



Photo Credit: Sendi Kalcic

Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness

Bureau of Land Management

Southern Nevada District Office
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89103
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.1.html>

Size: 6,050 acres
Elevation Range: 4,000 - 5,000 feet
Designation: Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002

Area Description

The Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness, west of Searchlight, Nevada, is relatively small for a designated wilderness, at just 6,050 acres. But what it may lack in size, it more than makes up for in stunning natural history.

The name Wee Thump, or “ancient ones” in the Paiute language, tells the story of these Joshua trees. Growing just half an inch per year on average, the stand is home to some of the oldest and largest Joshua trees on the planet. These ancient ones have grown tall in the silence of the desert, some rising to more than 30 feet over 900 years.

Visitors can also find blackbrush, Mojave yucca, buckhorn cholla, creosote bush, white bursage, banana yucca, bunch grass, matted cholla, and prickly pear cactus throughout the wilderness. Birdwatchers will spot-gilded flicker (known to occur in Nevada only in this location), northern flicker, ladder-backed woodpecker, black-throated sparrow, red-tailed hawk, crissal thrasher, golden eagle, loggerhead shrike, and cactus wren. Other wildlife roaming this wilderness include desert tortoise, big horn sheep, coyote, desert cottontail, black-tailed jackrabbit, valley pocket gopher and desert wood rat.



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Directions

The Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness is located between Searchlight, Nevada and Nipton, California. The wilderness sits just north of State Highway 164, which provides access to the southern border of the wilderness, and is flanked to the west by the South McCullough Range and to the east by the Highland Range.

Wee Thump East Road leads north from State Highway 164, providing access to the eastern border of the wilderness. Five miles west of Wee Thump East Road down State Highway 164, Wee Thump West Road leads north, providing access to the western border of the wilderness.



Recreation

With few visitors making their way into this wilderness, opportunities for solitude abound. This impressive stand of Joshua trees makes for fascinating bird watching, and the gentle slope of the land allows for relaxed hiking. The 3-mile Joshua Tree Trail follows an old wagon road previous used by mining operations in the surrounding areas. To access this trailhead, turn north onto Wee Thump East Road from State Route 164.

Motorized vehicles, mechanized equipment, and mechanical transport are not permitted in designated wilderness.

Maps

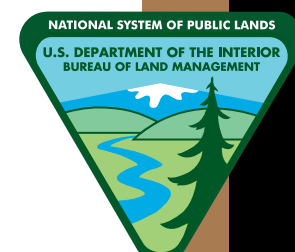
USGS 7.5 Quadrangle Maps: McCullough Mountain, Highland Spring.

Additional Information

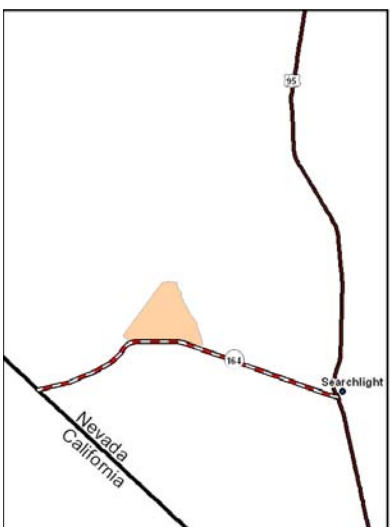
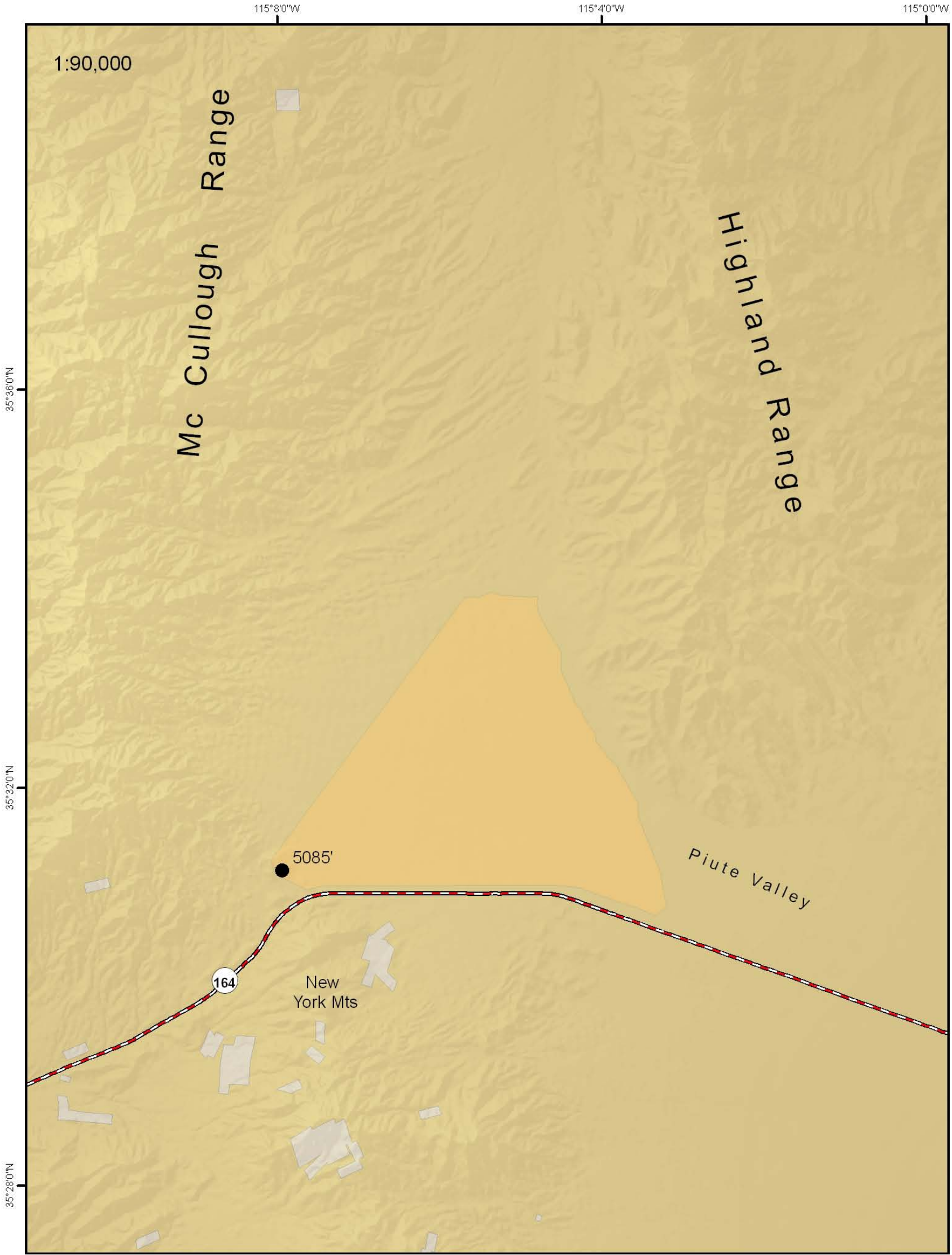
- Please limit group sized to 12 members.
- Maximum length of stay: 14 days
- Fires are not allowed, though camp stoves can be used.
- Collection of natural resources, including wildlife (with the exception of hunting with a valid hunting license or tag), plants, rocks, or fossils in wilderness is allowed only where consistent with current regulations.



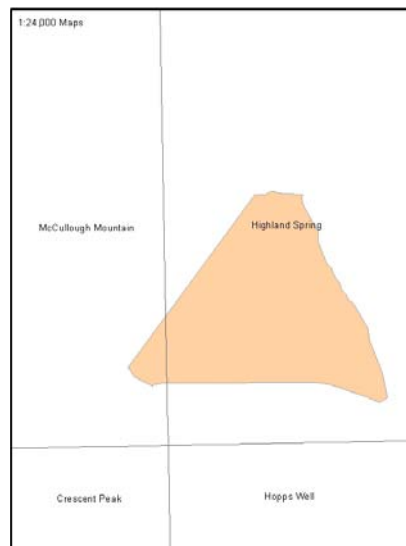
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- Legend**
- US Highway
 - State Highway
 - City
 - Highest point
 - Bureau of Land Management Wilderness
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Private



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