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Hollow Hills

Endangered Desert Legacy



Location: The Hollow Hills area is located in the Mojave Desert, in San Bernardino County, to the north of Baker, to the west of Halloran Springs, and to the east of Silver Lake (ghost town). The area is also located east of the Silurian Valley and to the north/northeast of the Soda Mountains Wilderness Study Area. Halloran Springs Road is to the north and Baker is immediately south of the area. Interstate 15 and the Mojave National Preserve are to the southeast and Highway 127 is to the west. This area lies to the east of the existing Hollow Hills Wilderness area.

Management Agency: Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office

Description: The area is characterized by a large and gentle bajada that slopes toward Silver Lake, a dry lake that lies just outside of the existing Wilderness's southwest boundary (across Highway 127). The bajada is interspersed with washes. The area contains plains, hills and alluvial fans. Elevations range from about 300 feet near Silver Lake to about 3,100 feet in the central portion of the area.

Wildlife and Plants: This area is habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, and several species of special concern, including the vermilion flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat (photo above) and Mojave fringe-toed lizard. Other species that can be found in this area include Baker Desert Snail, creosote bush, desert holly, scale scrub, desert pincushion, and small-flowered androstephium (photo above). The area has been designated as critical habitat for the desert tortoise and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has recognized it as a wildlife migration corridor.

Activities: Birdwatchers enjoy visiting Hollow Hills to search for the brightly-colored yellow-breasted chat and the vividly-red vermilion flycatcher. After spring rains and fall monsoons, visitors come to this area to view wildflowers. Photographers frequent this area year round. Those interested in mining history visit Cree Camp, a small, old mining camp which is located almost adjacent to the east of the area, as well as Jumbo Mine, an old gold mine that is located in the southeastern portion of this area. In addition, for those interested in ghost towns, the town of Silver Lake lies nearby. When the railroad ceased to operate in 1940, the town was abandoned. It now consists of mostly collapsed buildings. Due to this area's remote locale, star gazers, as well as others who seek to enjoy the solitude and beauty of nature, frequent this area.

