TRAVEL AT YOUR OWN RISK!!!

The desert backcountry can be DANGEROUS!!! Unimproved roads and trails are not maintained and are infrequently traveled. Be prepared for rough remote country, extreme temperatures and potentially dangerous storms with flash flooding.

Range Management Dept.
Marine Corps Air Station Yuma
(928) 269-3115

Map Version 4.0 (2024)
05/13/2024

- Intersection Markers
- Rescue Beacons
- GOVERNMENT USE ONLY ROADS
- Paved Government Only
- Government Only
- PUBLIC USE ROADS
- Primary Public
- Secondary Public
- Tertiary Public
- Military Reservation Boundary BMGRW
- Closed to Public
- BMGR East Closed To Public
- No Camping
- Fortuna Mine
- Fortuna Block
- Wellton Block
- Mohawk Block
- PRIVATE
- STATE LANDS
- BLM
- USFWS
- USBR

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

N W E S

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

The **Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR)** is the third largest land-based military range in the United States. 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 BMGR covers approximately 1.7 million acres in southwestern Arizona and is operated as two independent segments: Marine Corps Air Station Yuma manages the western portion (BMGR-W) and Luke Air Force Base manages the eastern portion (BMGR-E). The BMGR complex also includes about 2.7 million acres, or 57,000 cubic miles, of restricted airspace. The BMGR is a large component of one of the largest and best-preserved desert landscapes in the U.S. Portions of the BMGR are open for public recreation, **but only** under a permit system with regulations necessary to ensure public safety, prevent interference with military training, and to protect natural and cultural resources. This map depicts the areas of the BMGR-W that are open for public recreation. For more information regarding natural and cultural resource management activities on the BMGR-W, please visit the following website: www.mcasyuma.marines.mil/Staff-and-Agencies/Range-Natural-and-Cultural-Resources/

Military Operations

Although recreation is authorized by permit in accordance with these regulations, any and all portions of the BMGR-W are subject to closure at any time for safety, security, and/or military training. Military operations on the BMGR-W consist of a multitude of activities both in the air and on the ground. Encounters with large convoys of military vehicles or low-level training flights by a variety of aircraft is to be expected. The majority of this training is conducted in the areas designated as "Closed to Public" on the reverse map. For your safety, warning signs mark most but not all of the boundaries and roads approaching the restricted areas. Unauthorized individuals found in the restricted areas will be escorted off of the BMGR-W and will be cited for trespassing. Additionally, individuals could be held liable for any and all costs the military might incur as a result of training interruptions due to the individual's failure to follow these regulations. There is some risk of encountering unexploded ordnance. **No location on the BMGR-W should be assumed to be free of military hazards.**

Your Responsibilities

You are responsible for your own safety, for avoiding military assets and training units, for abiding by the BMGR-W regulations, and for doing your part to help protect natural and cultural resources. Always know your location and keep out of unauthorized areas. Ensure others are aware of your itinerary before you enter the BMGR-W. Failure to properly plan your visit and comply with the BMGR-W regulations could lead to fines, imprisonment, or the revocation of future access to the BMGR-W, and potentially result in serious personal injury or death.

Environmental Hazards

The remoteness that adds to the appeal of the BMGR-W 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 on the BMGR-W.** You must bring your own water. One to two gallons of water per day is **recommended** to maintain hydration for the average person exposed to temperatures above 90 degrees; more water is needed with physical exertion. Summer daytime temperatures can exceed 120 degrees and winter nighttime temperatures can drop below freezing. The intense summer sun can burn unprotected skin after brief periods of exposure. Dangerous flash floods occur, primarily during the late June through September monsoon season. Do not camp in washes during the threat of rain and never attempt to cross flooded washes or drainages by vehicle or on foot. Stay alert for harmful vegetation such as cacti and acacia, and wildlife such as rattlesnakes, wasps, bees, centipedes, and scorpions.

Resource Protection

The BMGR-W 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 Marine Corps relies heavily on your commitment to protecting these resources during your visit. The relatively undisturbed character of the BMGR-W 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 tracks can remain visible for many decades, drive **only** on roads designated for public use (see map), and do **not** park more than 50 feet from the centerline of the road.

Natural Resources

The BMGR-W 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, the BMGR-W is home to many species of plants and wildlife adapted for life in this hostile environment. More than 200 species of plants have been identified on the BMGR-W, including the iconic saguaro cactus, ocotillo, creosote bush, bursage, palo verde, mesquite, ironwood, and elephant trees. At least 50 species of mammals, over 250 birds, 4 amphibians, and over 35 reptiles occur on the BMGR-W. During your visit you may see Sonoran pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, bobcat, coyote, javelina, and mountain lion. The vast majority of the remaining U.S. habitat of the Sonoran pronghorn, a federally-listed endangered species, occurs within the BMGR and the adjacent Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.

Protected Species

Numerous rare plants and wildlife call the BMGR-W home, including the federally-listed endangered Sonoran pronghorn. If you are fortunate enough to observe a pronghorn, stop your vehicle and allow them to move at least 1/4 mile from the roadway before proceeding. The Sonoran desert tortoise also occurs throughout the BMGR-W. You are prohibited from collecting or disturbing any federal and state protected species. Only drive on roads designated for public use (see map) and watch for tortoises and lizards, especially during the spring and monsoon months.

Cultural Resources

The Marine Corps manages approximately 600 known cultural resource sites on the BMGR-W. Long before the withdrawal of public lands for the establishment of the BMGR, indigenous peoples, explorers, frontiersmen, and miners traversed the landscape leaving behind traces of their existence. Evidence of these early inhabitants is still visible today and permit holders are encouraged to visit and explore the various cultural resources available for their education and enjoyment. For instance, three segments of El Camino del Diablo (The Devil's Highway), an indigenous trail and historical-period roadway that bisects the BMGR-W, are open to the public for scenic outings and exploration. The Fortuna Mine, the most productive historical-period gold mine in the Fortuna District, has an interpretive trail and is available for group tours. Other places of both scenic and cultural richness on the BMGR-W include Tinajas Altas, Baker Peaks and Tanks, Betty Lee Mine and Tanks, Raven Butte, and Dripping Springs. Federal historic preservation laws have been developed to protect our cultural heritage and are strictly enforced on the BMGR-W. Violation of these laws will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, and could result in substantial fines and/or imprisonment.

Important Signs and Markers



BMGR-W Entry Sign



Road Marker



Public Access Area Sign

BMGR-W Regulations. THESE ARE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

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

Permit: Every individual (18 years and older) must obtain a BMGR Recreation Permit and acknowledge a Hold Harmless Agreement prior to entering the BMGR-W. You must have the permit in your possession at all times while on the range. **Persons under 18 must be accompanied by a valid BMGR-W permit holder at all times.** To obtain a BMGR-W permit:

1. Go to: bmgr.recaccess.com
2. Create an account (each individual applying for a permit must create their own account)
3. Follow the instructions and fill out the requested information
4. Print out your permit/vehicle pass. You must display your vehicle pass in your windshield
5. Retain a printed or digital (i.e. screenshot) copy of your permit to keep in your possession while accessing the range

You are required to check-in prior to entering the range. You will check-in at: bmgr.recaccess.com Additionally, please ensure that the block(s) you are attempting to enter are currently open to the public. The blocks are identified as **Fortuna**, **Wellton**, and **Mohawk** on the reverse map. Any block closures will be clearly identified on the interactive map on the RecAccess website when you check-in.

Hazard Areas (depicted in red hash on map): STOP! DO NOT ENTER. These areas are off limits to the public.

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 BMGR-W; lying on the ground, 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.

Border Safety: Undocumented aliens attempting to gain entry into the U.S. and drug smuggling occurs on the BMGR-W, and may be especially prevalent along backcountry roads and paths, and near water sites. Use discretion and good judgment when deciding where to hike or camp. Secure your vehicle and belongings if you are away from your campsite.

Artifacts: Collection or excavation of artifacts and vandalism of rock art are prohibited by federal law. Prehistoric and historical artifacts include arrowheads, pottery, chipped stone, ground stone, shell, beads, glass bottles, ceramics, cans, metal, and lumber.

Natural Resources: Collection, possession, disturbance, or removal of any plant or animal is prohibited, unless specifically authorized by permit or valid hunting license. The release or abandonment of pets (dogs, cats, tortoises, snakes, lizards, etc.) is strictly prohibited.

Hunting and Shooting: Hunting is allowed only in areas designated as open to the public. You must comply with all Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) hunting regulations. You must have a valid Arizona hunting license in addition to your BMGR-W permit. The use of game and/or trail cameras of any kind is prohibited. The use of non-toxic/non-lead ammunition and the removal of gut piles is 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: Four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended. Vehicular traffic is limited to designated roads that can be identified by numbered markers at junctions, unless posted "Government Use Only, No Public Access" by signage. **Off-road vehicle travel is strictly prohibited.** All vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles, must be **licensed** and **insured** for **street-legal** driving and must comply with all Arizona **OHV** laws and requirements. Speed is limited to 25 MPH, unless otherwise posted.

Camping: Camping within 1/4 mile of a wildlife water is prohibited by state law. **Vehicles must remain within 50 feet of the centerline of a designated road.** Camping is **limited** to 14 consecutive days within a 28-day period.

RVs and 5th Wheels: To help protect the fragile Sonoran Desert landscape, RV and 5th wheel camping is restricted to the following area:

- Foothills Blvd. range entry point (sign post "A") with a limit of 4 camping spaces.

Range permits are required and permits will be visibly displayed on or in the RV/5th wheel trailer. Camping spaces are provided on a first come basis. Staging of gear/equipment to "reserve" a spot is prohibited. All vehicles must not exceed 50 feet from the centerline of the road and camping is limited to 14 consecutive days within a 28-day period. Military training requirements have priority at all times and guests may be required to remove their vehicles/trailers from the range, with little notice. RV/5th wheel camping, outside of the above area (such as for game camps, research, and contractors) may be allowed with a Special Use Permit. To inquire about obtaining a Special Use Permit, please call (928) 269-3115.

Firewood: It is recommended that you bring your own firewood. You may collect and burn dead, down, and detached wood. Do not cut standing trees, either dead or alive. Collection of wood for commercial or other uses outside of the BMGR-W is prohibited. Completely extinguish your campfire and disperse fire rings and ashes.

Mines: Numerous abandoned mines, wells, and shafts are scattered throughout the BMGR-W. Entry into mines is strictly prohibited.

Possessions: Pack it in, pack it out! When leaving the BMGR-W, take all possessions with you. Do not leave, burn, or bury litter, food, water, sewage, or other hazardous liquids.

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

Wildlife Waters: Do not enter (e.g., wade, swim) natural and human-made water sites, such as tinajas and catchments.

Rock Climbing: Technical climbing using ropes, carabiners, pitons, expansion bolts, or other technical climbing gear is prohibited.

Reporting Illegal Activities: Please report illegal or suspicious activities to the Range Management Department at (928) 750-4897.

Other: **Use of metal detectors, drones, remote-controlled aircraft, ultralights, and powered parachutes is prohibited.** Pets must be under the owner's control at all times. Leave gates as you found them.

Contact and Weather Information

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma
Range Management Dept. Bldg. 151
Yuma, AZ 85369
(928) 269-3115

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

Cabeza Prieta NWR
1611 North 2nd Ave.
Ajo, AZ 85321
(520) 387-6483

Bureau of Land Management
7341 East 30th Street Suite A
Yuma, AZ 85365
(928) 317-3200

US Border Patrol
1-877-872-7435

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

Sonoran Desert Weather Monitoring Website:
https://wrcc.dri.edu/bmgr/