

Welcome to Barry M. Goldwater Range East. Enjoy your visit!

The **Barry M. Goldwater Range** is the third largest land-based military range in the U.S. Since its establishment in 1941, the BMGR has served as a tactical air combat training complex of vital importance to national security. The land area of the range covers approximately 1.7 million acres in southwestern Arizona and is operated as two independent segments: Luke Air Force Base manages the eastern portion (BMGR East), and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma manages the western portion (BMGR West). The BMGR complex also includes about 2.7 million acres, or 57,000 cubic miles, of restricted airspace. This airspace extends over most of Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The BMGR is a large component of one of the largest and best-preserved desert landscapes in the U.S. Portions of BMGR are open for public recreation, but only under a permit system with rules necessary to ensure safety, prevent interference with military training, and protect natural and cultural resources. This map depicts the three areas of BMGR East available for public recreation: Area B, Ajo Air Force Air Station, and Bender Spring. The visitor permit for BMGR East is also valid for BMGR West, Cabeza Prieta NWR and Area A of the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

Military Operations

The BMGR is a training ground for warfare, complete with lethal dangers of a real battlefield. Targets in BMGR East may be attacked by aircraft at any time, day or night, weekday or weekend. No warnings of attack, such as sirens or prior overflights, occur. Although these attacks are training exercises, the weapons are real. Furthermore, there is some risk of encountering unexploded ordnance. No location in BMGR East should be assumed free of military hazards. Restrict your visits to the locations and times specified on your permit. Much of BMGR East's boundary is barred by locked gates and fences to prevent inadvertent entry. However, while you are on BMGR you will see few gates, signs or other warnings to prevent you from entering unauthorized and dangerous areas.

Your Responsibilities

You are responsible for your own safety, for avoiding military assets and training, for protecting natural and cultural resources, and abiding by all BMGR East Rules of Conduct. Always know your location and keep out of unauthorized areas. Ensure others are aware of your itinerary before you enter BMGR. Failure to properly plan your visit and comply with regulation can lead to revocation of future access to BMGR East, incurring fines or imprisonment, or may result in an arduous or even deadly ordeal.

Environmental Hazards

The remoteness that adds to the appeal of the BMGR also adds to its danger. Depending on your location, you may be hours from vehicle services and medical attention. **There are no sources of safe drinking water at BMGR.** You must bring your own water. One to two gallons of water per day are required to maintain hydration for a person exposed to 90°F+ temperatures; more is needed with physical exertion. Summer day temperatures can exceed 120°F; winter night temperatures can drop well below freezing. The intense summer sun can burn unprotected skin after only a few hours. Dangerous flash floods occur, primarily during the late June through September monsoon season. Neither camp in washes during threat of rain or attempt to cross flooded channels by vehicle or on foot. Stay alert for harmful vegetation, such as cacti and acacia, and animals such as rattlesnakes, wasps, bees, centipedes, and scorpions.

Resource Protection

The BMGR landscape has been preserved to the greatest extent possible to facilitate the military training mission, in concert with protecting unique and sensitive natural and cultural resources. The Air Force relies on your commitment to protecting these resources during your visit. The relatively undisturbed character of BMGR East is largely due to its status as a military training area. Livestock grazing, mining, and oil and gas exploration are incompatible with the safety constraints imposed by military use and are prohibited. The Sonoran Desert environment is extremely fragile, and is particularly sensitive to damage from vehicles. Because vehicles compact fragile soils and can remain visible for decades, only drive on roads designated as Open (see map) and do not park or camp more than 50' from the roadside.

Natural Resources

The BMGR contains some of the world's most unique and well-preserved desert. Located in the Sonoran Desert, one of the hottest and driest deserts in North America, BMGR is home to many species of plants and animals adapted for life in an arid environment. More than 400 species of plants have been identified at BMGR, including the iconic Saguaro cactus, as well as barrel, cholla, organ pipe, and prickly pear cacti, agave, ocotillo, creosote bush, bursage, palo verde, mesquite, ironwood, acacia and elephant tree. At least 62 species of mammals, over 250 birds, 5 amphibians, and 44 reptiles occur at BMGR. During your visit, you may see Sonoran pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, white-tailed deer, javelina, or mountain lion. The vast majority of the remaining U.S. habitat of the Sonoran pronghorn antelope, a federally-listed endangered species, is within the BMGR and adjacent Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

Protected Species

Several endangered species call BMGR home. Acuña cactus occurs at BMGR; collection or disturbance of this plant is a violation of federal and state laws. Native plants are also protected by AZ Department of Agriculture. Endangered Sonoran pronghorn were recently released in the Area B visitor use area. If you observe pronghorn, stop your vehicle and allow them to move at least ¼ mile from the roadway before proceeding. The Sonoran Desert tortoise occurs throughout the public use areas. The desert tortoise is an Arizona "Species of Concern," and collection of this species is a violation of state law. Only drive on roads designated as Open (see map) and watch for tortoises, especially in the spring and monsoon months. Report sightings of pronghorn and tortoises to the 56th Range Management Office (623-856-7216).

Cultural History

Archaeologists have confirmed that people inhabited the present-day BMGR over 13,000 years ago when the climate was colder and wetter and early hunters stalked mammoth and other now extinct mammals. About 10,000 years ago the region began an 8,000 year transition to the Sonoran Desert we see today. Humans had to adapt to a changing environment and new food sources. New tools were developed to grind seeds, harvest saguaro and cholla fruit, and hunt deer, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn. Farmers appeared 2,000 years ago and settled at villages where they grew corn, beans, squash and other crops by means of runoff agriculture. Traces of prehistoric human settlements, sites and trails are scattered across the landscape. Historically, the Tohono O'odham (Papago/Desert People) and Hia C-ed O'odham (Sand People) lived, and continue to live, in the area. By the early 1700s, the region was an important route for Spanish explorers and missionaries and, later, for American pioneers bound for California. Beginning in the 1880s, ranching and mining became more prevalent. The first military use of the area is documented by the 1941 auxiliary air fields where pilots trained for WWII.

Rules of Conduct. These rules of conduct are for your safety!

- **Visitors must comply with all applicable federal and Arizona laws including but not limited to the Endangered Species Act, Antiquities Act, and Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Illegal or unauthorized activity may result in personal harm and injury, being escorted off BMGR East, revocation of future access to BMGR East and neighboring lands, criminal or civil felony prosecution, fines, and/or imprisonment. If you are directed by law enforcement or BMGR personnel to leave, do so at once.**

- **Permit.** Each adult (18 years and older) must acquire an access permit via the luke.isportsman.net web page. You must have the permit in your possession at all times while on the range. **Visitors must check-in via the luke.isportsman.net website, or notify BMGR Security at (623) 5200/5241 or (928) 683-5200/5241 when entering BMGR East permitted areas.**

- **Hazard Area (depicted in red on map). STOP! DO NOT ENTER. This area is closed to visitor access when the BMGR East is open for military training operations. View the schedule/interactive map on luke.isportsman.net, or call BMGR Security at (623) 856-5200/5241 or (928) 683-5200/5241 to request entry.** Camping in the Hazard Area is prohibited.

- **Military Hardware and Ordnance. Do not disturb or remove any military hardware such as targets, electronic equipment, or ordnance.** Unexploded ordnance, flares and other munitions may be encountered anywhere within the range, lying on the ground or partially or completely buried. Collecting or disturbing any type of military ordnance or debris is potentially lethal and is prohibited by federal law. Always treat ordnance as potentially deadly. If you encounter ordnance, do not touch it and report its exact location to BMGR Security.

- **Safety.** Undocumented aliens and drug smugglers occur at BMGR, and may be especially prevalent along backcountry roads and paths, and near water sites. Use discretion when deciding where to hike or camp. Secure your vehicle and belongings if you are away from your campsite.

- **Cultural Resources.** Collection or excavation of artifacts and vandalism of rock art is a felony under federal law. Prehistoric and historic artifacts include arrowheads, pottery, chipped stone, ground stone, shell, beads, glass bottles, ceramics, cans, metal, and lumber.

- **Rock hounding, Fossils, and Geocaching.** Prospecting, removal, or disturbance of sand, gravel, rocks and minerals is prohibited. Collecting fossils is prohibited by federal law. Geocaching is not permitted.

- **Natural Resources.** Collection, possession, disturbance, or removal of any plant or animal is prohibited, unless specifically authorized by permit.

- **Hunting & Shooting.** Hunting is allowed in authorized access areas in accordance with Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) regulations. You must have a valid Arizona hunting license in addition to your BMGR permit. The use of non-toxic/non-lead ammunition and the removal of gut piles are recommended. Do not fire weapons when low-flying aircraft are in your vicinity. Whether hunting or target shooting, always have a safe backstop behind your intended target and remove your brass and target debris.

- **Vehicles.** 4WD vehicles are recommended. All vehicles must be street legal and licensed. ATV/UTVs must be registered and licensed in accordance with AGFD requirements. Only drive on roads designated as Open. The speed limit is 25 mph in public use areas. For camping park your vehicle within 50' of the edge of the road. Groups of 10 or more vehicles require a Special Use Permit (SUP); contact the 56th Range Management Office (623) 856-7216 or 1758 to obtain a SUP.

- **Camping.** Camping is allowed for up to 14 consecutive days in permitted locations (see map). Camps must be within 50' of roads and more than ¼ mile from water sites. Camping in the Area B Hazard Area is prohibited. Upon departure remove all traces of visitation and rake out tracks.

- **Firewood.** Please bring your firewood with you. You may collect and burn down, dead, detached wood. Do not cut standing trees, either dead or alive. Do not collect wood for commercial or other use outside the range. Completely extinguish your campfire and disperse fire rings and ashes. Additional fire restrictions may be implemented.

- **Mines.** Numerous abandoned mines, wells, and shafts are scattered throughout the range. Entry into mines is prohibited to protect your safety and sensitive resources such as bat colonies.

- **Ongoing Studies.** Scientific studies are in progress; do not damage or remove sensors, gauges, flagging, rebar, stakes or other devices or markers.

- **Water Holes.** Do not enter (e.g. wade, swim) natural and human-made water sites, such as tinajas and wildlife waters.

- **Other.** Close and lock all gates behind you. All remote-controlled aircraft are prohibited. Using metal detectors is prohibited. Pets must be under the owner's control at all times.

- **Reporting Illicit Activities.** Please report illegal or suspicious activities to BMGR Security (623) 856-5200/5421.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Pack it in, pack it out! When leaving BMGR, take all possessions with you.

Important Phone Numbers and Addresses

56th Range Management Office
7101 Jerstad Lane, Bldg 500
Luke AFB, AZ 85309-1647
(623) 856-7216

Cabeza Prieta N.W.R
1611 North Second Avenue
Ajo, AZ 85321
(520) 387-6483

Marine Corps Air Station
Range Management Department
MCAS Yuma, AZ 85369
(928) 269-3115

BMGR East Security
Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field
(623) 856-5200/5241

Sonoran Desert National Monument
Bureau of Land Management
One North Central Ave, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 417-9200

US Border Patrol
1-877-USBP HELP (877-872-7435)

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Operation Game Thief
1-800-352-0700

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