Area Description

The Spirit Mountain Wilderness is a wild and rugged place of granite boulders and steep canyons in the Newberry Mountains along the western shore of Lake Mohave. Covering 33,518 acres, the Spirit Mountain Wilderness is partly contained by the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and is managed jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

The wilderness is named for Spirit Mountain, also known as Avikwame by some tribes, an impressive white granite peak topping out at 5,963 feet. Sacred to tribes of the lower Colorado River as a spiritual birthplace, the Spirit Mountain Wilderness is home to a number of archaeological resources.

The higher elevations of the wilderness serve as a refuge from the summer desert heat for wildlife in the area like bighorn sheep, bobcats, and coyotes. Reptiles like the Western chuckwalla, side-blotched lizard, Gila monster, and rattlesnakes also roam the area. Creosote, blackbrush, yucca, and desert willow can be found throughout the area, with pinyon pines found at higher elevations.

Directions

The Spirit Mountain Wilderness can be accessed from the west via Christmas Tree Pass Road, part of which serves as the southwestern border of the wilderness. From the south, State Highway 163 provides access to the wilderness and is its southern border.

To access the west side of the wilderness area, drive south from Cal-Nev-Ari on Highway 95 for about 2.3 miles to Christmas Tree Pass Road (about 5.0 miles north of Highway 163). There is a small road sign for the turnoff; there is also a fairly large, covered information sign on the east side of the road that you can see in the distance.

To access the south side of the wilderness area, drive east from Highway 95 on Highway 163 for about 12.9 miles to Christmas Tree Pass Road (a few miles west of Laughlin). There is a small road sign for the turnoff. Drive north on Christmas Tree Pass Road, which is the southwest boundary of the wilderness area.

Recreation

The Spirit Mountain Wilderness provides a unique and beautiful backdrop for hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and camping. 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 Maps: Spirit Mountain, Spirit Mountain SE, Davis Dam, and Bridge Canyon.

Additional Information

- Disposing of debris and garbage is prohibited.
- Maximum length of stay: 14 days.
- Geocaching is not permitted.
- Other than incidental browsing, riding and pack stock animals should be fed only packed-in, certified, weed-free feed.
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