

Alabama Hills Newsletter

February 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.
- The BLM and Inyo County has repaired most of the roads in The Alabama Hills. Many roads that have been impassible by most vehicles have been improved for most vehicles.
- Presidents Day Weekend was an extremely busy weekend in the Hills with many educational opportunities.



BLM leveling out the road

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 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.

Interpretation

- Interested in leading a Ranger Program or helping out with a Pop-Up Table? Please contact **savanna@esiaonline.org**.
- In February we had **8** programs with over 200 participants.



Nancy leading a talk at the Arrastra



Evie showing off her skulls

Alabama Hills RANGER PROGRAMS

<p>Saturday</p> <p>FEB 4</p> <p>1:30PM-3:30PM</p>	<p>Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice</p> <p>Check out the Rangers table to learn more about the natural history of the Alabama Hills!</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p>FEB 5</p> <p>11AM-12:30PM</p>	<p>Movie Madness Walk</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>FEB 11</p> <p>1:30PM-3:30PM</p>	<p>Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice</p> <p>Check out the Rangers table to learn more about the natural history of the Alabama Hills!</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p>FEB 12</p> <p>11AM-11:45AM</p>	<p>Geology Walk</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>FEB 17</p> <p>10AM-2PM</p>	<p>Pop-up Table: Birds!</p> <p>Celebrate Backyard Bird Week by getting acquainted with the Alabama Hills' backyard birds. Meet Volunteer Nancy Hadlock at the Alabama Hills Entrance Kiosk on Whitney Portal Road.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>FEB 18</p> <p>1:30PM-3:30PM</p>	<p>Pop-up Table: Birds!</p> <p>Meet Ranger Evie to learn about our feathery friends that visit and live in The Alabama Hills!</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p>FEB 19</p> <p>11AM-11:45AM</p>	<p>What's up? Walk</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>FEB 25</p> <p>11AM-1:00PM: WALK 1:30PM-3:30PM: POP-UP</p>	<p>Alabama Hills Natural History, From the Ground UP Walk</p> <p>Explore the Alabama Hills natural magic with volunteers Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin.</p> <p>Pop-up Table: Rangers Choice</p>
<p>Sunday</p> <p>FEB 26</p> <p>11AM-11:45AM</p>	<p>Ecology Walk</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.



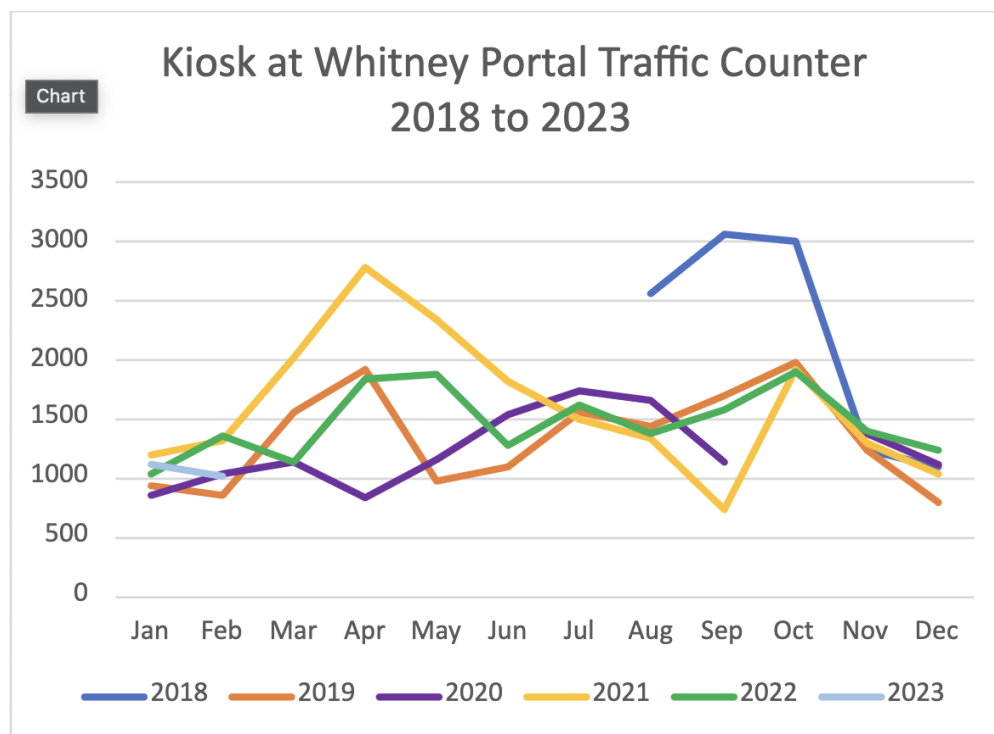
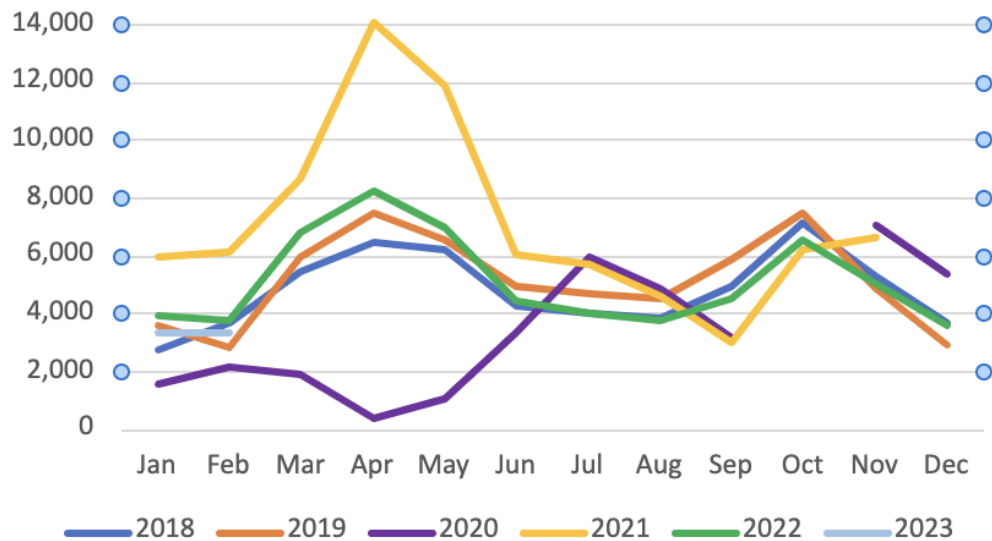
ALABAMA HILLS
STEWARDSHIP GROUP



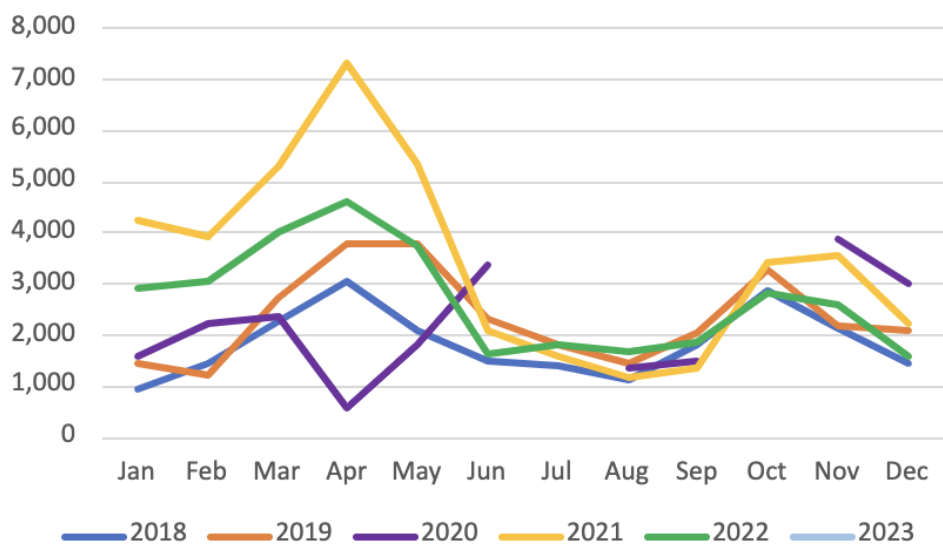
February Visitation

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. This month

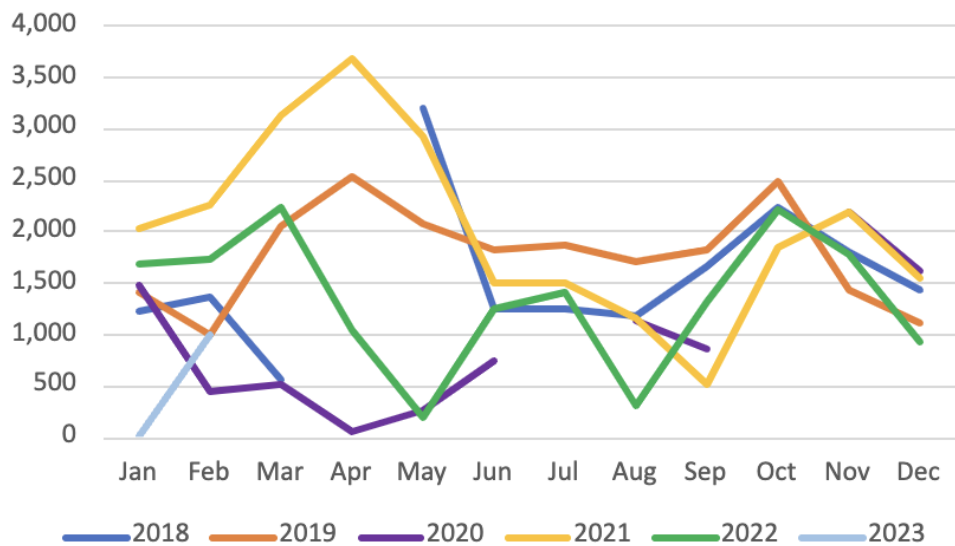
- Movie Road: Unavailable this month
- Kiosk at Whitney Portal Entrance Station: 1,015
- North Entrance: Unavailable this month
- Mobius Arch Trail Foot Traffic: 1,001
- Chicken Ranch: Inaccessible and Unavailable this month



North Entrance Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023



Mobius Arch Trailhead Foot Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023





Events

Upcoming BLM-Sponsored

- See Ranger Program Flyer above flyer above in Interpretation Section.
- We are planning 2 stewardship projects in the Hills for March; a Boy Scout Troop from LA, and students from a Private High School with Friends of the Inyo.
- ESIA and the BLM are working on getting local elementary school students into The Alabama Hills during April.

Upcoming Special Recreation Permit

- Capture the Atlas, Landscape Photography Workshops.
- Country Roads Pictures, film permit.

Past BLM-Sponsored

- Feb 21st-24th, Savanna, ESIA Alabama Hills Interpretive Specialist, and Matt, one of the Bishop Climbing Rangers, met Joshua Tree Climbing Rangers and visited 3 climbing gyms in the LA Area for "Gym to Crag" program. These events aimed to help educate climbers on camping and climbing ethics while visiting the Alabama Hills and Bishop Climbing Areas. They **talked to over 200** people, played trivia, and had a great time educating climbers.

Past 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.

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 1 ranger assisting in the Lone Pine Visitor Center and focusing on interpretive ranger programs in the Hills. Evie will be ending her season in The Alabama Hills shorty. Thank you for all your hard work! The other NPS interpretive ranger will end late April.



Staff Highlights

Hi! I am Ranger Evie and I work for Death Valley National Park. I have a unique job here in the Eastern Sierra, where I work closely with the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. I provide programs in the Alabama Hills that include a Geology Walk and Night Sky Talk!

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.

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