

# Alabama Hills Newsletter

## March 2023



### Field Work

- A record-breaking amount of precipitation has fallen in the Sierra Nevada and Owens Valley. As a result, Inyo County Roads have been very busy. Movie Rd and Moffat Ranch road washed out in several places once again. Many BLM-managed roads that spur off Movie Road have also been extremely rutted from water. Currently, there is no vehicle access to Paul's Paradise and no estimated time for repair.
- Staff have been working hard to rake out tracks, put up "road washed out" signs, educate visitors about the importance of staying on designated roads, and monitoring camping behavior.
- We have a "soft" opening for Camping Agreements in the Alabama Hills! Camping Agreements will be required 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 you understand the rules and guidance for designated camping in the Hills. To get an agreement, please visit the green button below.

[Alabama Hills Camping Agreement](#)

### Get Involved

- Save the date for **Friday, April 28th!** The BLM will be hosting a Mobius Arch Trail Maintenance Day from 9 am-12 pm. *Space is limited* to 8 volunteers. To

sign up or for questions, please email BLM Park Ranger **Mark Bir**  
[mbir@blm.gov](mailto:mbir@blm.gov).

# *Alabama Hills* *National Scenic Area*



## Mobius Arch Trail Maintenance Day

Friday, April 28th 2023  
9am-12pm

Space is limited to 8.  
For questions or to sign up, email  
BLM Park Ranger  
**Mark Bir** [mbir@blm.gov](mailto:mbir@blm.gov)



- **Calling all Artist!** The BLM Bishop Field Office is accepting applications for artists to be inspired by the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area. Residency will be 7 days between October 1st and November 11th, 2023. Exact dates are based on the availability of the artist and Bishop Field Office. There is a possibility for housing during residency, details will be provided if available. Artists will have the opportunity to speak with Park Rangers and explore the many scenic areas within the Alabama Hills, located amongst the Sierra Nevada skyline. For questions or for an application, contact **Ginger gwojciechowski@blm.gov**. **Application Deadline: April 30, 2023.**

THE ALABAMA HILLS NATIONAL SCENIC AREA  
is accepting applications for

# Artist in Residence

The BLM Bishop Field Office is accepting applications for artists to be inspired by the Alabama Hills National Scenic Area.

- The residency will be 7 days between October 1st and November 11th, 2023. The exact dates are based on the availability of the artist and Bishop Field Office. Possibility for housing during residency.
- Artists will have the opportunity to speak with Park Rangers and explore the many scenic areas within the Alabama Hills, located amongst the Sierra Nevada skyline.
- During their stay, artists will share their vision of the Hills in one 45-minute public presentation.



For questions or to apply  
email Ginger at  
[gwojciechowski@blm.gov](mailto:gwojciechowski@blm.gov)



Art by Heather Heckel,  
2022 Alabama Hills  
Artist in Residence

- Spread the word about the Alabama Hills Newsletter! [Sign up here.](#)
- Beginning in March, the BLM began 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](mailto:ggamino@blm.gov).
- Interested in leading a pop-up table or a ranger walk? Contact [savanna@esiaonline.org](mailto:savanna@esiaonline.org).

## Ranger Programs

# Alabama Hills RANGER PROGRAMS

Sunday  
**APRIL 2**  
12PM-3PM

## Pop-up Table: Feathery Friends

Whooo nests here and what makes them special? Touch skulls and learn about some birds of the Hills!

Sunday  
**APRIL 9**  
12PM-3PM

## Pop-up Table: Spring Time Blooms

Learn more about plants that are blooming and the role they play in this ecosystem.

Sunday  
**APRIL 16**  
10AM-11AM

## The Ground Underneath Our Feet: Geology Walk

Have you wondered why the Hills are gently rounded and where arches come from? Take a half-mile walk to learn about a few of the geological wonders of the Hills.

Sunday  
**APRIL 23**  
12PM-3PM

## Pop-up Table: International Dark Sky Week

The night sky is celebrated and protected around the world. Learn about why dark sky's are important and what nocturnal animals you might see in the Hills!

Sunday  
**APRIL 30**  
12PM-3PM

## 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

- 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.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes and dress for changing weather and bring water and snacks.



ALABAMA HILLS  
STEWARDSHIP GROUP



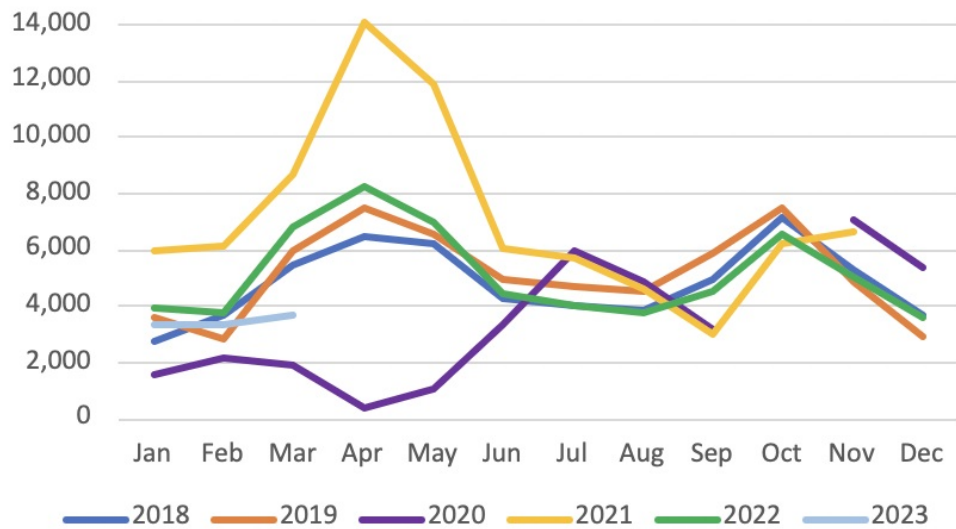
- We have 5 scheduled programs in the Alabama Hills for April! Check out the [ESIA's event calendar](#) or ESIA's social media for up-to-date program information. More programs will likely be added!

## March Visitation

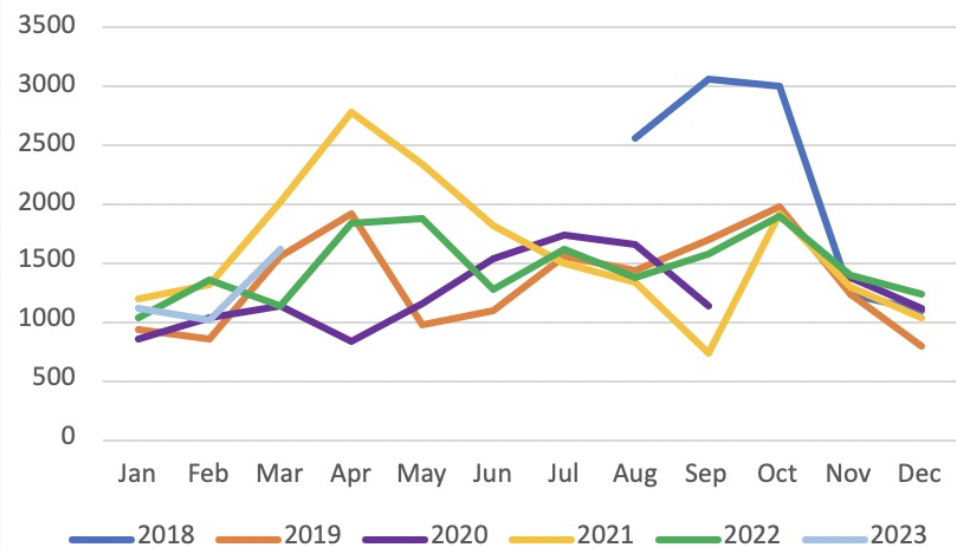
Vehicle and foot traffic was captured using an automatic, stationary sensor. Please note that some years have more complete data than others. Where there is incomplete data, the program may estimate based on past data. *February and March have presented many difficulties in collecting the data. No data has been extracted from the North Entrance or Chicken Ranch in the last two months.*

- Movie Road: 3,696
- Kiosk at Whitney Portal Entrance Station: 1611
- North Entrance: *data not available*
- Mobius Arch Trail Foot Traffic: 425
- Chicken Ranch: *data not available*

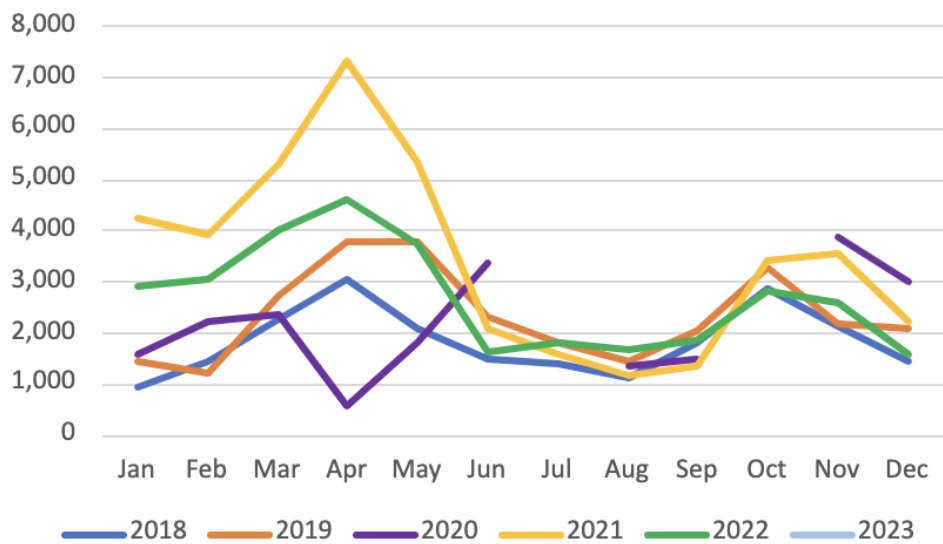
## Movie Road Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023



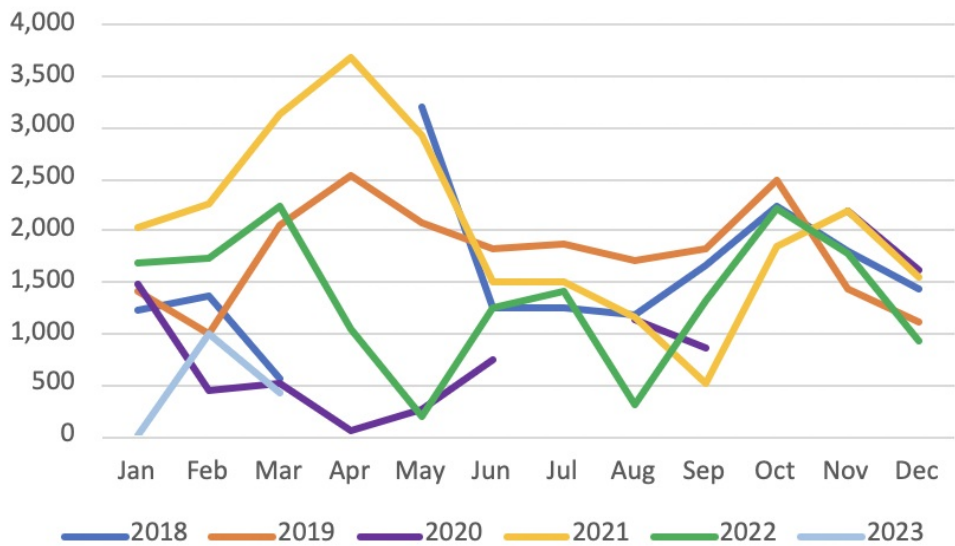
## Kiosk at Whitney Portal Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023



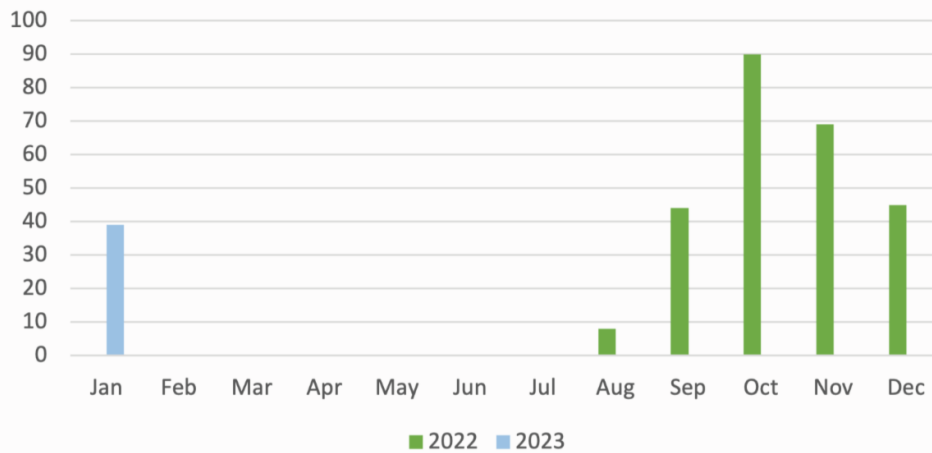
### North Entrance Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023



### Mobius Arch Trailhead Foot Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023



## Chicken Ranch Road Traffic Counter August 2022 to 2023



## Events

### Upcoming BLM-Sponsored

- ESIA and the BLM are working on getting local elementary school students into The Alabama Hills during April.
- April 29th, *Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation* invites the community to participate in their *10th Annual Earth Day Event* From 9 am-10 am, there will be a roadside clean up, and from 10 am-12 pm Community Outreach Fair. Both the BLM and ESIA will have tables. See flyer below for more information.

## 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,  
OVCD Lone Pine TANF

10:00am-12:00pm

Community Outreach Fair

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



### Upcoming Special Recreation Permit

- April 3-6th, Craig Mccord Photography.
- April 15th, Levi Thompson's Wedding.
- April 29th, Us Cycling Event.

- TBD, Fifthclass Climbing.

## Past BLM-Sponsored

- Due to the weather, we had to cancel 2 stewardship events in the Hills and most of the ranger programs.

## Past Special Recreation Permit

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

## 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 1 Bishop Climbing Ranger (BCR). They primarily patrol the Bishop Climbing Areas but will help rove the climbing areas in the Alabama Hills. The BCR season will end in late April.
- The National Park Service (NPS) has 1 ranger assisting in the Lone Pine Visitor Center. Their season ends in mid-April.

## 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

[Unsubscribe jeff@esiaonline.org](mailto:jeff@esiaonline.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by savanna@esiaonline.org in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!