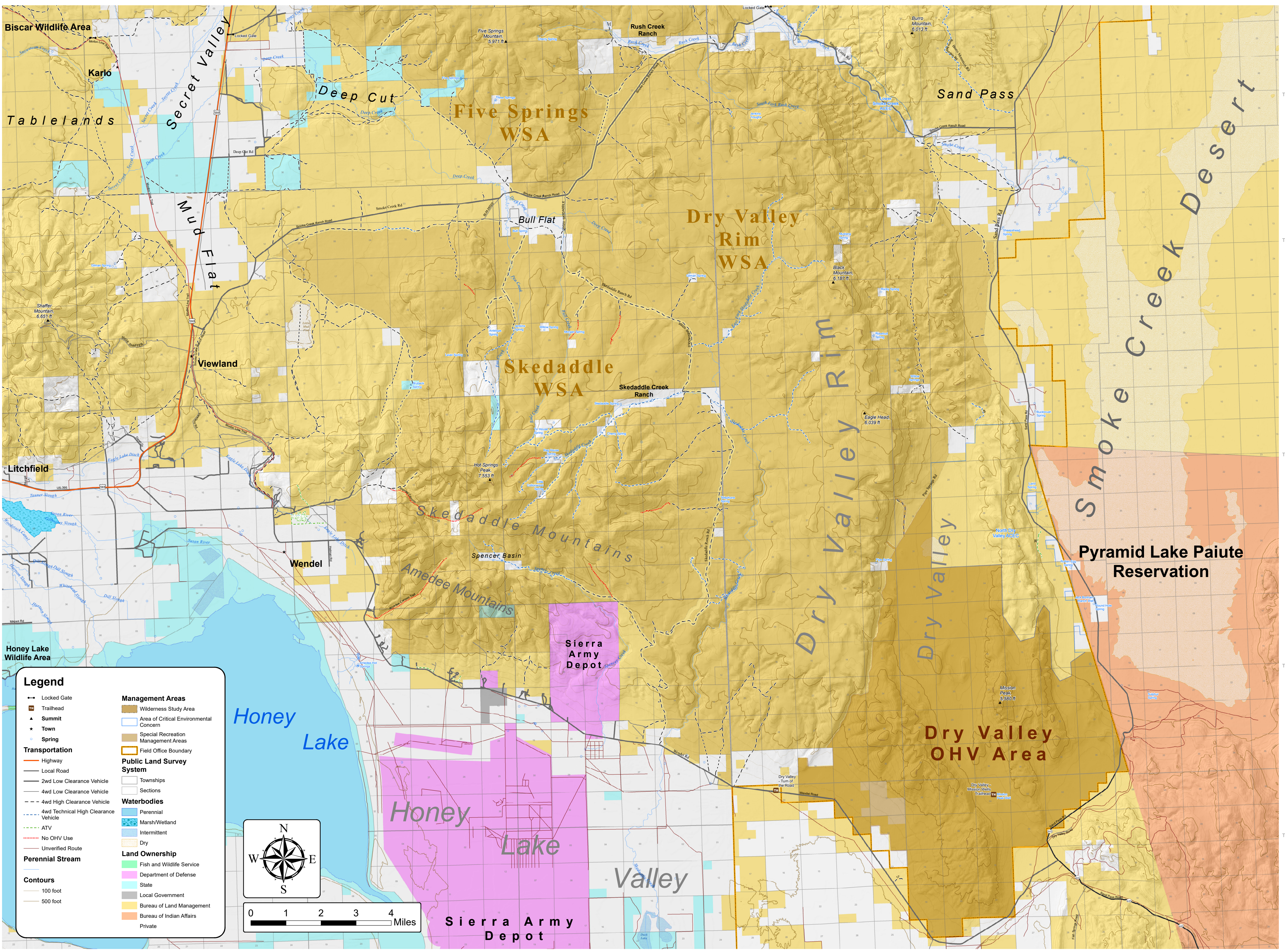
The WSAs are great places for photography, night sky viewing, birdwatching, and wildlife viewing.

Prominent Wildlife: You may see pronghorn antelope, mule deer, wild horses, wild burros, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, Great Basin rattlesnakes, Great Basin collared lizards, sage grouse, chukar partridges, golden eagles, bald eagles, ravens, burrowing owls, and brown trout.

Prominent Plant Life: Expect to see sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, juniper, pinyon pine, sedges, willows, wild rose, curl leaf mountain mahogany, berry shrubs, and aspen.

Cultural Resources

Ancient petroglyphs and other cultural artifacts may be found in the WSAs. Many of these are hold spiritual significance to people today. Leave artifacts where you find them and do not touch or rub petroglyphs. These are protected resources. It is against the law to damage, disturb or remove them.



Legend

- Locked Gate
- Trailhead
- Summit
- Town
- Spring

Transportation

- Highway
- Local Road
- 2wd Low Clearance Vehicle
- 4wd Low Clearance Vehicle
- 4wd High Clearance Vehicle
- 4wd Technical High Clearance Vehicle
- ATV
- No OHV Use
- Unverified Route

Perennial Stream

- Perennial Stream

Contours

- 100 foot
- 500 foot

Management Areas

- Wilderness Study Area
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Special Recreation Management Areas
- Field Office Boundary

Public Land Survey System

- Townships
- Sections

Waterbodies

- Perennial
- Marsh/Wetland
- Intermittent
- Dry

Land Ownership

- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Department of Defense
- State
- Local Government
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Private

