



"...On both sides, the mountains showed often stupendous and curious looking rocks, which at several places so narrowed the valley, that scarcely a pass was left for a camp. It was a singular place to travel through...shut up in the earth, a sort of chasm, the little strip of grass under our feet, the rough walls of bare rock on either hand, and the narrow strip of sky above. The grass tonight was abundant, and we encamped in high spirits."

– John C. Fremont, December 30, 1843

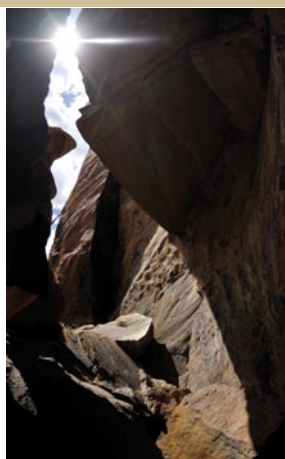
The Geology

High Rock Canyon began to form some 15 million years ago. Massive lava flows spilled across northwest Nevada forming a broad volcanic tableland. Wind, water, and continued volcanic activity created gorges with towering rhyolite cliffs.

The History

Native Americans arrived here around 10,000 BC, leaving traces of their lifestyle throughout the region.

In 1843-44, John C. Frémont led a party of explorers down High Rock Canyon during his famous Western Expedition. In 1846, Jessie Applegate and Levi Scott traced a portion of Frémont's route, establishing the Applegate Trail that served as an alternative road to Oregon. Peter Lassen followed in 1848, blazing a side trail from the Applegate north of High Rock Canyon to his ranch in California.



"Where we camp or just below, commences a succession of remarkable cliffs or walls of red, Brown & Black Basalt, (excoriated), 300 to 400 perpendicular height by measurement with a line. The first one is several hundred feet less and has a wide low cavern it its base."

– Israel Lord
September 21, 1849

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



BLACK ROCK DESERT
HIGH ROCK CANYON
EMIGRANT TRAILS

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

High Rock Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

High Rock Canyon ACEC was originally designated in 1984 to protect significant natural and cultural resources. The boundaries were revised in 2004 to exclude areas within designated wilderness. The ACEC now contains about 5,664 acres encompassing the High Rock Canyon Road corridor, Stevens Camp and the Pole Corral areas. Special rules apply to recreation and commercial uses in High Rock Canyon to help protect its unique resources. See reverse for special regulations.

National Landscape Conservation System

The Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area is a part of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System: a diverse program that incorporates national scenic and historic trails, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, national monuments and conservation areas. The mission of the NLCS is to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values for present and future generations of Americans. Instead of protecting "islands" of special land it conserves whole landscapes.

Friends of Black Rock High Rock
www.blackrockdesert.org (775)-557-2900

Surprise Field Office
www.blm.gov/ca/surprise (530) 279-6101

Winnemucca District Office
www.blm.gov/nv (775) 623-1500

Report Wildfires
(775) 623-3444 (800) 535-6076

BLM/NV/WN-GI-09/20+8300

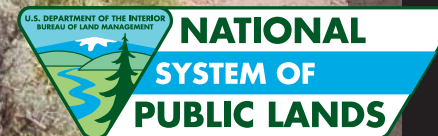
Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon
Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area

High Rock Canyon

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

NEVADA

BLM



High Rock Canyon

High Rock Canyon is unequalled in the northern Great Basin for its concentration of natural and cultural resources. The awe inspiring canyons and volcanic tablelands have formed spring sources where perennial waters flow, meadows where forage grows, and rim rock that provides safe cover and breeding areas. Benefitting wildlife species include: a variety of raptors, mule deer, California bighorn sheep, mountain lion, wild horses and antelope.



Cultural resources include the names of passing emigrants etched in and drawn on the cliff walls, early 20th century homestead sites, and stone tool fragments. All archeological artifacts are protected under federal law.

High Rock Canyon's isolated location, rugged travel conditions, and lack of development, preserve a setting and experience close to what the early pathfinders and emigrant wagon trains experienced. Plan ahead and prepare.

High Rock Canyon ACEC Special Regulations

Motorized vehicles are allowed only on designated routes within the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. These motorized routes are shown on the map.

USE CAUTION: THE ROAD THROUGH HIGH ROCK CANYON IS EXTREMELY ROUGH AND ROCKY. HIGH CLEARANCE AND 4WD VEHICLES ARE RECOMMENDED. CARRY EXTRA WATER & SPARE TIRES.

Seasonal Closure: To protect California bighorn sheep lambing and raptor nesting, High Rock Canyon is closed to motorized vehicles from February 1st until the 2nd weekend in May.

Vehicle camping is only allowed at designated campsites. Camping is available outside of the canyon at High Rock Lake and Stevens Camp (see map for locations.)

Dispersed camping is allowed in the adjacent wilderness areas by foot and horseback only. Camping is prohibited within 300 feet of a water source, unless otherwise designated, to prevent disturbance to wildlife and livestock.

Respect our heritage by leaving artifacts in place and by not touching emigrant glyphs. Collecting or defacing artifacts is prohibited.

Rock climbing is prohibited in High Rock Canyon.

