

# Alabama Hills Newsletter

## January 2023



### Field Work

- Staff has been working hard on keeping the Hills in good condition. We continue to rake out tire tracks, pick up trash, install missing signs and post, plant vertical mulch, and educate the public.
- On January 19th, we installed a new Alabama Hills National Scenic Area sign at the South Entrance with members of the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group. Thank you to everyone who braved the cold and came out.
- We received a record amount of precipitation in Payahuunadu, Owens Valley, which greatly impacted roads in the Alabama Hills. Movie Road was completely washed out and has been repaired. Some roads off of Movie Road are quite rutted out and may be impassible. Please drive with caution.



## Get Involved

- Spread the word about the Alabama Hills Newsletter! [Sign up here.](#)
- Share the [ESIA's event calendar](#) for up-to-date ranger programs or ESIA's social media.
- Beginning in March, the BLM will be hosting Friday Evening Tabling to help campers make the right choices in The Alabama Hills. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gabe Gamino [ggamino@blm.gov](mailto:ggamino@blm.gov).

## Interpretation

- Check out ESIA's new [Things to do in The Alabama Hills](#) page. Stay tuned for more updates to The Alabama Hills Website from ESIA.
- In January, we had **6 programs** and had **147 people participate** in our walks and pop-up tables.
- During February, we are anticipating 2 Night Sky Talks, and 10 day programs. We hope to see you there!
- Interested in leading a ranger program or helping out with a Pop-Up Table? Please contact [savanna@esiaonline.org](mailto:savanna@esiaonline.org).

# Alabama Hills RANGER PROGRAMS

<p>Saturday</p> <p><b>FEB 4</b></p> <p>1:30PM-3:30PM</p>	<p><b>Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice</b></p> <p>Check out the Rangers table to learn more about the natural history of the Alabama Hills!</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p><b>FEB 5</b></p> <p>11AM-12:30PM</p>	<p><b>Movie Madness Walk</b></p> <p>The Alabama Hills have been used as a movie backdrop for over 100 years. Meet volunteer Nancy for a walk through a few of the areas.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p><b>FEB 11</b></p> <p>1:30PM-3:30PM</p>	<p><b>Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice</b></p> <p>Check out the Rangers table to learn more about the natural history of the Alabama Hills!</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p><b>FEB 12</b></p> <p>11AM-11:45AM</p>	<p><b>Geology Walk</b></p> <p>The formation of the Alabama Hills is complex and fascinating. Discover evidence of these complexities on this exciting half-mile walk with Savanna.</p>
<p>Friday</p> <p><b>FEB 17</b></p> <p>10AM-2PM</p>	<p><b>Pop-up Table: Birds!</b></p> <p>Celebrate Backyard Bird Week by getting acquainted with the Alabama Hills' backyard birds. Meet Volunteer Nancy Hadlock at the <b>Alabama Hills Entrance Kiosk on Whitney Portal Road.</b></p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p><b>FEB 18</b></p> <p>1:30PM-3:30PM</p>	<p><b>Pop-up Table: Birds!</b></p> <p>Meet Ranger Evie to learn about our feathery friends that visit and live in The Alabama Hills!</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p><b>FEB 19</b></p> <p>11AM-11:45AM</p>	<p><b>What's up? Walk</b></p> <p>Take a half-mile walk with Ranger Roland to learn about the night sky, planets, and stars, under our favorite star- the sun! The walk will be held sun or no sun.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p><b>FEB 25</b></p> <p>11AM-1:00PM: WALK 1:30PM-3:30PM: POP-UP</p>	<p><b>Alabama Hills Natural History, From the Ground UP Walk</b></p> <p>Explore the Alabama Hills natural magic with volunteers Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin.</p> <p><b>Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice</b></p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p><b>FEB 26</b></p> <p>11AM-11:45AM</p>	<p><b>Ecology Walk</b></p> <p>Take a half-mile walk with Ranger Evie to learn more about the ecology of the Alabama Hills. We will discuss weather events and plants that live in this deepest valley.</p>

## Things to Know About Ranger Programs

- All programs are free of charge, are outside, and are subject to cancellation without warning.
- All programs meet at the **Mobius Arch Trailhead Parking lot**, unless stated otherwise.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult on all programs.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes and dress for changing weather and bring water and snacks.



**ALABAMA HILLS**  
STEWARDSHIP GROUP

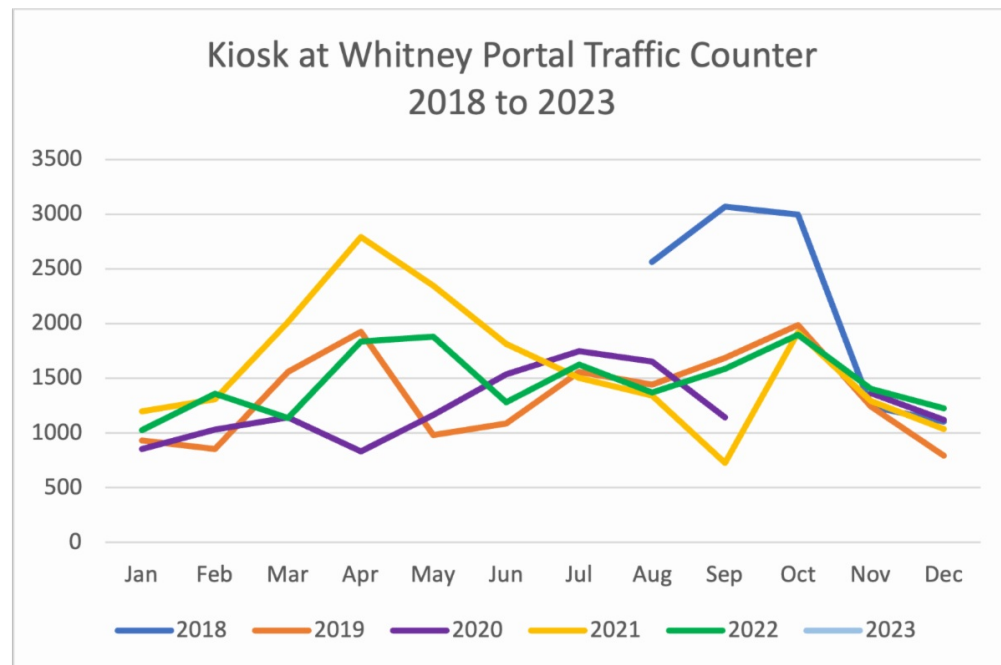


## December Visitation

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.



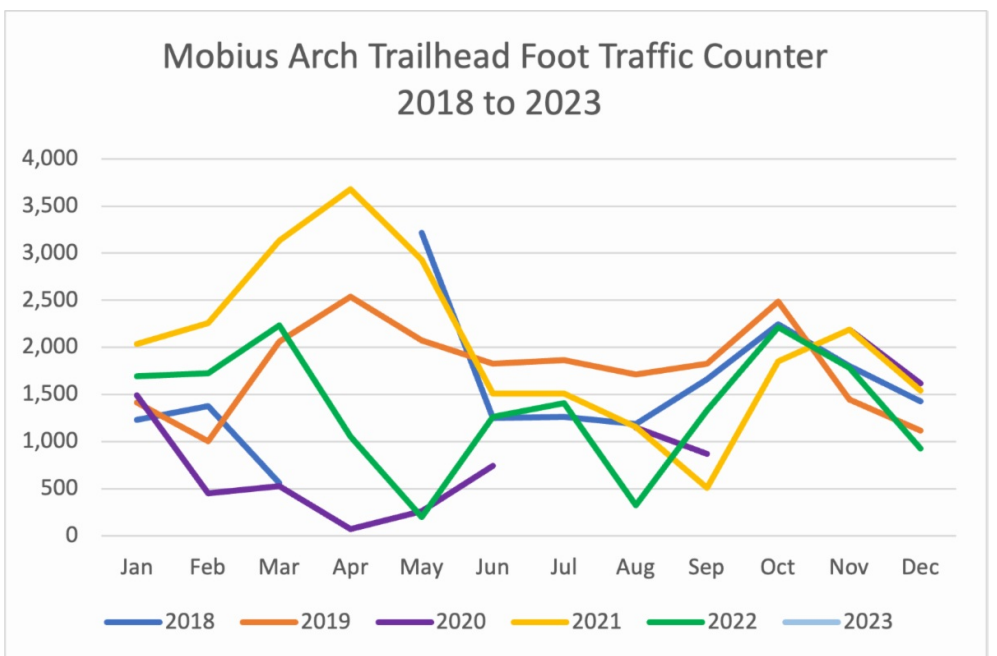
- \*Mobius Arch Loop Foot Traffic counter looked like it had been moved and taped to a rock when data was pulled. Likely does not represent the real data for January 2023.*



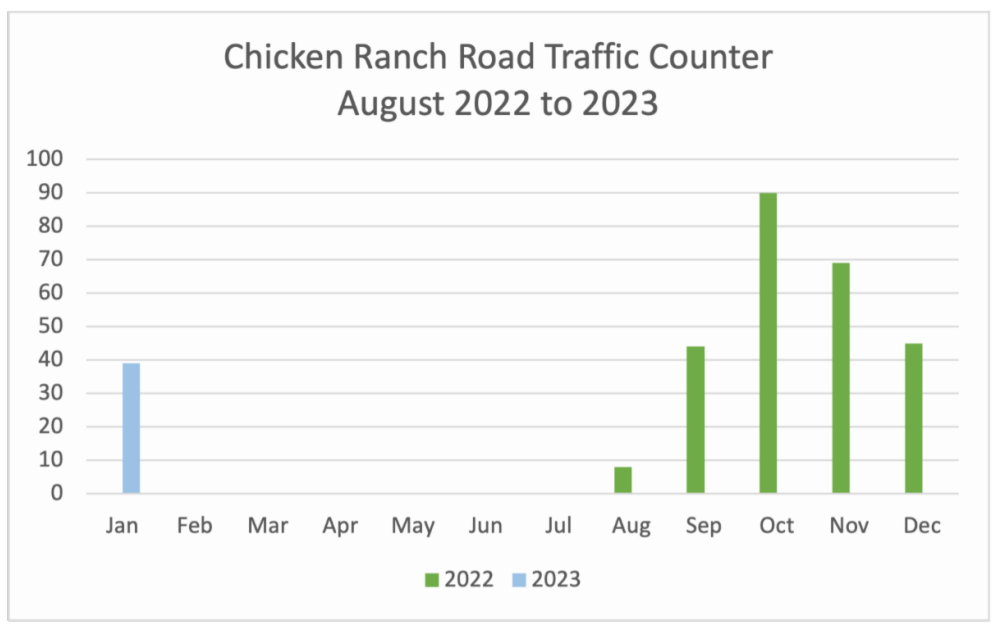
### North Entrance Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023

This line chart displays the monthly traffic volume at the North Entrance from January 2018 to December 2023. The Y-axis represents the traffic count, ranging from 0 to 8,000 in increments of 1,000. The X-axis lists the months from Jan to Dec. Six data series are plotted, representing the years 2018 (dark blue), 2019 (orange), 2020 (purple), 2021 (yellow), 2022 (green), and 2023 (light blue). The chart shows a general trend of decreasing traffic volume over the years, with a notable peak in April 2021 reaching approximately 7,300. Traffic in 2023 is only available for the first two months (Jan and Feb).

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	900	1400	1500	4200	2900	1000
Feb	1400	1200	2200	3900	3000	1400
Mar	2200	2700	2300	5300	4000	2200
Apr	3100	3700	500	7300	4600	3100
May	2000	3700	1900	5300	3800	2000
Jun	1400	2300	3300	2100	1600	1400
Jul	1400	1800	1800	1500	1800	1400
Aug	1100	1300	1300	1100	1600	1100
Sep	1400	2000	1400	1300	2000	1400
Oct	2800	3200	3200	3400	2800	2800
Nov	2100	2100	3900	3500	2600	2100
Dec	1400	2100	3000	2200	1500	1400



Month	2022	2023
Jan	0	39
Feb	0	0
Mar	0	0
Apr	0	0
May	0	0
Jun	0	0
Jul	0	0
Aug	8	0
Sep	44	0
Oct	90	0
Nov	69	0
Dec	45	0



## Events

### Upcoming BLM-Sponsored

- See Ranger Program Flyer above flyer above in Interpretation Section.
- We are planning a few stewardship projects in the Hills for March. We have 3 groups: a Boy Scout Troop from LA, the Flash Foxy Climbing Festival, and students from a Private High School with Friends of the Inyo.
- Feb 21-23, Savanna, the Alabama Hills ESIA Staff, and the Bishop Climbing Rangers will be traveling to climbing gyms in the Los Angeles area. They will be educating climbers on the best climbing ethics for the Eastern Sierra, camping changes in the Hills, and how to recreate responsibly during their visit.
- ESIA and the BLM are working on getting local elementary school students into The Alabama Hills during April.

### Upcoming Special Recreation Permit

- Feb 4-6, Joshua Cripps Photography Workshop.
- Feb 6-10, MJ68 Productions, Film Permit.
- Feb 18-20, Joshua Cripps Photography Workshop.
- Feb 21-24, Randall Hodges Photography, This is a group who detours from Death Valley and will do one night of photography in the Hills.

### Past BLM-Sponsored

- None for January 2023.

### Past Special Recreation Permit

- None for January 2023.

## Staffing

- The BLM Recreation Department has 5 permanent and 4 seasonal team members that patrol the Alabama Hills and other BLM-managed lands. 1 law enforcement officer is specifically assigned to the Alabama Hills to assist with overnight use compliance. 1 new seasonal has joined the team and will be focused on the Alabama Hills.
- ESIA has Savanna as an Interpretive Specialist who patrols Alabama Hills 3-5 days a week.
- ESIA has 2 new Bishop Climbing Rangers, Matt and Casey. They primarily patrol the Bishop Climbing Areas but will help rove the climbing areas in the Alabama Hills. [Read More](#) about the Bishop Climbing Rangers Program.
- The National Park Service (NPS) has 2 rangers assisting in the Lone Pine Visitor Center and focusing on interpretive ranger programs in the Hills.

## Social Media & Outreach

- Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) has been ramping up its Alabama Hills post on social media, follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

- page.
- Follow the [Bureau of Land Management- California Facebook page](#) for information about California Public Lands, including the Alabama Hills!
  - Follow the [Alabama Hills Stewardship Group](#) on Facebook.

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

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