

Alabama Hills National Scenic Area

Newsletter, May 2023



Horned-Toed Lizard, Jesse Plum, BLM

Field Work

- 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.
- Reptiles have come out of brumation (a reptile's hibernation) and are nearly everywhere in the hills! Staff and visitors have seen rattlesnakes, gopher snakes, horned-toed lizards, and chuckwallas.
- 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. See the new photos in this [Flickr album](#).
- 4 members of a BLM landscape architecture branch visited the Hills in early May to help design the Historic Entrance Station on Whitney Portal, the Shark Fin bathroom Kiosk, and the Mobius Arch parking lot. The goal is to design an attractive site that blends with the setting and encourages visitors to stop at these locations to learn about camping and responsible recreation.
- BLM and ESIA staff joined the Alabama Hills Stewardship Group for the 1st meeting in person in the last 2 years! We enjoyed a very lovely evening chatting about what's going on in the beautiful setting of the Hills.
- Vehicle access to Paul's Paradise and the Cattle Pocket Area has been restored- thank you BLM staff for working hard to repair the road!

- Staff have been working hard to rake out tracks, install signs, educate visitors about the importance of staying on designated roads, and monitor camping behavior.
- On Friday nights, staff hosts a table in the evenings to encourage campers to make the right choices on their visit.
- 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



BLM landscape architecture branch and local staff discussing possibilities for Historic Entrance on Whitney Portal Rd.



Alabama Hills Stewardship Group meeting, with BLM and ESIA staff.

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.

Ranger Programs

- The last ranger program of the season was on Sunday, **June 4th from 10 am-11:30**. Volunteer Nancy led a **Movie Madness Walk** at the Mobius Arch Parking lot.
- Between October 2022 and June 2023, over **45** programs were held and over **700** people were talked to! Programs will return in October 2023!

Alabama Hills National Scenic Area RANGER PROGRAMS

Sunday
JUNE 4
10-11:30AM

Movie Madness Walk

The Alabama Hills have been used as a movie backdrop for over 100 years. Meet volunteer Nancy for a walk through a few of these unique locations.

- This is our final program for the season- we will be back in October 2023 with more Alabama Hills Ranger Programs!

- Visit our website to learn more about the Hills through *natural history videos*, *up-to-date camping information*, or sign up for our *monthly newsletter*!
sierraforever.org/alabama-hills



SCAN HERE

- Stay connected with us! follow us on social media
@esiaonline



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



Thank you, Richard and Nancy!

Richard and Nancy have been volunteering their time in the Alabama Hills this past season, leading ranger programs. Nancy volunteered over 170 hours and Richard volunteered over 120!

Ranger Programs would not have been possible without their help. Thank you, Richard and Nancy, for your dedication, passion, creativity, and hard work this 2022-2023 season!

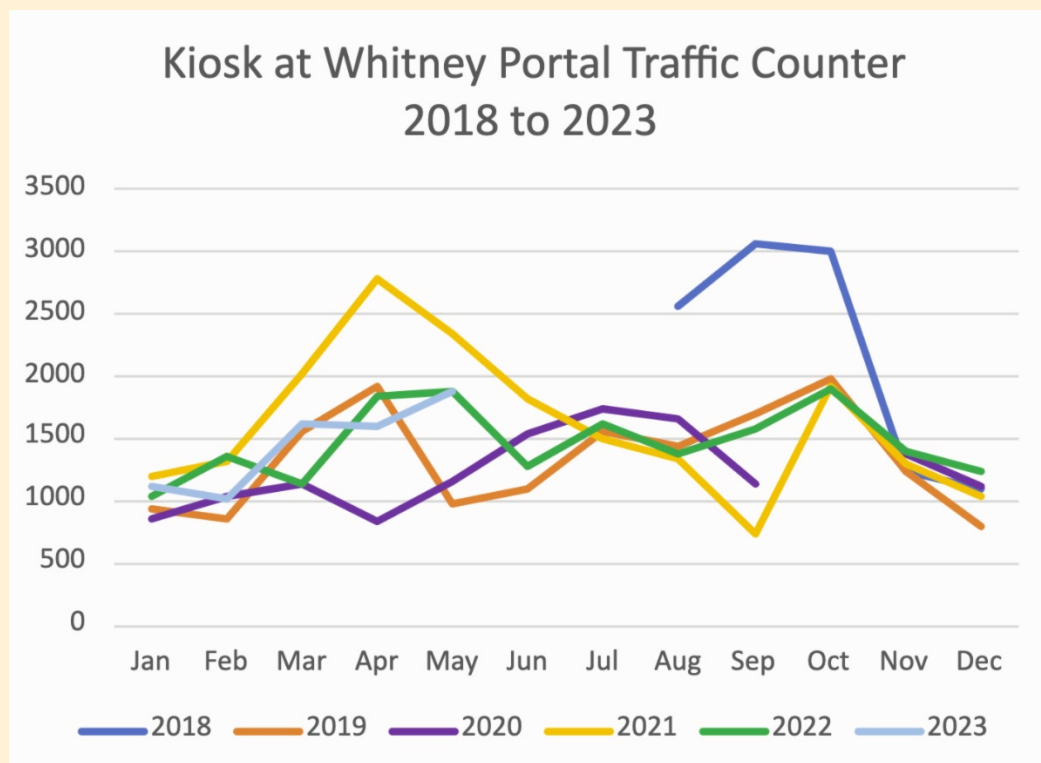
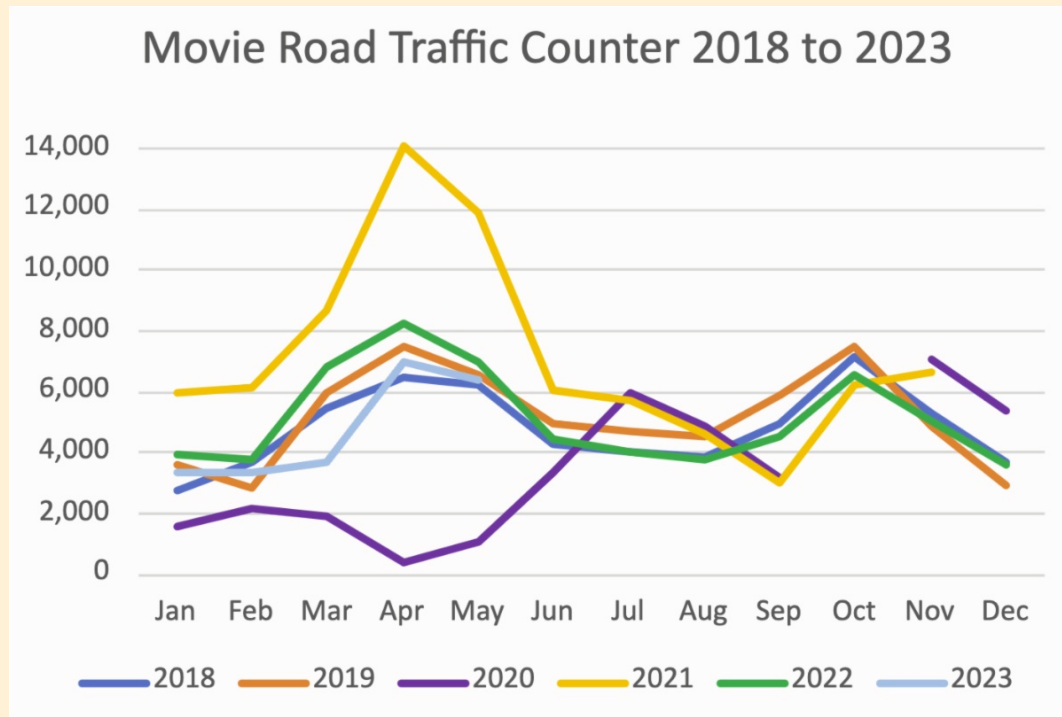


March Visitation

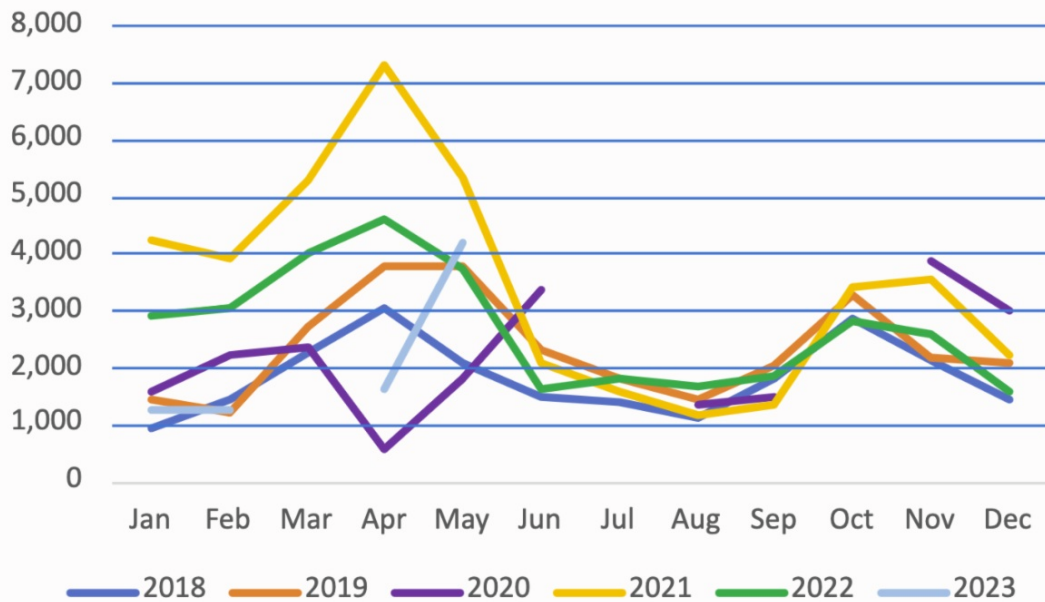
Vehicle and foot traffic was captured using an automatic, stationary sensor. Please note that some years have more complete data than others. Where there is incomplete data, the program may estimate based on past data. *February and March 2023 presented many difficulties in collecting data. Rangers were finally able to access data-collecting stations in April.*

- Movie Road: 6419
- Kiosk at Whitney Portal Entrance Station: 1881
- North Entrance: 4195
- Mobius Arch Trail Foot Traffic: 1452
- Chicken Ranch: 53

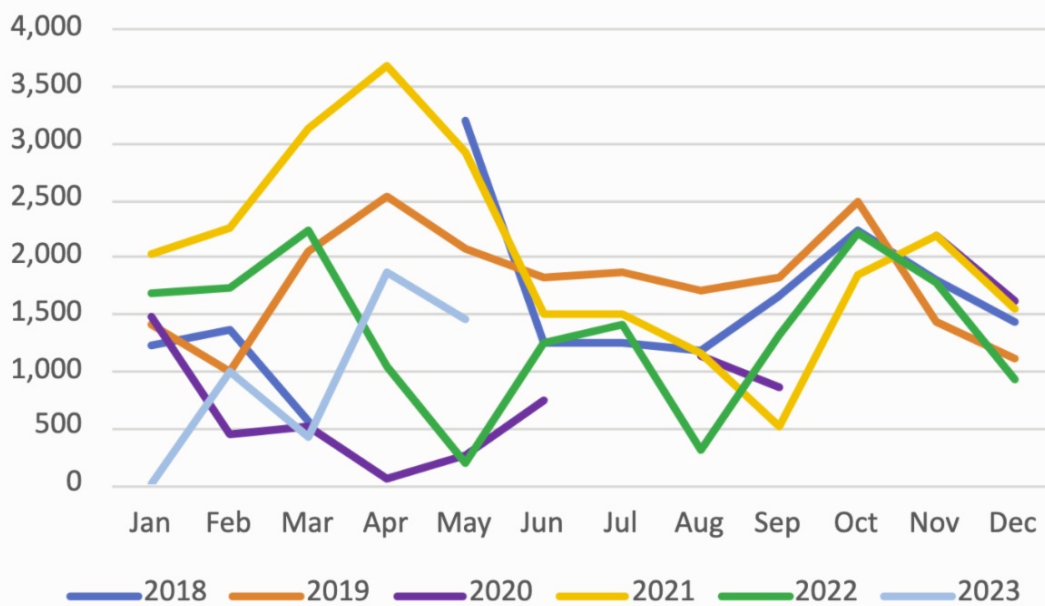
This month's data was collected May 1- May 27, 2023



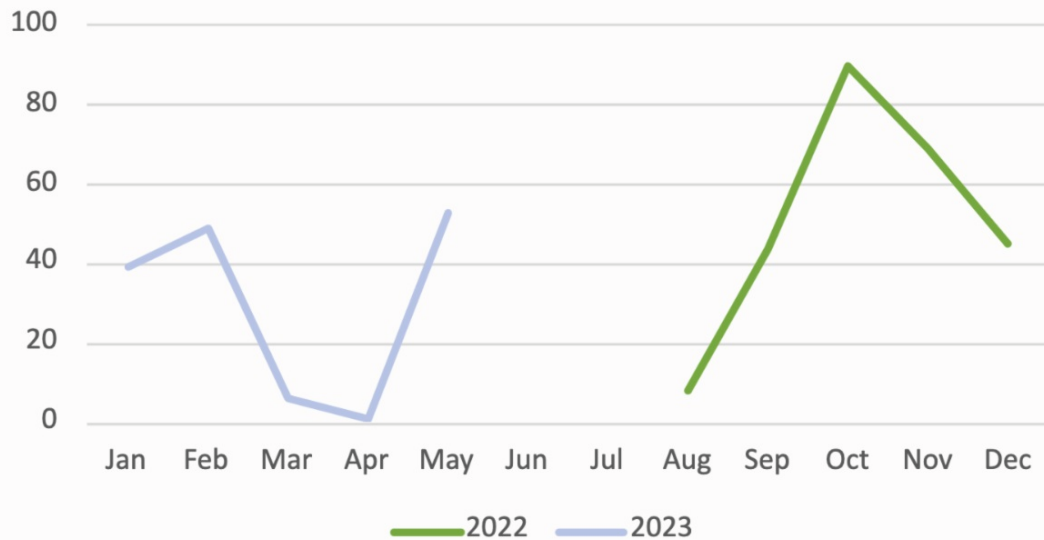
North Entrance Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023



Mobius Arch Trailhead Foot Traffic Counter 2018 to 2023



Chicken Ranch Road Traffic Counter August 2022 to 2023



Events

Upcoming BLM-Sponsored

- The application for Artist in Residence has closed. Artists will be chosen and announced soon, stay tuned!
- June 10th- Eastern Sierra Federal Land Job Fair, 11am-6pm at the Eastern Sierra Visitor Center. There will be a federal resume workshop (12pm, 3pm, 5pm) led by Death Valley National Park, with local federal agencies and non-profits present.

Work With Us!

Eastern Sierra Federal Lands

Job Fair



- **Federal Resume Writing Workshop & Job Application Tutorials**

(12pm, 3pm, 5pm)



- **Open and Upcoming Positions**

- **Network with Professionals**

- **Many Position Types**



June 10, 2023 11 am - 6 pm

Eastern Sierra Visitor Center (US 395 & CA 136)

Lone Pine, CA



Upcoming Special Recreation Permit

- June 3: Concert in the Rocks
- June 3-4: Alpinista climbing guides
- June TBD: QAS Production, film permit.
- June 23-25: Joshua Cripps Photography

Past BLM-Sponsored

- None for May.

Past 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.

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.
- After a year as the Alabama Hills Interpretive Specialist, Savanna has accepted a new position and will no longer be working for ESIA. We wish Savanna best of luck in all her future endeavors and thank her for her hard work in the Alabama Hills!
- Ashley Anderson joined ESIA, as the new BLM Interpretive Specialist last week. Ellie Neifeld joined ESIA last month as the Lead Naturalist and will be doing programs in the Hills starting this Fall. The Bishop Climbing Ranger Season has concluded and will resume in the Fall.

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](#). ESIA staff attempts to schedule an Alabama Hills-related post at least once a week during the peak Hills season.
- 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 (AHSBG) with the goal of promoting restoration and conservation efforts in the Hills for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Consider making a charitable donation to support in these efforts.

Support The Alabama Hills National Scenic Area

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

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