



# Motorized Use and Regulations

## Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

### Visitor Regulations

Each visitor must have a current Visitor Permit. One permit pertaining to the vehicle must be displayed in such a manner that it is visible to Law Enforcement, when the vehicle is unattended. Each visitor will keep a permit with them when away from the vehicle. Each permitted visitor must register at one of the entry kiosks prior to entering the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

- **Recreate safely.**
- **Be aware of your surroundings.**
- **Do not travel alone or approach suspicious people or activities.**
- **If you see suspicious activity, leave the area and report it as soon as possible to the nearest law enforcement agency.**

Visitors are encouraged to contact the refuge visitor center for the latest travel and safety information including sensitive wildlife areas and other information.

### Roads and Vehicles

The following stipulations apply to all vehicles that access the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

*All vehicles* (including motorcycles and ATVs) *must stay on public use roads* which include only the El Camino del Diablo, Christmas Pass, and Charlie Bell roads (see map). **All other roads and trails are closed and off-limits.** All vehicle operators are required to have proof of *insurance* (ARS§28-4142A) and a current registration (from the domiciled state of the vehicle.) Travel into wilderness is not permitted by motorized vehicles or mechanized transportation, including bicycles.

There are **no services** on the Refuge. Therefore, non-OHV vehicles such as SUVs and pickup trucks must be four-wheel drive with a high clearance to use the El Camino del Diablo and Christmas Pass roads. All-Wheel drive cars are not allowed as they do not have the clearance necessary to safely

All visitors to the refuge are reminded that a speed limit of 25 mph is strictly enforced. Visitors should be constantly aware of their surroundings and other vehicle traffic.

Only street-legal motorcycles and street-legal all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), as defined by Arizona state law, are allowed on the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

navigate the above named roads. Two-wheel drive vehicles with high clearance may use the *Charlie Bell Road*.

Vehicles are permitted to be parked up to 50 feet from the center line of the road, however, if feasible, they must be parked within an existing disturbed area.

### Seasonal Closure

Three-fourths of the Refuge is closed annually from **March 15th to July 15th** for the Sonoran pronghorn fawning season. Open areas include the western boundary of the Refuge (south of Wellton, AZ,) to Tule Well. From Tule Well east along the El Camino Del Diablo, the road is open for approximately 4 miles. From Tule Well northeast along Christmas Pass, the road is open for approximately 5 miles. See map for details.

### Large Groups

If there are five or more vehicles in your group, you must apply for a Special Use Permit in addition to your Visitor Permit prior to entering the Refuge.

Groups of less than five vehicles, including ATVs and motorcycles, which are part of a larger, organized event, are subject to the same Special Use Permit requirements. Contact the Refuge to request a special use permit.

### Designated Road Use signs

Green vertical signs indicate roads are open to the public.

Yellow vertical signs indicate government use roads only. These roads are closed to the public.

### Age Restrictions

Permits are issued only to persons 18 years of age or older. No one under the age of 18 will be issued a permit.

Persons 17 years or younger must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

### Recreate Safely

• If a road is impassable due to flooding, mud, deep sand or a lawful closure, do not drive off-road to circumvent such areas. For this reason it is best to be prepared with enough fuel for unexpected turn-backs.

***All vehicles must stay on public use roads.***

• The military used these areas as gunnery and bombing ranges in the past. If you encounter suspicious items:

1. Leave it alone.
2. **DO NOT TOUCH ANY SUCH ITEMS.**
3. Note its location. Report location to agency staff (see telephone numbers on reverse).

• Abandoned mines and well shafts are unstable and dangerous and are closed to the public. Mines provide excellent habitat for several bat species. Both for your safety and the health and well being of these species, please avoid these sites.

• There are **no** sources of safe drinking water on the national wildlife refuge. To protect your health and preserve valuable water sources for wildlife, you must bring your own water supply. A minimum of 2 gallons per person per day with a 2-day reserve is recommended.

### Hunting

Desert bighorn sheep are the only species permitted for hunting on the Refuge and is in accordance with Arizona Game and Fish rules and regulations. All hunters must obtain a refuge-issued Special Use Permit. Contact the Refuge for additional information.

## Fires and Firewood

Charcoal or propane stoves are recommended on the Refuge in order to preserve the natural appearance of the camp site. However, wood fires are permissible by adhering to the following rules:

- Wood fires are allowed at the designated primitive campsites at *Papago Well, Tule Well and Christmas Pass*. Visitors must bring their own wood into the Refuge. It must be readily identified as wood not native to the Refuge. Wood such as pine, juniper, or construction lumber is appropriate wood to bring into the Refuge. Do not use wood with any metal hardware attached to it, such as hinges or nails. *Due to the scarcity of wood and valuable wildlife habitat, the collection of firewood or vegetation of any kind is prohibited within the Cabeza Prieta NWR with the exception of back-country hikers.* They may use dead and down wood for campfires.

- Use established fire rings or fire grates at each site listed above. Some sites have more than one fire ring or grate in order to accommodate multiple visitors. Do not create new fire rings. After you are done with the campsite, make sure the fire is out and cold and take any trash with you that did not burn completely. You may leave extra wood at the campsite.

- All other campers must use charcoal or propane stoves at undesignated camp sites. Fire pans are required for charcoal fires on the ground. Campers must take excess and/or partially burned charcoal with them when breaking camp. If fire rings were created, disperse them before leaving the area. Restore the camp area to its original state as much as possible..

## Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying fire-arms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of federal, state and local laws. Target

shooting or the discharge of a weapon is strictly prohibited except for legally licensed and permitted hunters while actively hunting during the hunt season.

## Camping

Visitors may camp at one of the designated unimproved camp grounds. Campsites on the Refuge cannot be reserved. When you break camp, remove all traces of human visitation. This practice ensures a pleasant camping experience for all visitors. Camping is limited to 14 days within any given 28-day period. No camping is allowed within ¼-mile of any game water source.

When camping or parked along the public roads, vehicles must be parked within 50 feet of the **center line of the road**.

Take all trash with you. Practice “*Pack it in, Pack it out.*”

Pack and saddle stock are allowed into the wilderness, subject to a *Special Use Permit*. Contact the refuge office for further guidelines on the use of pack and saddle animals prior to taking them onto the Refuge.

## Garbage and Waste

Pack out all garbage and waste products. Individual human waste and paper should be buried well below the soil surface and be at least **200 feet** from water sources and camp areas. Disposal of portable toilet contents must be done at proper sites off the Refuge.

## Treasure Hunting/Geocaching

Excavation or removal of antiques or archeological and paleontological artifacts is prohibited. The use of metal detectors for any reason is also prohibited due to the risk of setting off unexploded ordinances. Geocaching or the leaving of any personal property is expressly prohibited in any national wildlife refuge.

## Wildlife Protection

All wildlife on the Refuge is protected by state and federal laws. The Refuge is home to over 275 different species of wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, endangered Sonoran Desert pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bats. Disturbing, injuring, or removing of any plant, animal or part thereof, is strictly prohibited on the Refuge.

### Permit-Issuing Agencies

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge  
1611 North 2nd Avenue  
Ajo, Arizona 85321  
520/387-6483  
[www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges)

Bureau of Land Management  
Phoenix Field Office  
21605 North 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85027  
626/580-5500  
[www.az.blm.gov](http://www.az.blm.gov)

Luke Air Force Base  
Gila Bend Auxiliary Field  
Security Operations Building 300  
Gila Bend, Arizona 85337  
928/683-6200 or 623/856-5241  
[www.luke.af.mil/rmo.visiting.html](http://www.luke.af.mil/rmo.visiting.html)

U.S. Marine Corps Air Station  
Range Management Department  
Main Gate MCAS, P.O. Box 99160  
Yuma, Arizona 85369-9160  
928/269-7150  
[www.yuma.usmc.mil](http://www.yuma.usmc.mil)

**In case of an emergency, contact the BLM Interagency Dispatch at 800/637-9152.**

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Compliance with Arizona state law for street legal vehicles is the responsibility of the visitor. Here is a partial list of regulations:

- Brakes adequate to stop and hold the vehicle (ARS§28-1179A.1).
- Muffler or noise dissipative device that prevents sound above 96 decibels during prescribed stationary sound testing (ARS§28-1179A.3).
- Headlights and taillights(ARS§28-1179A.2).
- Brake light and at least one red rear reflector (if taillight does not reflect) (ARS§28-927)
- Horn audible from a distance of at least 200 feet (ARS§28-954).
- In addition to the above requirements, the State requires that eye protection be worn when operating vehicles not equipped with a windshield (ARS§28-964A) and a helmet that is properly

fitted, fastened, and has a USDOT safety rating for those under 18 who ride on an OHV (ARS§28-1179B).

- License plate securely fastened to the rear of the OHV and clearly visible(ARS§28-2512D.1&2).
- License plate light (ARS§28-925C).
- Rearview mirror (ARS§28-964B).
- Seat and footrests for the operator and passenger if vehicle is designed to carry a passenger (ARS§28-964B).
- Spark arrestor that is USDA approved (ARS§28-1179A.4).
- **Motorcycles and ATVs must be fitted with a mast displaying an 80 square inch orange flag that extends a minimum of eight (8) feet above the ground surface.**