

Marble Mountain Fossil Bed

Description/Location: Off of Route 66, southeast of Chambless, 3.5 miles along Cadiz Road until you reach the railway siding then 1 mile northeast to the foot of the hills.

Nationally Significant Values:

Trilobites can be found throughout the Marble Mountains however the richest known area is on the most southern tip of the range. This area is also the eastern summit of the Cadiz Valley.

Scientific: The Marble Mountains contain one of the classic Cambrian trilobite fossil sites in the Western United States. The fossil beds lie in a beautiful shale formation that is 60-feet thick and over 550 million years old. Fossil sites such as this are uncommon in the California Desert and present a unique opportunity for research on ancient life and past environments. The site is visited by researchers, students, and visitors from around the United States.

Special Designations/Management Plan/Date: ACEC Plan No. 48, 1980

Relevance and Importance Criteria: Relevant geological/paleontological resources.

Goals: Protect paleontological resource values, including the Marble Mountain Trilobite Site, Latham Shale and any others within the ACEC.

For NLCS Lands -- Where this ruleset differs from the plan-wide NLCS rulesets, the more restrictive rules will apply.

Designation and Acreage by Alternative:

Alternative	BLM Acres of NLCS within ACEC or Wildlife Allocation	BLM Acres within ACEC	BLM Acres within Wildlife Allocation	ACEC Disturbance Cap
No Action	0	200	0	NA
Preferred Alternative	200	200	0	1%
1	200	200	0	1%
2	200	200	0	1%
3	200	200	0	1%
4	200	200	0	1%

* Acreage values are for BLM managed lands

Alternatives:

All Alternatives: This existing ACEC would continue to be managed as it currently is.

Objectives (desired future conditions)/Allowable Uses/Management Actions	Resource
<p>Objective: Protect the Latham Shale and associated geologic features and soils that overlay the fossil site.</p> <p>Action: Limit OHV use to designated routes.</p>	Soil, water, air
<p>Objective: General Management and Protection of Paleontological Resources</p> <p>Management Action 1: Manage and protect fossil resources consistent with the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Develop plans for the inventory, monitoring, and scientific and educational use of paleontological resources including the identification of non-commercial hobby beds for public collecting.</p>	Paleontology
<p>Objective: Provide for the use of a designated system of Ground Transportation Linear Features to ensure access to the public for appropriate uses.</p> <p>Management Action 1: All legal open roads and trails will be signed including road or trail number/name. All roads and trails identified as closed will be rehabilitated/restored.</p> <p>Management Action 2: Restore all undesignated roads or trails.</p> <p>Management Action 3: Provide routine maintenance of the designated roads and trails system including installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, water bars, barriers, gates, or cattle guards on/or adjacent to system roads and trails.</p>	Trails and Travel Management
<p>Objective: Manage recreation consistent with established conservation goals, while providing a broad range of recreation opportunities, and to ensure public health and safety;</p> <p>Management Action 1: Provide interpretive, directional, and regulatory signs and materials as necessary to provide public information and reduce impacts from recreational use.</p>	Recreation
Right of Way Avoidance, no ROW that would impact fossil resources	Rights of Way
<p>Not an allowable use. Renewable energy development is not compatible with NLCS and ACEC unit values and criteria</p> <p>Geothermal: Area is closed to geothermal leasing and development</p>	Renewable Energy
Withdraw from mineral entry. Close to mineral material sales and leasing.	Locatable Minerals Mineral Materials Non-energy Leasables