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Resting Spring Range

Endangered Desert Legacy



Location: The Resting Spring Range area is located in the Mojave Desert, in Inyo County, north of the town of Shoshone. The area has Highway 178 to the east, the Nevada state line to the northeast, and Highway 127 and Death Valley National Park to the west. This area lies to the south of the existing Resting Spring Range Wilderness area.

Management Agency: Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office

Description: The Resting Spring Range area has rolling hills that sweep up from vast bajadas to coarse and rugged rock formations with jagged summits above deep, hidden canyons. The colors of the mountains run from subdued browns and tans to intense pinks, reds, greens, and blacks. The Amargosa River Valley lies to the west. Elevations range from about 2,050 feet to 5,264 feet at the summit of Stewart Peak. This area is the rugged southern terminus of the Resting Spring Range.

Wildlife and Plants: This area is habitat for several protected species including the golden eagle (photo above), desert bighorn sheep, and the prairie falcon. Other species that can be found in this area include the Pahrump orache, Parish's phacalia, forked buckwheat, Ash Meadows buckwheat, coyote gilia (photo above), ivory-spined agave, scaly cloak fern and Menke's cuckoo wasp. You will also likely encounter wild horses and wild burros in this area.

Activities: The Shoshone Museum in Shoshone, located about eight miles south of the area, offers to visitors, exhibits about Death Valley geology and history and houses a prehistoric mammoth skeleton found near Shoshone. History buffs also enjoy visiting The Dublin Gulch Caves, which are located just beyond the proposed Wilderness boundary. The caves were dug out of the volcanic ash, probably in the late 1870's, during a silver boom. Miners inhabited these caves and made significant upgrades to them such as gas stoves, wood floors, shelving, and more.

There are several 4x4 trails nearby, including routes to Gold Valley, the Ashford mine, the Baxter mine, and Ibox and Saratoga Springs, which cause this area to be of interest to off roaders, in addition to nature enthusiasts, history buffs, bird watchers, wildflower viewers, photographers, and hikers.

