

Mt. Limbo

Current Proposed Acres: 11,855

CBLC Proposed Acres: 12,376

WSA Proposed Acres: 23,702

Current Management Status:

BLM Wilderness Study Area (WSA)

Area Description

The Mount Limbo Wilderness straddles the southern tip of the Selenite Mountains. Elevations range from 3,880 to 8,237 feet atop Kumiva peak, the highest point in the Selenite range. The dominant landform of this area is the spectacular granite core of the mountain. The granitic formation rises from the vast playa of Winnemucca Dry Lake forming a steep and narrow boulder ridge culminating in Mount Limbo (7,312 feet) and Purgatory Peak (7,417 feet). North of Purgatory, the ridge rises in elevation and widens into the massive summit of Kumiva Peak.

Naturalness

The broad mass of Kumiva supports rolling terrain punctuated by numerous small granite spires and rock formations. Interwoven with these granite outcrops and boulder slopes are aspen groves and meadows lying along the drainages and a scattering of perennial springs in the core of the area. An open woodland of juniper spreads across the higher elevations of the area. On lower elevations the sagebrush habitat takes over. On the lowest alluvial systems, the sage vanishes and is replaced with the saltbrush and winterfat plant community. A visitor to the Mount Limbo 13,000 years ago would have witnessed an entirely different landscape. During the highstand of Lake Lahonton, the Selenite Range would have been a very dramatic and rugged island rising above the extensive water-filled surrounding basins.



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Recreation and Solitude

While Mount Limbo and Purgatory Peak offer a diversity of challenging rock-scrambling and route finding, Kumiva Peak provides the destination for peak-baggers. With over 3,600 feet of prominence, Kumiva Peak is ranked 33rd in Nevada. This area is on the route of the proposed National Desert Scenic Trail.

Recreational opportunities in the area include excellent day hiking, hunting, nature study and camping. Excellent rock climbing and scrambling opportunities are available along the granitic ridge crests. The desert vistas and scenic values of this area are outstanding. Views from the summit of Kumiva include views of Mt. Lassen and the Warner Mountains in California to glimpses of the Carson and Sierra crest in the south, to the distant Tobin Range to the east.

The Mount Limbo WSA is very popular with upland game hunters. It provides habitat for Greater sage-grouse, Chukar, Valley quail, and crucial summer and transition range for mule deer. Song birds, reptiles and rodents compliment the large fauna of the area. The numerous rock formations and cliffs provide excellent nesting and perching sites for raptors. The area is also known to have cultural resources including a rock shelter and lithic scatters.

Issues and Proposed Resolution

Few specific issues have been raised on Mt. Limbo. There are no mining claims or mineral leases. Access for chukar hunting as well as the small game guzzlers have been removed from the proposal.

During the Checkerboard Lands Committee process sponsored by Pershing County Commission over the period of time from 2004-2006. After a series of meetings and field trips, the Checkerboard Committee recommended to the Pershing County Commission that a portion of the Mt. Limbo WSA be considered for wilderness. This proposal was then adopted by the Pershing County Commission on March 1, 2006.

Maps

The maps on the following pages show the original Fencemaker area as well as the revised area where conflicts have been resolved.

