



LITTLE BLAIR VALLEY

The Romance and Reality of Desert Life



Description: (4900.5 acres; 60 recorded cultural resources)

- This area contains numerous cultural resources that include residential sites of Kumeyaay People, agave roasting pits and processing stations, extensive bedrock grinding features, and elaborate pictograph panels.
- Little Blair Valley contains within its boundaries the “Morteros Village” archaeological site. This prehistoric village is in the very heart of agave country; agave was a main staple of the Kumeyaay, the indigenous People of this region.
- Location of Pictograph Trail , a rock art interpretive site
- Site of the historic homestead of *Yaquitepec*.
- Yaquitepec was the experimental home site of Marshall South, who brought his family to live in the area in the mid-20th century, and publicized and popularized their daily life in many columns and articles in *Desert Magazine*.
- A section of the Southern Overland Trail runs through the western portion of Blair Valley.
- This Cultural Preserve will allow visitors to compare and contrast the realities and the romance of desert life from two points of view: that of the Native People and that of more-recent Anglos.

Issues

- There are many existing cultural resources within Little Blair Valley that have not yet been recorded (Less than 15% of the area has been systematically inventoried; more cultural resources sites are discovered every year).
- This area is 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. Continual impacts have been documented in the Morteros Village area, along Pictograph Trail, and at *Yaquitepec*.
- Numerous sites and features potentially eligible for nomination to the National and State Historic Registers exist in the Preserve.

Recommendations

- Cultural Preserve classification.
- Interpretive signs will be installed at the entrances to the Little Blair Valley area, at the trailheads at Pictograph Trail and Smugglers Canyon, and at the Morteros Village site. These interpretive messages will include a Native voice.
- A self-guiding interpretive trail will enhance the visitor experience at the Morteros Village site. Kumeyaay terms for many of the features of the site will be used, in addition to English and Spanish names.
- The *Yaquitepec* site is to be monitored by a trained Archaeological Site Steward. Volunteer-guided walks will be conducted to visit the Marshall South homestead.
- Overnight camping will be at established informal camping areas nearby in the western portion of Blair Valley outside of the Preserve.
- Within the Preserve boundaries there will be day-use activity only.
- No camping or campfires will be permitted in the Preserve.
- The established dirt roads and parking areas will be excluded from the Preserve
- These roads will provide automobile access to the trailheads for Morteros Village, Pictograph/Smugglers Canyon, and Ghost Mountain trails.
- Designated automobile parking areas will be established and regulatory signing will be placed at the trailheads.
- In areas where designated State Wilderness overlaps the Preserve, State Wilderness policies will apply.
- Efforts will be made to reestablish native vegetation where it has been heavily impacted.

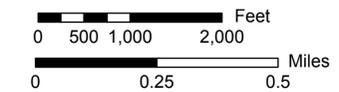
ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK Proposed Cultural Preserve Little Blair Valley 4,900.5 Acres

Legend

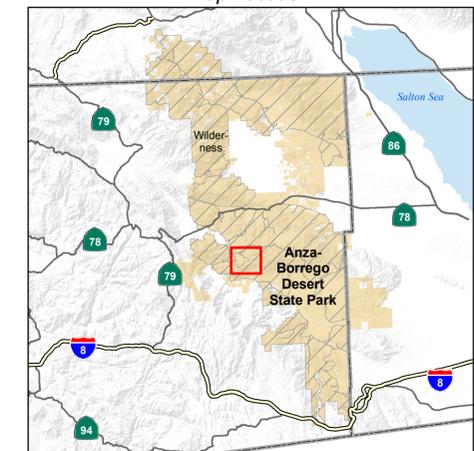
-  Proposed Cultural Preserves
-  Anza Borrego Desert State Park
-  Existing Subunits (Wilderness, Preserves)
-  Hwy
-  Local Rd
-  State Park Rd
-  State Park Trail

Base Map: USGS 1:24,000
 Contour Interval: 40'

Representative Fraction: 1:12,931
 1 inch = 1,078 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

