



COYOTE CANYON

"A Canyon Called Home"



Description: (29809 acres [46.5 mi²]; 398 recorded cultural resources)

- Highest concentration of significant, complex, and multi-faceted cultural resources in ABDSP.
- Coyote Canyon and Coyote Creek have been a continuous human and natural resources lifeline from prehistory to the present.
- Extremely important to living Cahuilla and Cupeño peoples in adjacent reservations.
- Homeland of five lineages of the Mountain Cahuilla *Wiwaiistam* clan (literally, the Coyote People).
- Six separate areas have been recognized within the Preserve for purposes of interpretation, education, and management.
- Coyote Creek is the only perennial year-round stream on the eastern side of the Peninsula Ranges.
- Prehistoric and historic routes exist from the desert floor to the mountain peaks.
- Coyote Canyon was used by the Juan Bautista de Anza Expeditions in 1774 and again 1775-1776 bringing the first Spanish and Mexican settlers bound for the San Francisco Bay area.
- "First Child Monument" at Upper Willows commemorates the birth of the first European child in California.
- Route is part of De Anza National Historical Trail
- "Santa Catarina" site-California Registered Historical Landmark #785
- Site of numerous events associated with the "Garra Uprising" in 1851
- A variety of historic sites exist within the canyon.
- Horse and Medicine Canyon area recently acquired by ABDSP with help of Native American Lands Conservancy.

Issues

- There are many existing cultural resources within Coyote Canyon that have not yet been recorded. (Less than 20% of the area has been systematically inventoried. Some recorded sites have been the subjects of repeated scientific investigation, e.g., Santa Catarina and Middle Willows.)
- Numerous potentially eligible sites and features for the National and State Historic Registers
- This area is highly significant and particularly important to local Native peoples.
- The traditional ABDSP policy of allowing open car-camping in most areas has caused documented damage to cultural and natural resources.
- Other illegal recreational activities (i.e. off trail horseback riding and vehicle use) continue to damage cultural resources.

Recommendations

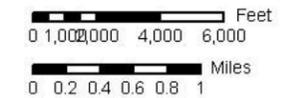
- Cultural Preserve classification.
- The names of the Six Areas within the Cultural Preserve will reflect the Cahuilla Native voice.
- Interpretive signing will be installed along the main road through the Canyon at each of the entrances to the Six Areas, at major trailheads, at the Vern Wittaker Horse Camp, in Fig Tree Valley at the Bailey Cabin Focused Use Zone. These interpretive messages will include a Cahuilla/Cupeño Native voice.
- A trained Archaeological Site Steward will continue to monitor the Lower and Middle Willow areas. An additional Archaeological Site Stewardship will be established permanently at Upper Willows and Horse Canyon areas.
- Overnight car-camping areas will be at established informal camping areas in Sheep Canyon, Alder Canyon, Horse Canyon, Fig Tree Valley, and other areas considered appropriate by ABDSP staff. All designated car-camping areas will be adjacent to established motor-vehicle roads and will be excluded from the Preserve.
- Backpacker camping will be permitted within the Preserve in areas that are at least ½ mile from the nearest established dirt road.
- California State Wilderness rules will apply.
- No camping or campfires will be permitted adjacent to established motor-vehicle routes within the Preserve except in designated campgrounds.
- The Bailey's Cabin area of Fig Tree Valley will be excluded from the Preserve.
- Established and designated roads will be excluded from the Preserve and will continue to provide automobile access to the trailheads for all major trails (Alder Canyon, Indian Canyon, Salvador Canyon, Sheep Canyon, Cougar Canyon, Tule Canyon, Horse Canyon, and others).
- Designated automobile parking areas will be established and will be excluded from the Preserve
- Regulatory signing will be placed at these areas, trailheads, and at appropriate locations as determined by ABDSP staff.
- Interpretation will include information on the vital riparian ecosystem within the Canyon and explain the interaction of humans with this ecosystem through time. Efforts will be made to reestablish native vegetation where it has been heavily impacted.
- Providing interpretive and educational signing, along with limiting overnight car-camping to designated campgrounds within the Preserve areas will result in minimizing further impacts to highly visited areas within the Preserve.
- Annual closure of Coyote Canyon during a four-month period to protect bighorn sheep will be unchanged.

ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK Proposed Cultural Preserve Coyote Canyon 29,809 Acres

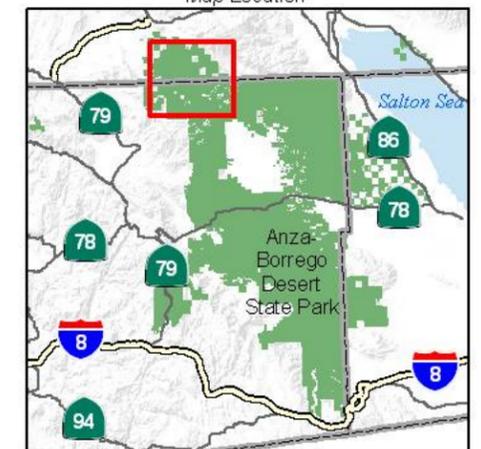
Legend

- Proposed Cultural Preserves
- Anza Borrego Desert State Park
- Existing Subunits (Wilderness, Preserves)
- Hwy
- Local Rd
- State Park Rd
- State Park Trail

Base Map: USGS 1:100,000
 Representative Fraction: 1:68,849
 1 inch = 5,737 feet



Map Location



NOTES:

Parcel boundaries are approximate and should not be considered legal descriptions. Maps are intended for study purposes only.

**PLANNING
DIVISION**

**GENERAL
PLAN
SECTION**

Date 2/24/10
 Sources:
 Calif. Dept. of Parks
 & Recreation,
 Colorado Desert
 District

