

Alabama Hills National Scenic Area

Newsletter, April 2023



Field Work

- On Friday nights, the Alabama Hills staff hosts a table in the evenings to encourage campers to make the right choices on their visit. Much of the camping has been filling up by 4pm on Friday nights and staff makes approximately 50 contacts.
- Tuttle Creek Campground (BLM) has been full many weekends in April. Lone Pine Campground is currently closed.
- Staff have been enjoying the spectacular wildflower show in the Hills. There are appearances from scarlet locoweed, desert paintbrush, Mojave desert parsley, desert peppergrass, apricot globemallow, and evening snow.
- Jesse Plum, BLM photographer, visited the Alabama Hills and other areas managed by the BLM Field Office. He took photos of landscapes and of rangers and staff working. We look forward to seeing his photos!
- Movie Road is back open and repaired- thank you Inyo County! Many BLM-managed roads that spur off Movie Road have also been extremely rutted from water. Currently, there is no vehicle access to the Cattle Pocket Area and there is no estimated time for repair. Folks can now access Paul's Paradise.
- New "Camping Information" signs have been installed on Movie Road! These signs direct Northbound traffic to the information kiosk near the Shark Fin and the Mobius Arch trailhead.
- The BLM, ESIA, and the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group all attended the 10th Annual Lone Pine Tribal Earth Day on Saturday, April 29th. The BLM had a trash decomposition game, ESIA had dark sky information, and the stewardship gave out information about the Alabama Hills. Each table talked to more than 60 people and had a great time! Thank you Lone Pine Tribe!

- Staff have been working hard to rake out tracks, install signs, educate visitors about the importance of staying on designated roads, monitor camping behavior and hosting interpretive tables.
- We have a “soft” opening for Camping Agreements in the Alabama Hills! Camping Agreements are encouraged for designated camping in the Alabama Hills. Agreements are free and *do not guarantee* a campsite- all camping is first come, first serve. This is an acknowledgment that campers understand the rules and guidance for designated camping in the Hills. To get an agreement, please visit this webpage or talk with a ranger in the Alabama Hills.

Alabama Hills Camping Agreement



ESIA, BLM, and AHSG at the 10th Annual Lone Pine Tribal Earth Day



new camping information signs



collecting restoration material

Get Involved

- Since March, the BLM has been hosting Friday Night Camping 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.
- Interested in leading or co-leading a pop-up table or a ranger walk? Contact savanna@esiaonline.org. No experience is necessary, we can train you!
- 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.

Ranger Programs

- We have 6 scheduled programs in the Alabama Hills for May! Check out the [ESIA's event calendar](#) or ESIA's social media for up-to-date programs.
- In April, we hosted 5 different programs with over 120 interactions with the public. Each pop-up table had a different theme with fun interactive displays. Don't miss our programs this May!



Reptile Pop-Up Table



Leading local students around the Hills

Alabama Hills National Scenic Area

RANGER PROGRAMS

Saturday MAY 6 10AM-12PM	Bugs and Blooms Walk The romance of the ages! Join passionate volunteers Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin as they share the intimate connection between insects and flowers.
Friday MAY 12 10AM-11AM	Morning Cup of Qigong BLM volunteer Richard Potashin will guide you in waking up to the Hills and your internal energy through the ancient Chinese art of Qigong.
Sunday MAY 14 9AM-11AM	Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice Check out the Rangers table to learn more about the natural history of the Alabama Hills!
Sunday MAY 21 9AM-11AM	Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice Check out the Rangers table to learn more about the natural history of the Alabama Hills!
Saturday MAY 27 9AM-11AM	Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice Check out the Rangers table to learn more about the natural history of the Alabama Hills!
Sunday MAY 28 9AM-11AM	Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice Check out the Rangers table to learn more about the natural history of the Alabama Hills!

Things to Know About Ranger Programs

- Programs are outside, free of charge, and subject to cancellation without warning
- All programs meet at the **Mobius Arch Trailhead Parking lot**
- Wear sturdy walking shoes, dress for changing weather, bring water and snacks



ALABAMA HILLS
STEWARDSHIP GROUP



March 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. *February and March have presented many difficulties in collecting the data. Rangers were finally able to access data-collecting stations in April.*

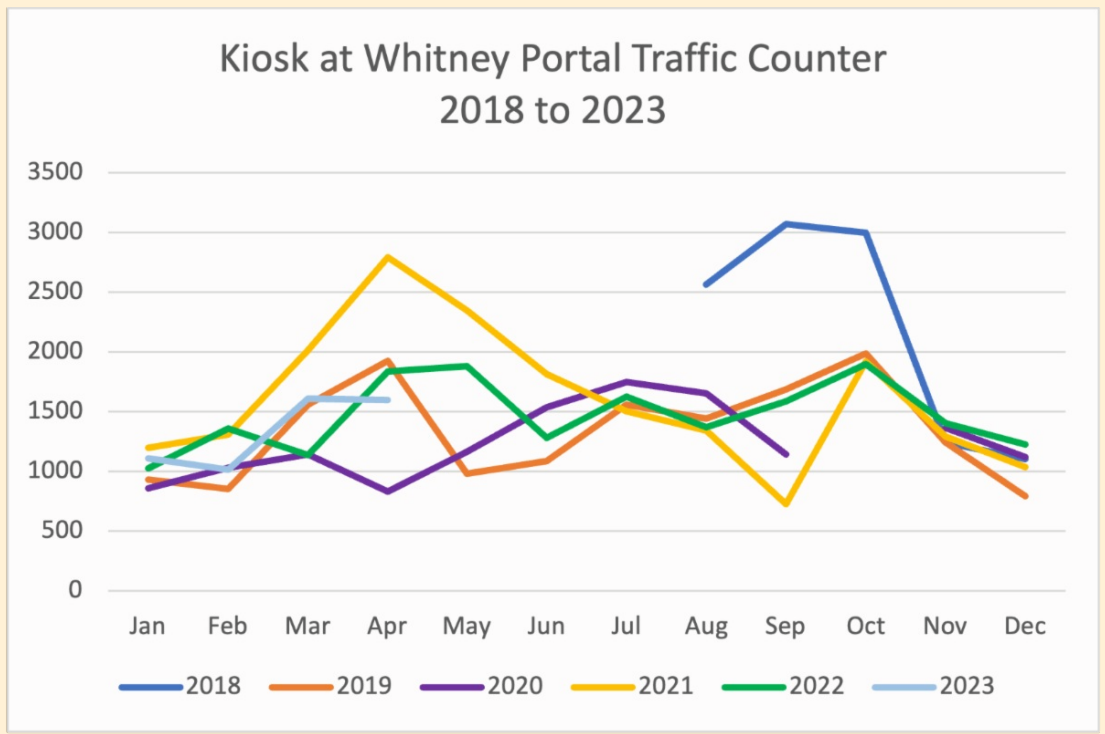
- Movie Road: 6,981
- Kiosk at Whitney Portal Entrance Station: 1,599
- North Entrance: 1640
- Mobius Arch Trail Foot Traffic: 1,868
- Chicken Ranch: *1

*Batteries died, data was only collected from April 1st-4th.

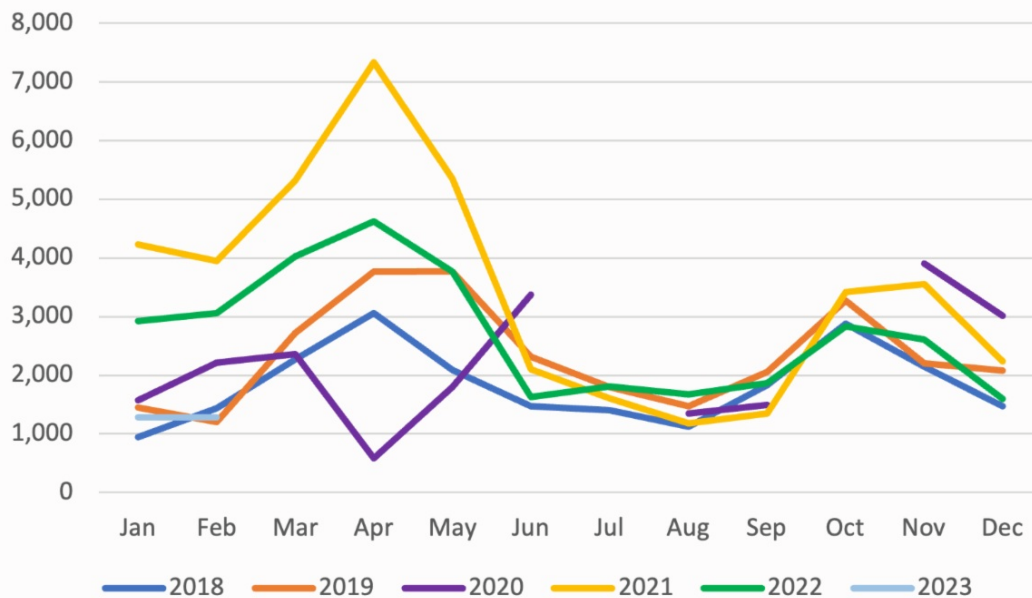
Movie Road Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023

The chart displays the monthly movie road traffic counter data from 2018 to 2023. The Y-axis represents the traffic counter value, ranging from 0 to 14,000. The X-axis represents the months from January to December. The data is presented as a line chart with six lines, each representing a year: 2018 (blue), 2019 (orange), 2020 (purple), 2021 (yellow), 2022 (green), and 2023 (light blue). The chart shows a significant peak in April 2021, reaching approximately 14,000. Traffic generally declines from 2021 to 2023, with 2023 showing a notable dip in April and a peak in October.

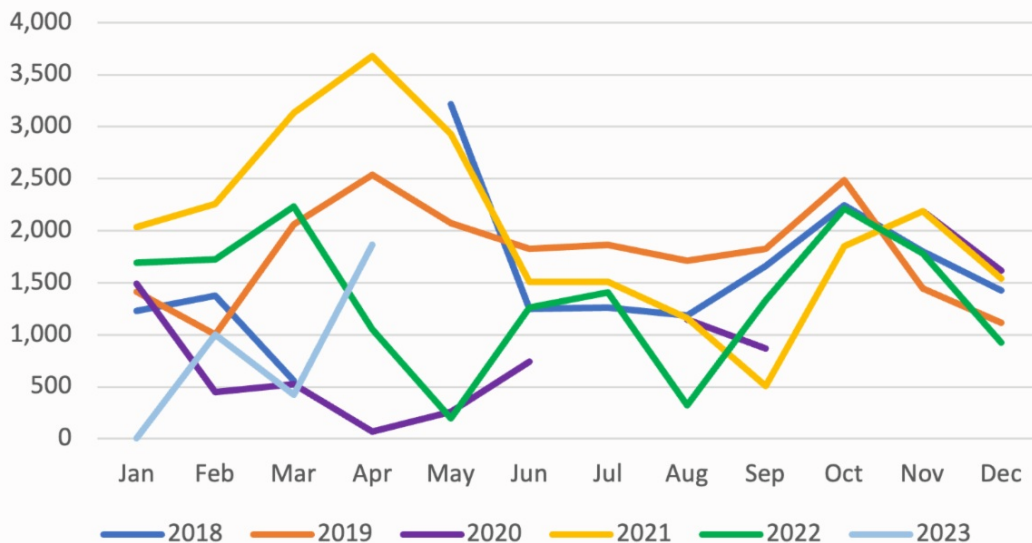
Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jan	2,800	3,500	1,500	5,800	3,800	3,200
Feb	3,200	2,800	2,200	6,000	3,800	3,500
Mar	5,500	5,800	1,800	8,500	6,800	3,800
Apr	6,500	7,500	300	14,000	8,200	6,800
May	6,200	6,800	1,000	11,800	7,000	6,200
Jun	4,200	4,800	3,800	6,000	4,500	4,200
Jul	4,000	4,500	5,800	5,800	4,000	4,000
Aug	4,500	4,500	4,800	4,500	3,800	4,500
Sep	4,800	5,500	3,200	2,800	4,800	4,800
Oct	6,500	7,500	7,200	6,500	6,500	6,500
Nov	5,200	4,800	7,000	6,500	5,200	5,200
Dec	3,500	2,800	5,500	3,500	3,500	3,500

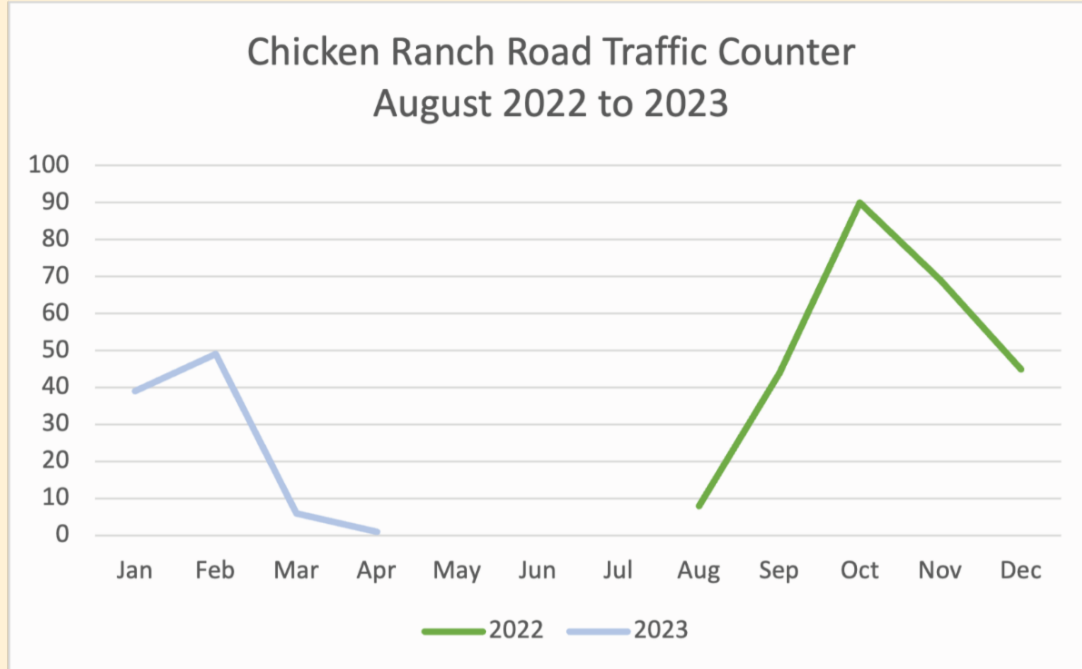


North Entrance Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023



Mobius Arch Trailhead Foot Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023





Events

Upcoming BLM-Sponsored

- The application period for Artist in Residence has closed. There were about 10 different applications from various types of artists. Applicants will be chosen and announced soon, stay tuned!
- A BLM landscape Architect team will be visiting the Alabama Hills to help design structures that blend in harmoniously into the local landscape and meet standards laid out in the Management Plan.

Upcoming Special Recreation Permit

- May 1st, Elopement.
- May 3-4th, Undead End LLC, film permit.
- May 5-6th Wild Wild West Foot Race- CANCELLED
- May 22-26th, fashion photo shoot.

Past BLM-Sponsored

- Mid-April: ESIA and the BLM hosted local elementary school students in the Alabama Hills this past April. We hiked, learned about bird adaptations, and played Leave No Trace games.
- April 29th, *Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation 10th Annual Earth Day Event*. ESIA, BLM, and the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group participated in this event with fun interactive tables.

10th Annual Lone Pine Tribal Earth Day Celebration

“Indigenous Wisdom to Face Modern Challenges”

Saturday, April 29, 2023

9:00am – 12:30pm

Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation

Tribal Gymnasium-1145 E-Sha Lane

Everyone is Welcome

9:00am – 10:00am
Reservation Road Clean-up

Meet at the LPPSR
Gymnasium Parking Lot at
9:00am

Bring hats, sunscreen &
water bottles.
Trash grabbers & Bags will
be provided.

Teams will be assigned
to Reservation roads for a
team clean-up activity

Collaborative Partners:
LPPSR Administration,
LPPSR Environmental & Air
Quality Department,
OVCDC Lone Pine TANF

10:00am-12:00pm
Community Outreach Fair

12:00pm-12:30pm
Participant Luncheon
(To-go lunches will be
provided)



Past Special Recreation Permit

- April 4th, Ford Commercial film permit.
- April 19th, Motor Trend film permit.
- April 28th-30th, FIFTHclass Climbing School.

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. Welcome to the team Philip Gross the new Assistant Field Manager for the Recreation, Lands and Facilities, and Neal Craig as the Assistant Field Manager for Biophysical.
- ESIA has Savanna as an Interpretive Specialist who patrols Alabama Hills 3-5 days a week.
- ESIA has one Bishop Climbing Ranger. 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 climbing ranger season ends in mid-May.
- The National Park Service (NPS) and the USFS are welcoming seasonals in the Lone Pine Visitor Center starting mid-May.

Social Media

- 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.

Donate

ESIA is a proud nonprofit organization partnered with the BLM and Alabama Hills Stewardship Group (AHSG) with the goal of promoting restoration and conservation efforts in the Hills for the enjoyment of present and future generations. We need your help in our efforts.

Support The Alabama Hills National Scenic Area

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

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