Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve

CDFW’s Mission

To manage California's diverse fish, wildlife and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

About the Reserve

- BMER is owned by the State Lands Commission and leased to CDFW for management, operation and maintenance.
- In 2004, the Fish and Game Commission formally designated BMER as an ecological reserve.
- BMER is home to many rare plants, including one of the state's last significant stands of maritime chaparral.

A little history …

- In 1990, a Unocal construction project resulted in major damage and alterations to the lands in this area. The BMER property was specifically set aside as mitigation for these damages.

- The mitigation agreement stipulates that “the use of the property shall be limited to natural open space for habitat protection, education, research and resource conservation uses….”

CDFW Responsibilities

- As stated in Title 14, CCR section 630, the Reserve allows access for pedestrians and hikers from sunrise to sunset. Activities that could have a detrimental effect on the land – specifically horseback riding, mountain biking and the flying of small aircraft – are prohibited.

  Understaffing has limited CDFW's ability to enforce the rules over the last decade.

Wildlife on the Reserve

What cycling does to the Reserve

- Damages topsoil.
- Causes soil compaction and loss, which changes the way water is absorbed, particularly on uneven terrain.
- Encourages mass erosion.
- Disrupts wildlife movements – many animals are active during evening hours or at night.
- Damages protective bark on tree trunks when riders continually ride over them.
- Pushes walkers and hikers off-trail.

What altering vegetation does to the Reserve

- Removes protective layers of shade for sensitive plants and animals.
- Exposes area beneath trees to heat, which can burn other vegetation and damage the nutrient value of the soil. This can impact the plants' ability to survive.
- Impacts animals' ability to obtain food when the landscape is altered or removed.
- Increases water runoff from trails and degrades watershed functions for the ecosystem.

Ideal Habitat

Damage to the Habitat

Damage to the Habitat (2)

BURTON MESA
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

This reserve was established to provide protection for the rare habitats of maritime chaparral, oak woodlands and seasonal wetlands. It is home to many species of concern, including threatened and endangered native plants, animals and reptiles. Many of the plant species are found nowhere else in the world. Badgers, bobcats, deer, mountain lions, woodrats, snakes and many other species also utilize the habitat.

Burton Mesa is situated between Vandenberg Air Force Base to the west, Freeport-McMoran Oil & Gas LLC oil fields to the north, and the La Purisima Mission State Park to the south. Please use the reserve respectfully and help preserve this sensitive environment.

As per the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 550 and 630:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO:

- Access the reserve on foot between sunrise and sunset.
- Walk and hike on designated trails.
- Bring dogs as long as they are retained on a leash of less than 10 feet.
- View wildlife at a safe distance.
- Please carry out all refuse and leave the reserve as you found it.

YOU MAY NOT:

- Ride or operate a bicycle.
- Ride horses.
- Hunt.
- Operate any motorized vehicle or small aircraft.
- Disturb birds, nests, eggs or any other form of plant or animal life.
- Feed the wildlife.
- Collect specimens, except by permit.
- Release any fish or animal, including domestic species.
- Fire or discharge any weapon including a firearm, bow and arrow, air/gas gun or spear gun.
- Start or maintain any fire or light fireworks or other explosive or incendiary devices.
- Camp overnight.
- Swim, wade, dive or use any diving equipment.
- Launch or operate a boat.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE LAW COULD RESULT IN A MISDEMEANOR CITATION, WHICH CARRIES A SENTENCE OF ONE YEAR IN JAIL AND A MAXIMUM FINE OF $1,000.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW)
www.wildlife.ca.gov
CDFW REGIONAL OFFICE - (858) 467-4201
TO REPORT POACHING OR POLLUTING - (888) 334-CALTIP; [(888) 334-2258]
CLOSEST MEDICAL FACILITY - (805) 737-3300
Lompoc Valley Medical Center, 1515 East Ocean Ave. Lompoc, CA

Revised June 2014

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

BURTON MESA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

This Reserve was established to provide protection for the rare habitats of maritime chaparral, oak woodlands and seasonal wetlands. The reserve is situated between Vandenberg Air Force Base to the west, Freeport-McMoran Oil & Gas LLC oil fields to the north, and the La Purisima Mission State Park to the south. This unique area is home to many species of concern, including threatened and endangered native plants, animals and reptiles. Many of the plant species are found nowhere else in the world. In addition, badgers, bobcats, deer, mountain lions, packrats, snakes and many other species utilize the habitat. Please use the reserve respectfully and help preserve this sensitive environment.

As per the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 630:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO:

- Access the reserve on foot between sunrise and sunset.
- Walk and hike on designated trails.
- Bring dogs as long as they are retained on a leash of less than 10 feet.
- Enjoy the reserve with uses that are compatible with the primary purposes of the reserve.
- View wildlife at a safe distance.
- Please carry out all refuse and leave the reserve as you found it.

YOU MAY NOT:

- Ride or operate a bicycle.
- Ride horses.
- Operate any motorized vehicle or small aircraft.
- Disturb birds, nests, eggs or any other form of plant or animal life.
- Feed the wildlife.
- Collect specimens, except by permit.
- Release any fish or animal, including domestic species.
- Fire or discharge any weapon including a firearm, bow and arrow, air/gas gun, or spear gun.
- Start or maintain any fire or light fireworks or other explosive or incendiary devices.
- Camp overnight.
- Swim, wade, dive or use any diving equipment within the reserve.
- Launch, or operate a boat within the reserve.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE LAW COULD RESULT IN A MISDEMEANOR CITATION, WHICH CARRIES A SENTENCE OF ONE YEAR IN JAIL AND A MAXIMUM FINE OF $1,000.

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CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

Detrimental Uses:

Horses

Motorized Vehicles

Mountain Bikes

BMXers

Small Aircraft

Thank you!