

# August 2022

## Alabama Hills Newsletter



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### Fieldwork

- 3-4 days a week, staff are conducting dispersed camping surveys, collecting trash, sweeping out vehicle tracks, and monitoring the Alabama Hills.
- BLM staff has been working hard to finalize the designated campsites. We have less than 10 sites to sign. There has been a lot of rocking moving around which will make virtual mulching and planting easier and more protected. With the hot weather, it has been challenging to work outside but the staff is still removing fire rings and ash as well as planting vertical mulch. We are hopefully to have everything signed and blocked off with large boulders by October 1st!
- Summer rain in the region has seen an influx of flowers blooming.



Planting Vertical Mulch



Restoration at Pullout Site

# Behind the Scenes

- Interpretive signs and brochures are being created and worked on collaboratively between the BLM staff, ESIA, AHSG, and other interested parties.
- Staff is working on organizing stewardship projects with various organizations to help implement the management plan.
- An Alabama Hills Kid Activity Page has been created to better connect children to the Alabama Hills. The page has 3 activities that emphasize Leave No Trace practices and cover desert plant and animal adaptations. These pages have been distributed to the local visitor centers and will be used at tabling and outreach events.

## Alabama Hills Kid Activities

Turn this sheet in at the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center or with a Bureau of Land Management Ranger to earn something special!

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### NATURE SUPERPOWERS

The Alabama Hills is a desert and receives little rain or snow. The animals and plants here have *adaptations*, which are like superpowers, to help them live in this hot, dry, and harsh place.

**Match the superpower with the plant or animal. Circle the plants and animals you see!**

<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Chuckwalla</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">I am a strongly scented plant with a long root to reach water deep underground.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">White-tailed Antelope Squirrel</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Turkey Vulture</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">I am a small mammal with large ears that radiate heat to stay cool.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Sagebrush</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Harem Cactus</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">I have a bald head to prevent dirty feathers when I eat carrion (dead animals).</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Black-tailed Hare</p>
	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">I am a large reptile that hides in rocks and puffs up so that predators don't get me!</p>	
	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">I have prickly spines instead of leaves to stop thirsty desert creatures from eating me.</p>	
	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">I am a small rodent with sweat glands between my toes to help cool down.</p>	

### RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

To help protect the Alabama Hills, it is important to practice *Leave No Trace*. When you are enjoying this special place, there are easy ways to recreate responsibly.

**Below, circle the Dos and put an X on the Don'ts.**

<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Keeping your pet on a leash</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Picking up litter, even if it's not yours</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Leaving your mark</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Using an established toilet or packing out waste and toilet paper</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Going off-trail and crushing the brush</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Taking only photos, leaving only footprints</p>

**How will you be a good visitor in the Alabama Hills?**

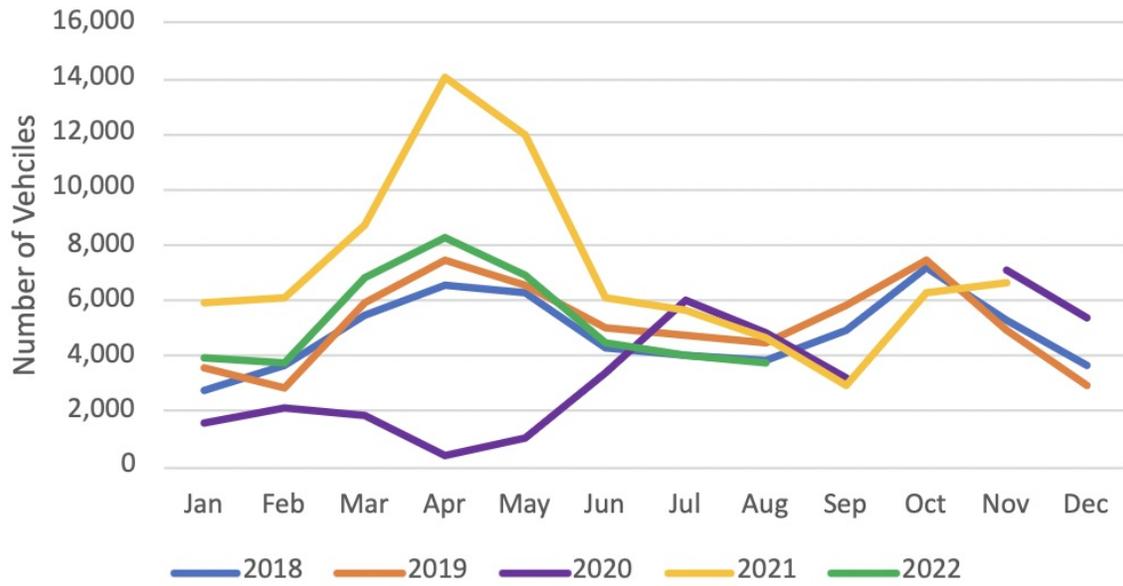
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## August Visitation

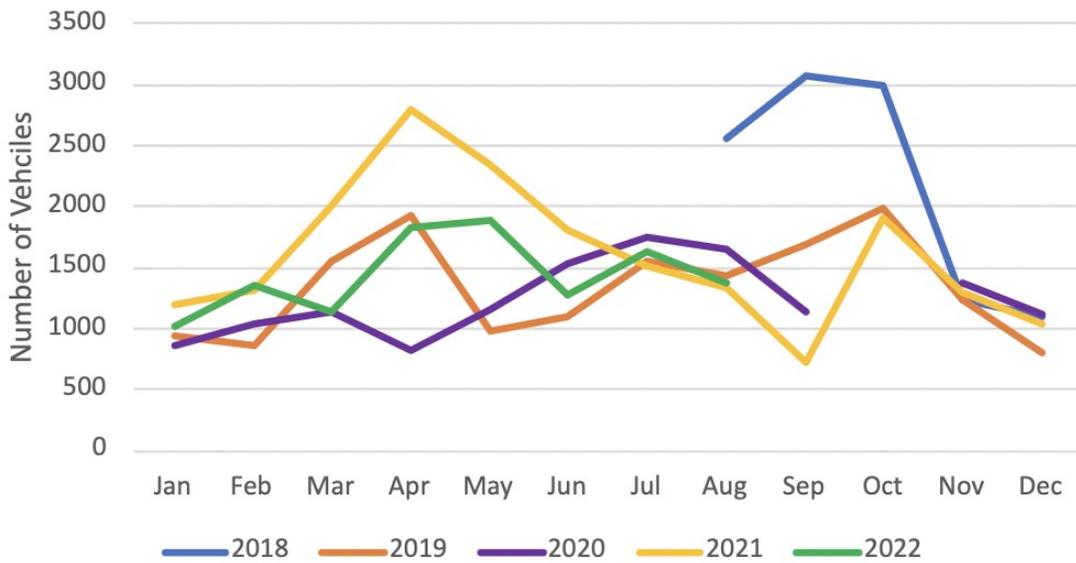
Vehicle and foot traffic was captured using an automatic, stationary sensor. Please note that some years have more complete data than others. Where there is incomplete data, the program may estimate based on past data.

- Whitney Portal Entrance Station: 1371
- North Entrance: 1671
- Arch Trail Foot Traffic: 322
- Chicken Ranch: 8

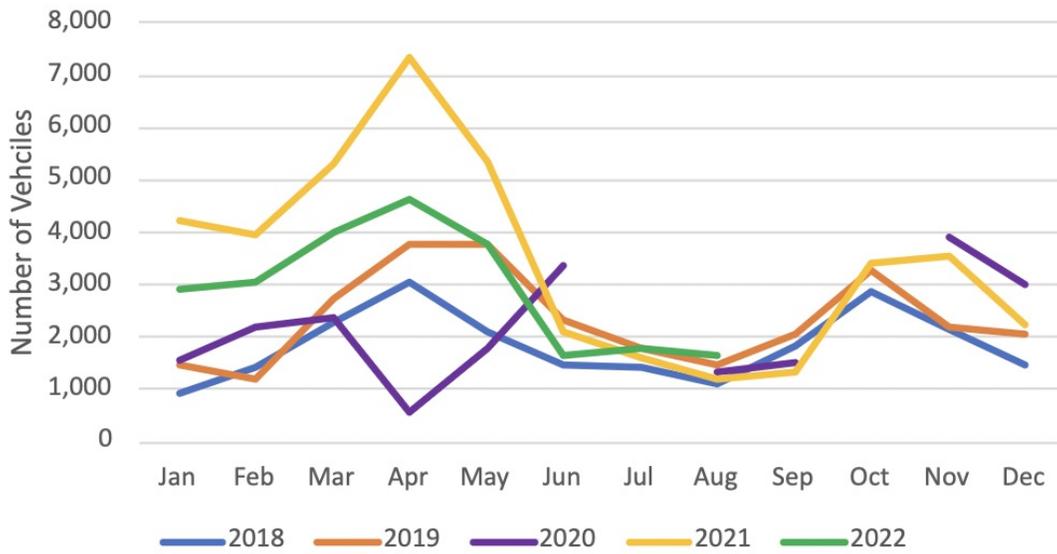
### Movie Road Traffic Counter 2018 to 2022



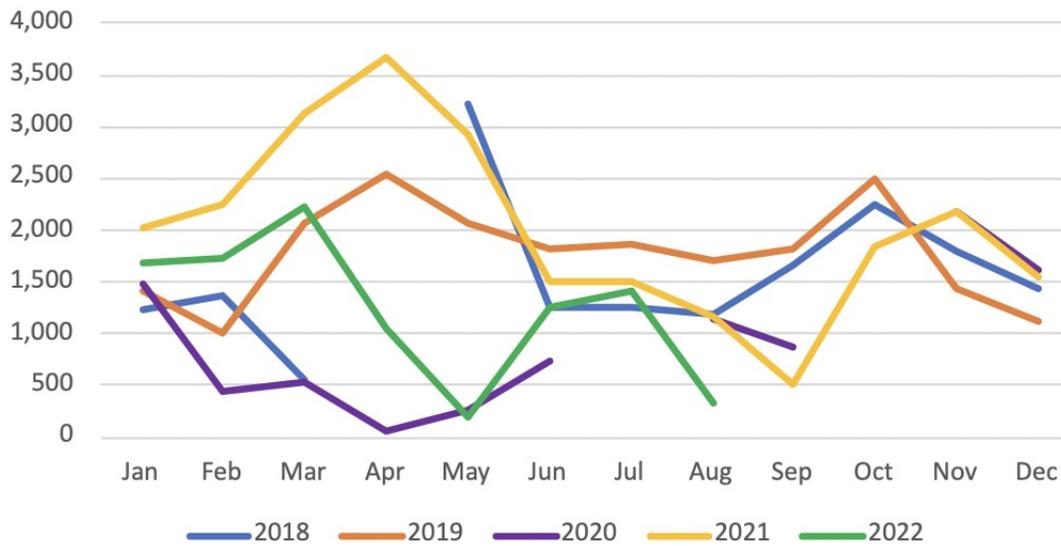
### Entrance Kiosk Traffic Counter 2018 to 2022



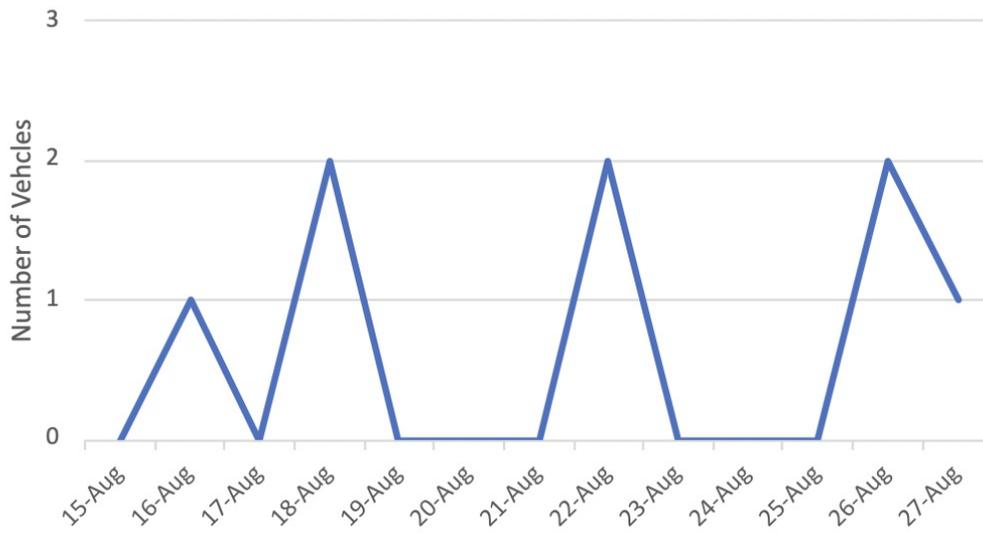
### North Entrance Traffic Counter 2018 to 2022



### Mobius Arch Trail People Counter 2018 to 2022



### Chicken Ranch Vehicle Traffic August 15th to 27th 2022



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## Upcoming BLM Events

- September 20th-21st- Milestar and TreadLightly will be collaborating with the BLM on a stewardship project. This year, we plan on having this group install signs, plant vertical mulch, and dismantle fire rings. *If interested in volunteering, please email [savanna@esiaonline](mailto:savanna@esiaonline).*
- Happening in the Hills will occur in Mid October, date and time TBD.

## Upcoming Special Recreation Permit Events

- Oct 6th-9th- Lone Pine Film Festival. This weekend event will include film tours in the Alabama Hills.
- Oct 13th-16th- Bama Dayz, Golden State Climbing Guides. The event will include 3 days of climbing in the Alabama Hills and 3 nights of camping at the Mount Whitney Climbing Ranch.
- Oct 15th- John Wayne Grit Series Run, 10K and a Half Marathon Run.

## Past Events

- August 2nd, 2022- The Gem and Mineral Society of Lone Pine, AHSG, and the BLM met to discuss possible sign installation for recreational mining. A traffic counter was installed to see how much vehicle traffic Chicken Ranch gets.
- August 22nd, 2022- The BLM *Artist in Residency* (AiR)- Heather Heckel showcased her art after a week in the Alabama Hills and held a watercolor workshop. Check Heather's [website](#) to see her interpretation of the Alabama Hills.



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## Staffing

- The BLM Recreation Department has 4 permanent and 2 seasonal team members that patrol the Alabama Hills and other BLM-managed lands.
- ESIA has Savanna as an Interpretive Specialist who patrols Alabama Hills 3-4 days a week.

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## Outreach

- Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) continues to post informational, educational, and responsible recreation messaging on its social media pages. More material is forthcoming about continued changes, Leave No Trace messaging, and educational material. Check out their [Instagram](#) and [Facebook page](#).
- Follow the [Bureau of Land Management- California Facebook page](#) for information about California Public Lands, including the Alabama Hills!

- [Alabama Hills Stewardship Group](#) also has a Facebook page to follow.

Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association | 190 E Yaney St, Bishop, CA 93514

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