Area Description

At just 4,631 acres, the Jumbo Springs Wilderness makes up for its small size with intensely rugged, mountainous terrain and a remote location that offers grand views overlooking the eastern end of Lake Mead. Known for the majestic granitic domes and smooth cliffs that cap its mountains, this wilderness holds the upper canyons of three major washes that drain south and east into Lake Mead.

Mojave desert tortoise, Gambel’s quail, side-blotched lizards, roadrunners, and a variety of bird species make their home among the sparse creosote and other Mojave Desert scrub vegetation tucked away among the maze of canyons. Bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyote, and jackrabbits can be found in the higher elevations, topping out at 4,700 feet above sea level.

Rarely noticed by even the most attentive outdoor enthusiasts, cryptobiotic crusts live on the edges of the washes. These living soil crusts build up over time and play a vital role in the health of desert ecosystems, holding easily eroded soil in place and helping absorb what little rainfall the desert receives.

Directions

The Jumbo Springs Wilderness lies in a remote corner of southern Nevada approximately 50 air miles east of Las Vegas, beyond the Overton Arm of Lake Mead just west of the state line. The borders of Jumbo Springs Wilderness follow rocky cliffs and hillsides south and east of Jumbo Peak and Jumbo Springs.

Dirt roads of varying conditions provide access to this wilderness from Devil’s Cove Road to the east and Scanlon Ferry Road to the west. To access these roads, drive south from Interstate 15 on State Route 170/Riverside Road. After crossing the Virgin River, turn west onto New Gold Butte Road. After about 38 miles, Devil’s Cove Road splits south off of New Gold Butte Road, following Cottonwood Wash. To access the wilderness from the west, continue about 8 miles further on New Gold Butte Road from Devil’s Cove Road, then take Scanlon Ferry Road south along Gregg Wash.

Recreation

Offering surprising and spectacular views of the Grand Canyon, Jumbo Springs provides endless opportunities for scenic viewing, photography, hiking, and camping. The abundance of wildlife makes Jumbo Springs ideal for wildlife viewing, as well as hunting and trapping with proper licensing.

Backcountry permits are not required. Camping is limited to a total of 14 days in one location, and no more than 90 days total within any consecutive 12-month period. Hunting is allowed with proper licensing; however, target practice is prohibited.

Motorized vehicles, mechanized equipment, and mechanical transport are not permitted in designated wilderness.

Maps

USGS 7.5 Quadrangle Map: Jumbo Peak.

Additional Information

- Please limit group sized to 12 members.
- Maximum length of stay: 14 days
- Cutting of live vegetation is prohibited.
- Campfires are allowed, except during regional fire restrictions. Visitors are encouraged to only use camp stoves.
- Disposing of debris and garbage is prohibited.
- Other than incidental browsing, riding and pack stock animals may be fed only packed-in, certified, weed-free feed. Non-commercial hunting and trapping is permitted subject to applicable state regulation.
- The creation or construction of permanent blinds in not allowed, however, portable or “pop-up” temporary blinds may be permitted.
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