Welcome and thank you for visiting Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

As the Park’s nonprofit partner, Anza-Borrego Foundation runs the Visitor Center Store and State Park Store in The Mall. Stop in to find information and gifts to enrich your visit.

**Visitor Center Store**

- Oct-Mar: Open Every Day, 9am - 5pm
- April-Sept: Open Weekends & Holidays only

- Park Information
- Guidebooks and Maps
- Road conditions
- Free Interpretive walks and talks
- Park films
- Apparel and Safety Items
- Park Posters and Postcards
- Wildlife sightings
- Puppets and Games
- Join ABF to support the Park

**ABF State Park Store**

- Park Information
- Register for classes & hikes
- Guidebooks and Maps
- Native American Arts
- Join ABF to support the Park
- Clothing and Accessories
- Desert Art and Photography
- Water Bottles and Bags
- Desert Naturalist Tours for buses and group hikes

Become an ABF member today to get a 15% discount on all purchases!

All store & membership proceeds support Anza-Borrego Desert State Park!

**Partners with the Park**

ABF State Park Store
587 Palm Canyon Drive #110
760-767-0446
www.theabf.org

ABDSP Visitor Center
200 Palm Canyon Dr.
760-767-4205
www.parks.ca.gov
Discover Yourself in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®!

With almost 650,000 acres and more than 500 miles of dirt roads to explore, there’s plenty to discover in Anza-Borrego. Perhaps you’ll enjoy the cool shade of a palm oasis, or the expansive view from a stunning overlook. Or sit a while beside ancient grinding holes, and imagine what it might have been like to live here hundreds or thousands of years ago. Take the time to drink in the desert’s stillness, and don’t be surprised if it grows on you! You may find yourself returning for ever-increasing periods of time, exploring further afield, and maybe even discovering a new passion.

Many of our volunteers started out as park visitors, curious about the desert, much as you might be. Then something took hold—the beauty of desert wildflowers, the twinkling of stars overhead, new and different bird species, the potential for discovery, or simply the incredible quiet—and they found themselves settling in, excited to be pursuing a new interest or eager to give of themselves.

Whether serving the public, protecting resources, or contributing to scientific knowledge, with several active volunteer groups, there is something for everyone. Feel free to talk with any volunteer or staff if volunteering appeals to you!

“As archaeology volunteers we help protect (in place!) the cultural resources within the Park. In the process we not only discover artifacts and features from the past but find ourselves more informed and grateful in the present. This was that kind of day!” Carol Black, Colorado Desert Archaeology Society.

TOP: “In the desert, I become me. It restores my breath, lifts my soul and fills my heart.” Rose Heydecke, Visitor Center Volunteer

RIGHT: “One of the great pleasures of my life has been sharing the wonders of Palm Canyon with our park visitors.” Bonnie Clapp, Visitor Center Volunteer, Volunteer Naturalist, Trailhead Volunteer

Photo Credit: Nick Clapp

Photo Credit: Sam Webb

Photo Credit: Nick Clapp
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

200 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
www.parks.ca.gov

Visitor Center
760-767-4205

Park Headquarters
760-767-5311

711, TTY relay service

Visitor Center Hours
October 1 - May 31
Open Daily, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Off-Season June 1 - September 30
Open Weekends and Holidays only
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Hours are subject to change.

Anza-Borrego Foundation
760-767-0446
www.theabf.org

Campground Reservations
800-444-7275 or
www.reservecalifornia.com

Lodging and Restaurants
Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 66
786 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
760-767-5555 or 800-559-5524
www.borregospringschamber.com

Borrego Medical Center
4343 Yaqui Pass Road
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
760-767-5051

California State Parks supports equal access.

Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the Visitor Center.

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting the Visitor Center.

Visitor Center: 760-767-4205

For the latest in wildflower news, call the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Wildflower Hotline.

760-767-4684

We update this recording regularly during the blooming season. For more information, see Page 22.

Wildflower Hotline
760-767-4684

You can see photos on the web: https://www.parks.ca.gov
Go to “Visit a Park”
Find Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

Like Anza-Borrego Foundation and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®
facebook.com/AnzaBorrego

Share your ABDSP adventures by adding #anzaborrego

Keep updated on Park and ABF events by joining our email list at www.theABF.org.
When I was a child, deserts were something a little frightening to endure and get through to go somewhere else. My sister and I would lie across the back seat of the car under the wide-open windows trying to stay cool until we got to the next service station with a soda machine. Little did I know I would spend most of my career working in and for one of the most beautiful deserts ever.

As an adult, I fell in love with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® on first sight - coming down Montezuma Grade for a seasonal job interview in 1982. That view all the way to the Salton Sea! I was instantly mesmerized. I worked here as a park aide for two seasons. In 1988 I returned to this park as a State Park Ranger and this year I am retiring as Superintendent. I feel so lucky to have had a career here, working to protect the resources while promoting the recreational opportunities. In all that time I have never stopped learning and discovering. I suspect this desert will continue to surprise and delight me as I begin to explore it on my own time anew.

So far, I have discovered that in addition to soft fuzzy things, I like holding snakes, lizards, tortoises, and tarantulas (scorpions are on their own!). I love the majesty of desert landscapes that go on for miles, unchanged for centuries. I have delighted in seeing rare plants and animals, fossil mammoths in situ, and untouched ollas and archeological sites in remote places. The dark night sky - where in summer the Milky Way is right overhead, constellations sparkle, meteor showers are common, and planets can be picked out of the incredibly starry sky - is a wonder unto itself in a world so invaded by artificial light.

Visitors to Borrego Springs are often surprised to discover that we have few street lights here - and we like it that way! I have discovered that the desert is not as lonely as one would think, as it has been crisscrossed so many times by Native Americans, explorers, prospectors, soldiers, homesteaders, and natural-wonder seekers from its beginning. The history of people in Anza-Borrego is varied and fascinating! The treasures to be discovered here seem endless. There is so much to know still!

Some of the treasures I value most are the people who live and work here. Fellow desert people are among the best folks I could hope to know and I am grateful to have worked with some of the finest rangers in the State Park system, fellow parks staff who will do anything for you, volunteers who give their precious time and their hearts to helping this park and its visitors in so many ways, and with Anza-Borrego Foundation, who as our park partner supports us in countless, awesome ways. I have been lucky in my star-crossed life and career, and hope to have a chance to give back. Happy trails to all of you as you make your own discoveries. I’ll see you out in the park!
DEVELOPED CAMPGROUNDS

Day Use Fees apply in Borrego Palm Canyon, Tamarisk Grove, Bow Willow, and Horse Camp. Day users may not occupy campsites.

Check out time is 12:00 noon.

Speed limit in the campground is 15 MPH.

Park vehicles with all tires on the pavement.

PRIMITIVE CAMPING

Vehicles must be parked no more than one vehicle length off the road. Do not trample vegetation or drive over geological features.

Ground fires are not permitted. A metal container must be used for all campfires.

Bring your own firewood and plan to take your cooled ashes out with you. Gathering or taking of any live, dead, or downed vegetation is prohibited.

There is no garbage collection in the backcountry so you are responsible for packing out all your garbage, including toilet paper and human waste. Practice “Leave No Trace” ethics.

Leave only footprints. Take only memories.

GENERAL PARK REGULATIONS

Pets must not be left unattended. Dogs must be on a leash no longer than six feet and under the immediate control of a person during the day. Dogs or cats must be in a tent or vehicle during nighttime hours. Dogs are not allowed cross-country or on hiking trails.

Engine-driven electric generators may be operated in the park only between the hours of 10 am and 8 pm. Loud, disturbing noise is prohibited at all times, and Quiet Hours between 10 pm and 6 am must be observed throughout the park.

Gathering or taking of any live, dead, or downed vegetation is prohibited.

Bicycles (including mountain bikes), skateboards, etc. must remain on roads. All riders under 18 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet.

The California Vehicle Code applies to all roads in the park - dirt, sandy wash, or paved. All vehicles must be highway legal and remain on designated roads.

Firearms and fireworks are not permitted anywhere in the park.

All natural and cultural features are protected. Nothing may be removed or disturbed. Certain activities are restricted in Cultural Preserves. Please read and observe posted regulations.

The operation of powered unmanned aircraft, including drones, is prohibited in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®.

ATTENTION

Some campgrounds may not be open year round. Please check in advance.
### FOR RESERVATIONS

800-444-7275  
www.reservecalifornia.com

### CAMPGROUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Fee per Night</th>
<th>Number of Sites</th>
<th>Max. Length RV</th>
<th>Max. People per Site</th>
<th>Drinking Water</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>Showers</th>
<th>Picnic Tables</th>
<th>Shade Ramadas</th>
<th>Stoves or Fire Rings</th>
<th>Campfire Center</th>
<th>Elevation in Feet</th>
<th>Miles to HQ</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borrego Palm Canyon Hookup</td>
<td>$35*</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>35’</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Borrego Palm Canyon Group Camp</td>
<td>$80*</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Tamarisk Grove</td>
<td>$25*</td>
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<td>21’</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>1400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamarisk Grove Cabins</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>21’</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horse Camp</td>
<td>$25*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24’</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bow Willow</td>
<td>$15*</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>24’</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>950</td>
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### PRIMITIVE CAMPS

<table>
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<th>Primitive Camps</th>
<th>Fee per Night</th>
<th>Number of Sites</th>
<th>Max. Length RV</th>
<th>Max. People per Site</th>
<th>Drinking Water</th>
<th>Toilets</th>
<th>Showers</th>
<th>Picnic Tables</th>
<th>Shade Ramadas</th>
<th>Stoves or Fire Rings</th>
<th>Campfire Center</th>
<th>Elevation in Feet</th>
<th>Miles to HQ</th>
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<tr>
<td>Culp Valley</td>
<td>V</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep Canyon</td>
<td>$10*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>V</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Arroyo Salado</td>
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<td>Yaqui Pass</td>
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<td>Yaqui Well</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1400</td>
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<td>Fish Creek</td>
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<td>V</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Blair Valley</td>
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<td>2500</td>
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<td>Mt. Palm Springs</td>
<td>V</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>760</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Prices are subject to change. Check with us for current park fees.*

Rustic cabins are a welcome addition at Tamarisk Grove, and provide wooden sleeping platforms for four people.
### What to See and Do If You Have . . .

#### TWO HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4WD*</th>
<th><strong>FONTS POINT</strong></th>
<th>Four miles of driving on a sandy dirt road take you to a superb view of the Borrego Badlands; <em>4WD Required</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DESERT GARDENS</strong></td>
<td>A picnic table provides seating for great views of the ocotillo forest in lower Coyote Canyon. (Accessible by 2WD some years; check road conditions for Coyote Canyon Road.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2WD* | **EROSION ROAD** | Ask at the Visitor Center for a brochure with stops along Highway S-22 through the Borrego Badlands |

#### HALF DAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>SPLIT MOUNTAIN VIA FISH CREEK</strong></th>
<th>A geologic wonderland accessed by a rocky, sandy wash requiring vehicles with high clearance as well as 4WD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>17 PALMS OASIS</strong></td>
<td>This shady oasis in the midst of the Borrego Badlands was an important historical stopover; accessed via Arroyo Salado, south of Hwy S-22 <em>4WD Required</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|   | **BLAIR VALLEY AND BOX CANYON** | Foot and Walker Pass and Box Canyon are historical sites on the Southern Overland Trail, along Hwy S-2. |

#### HIKE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>THE SLOT</strong></th>
<th>A short hike through a slot canyon, accessed via Buttes Pass Road from Highway 78 Check dirt road conditions at the Visitor Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NARROWS EARTH TRAIL</strong></td>
<td>Easy half-mile loop hike with Geology as its focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BILL KENYON OVERLOOK</strong></td>
<td>A one-mile hike to a grand vista starts at the Yaqui Pass Primitive Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ALL-ACCESS TRAIL</strong></td>
<td>Dogs and bicycles are also allowed on this paved walkway between the Visitor Center and the Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CULP VALLEY ALL-ACCESS TRAIL</strong></td>
<td>A higher elevation hike through cooler temperatures and a different plant community; views down Hellhole Canyon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>BORREGO PALM CANYON TRAIL</strong></th>
<th>A 3-mile roundtrip hike through bighorn sheep habitat to a large palm grove. Often crowded in spring. Day Use Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>WIND CAVES</strong></td>
<td>Geologic features accessed via Fish Creek <em>4WD Required</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ALCOHOLIC PASS</strong></td>
<td>Steep hike to a pass overlooking lower Coyote Canyon and Clark Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>YAQUI WELL, CACTUS LOOP</strong></td>
<td>Short trails begin across from Tamarisk Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BOX CANYON</strong></td>
<td>Descend into the canyon to walk where the Mormon Battalion hacked out a wagon road for early travelers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ALL DAY OR LONGER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4WD*</th>
<th><strong>SANDSTONE CANYON</strong></th>
<th>High walls of sheer sandstone tower overhead; reached via Fish Creek road <em>High Clearance 4WD Required</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>INDIAN GORGE AND INDIAN VALLEY</strong></td>
<td>Try to include a short walk in Torote Canyon <em>4WD Required</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2WD* | **AGUA CALIENTE AND VALLECITO STAGE STATION COUNTY PARKS** | Hot mineral pools and a restored stage station in the southern end of the park; Day Use Fees. Closed during summer. 760-765-1188 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>MOUNTAIN PALM SPRINGS</strong></th>
<th>Several palm groves can be reached by hikes of varying lengths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BLAIR VALLEY TRAILS</strong></td>
<td>‘Ehmuu-Morteros, Pictographs, and Ghost Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HELLHOLE CANYON</strong></td>
<td>Less crowded, but longer and much more strenuous than the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail; Maidenhair Falls is the hard-to-find reward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dirt road conditions can change quickly, and are posted at the Visitor Center and on our website. Check first, before driving dirt roads in the park.*
WHY MUST I HAVE MY FIRE IN A METAL CONTAINER?
We receive an average of only six inches of rain per year, which is not enough to wash away fire scars or encourage biological removal of charring and soot. Because of this, scars from fires that were built by Native Americans long ago are still visible today. With nearly a million visitors per year, the scars left behind today would ruin the beauty of the landscape.

If a campfire were to escape your control, it could quickly turn into a raging brush fire. Many huge fires have been started by conscientious campers burning toilet paper!

WHY DO RANGERS CARRY GUNS?
State Park Rangers are “generalists.” We are interpreters who can explain the fascinating natural processes going on in the Park. We are safety experts who can help you plan a safe visit or rescue you if necessary. We are also state peace officers, because many state parks are far from local police or sheriff protection and, unfortunately, law enforcement is often necessary to protect the Park or the people in it.

ARE THERE ANY RULES ABOUT MAKING NOISE IN THE PARK?
One of the desert’s unique features is the absolute silence experienced here. Singing birds and the chorus of coyotes are also sounds that people come here to enjoy. Everyone is asked to observe Quiet Hours between 10 pm and 6 am, and to be considerate of others at all times. Generators must be kept off between 8 pm and 10 am.

CAN I HUNT IN THE PARK?
California’s State Parks are set aside to preserve and protect the state’s natural and cultural resources. Because of this objective, hunting or loaded firearms are not allowed. Licensed hunters are allowed to hunt in-season on adjacent B.L.M. lands.

IS MY DOG WELCOME IN THE CAMPGROUND?
Yes. Your dog is welcome on a six-foot leash in the campground and on the many dirt roads in the Park. Common courtesy and safety regulations require that you keep your dog under control at all times.

WHY AREN’T DOGS ALLOWED ON TRAILS OR IN WILDERNESS AREAS?
There are a number of reasons. Many animals in the Park react to the sight or scent of a canine, sensing only “predator.” Although your dog may be friendly, many species that live in a habitat will avoid areas where a predator scent has been left. This means that wildlife may not be able to search for food or find safety in their usual places. In addition, many diseases may be spread either to your dog from wildlife or vice versa. Some of these diseases like plague and Lyme disease are dangerous to humans as well.

The desert poses some special problems for dogs. Cholla cactus can easily become embedded in a dog’s paw, then mouth, the other paw, etc. Many dogs have been rushed from the Park to emergency veterinary care an hour or more away. Rattlesnakes are another concern. Humans are wise enough to heed the snake’s warning; a dog may not. Pet dogs have been killed by rattlesnakes (and coyotes) in the Park. Even burned pads on the bottom of your dog’s feet will ruin his visit to the Park. Not only is it illegal to take your dog on trails into the Park, it is dangerous, and your dog would probably rather be at home.
PRESERVING WILDLIFE HABITAT
Part of our mission is to acquire inholdings from willing sellers within ABDSP. For more than 50 years, ABF has preserved over 54,000 acres of habitat for our desert, ensuring that these lands remain as natural as possible. Deeding these lands to the State preserves the benefits they offer visitors: solitude, starry skies, breathtaking vistas and an incredibly diverse ecosystem.

RESEARCH PROJECTS
ABF supports research in the Park, including funding scholarships, sponsoring symposia and the annual Bighorn Sheep Count. The more we know about the Park, the better equipped we are to protect it.

STEELE/BURNAND ANZA-BORREGO DESERT RESEARCH CENTER
The Research Center, housed in the former Desert Club, is located adjacent to the Park in Borrego Springs. An agreement with ABDSP, ABF and UC Irvine makes the Park available to research center users to study the many plant and animal species that call this park home.

VISITOR CENTER STORE & STATE PARK STORE
ABF operates the retail store in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Visitor Center and the State Park Store in The Mall. 100% of the proceeds from sales go to support ABDSP - every purchase helps!

BECOME A MEMBER
You can support ABDSP by becoming a member of Anza-Borrego Foundation. Members receive program discounts, 15% off purchases at ABDSP Visitor Center and State Park Store, special members-only hikes and events, and discounts at a variety of local businesses. Sign up today at www.theabf.org/membership.
ABF’s Education Programs provide educational opportunities for youth as well, like Camp Borrego, a 3-day 5th grade environmental education program that offers 300 students each year a nature-immersive desert experience. ABF also supports PORTS distance learning programs. PORTS (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) delivers live interactive programs from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® to classrooms across the country.

ABF relies on donations and grants to provide these opportunities for youth. You can make a donation in support of these programs at www.theabf.org/give.

**Support Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® by becoming an ABF member today!**

Anza-Borrego Foundation
587 Palm Canyon Drive, Suite 110 & 111
760-767-0446
www.theabf.org

**FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA**
Facebook: AnzaBorregoFoundation
Twitter: @anza_borrego
Instagram: @anzaborrego

*Share your ABDSP adventures by adding #anzaborrego*

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ABF**
Discover the BORREGO of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®
By Mark C. Jorgensen with Photos by Jeff Young

Anza-Borrego is home to about 600 desert bighorn sheep, the largest mammal in the park. Our bighorn spend their lives in the remote terrain of the Peninsular Ranges, venturing down onto the slopes to feed and find water. They use their keen eyesight to view large expanses of terrain, ever wary of predators, humans, or perceived threats.

Both males (Rams) and females (Ewes) have horns their entire lives. Ram horns can be massive curls, while ewe horns are smaller and straighter, like sabers that they use to protect themselves and their lambs. Rams show off their horns to other males as a means of gaining dominance, and will often go head to head in ritualized combat. The crashing of horns can sometimes be heard up to a mile away!

Water is essential for lamb survival and the long-term health of bighorn populations. The park has ongoing projects, including the removal of tamarisk and other non-native plants, to improve water supplies for wildlife.

Visitors can help by keeping a respectful distance from sheep and especially ewes with lambs in the spring to make sure they are not separated, have access to water, and can reach good forage along the creeks, which is vital to the ewes’ ability to produce high-quality milk for their lambs. Remember also that since the desert bighorn are considered an endangered species, it is illegal to harass them in any way!

For more information, ask for a free brochure about Bighorn or purchase the book, “Desert Bighorn Sheep: Wilderness Icon” at our State Park Visitor Center or the ABF State Park Store.

Borrego is Spanish for bighorn sheep. Avoid disturbing bighorn sheep near water sources.

The Borrego Palm Canyon Trail is one of the most accessible places to look for bighorn sheep.
Always Look Down!
By Ranger Carina Hammang

No one prepared me for what I was to experience when I first arrived at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. Overwhelming heat, a never-ending supply of cholla cacti, mountains galore, and sand as far as the eye could see. Certainly nothing like the life I knew coming from a big city, but I was determined to make the Colorado Desert my newest adventure!

One day I was at home admiring the beauty of the mountains around me and I realized that I rarely took the time to look down and witness the diversity of life residing on the desert floor. A few steps from my front door, I noticed a large, web-lined hole in the sand. Curiosity forced me to peer straight down into the deep, dark burrow and I pondered what desert creature could have created it. That night I grabbed my trusty headlamp and went outside to spy on the mysterious hole. I was shocked to discover a large, hairy arachnid emerge from the burrow’s depths. My first Tarantula sighting in the wild!!

This incredible discovery inspired me to go on the hunt for other nocturnal life. Occasionally, I have had the great privilege to look down and spot a desert scorpion inches from its den awaiting its prey.

Tarantulas and scorpions are just a couple of the many unique species of ground dwellers you can find here in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. So I encourage you to lace up your hiking boots, grab your binoculars and water, and scour the Colorado Desert terrain to make your memorable discovery today!! Remember to respect and protect nature, keep your distance, and ALWAYS look down!!

Did you know that Tarantulas are the largest spiders in the United States? They utilize ambush and pursuit tactics to attack their prey.

Scorpions are born alive and glow under black light. When food is scarce, they can slow their metabolism and survive on just one insect a year.

Even hunters are often hunted, as this black widow succumbs to a wasp attack.
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Activities

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® offers a wide variety of interpretive programs. Specific information and a monthly schedule are available at the Visitor Center, campgrounds, and online.

Anza-Borrego Foundation offers in-depth programming in cooperation with the State Park at modest cost. ABF uses the funds raised to help protect and conserve our beautiful Park. If you are interested, please call: 760-767-0446 opt 1 or visit: www.theabf.org.

NATURALISTS’ TALKS  Presentations by Volunteer Naturalists take place at the Visitor Center. Most talks last about 40 minutes and are held outdoors or inside our air-conditioned classroom. We offer unique programs covering wildlife, plants, geology, fossils, and many other topics. Naturalists’ Talks are accessible to wheelchair users.

NATURE WALKS  Beginning at the Visitor Center, these are easy quarter-mile walks that last about 45 minutes. Led by Park staff or volunteers, a nature walk offers you the chance to explore Park natural features with a knowledgeable guide. The monthly schedule announces the topic, time and any other information you might need.

GUIDED HIKES  Join Park staff or volunteers for a longer walk that may cover some rocky, hilly, or uneven terrain. The topic and length of time to allow are listed on the monthly schedule. Please note that many of these hikes begin at the end of dirt roads or at other distant locations. Ask about current driving conditions at the Visitor Center.

NIGHT SKY PROGRAMS  Darkness at night is a valuable resource that Anza-Borrego is committed to preserving, and programs are held regularly throughout the year. Telescopes are often set up at the Visitor Center for stargazing and/or observing the Moon and planets.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS  You don’t have to be a camper to visit the campground for our free evening programs. Presented by Park staff and volunteers, our unique programs often include a slide program and sometimes games, stories, or songs, too! Campfire programs are held at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground amphitheater on most Saturdays November through April. See monthly schedule for details.

JR. RANGER PROGRAMS  Jr. Rangers lets children ages 7-12 have fun and earn a badge while learning about the Park! Parents drop off and pick up their kids at the Visitor Center for this special kids-only hour. Attendance is limited; please sign up at the Visitor Center. Offered most Saturdays in the winter and spring.

SCHOOL GROUPS  K-12 teachers may request a program at the Visitor Center, aligned with state educational standards, by calling 760-767-4205.

Many Activities are Accessible
Please check the Monthly Interpretive Schedule for details or call 760-767-4205.
Self-Guided Trails

If you can’t join a naturalist, why not try one of our self-guided hikes? Pick up a brochure at the Visitor Center or look for one at the trailhead.

YAQUI WELL NATURE TRAIL Begin across the road from the Tamarisk Grove Campground to enjoy this 1.5 mile, one-way nature trail. Return the same way, or on the Primitive Camp road for a loop hike.

BORREGO PALM CANYON TRAIL Often crowded in spring, this popular trail leads to a cool, shady palm oasis. The rocky trail is three miles round-trip and takes a minimum of two hours.

CACTUS LOOP NATURE TRAIL Start your walk across the street and to the east of the Tamarisk Grove entrance. This one-mile loop has a short, but strenuous, climb and an uneven surface. Great views and a variety of cactus species await you.

EROSION ROAD DRIVING TOUR Take your own vehicle on a paved-road tour of the dynamic landscapes in the Badlands area of the Park.

NARROWS EARTH NATURE TRAIL This easy, gentle one-half mile walk is short, but sweet. In 30 minutes you can fully explore the many geological processes taking place in this small canyon.

ELEPHANT TREE NATURE TRAIL Only one living Elephant Tree remains along the trail, but this hike through a rocky wash is still a delight. This easy walk covers one mile and takes about one hour. High clearance 4WD is needed to reach the trailhead.

'EHMUU-MORTEROS TRAIL This easy half-mile walk takes you back in time through a seasonal Kumeyaay village site.

All-Access Trail Models the Inner Solar System

Take a stroll or a roll along our 0.7-mile concrete walkway connecting the Visitor Center and the Borrego Palm Canyon Campground. Along with interpretive panels describing common plants and animals, you’ll find round panels with information about planet Earth and our nearest neighbors in the solar system. Panels are placed at distances creating a scale model based on a 3-foot diameter “Sun” at the Visitor Center. You can walk all the way to “Saturn”!

Dogs (on a leash) and bicycles are also welcome on this path; cyclists should remember to give way to other traffic.
Hiking Trails - Numbered on Following Maps

**VISITOR CENTER & CAMPGROUND AREA - SEE MAP ON OPPOSITE PAGE**

1. **Borrego Palm Canyon Nature Trail** 3.0 miles round trip
   Begins at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground. Self-guided trail brochure describes plants and geology. Gently climbing trail leads to native palm grove.

2. **Panoramic Overlook Trail** 1.0 mile round trip
   Begins at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground, near site #71. Steep uphill trail ending with a view of campground and Borrego Valley.

3. **Visitor Center / Campground Trail** 1.4 miles round trip
   Begins at Visitor Center or B.P.C. Campground. Easy, all access trail between the two locations. Typical creosote scrub environment. **Dogs on leash are permitted on this trail.**

4. **Visitor Center All-Access Nature Trail** 0.25 miles round trip
   This trail takes 15 minutes or so and has a firm surface. Begin at the front doors of the Visitor Center.

5. **California Riding and Hiking Trail** 12.0 miles round trip
   Access via Culp Valley Overlook Trail in Culp Valley Campground. Following the ridge, this steep trail drops more than 2,000 feet in elevation. Taken one way (downhill) it is a moderate hike, round-trip more difficult. One-way trip ends at the Hellhole Canyon parking area.

6. **Hellhole Canyon / Maidenhair Falls Trail** 6.0 miles round trip
   Begins at Hellhole Canyon parking area. Mostly difficult hike up into a canyon oasis. Some rock scrambling required.

7. **Little Surprise Canyon Trail** 0.6 mile round trip
   Begins behind the restroom at Hellhole Canyon parking area. Easy-to-moderate hike through a complex geologic area.

8. **Pena Spring Trail** 0.6 miles round trip
   Begins at Culp Valley Campground. Steep walk to an artesian water source, which is piped into a shallow tank used by birds and wildlife.

**COYOTE CANYON & BADLANDS - SEE CENTER MAP ON NEXT PAGE**

9. **Alcoholic Pass** 2.0 miles round trip
   Trailhead is on Coyote Canyon road, 2.5 miles from end of pavement. Used by Indians and cowboys alike, this steep, moderately strenuous trail will lead to the top of a pass with views of Coyote Canyon and the surrounding mountains. Check road conditions online or at the Visitor Center.

10. **Calcite Mine** 4.0 miles round trip
    Park on Hwy. S-22 at mile 38.0 (turnout). Walk north to the jeep road and follow it up to the old mine area. This is a steep, difficult hike with no shade.

11. **Wilson Trail - Culp Valley Area** 8.8 miles round trip
    Access from Old Culp Valley Road. This moderate hike follows Pinyon Ridge. It offers spectacular views of the valley.

**BLAIR VALLEY AREA - SEE CENTER MAP ON NEXT PAGE**

12. **Ghost Mountain (Marshal South Homesite)** 2.0 miles round trip
    Begins in Blair Valley, 2.7 miles from Hwy. S-2. The ruins of the South home, where a family lived in the 1930s, can be seen at the top of this short, steep trail.

13. **‘Ehmuu—Morteros Trail** 0.5 miles round trip
    Begins in Blair Valley, 3.5 miles from Hwy. S-2. A self-guided trail brochure explains the Indian grinding holes (morteros) visible in the boulders along this very easy trail.
Yaqui Well Nature Trail  1.6 miles round trip
Begins across from Tamarisk Grove Campground. Self-guided trail brochure leads you along path to a historic desert water hole. Easy walk, abundant birds and wildlife.

Cactus Loop Trail  1.0 mile loop
Begins across the road from Tamarisk Grove Campground. Moderately strenuous climb with excellent views and lots of cactus. Self-guided trail brochure available.

Bill Kenyon Overlook  1.0 mile round trip
Begins near the summit of Yaqui Pass at Yaqui Pass Campground. Park and walk to the back of the lot where you will see a rock lined trail leading to the south. Easy-to-moderate hike.

Narrows Earth Trail  0.5 mile loop
Begins on Hwy. 78, 4.7 miles east of Tamarisk Grove. Self-guided trail brochure describes geologic activity on this short, easy walk.

The Slot  1.5 miles round trip
From Hwy. 78 east, turn left on Buttes Pass Road. Drive 1 mile to a “Y” intersection. Stay to the left and drive 0.8 miles. The road makes a sharp turn to the left but stop and park here. Climb down into the canyon below the road, turn left and hike through this narrow wash.
When Do the Wildflowers Bloom?

This is one of the most often asked questions in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most difficult to answer. Each year, the unique combination of sun, wind, water, and temperature sets the stage for the springtime bloom. Use the following information to make your own prediction for this spring’s showing.

WEATHER
Rain is needed in small doses throughout the winter. Too little rain provides a poor climate for seed germination. Too much rain, and the seeds could rot or be washed away. Showers too early or too late in the season may not help the flowers bloom.

Temperature is also critical. Warm days are a good indicator of a full bloom ahead. If the sun gets too hot though (more than 85° in February/March), the seeds may become parched and seedlings scorched. Cool nights can assist flower seedlings by slowing the growth of competitors like grasses and mustards. However, very cold temperatures mean bad news for blossoms.

Along with all of these factors, wildflowers must contend with the desert winds. Hot, arid winds may dry out the seeds before they have a chance to grow. High winds during the bloom may scatter the pollen before next year’s seeds have been produced.

TIMING
When will the flowers bloom? None of us knows for sure. Each year’s bloom is unique in its variety, profusion, and timing. From late February through March, it is usually possible to find some blossoms somewhere, and the peak often (though not always) occurs in early to mid-March. For up-to-date information, call our Wildflower Hotline (760-767-4684) or check online at www.parks.ca.gov or www.theabf.org.

And if you should happen to miss the peak, take consolation in the fact that you’ve missed the peak crowds as well. A tranquil walk in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® will reward you any time of year.
Discover Amazing Plant Diversity
By Larry Hendrickson, Botanist

Wildlflowers bloom later in the spring at higher elevation.

Explore more than 620,000 acres of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®, extending from the eastern sands of the low desert (-60 ft.) to snow in the mountains (6193 ft.) to the north and west. Plant communities change with elevation, topography, and the amount and timing of rainfall. Intriguing ocotillo and agave thrive on alluvial fans and hillsides, and the riparian zone along Coyote Creek supports shrubs and trees as well as wildlife. Various types of cacti are abundant along the Cactus Loop Trail near Tamarisk Grove. To discover the unique Elephant Trees in Torote Bowl, hike through Pygmy and Southwest palm groves at Mountain Palm Springs in the Bow Willow Area of the Park. Explore the transition chaparral in Culp Valley/Pena Spring in late spring. Following sufficient winter rain, spring wildflowers await discovery on sandy flats and in protected western canyons. Cooler temperatures at higher elevations along Sunrise Highway and Route 79 extend the blooming season into late spring or summer, in the mountain meadows adjacent to Lake Cuyamaca. If your time is limited, discover over 40 native plant species on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden. Field Guides and maps are available at the Park Visitor Center or at the State Park Store in The Mall on Palm Canyon Drive.
Enjoy your visit!
CAMP BORREGO: Sharing Our Desert Home with Future Generations

In partnership with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®, Anza-Borrego Foundation runs Camp Borrego, an environmental education program that invites fifth grade students to explore the Anza-Borrego Desert in a variety of ways. During each 3-day, 2-night session, students walk in the footsteps of our desert’s human ancestors, picturing a way of life that has long since passed; hike up Borrego Palm Canyon to the oasis, learning about the different plants that offer shelter, shade, and food to our furry and feathered friends; learn about the magnificent creatures of days gone by; and keep their eyes open for our signature animal, the Peninsular bighorn sheep.

Getting the chance to explore this desert first-hand is an opportunity of a lifetime, and is an adventure that has the potential to create lifelong supporters of our public spaces.

PORTS: Bringing Our Desert Home to the Classroom

Another way we share our desert home with young people is through our Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program. PORTS uses technology to bring students from all over California to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. ABF has been key to the success of Anza-Borrego’s PORTS programs. Its generous contributions have helped to set up a green screen studio, buy mobile satellite equipment, and fund interpreters for program development and presentations. These programs are free for schools. Over the past ten years, more than 82,000 students have experienced Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® without leaving their classrooms.
“When you look at the stars and the galaxy, you feel that you are not just from any particular piece of land, but from the solar system.” ~ Astronaut Kalpana Chawla

Have you ever seen a meteor streak through the Milky Way? For many of our visitors, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park’s dark night sky offers their first glimpse of our galaxy! But did you know that dark skies are also important for wildlife? Scientists are discovering more links between natural light-dark cycles and the health of living things, including humans!

Our commitment to be good stewards of all of our resources, including the beautiful night sky, has prompted the Park to replace older, white lights with shielded, more dark-sky-friendly amber ones. Motion detectors and timers turn lights off when they’re not needed. So enjoy our dark sky, and please let us know what you think of our efforts!

Meteor showers are often best viewed in the hours between midnight and dawn.
Discovering Archaeology
By Robin Connors, Colorado Desert District Archaeologist

Archaeology is a science, just like Geology and Biology are sciences. With science, we have questions and want to discover answers, so we study the problems we want answers to. Archaeologists study ancient people by looking at the things people leave behind.

Ancient people here at Anza-Borrego, the ancestors of the Native people who still live here, have left behind their tools made of bone, wood, and stone, usually found beneath the ground. We see their beautiful pottery, bones and shells from the animals they hunted and ate, and deep holes in the rocks where they processed their food. We discover the places where they camped and built houses and we see their beliefs and ideas in their rock art. By discovering and studying these “left-behinds” or artifacts, we begin to understand how they lived.

Sometimes we carefully dig beneath the ground to look for these artifacts. Usually, the deeper we dig, the older the artifacts we find. This is called stratigraphy; we draw and measure the different levels in which we find artifacts. We have found deep levels containing large stone spear heads that people often mistakenly call “arrowheads”, points that couldn’t have been used with a bow and arrow because they were too heavy. Closer to the ground surface, we find smaller projectile points, true arrowheads—small, sharp, and able to fly long distances. This way we know people used the bow and arrow long after they used the large spear points. This answers the scientific question “when did people start using the bow and arrow?” This is the archaeological process of discovery.
Cultural Preserves Map

Seven Cultural Preserves in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® protect over 42,000 acres of important landscapes containing outstanding historic and prehistoric resources. Please respect the rich heritages represented, and observe posted regulations.
Pre-Prehistory of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®
By Lyndon K Murray, PhD, District Paleontologist

Descriptions of most parks include local geography, the plants and animals that call it home, the history of explorers and settlers, and cultural details of the first inhabitants and their interaction with the land. Anza-Borrego has an even earlier story, discoverable only by interrogating the mountains that snake around and through the Park and the hardened sand that fills the middle. This interrogation has been carried out for at least 150 years as scientific study by geologists and paleontologists.

Geologists discovered a journey made by the land (now Anza-Borrego) of over 150 miles, from an origin next to mainland Mexico, via northwestern motion along the San Andreas fault. This 8 million-year journey included the opening of the Gulf of California and Salton Trough, creating deep basins. Over time, these basins were filled by more than 20,000 feet of sediment from the 5.3 million-years-young Colorado River, burying every organism that lived and died there. Movement by the million-year-old San Jacinto and Elsinore faults caused the hardened sediments to rise up and tilt and squeezed the mountains higher, forming a rain shadow. Local savannas became desert and erosion exposed (and continues to expose) the buried life forms - fossils.

[Image: Movement of ABDSP (red oval) through the last 5.3 million years.]

Park Paleontology Volunteers Linda Gilbert, Bob and Sandra Keeley, Emeritus District Paleontologist George Jefferson at “Shelly” the ~2 million year old giant tortoise (Hesperotestudo) excavation.

[Image: Map showing the movement of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park through the last 5.3 million years.]
Paleontologists have discovered fossils of many organisms that once made their home here, including:

- **IN THE SEA** corals, sand dollars, oysters, clams, snails, crabs, sharks, whales, dolphins, walrus

- **ON LAND** fan palms, walnut and avocado trees, snails, giant tortoise, lizards, terror birds, sloths, porcupines, badgers, sabre-tooth cats, wolves, mammoths

- **IN LAKES AND RIVERS** clams, turtles, razorback suckers, pike-minnows, bony tail chubs

- **IN THE AIR** ducks, hawks, eagles, flamingos, teratorns, bats

Interrogation and discovery continue in Anza-Borrego, aided by the work of many volunteers who feel quite at home in the paleontology laboratory, the fossil-rich areas of the park, or both!

*Editor Note: Drawings from Fossil Treasures of the Anza-Borrego Desert, GT Jefferson and L Lindsay (editors) 2006. Photos courtesy of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Paleontology Society.*

(A) Park Paleontology Volunteer Ron Pavlu removing sandstone with dental pick and brush from anterior of giant tortoise “Shelly”

(B) top of shell (partial) - right side

(C) bottom of shell - posterior view

Park Paleontology Volunteer Bob Keeley excavating the ~100,000 year old sand mammoth (Mammuthus) skull and mandible.
Exciting research in the fields of ecology, entomology, botany, ornithology, herpetology, paleontology, geology, climatology, and archaeology is in progress at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP), much of it being done by researchers using the Research Center as a base. Since 2014, the Center has hosted researchers and classes from over 40 different universities, as well as visiting scientists from Iran, Mongolia, Russia, Mexico, and Canada, and over 800 students have been exposed to the Anza-Borrego desert learning environment. Two new species of moths have already been discovered, as well as a previously unknown (for the Park) beetle, and the prospect of new discoveries in all fields is tantalizing.

Providing labs and classrooms, as well as overnight accommodations for researchers and students, the Steele/Burnand Research Center is a cooperative project between UC Irvine, California State Parks, Anza-Borrego Foundation, and the UC Natural Reserve System. A primary goal of the partnership is to facilitate access to ABDSP for researchers from the University of California and other institutions to foster informed management of the Park’s natural and cultural resources. The Center utilizes solar energy and native landscaping, and is named for Harry and Grace Steele and for A.A. Burnand Jr., the parents and father-in-law of major donor Audrey Steele Burnand.
From the desert to the sea, California has a most diverse selection of parks and recreation areas waiting for you. Kayak the Salton Sea or surf the Pacific Ocean. Stand in awe of mighty redwoods, crawl through underground caverns, or soak in hot mineral springs — all within the California State Park system.

An annual statewide day-use pass gives you daytime access to nearly all of California’s state parks, beaches, reserves, and recreation areas. The $195 permit is on a vehicle hangtag, valid for a full year. Visitors not intending to visit beaches can purchase a $125 Golden Poppy Pass that gives day use access to many of California’s natural and recreational areas, including Anza-Borrego and all of the parks in the Colorado Desert District. Whichever you choose, you can purchase your annual day-use pass at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Visitor Center.

Holders of paper Disabled Discount or Distinguished Veteran Passes must apply to exchange their old pass for a newer plastic one. This can be done at the Visitor Center or District Office until February 2018.

**Practice Desert Safety**

- Know your physical limitations in the heat and rugged desert terrain. Summer temperatures can reach 125°F (51.7°C).

- Always carry plenty of water … and drink it! It does you no good if it stays in your water bottle. One gallon minimum per person per day is recommended.

- Wear sturdy footwear and a hat, and use sun protection.

- Do not hike alone — use the buddy system.

- Tell someone of your trip plans.

- Carry a map and use it. GPS systems are less reliable in remote areas.

- Start out with a well-maintained vehicle. Carry extra water, shovel, tools, flares, and blankets. Check the road condition board at the Visitor Center before you start out.

- If your vehicle breaks down, stay with it! Raise your hood. It is much easier to find a vehicle than a wandering person.

- Should you find yourself in trouble, do not panic. If you have followed the above precautions, help will soon be on the way.
Get off the beaten path to experience the desert in its most primal state. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® is an intriguing place to view from the road, but it becomes magical when you leave the asphalt. You are no longer just “looking at it”—you are “experiencing it”!

Our outdoor adventures—from just a few hours to overnight—focus on fun, education and rugged experiences. So explore Anza-Borrego while exploring your adventurous side with California Overland.

760-767-1232
866-6-EXPLORE
www.CALIFORNIAOVERLAND.com

Palm Oases | Slot Canyons | Wind Caves | Amazing Vista Points | Historic and Prehistoric Sites

BORREGO JEEP PHOTO Adventures

760.484.1700 760.739.1500
www.BORREGOJEPPHOTO Tours.COM
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*Figures are based on daily readings at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Headquarters (30-year average).*

### 2018 SUNRISE & SUNSET

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Support the **Borrego Springs businesses** that generously contribute to keep Anza-Borrego Desert State Park protected!

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