

# Regulations for the Barry M. Goldwater Range West

**Personal Safety** -- You are responsible for your own safety when visiting the Barry M. Goldwater Range and the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. You must be aware of all hazards from military and environmental causes. Take the necessary precautions to guard against them.

**Permits** -- Without exception, entry onto the BMGR and CPNWR is by permit only. All persons the age of 18 or over entering the BMGR West must have a current Range Permit issued in their name. Those individuals under the age of 18 must be escorted at all times by an individual 18 or over with a valid permit. Each person will be issued two copies of their permit; one copy is to be kept on their person and the other is to be placed on the dash of their vehicle.

Since the BMGR West is an active military training area you are required to call the phone number listed on the back of your permit prior to entering the BMGR West. The answering service will ask you questions on your trip and provide any warning information for you area of travel.

Some activities may require a Special Use Permit (SUP), which can be obtained by calling the phone number listed for the Range Management Department at MCAS Yuma on main portal entry signs. These activities that require a SUP are as follows:

- Parties with 10 or more vehicles.
- Discharge of firearms before sunrise or after sunset.
- Discharge of firearms that are fully automatic.
- Extended camping.
- Scientific studies of any type (i.e. biological, archaeological, technological, geological, etc.)



Any minor who is not escorted by an adult, or any adult who fails to obtain a Range Permit or SUP prior to entering the BMGR West will be escorted off the BMGR West and could be cited and fined for trespassing. Any vehicle that does not have a properly displayed Range Permit could be towed.

The Government, its agents, U.S. Border Patrol or any individual dually authorized by the Government will not be held liable in any forum for any damages or costs incurred because of towing. Any costs or damages incurred because of towing shall be the sole responsibility of the registered owner of the vehicle or their authorized agent.

When on the BMGR/CPNWR you must be prepared to present your permit upon request to any authorized officer of the U.S. military, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, or Yuma County Sheriff's Office. Any person without a valid permit may be fined and/or barred from the BMGR/CPNWR.

**Separate permits are required to enter Barry M. Goldwater Range East and the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge.**

## Vehicles

Four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended, though not required in all areas. Roads are only minimally maintained and vehicles should have high clearance and 4-wheel drive. All vehicles must remain on designated roads only; driving in washes that are not part of the road system is not permitted. All ATVs, dirt bikes, sand rails, vehicles and operators are required to be licensed for highway driving under Arizona laws. ATVs are not permitted on the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. Although it is permissible to pull off the road no more than 50 feet (20 steps or 2 car lengths), we encourage you and your party to pull your vehicle off the road only far enough to allow another vehicle to pass.

All vehicles and operators will continue to be required to comply with general vehicle operating rules, including being licensed for highway driving under Arizona laws and regulations. Maximum speed limit is 25 MPH, unless otherwise posted. Cross country travel is prohibited.

All roads are considered to be closed unless designated open by an official lettered/numbered 4x4 wooden intersection marker. The location of the markers are identified on the reverse map.

No motorized travel in all washes except where the wash is part of the designated road system located on the Official BMGR West Road Map which is on the reverse side.



## Military Hazards

The BMGR/CPNWR permit system is required to keep visitors from entering areas where live-fire or other dangerous military training activities occur.

Most of the roads approaching dangerous range locations are marked by fences, gates, or warnings signs.



You must be aware, however, that once you are on the BMGR/CPNWR, these barriers or warnings may not be present along some routes of travel to prevent you from inadvertently entering active live-fire areas. Areas open to public access and areas permanently OFF-LIMITS are depicted on the reverse map.

The entire BMGR West is an active military training area, and therefore military training has priority over all recreational activities.

## YOU MUST YIELD TO ALL MILITARY.

These military operations can consist of a multitude of activities both in the air and on the ground. Expect long lines of military vehicles or very low-level, high speed training flights by all types of aircraft. The majority of this training takes place in the areas designated 'No Public Access Area' on the reverse map.

For your safety, warning signs mark most but not all of the boundaries and the roads approaching the 'No Public Access Areas.' It is your responsibility for not only knowing your own location at all times, but also keeping out of the 'No Public Access Areas' of the BMGR West.



Under NO circumstances are you allowed to be in or transgress through these areas. Your Range Permit is NOT valid. If you do enter these areas the Government, its agents or any individual dually authorized by the Government will not be held liable in any forum for any damages, destruction, injuries or death to you or your property.

Any individual found in these areas will be escorted off the BMGR West and will be cited for trespassing and could be jailed or fined for any and all costs the military might incur until that individual is clear of the training area. These costs could include but are not limited to fuel (both vehicle and aviation), equipment wear and tear (ground and air), rescheduling of training and pay (officers and enlisted).

## Navigation, Roads & Vehicles



All Roads and trails authorized for travel, on this map, are marked with sign posts at their junctions. If you are traveling on an authorized road, and approach an intersection that does not contain a sign marker, DO NOT alter your course. Some roads are closed to public use. Official intersections are marked by a wooden post with an alpha-numeric designation on it. You are only authorized to travel on the roads, designated on the reverse side of this sheet, as open to the public. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended to cope with the rugged terrain on the BMGR West, and required if you plan to travel through the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. If a road is impassable because of flooding, mud, moon-dust, or a lawful closure, turn back. Do not drive off-road to circumvent such areas: Cross-country and off-road travel is strictly prohibited.

## Unexploded Munitions

Training with aircraft weapons has occurred on the BMGR/CPNWR since World War II, leaving behind a potentially deadly hazard including bombs, rockets, or other munitions that could still contain live explosives.



Although training has been carefully managed over the last several decades, munitions have landed in unplanned range locations. Target locations used during the 1940s and 1950s may no longer be known with certainty.



As a result, potentially dangerous unexploded munitions could be encountered anywhere within the range, lying on the ground or partially or completely buried. These munitions could still explode even though they may have lain in the desert for decades. In fact, age may well have rendered them more unstable and prone to detonation than when they were first dropped or fired.



The general categories of munitions used on the range include weapons with fully armed warheads and training variants that contain only enough explosives to produce a puff of smoke to show where the munitions hit. Both categories are potentially deadly. You must leave all munitions you encounter on the BMGR/CPNWR alone. Even trained munitions experts may not be able to tell an expended fully armed weapon from its training counterpart. Treat all munitions as potentially deadly. It is illegal for you to collect any munitions or parts of munitions.

## International Border

The southern boundary of the BMGR West is defined by the international border between the U.S. and Mexico. The border road located on the range is closed to the public and is for use by Law Enforcement, Border Patrol and Range Management Personnel only.

U.S. and Mexican Law prohibit crossing this border anywhere on the BMGR West. Due to the proximity of the border, illegal alien and drug smuggling activities do occur. Avoid any encounters with individuals suspected of these activities while on the BMGR West.



Swimming, wading or other entry into waterholes or game catchments is prohibited.

## Hunting

There are legal hunting seasons, established by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, for game species on the Goldwater Range. Hunters are required by Arizona law to be licensed and permitted.



An Arizona hunting license does not give a hunter the right of entry to the Goldwater Range. A BMGR Permit must still be obtained.

To report any wildlife violations, such as poaching or harassment, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (800)352-7000.

## Recreational Shooting on the BMGR West

Recreational shooting, (plinking, target shooting, skeet, etc.), will be conducted with a safe backdrop. Do not shoot across the open desert. The shooter when done will remove all fired casings, targets and target debris.

## Camping

Camping is permitted for a maximum of 14 days in any 28-day period except by Special Use Permit. Camps shall be within 50 feet (20 steps or 2 car lengths) of roads and more than 1/4 mile from waterholes, game catchments and areas designated natural or cultural resources.

Make sure all fires are completely out. Disperse fire rings and ashes, and rake out vehicle tracks at campsites before leaving.

**Fires & Firewood** -- You may collect dead and down wood for campfires in most of the BMGR West except 'No Public Access Areas' and Special Natural Interest Areas. Care should be taken not to denude the BMGR West of firewood. Cutting or pulling of dead, standing trees is prohibited. Collection and removal of wood from the Range for personal or commercial use is prohibited.

We strongly encourage bringing your own firewood or using charcoal or self-contained camp stoves. Make sure all fires are completely out, disperse ashes and fire pit rocks.

**Refuse** -- Pack it in, pack it out! Do not burn or bury trash, please take it out with you.



## Nature

**Plant Collection** -- Native plants are protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law administered by the Arizona Dept of Agriculture. It is unlawful for a person to destroy, dig up, mutilate, collect, cut, harvest or take any native plant, including seeds or fruit.

Examples of protected native plants include: Saguaro, Cholla, Barrel, Mammillaria, Prickly Pear and Hedgehog cacti, Ocotillo, Yucca, Smoke Tree, Palo Verde and Mesquite.

## Water & Waterholes

There is no source of safe drinking water on the range. Please bring your own.



Swimming, wading or other entry into waterholes or game catchments is prohibited.

## Wildlife

BMGR West is home to several federal and state protected species including the Sonoran Pronghorn, Big Horn sheep, Lesser Long-nosed Bat, California Leaf-nosed Bat, Desert Tortoise, Yuman Fringe-toed Lizard and the Flat-tailed Horn lizard. Please observe all wildlife from a distance and avoid destroying their natural habitat. Besides, it is unlawful to harass, kill or harm any wildlife on the range and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



Report any unattended cattle, horses or burros you see on the Range to the Range Management Office at (928)269-2403.



## Species Repopulation Efforts

Portions of the BMGR West (roughly between the Copper Mountains and Mohawk Mountains), Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, and the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument will have no public access from March 15 to July 15, for the annual Sonoran Pronghorn fawning season.



## Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope

This is a combined effort by the land managers of these areas along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state of Arizona, to recover the population of Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope.

## Noxious Weeds

Invasive noxious weeds (non-native plants) displace the native plants that provide food and shelter to wildlife. Invasive plants have become a major problem to the Sonoran Desert. They increase the fire danger to the native vegetation that is not fire tolerant and is killed when exposed to fire.

Off-road driving helps spread the movement of noxious plants by moving seeds and disturbing the soil for seeds to take root. Please stay on the roads.

Ways to prevent the spread of noxious weeds are:

- Drive ONLY on existing roads.
- Insure your camp equipment is clean of weeds and seed matter or dirt and mud from areas outside the desert.
- Do not camp or travel in areas of the range where you find noxious weeds are present.
- Use weed free pellets for feeding and care of your livestock and insure your livestock's coat and hooves are weed free.



## Cultural Resources

People lived here long before you arrived on the scene. They had no running water, no electricity, no cars, no grocery store. The Native Americans who lived here thousands of years ago knew how to survive in this harsh climate. Everything they needed could be found in the surrounding desert; water, food, shelter, clothing, tools and sacred places where the spiritual values of the people could be renewed. Today, it is hard to imagine how they survived without all our modern conveniences.



Mexican and Anglo prospectors also faced the rigors of the desert searching for -- and sometimes finding -- the precious metals they hoped would make them rich. In most cases, their efforts paid only enough for bacon and beans. Testimony to their strength and persistence can be found in the hundreds of prospect pits throughout the BMGR.

Respect the remains of these hearty pioneers! Don't destroy the only evidence we have of their presence on this desolate landscape; it's all we have left. Leave artifacts in place for others to enjoy the sense of discovery and wonder about our ancestors and how they lived in the desert.

## Cultural Resource Protection

Federal and State historic preservation laws have been developed to protect our cultural heritage and these laws are enforced on the BMGR West. Violation of these laws could land you a hefty fine and prison time. It's not worth it, so be a good steward of our historic surface. Wood from historic structures is not fire wood. Stone that is part of an archaeological site cannot be removed. Rock art is not the place for your initials. These are considered acts of vandalism and are against the law.

Report suspicious activities that may be acts of vandalism or looting to the range wardens at (928)941-1640 or to the Range Management Department at (928)269-2548.

No person may excavate, remove, damage or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands ... nor shall any person sell, purchase, exchange, transport or receive any archaeological resource.

## Points of Interest

Here are a few suggested areas to visit while you are on the Barry M. Goldwater Range (West) along with the closest intersection marker that will facilitate your trip.

- Bakers Tank - Intersection marker 'E,' head south about 2.30 miles
- Betty Lee Mine - Intersection marker 'FTA,' head West about 1.75 miles
- Fortuna Mine Interpretative Foot Tour - Intersection marker 'B7,' head East 0.22 miles
- High Tanks - Intersection marker 'A16,' and head South 1.00 mile
- Spook Canyon - Intersection marker 'A8,' and head East 1.56 miles

## Petroglyphs and Pictographs

Petroglyphs are historic and prehistoric designs pecked, engraved or abraded into the desert varnish or patina that forms on desert rock over time.



While pictographs are drawings or painting on a rock wall, defacing or damaging both by either breaking, cracking, carving upon, writing or otherwise marking upon in any manner which destroys, mutilates, injures, defaces, removes, displaces, mars or harms the petroglyphs or pictographs or any natural material found in any cave or cavern is in violation of State and Federal Law. Fines and imprisonment may result.

## Rocks & Minerals

Surface rock collection is allowed in most of the BMGR West except in areas closed to the public and the Special Natural Interest Area. Surface rock collection is limited to 25 pounds of surface rock per person, per day with a 250 pound per year limit.

The use of metal detectors is strictly prohibited.

## Mines & Caves



Entry into mines is prohibited for your safety, and to protect sensitive wildlife that make their homes in the mines.



## Area Closures

Staying on designated trails and roads protects the environment and reduces dust pollution. Roads are being closed to reduce the number of redundant trails leading to the same point, which will reduce unneeded environmental damage and excessive dust.

Please be part of the solution by riding only on designated routes. Protect your privilege. "Nature Rules, Stay on the Designated Trail."



If or when the Range Management Department determines that, the use of off-road vehicles will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on the soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources of particular areas or trails of the public lands, they will immediately close such areas or trails to the type of off-road vehicles causing such effects, until such time is determined that such adverse effects have been eliminated and that measures have been implemented to prevent future recurrence.

## Climate at a Glance

The Barry M. Goldwater Range is an area that is generally dry with little rainfall. During the winter, November through March, the skies are abundant with sunshine.

Weak winter systems will migrate with high clouds and very little precipitation. Strong northerly winds can occur after a frontal passage causing dust storms and reduced visibility.

Summer time is generally clear and hot, with an average temperature over 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Late summer thunderstorms will develop with potential flash flooding. Expect roads and trails to turn into fast flowing streams and rivers.

## Climatological Data

Month	Average High		Average Low	
	°F	°C	°F	°C
January	69	21	44	7
February	74	23	46	8
March	79	26	51	11
April	87	31	57	14
May	94	34	64	18
June	103	39	72	22
July	107	42	80	27
August	106	41	80	27
September	101	101	73	23
October	91	38	62	91
November	78	26	44	17
December	69	21	44	17

Record High July 124/51  
Record Low January 24/-5  
Highest Average Rainfall December/January 0.4 inches  
Lowest Average Rainfall May/June Trace Amounts

For additional weather information, contact Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. Meteorological and Oceanographic Services (METOC) at 928-269-2266.



Barry M. Goldwater Range West Visitors' Guide and Map  
Last updated: October 2008  
Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.



## To Obtain a Permit

Range Management Department MCAS Yuma  
Phone: 928-269-7150  
By Mail: MCAS Yuma Range Management Dept. Attn: Range Permits P.O. Box 99134 Yuma, AZ 85369-9134  
Walk-in: MCAS Yuma Bldg. 952 Main Gate of MCAS Yuma Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gila Bend Air Force Auxiliary Field/Security Operations  
Phone: 928-683-6200 or 928-683-6220  
Gila Bend, AZ 85337  
Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon

56th Range Management Office/Public Affairs (PA)  
Phone: 623-856-8516  
7224 N. 139 Dr., Luke Air Force Base, AZ 85039-1420  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bureau of Land Management/Phoenix Field Office  
Phone: 623-580-5500  
21605 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027  
Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Bureau of Land Management/Public Lands Information Center  
Phone: 602-417-9300  
222 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge  
Phone: 520-387-6483  
1611 N. 2nd Ave., Ajo, AZ 85321  
Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For further information on the Air Force Safety Briefs, maps of the BMGR East and rules, please call (623)856-8516.

## Contact Numbers

The Border Patrol has installed several Rescue Beacons on the BMGR West to assist those individuals in a dire emergency. These Rescue Beacons are lighted and monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and require a response time by an agent of 1 hour or less once activated.

Yuma Regional Medical Center.....(928)344-2000  
2400 S. Avenue A Yuma, AZ 85364  
WWW.YUMAREGIONAL.ORG  
Emergency Services, Medical Services and Local Hospitals, call 911.  
Arizona Department of Public Safety:  
Yuma Office .....(928)782-7679  
Statewide 24/7 .....(520)746-4500  
U.S. Border Patrol .....(800)232-5378  
Yuma .....(928)341-6607  
Wellton .....(928)785-9364  
Yuma County Sheriff's Office .....(928)783-4427  
Yuma Police Department.....(928)373-4700  
CareFlight .....(800)800-0400  
Crime Stoppers .....(800)432-6363  
MCAS Yuma Search and Rescue .....(928)264-2326  
Range Management Permits Office .....(928)269-7150

**More Information**  
Bureau of Land Management .....(928)317-3200  
2555 E. Gila Ridge Rd., Yuma, AZ 85365  
WWW.AZ.BLM.GOV

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service .....(928)783-7861  
356 West 1st St., Yuma, AZ 85364  
WWW.FWS.GOV

Arizona Game & Fish Department Region IV ... (928)342-0091  
9140 E. 28th St., Yuma, AZ 85365  
WWW.GF.STATE.AZ.US

Arizona State Department of Agriculture .....(602)542-4373  
1688 West Adams St., Phoenix, AZ 85007  
WWW.AZDA.GOV/INDEX.HTML

