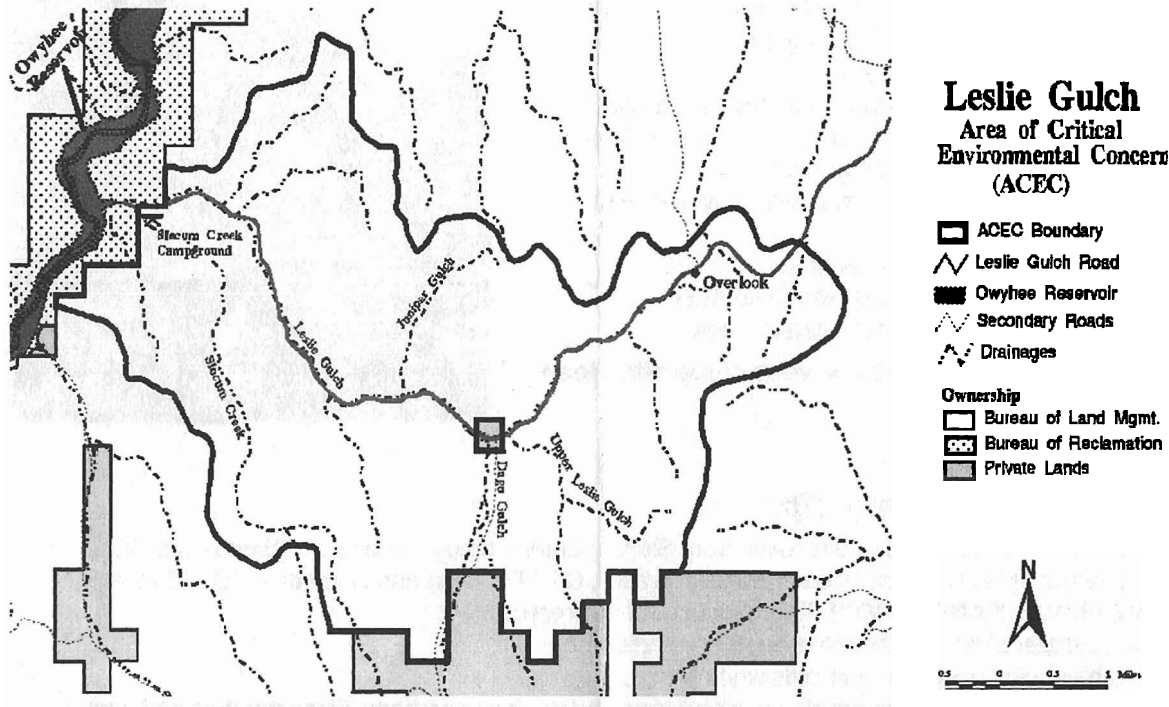


Welcome!

In 1983, Leslie Gulch was designated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect its outstanding scenery, California bighorn sheep habitat and several rare plant species and their habitats. The ACEC's management objective is to protect and enhance these natural resource values while allowing for compatible activities within the area. Most of the ACEC is composed of Wilderness Study Areas. The BLM is also required to protect the area's wilderness values until Congress decides on wilderness status. The perimeter of the 11,653 acre ACEC is generally defined by the watershed boundaries of Leslie, Slocum, Juniper, Dago and Runaway Gulches and private property to the south.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

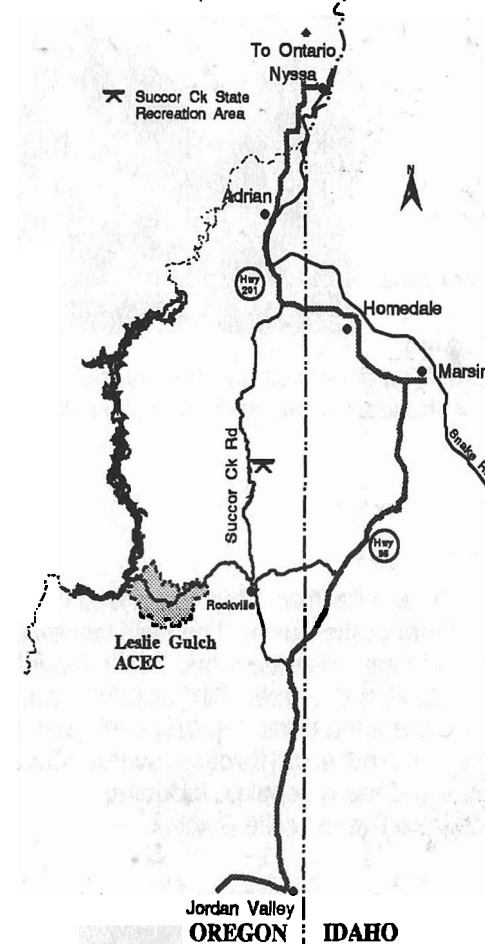
The natural values that make this area so attractive—bighorn sheep, rare plants, geologic scenery and ash soils—are all so fragile and sensitive to human activities that special management is necessary for their protection and your continued enjoyment.

SO PLEASE REMEMBER...

- ◆ All camping and fires are limited to Slocum Creek Campground; no firewood collection.
- ◆ Overnight camping backpackers must camp outside of the ACEC.
- ◆ All motorized vehicle and bicycle use is limited to existing roads and parking areas.
- ◆ Horses and any other domestic livestock are not allowed in the ACEC.
- ◆ Leave all vegetation and rock materials in their natural place.

Succor Creek Road Distances (mi.):

Hwy 201 to Leslie Gulch Jct	26
Jct to Leslie Gulch ACEC	8
Jct to Owyhee Reservoir	15
Jct to U.S. Highway 95	10



Additional information and maps available at:

Bureau of Land Management
100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918
Phone (541) 473-3144
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Vale/>

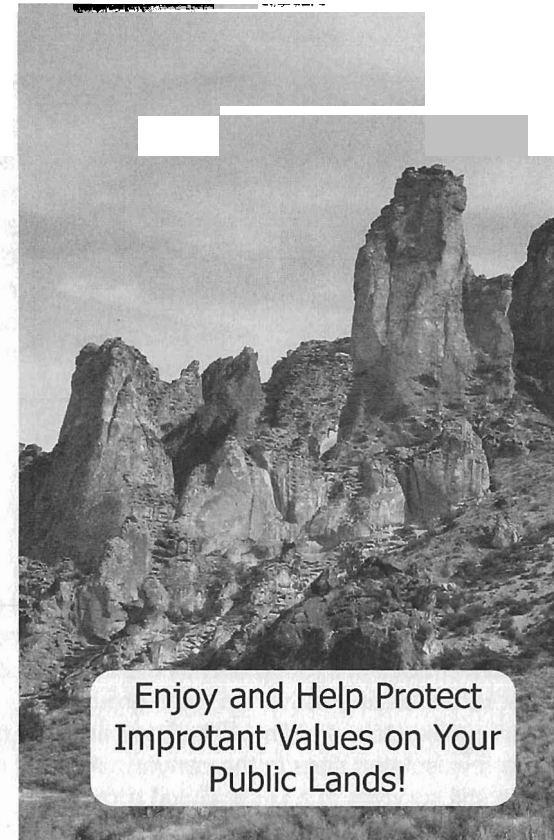
BLM/OR/WA/GI-98/044-4800



Bureau of Land Management
Vale District, Oregon

Leslie Gulch

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

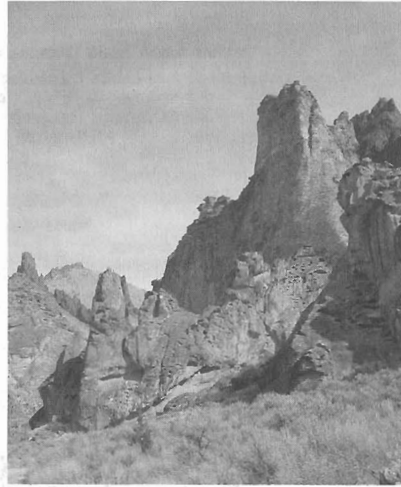


Enjoy and Help Protect Important Values on Your Public Lands!

A WEALTH OF SPECIAL VALUES!

Unique Geology

The most striking features of Leslie Gulch are the diverse and often stark, towering and colorful geologic formations. The Leslie Gulch Tuff (consolidated volcanic ash), which makes up the bulk of these formations, is a rhyolite ash that erupted from the Mahogany Mountain caldera (a large volcanic depression which totally encompasses Leslie Gulch) in a series of violent explosions about 15.5 million years ago. Much of the material fell back into the volcano as a gaseous deposit of fine ash and rock fragments up to 1,000 feet thick. Today, the tuff is beautifully displayed as steep slopes and vertical, honeycombed towers and cliffs resulting from erosion and chemical weathering. About 100,000 years later, volcanic eruptions from the Three Fingers caldera, located several miles to the northeast, deposited another layer of rhyolite tuff in Leslie Gulch. Today, this tuff is a blanket of looser material in contrasting colors on many of the area's rounded hills.



Wildlife

In 1965, seventeen California bighorn sheep were reintroduced into Leslie Gulch. The herd has expanded to over 200 animals. Mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk are also found in the area. Bird watchers can spot chukar, numerous song birds, raptors, California quail, northern flickers, and white-throated swifts. Coyotes, bobcats, bats and many reptiles, including rattlesnakes, also live in Leslie Gulch.



Rare Plants

The talus slopes and unique soils of the Leslie Gulch ash-flow tuff support a number of globally rare plant species. Two annual species are found only in the Leslie Gulch drainage (Packard's blazing star and Etter's groundsel). Grimy ivesia, sterile milkvetch, and Owyhee clover are rare perennials found at a few isolated sites in the canyon. A stand of Ponderosa pine still survives in a Leslie Gulch tributary.

History

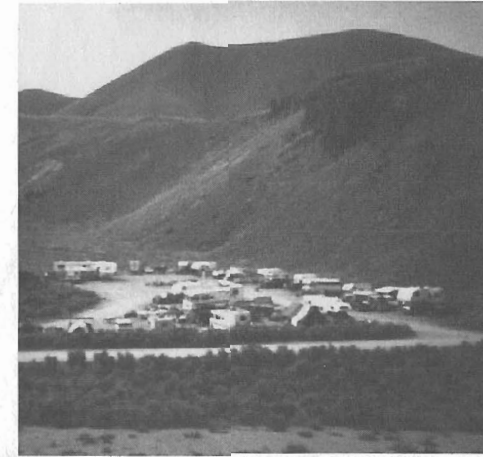
Native Americans fished, hunted, and camped along the Owyhee River in Leslie Gulch 5,000 years before Europeans came to the area. In 1882, a cattle rancher, Hiram E. Leslie, when working in what was then known as Dugout Gulch, was struck by lightning; thus, the area was renamed Leslie Gulch. The original Leslie Gulch canyon road long served as a wagon and mail route between Rockville and Watson. Today, the town of Watson lies at the bottom of the Owyhee Reservoir.

Camping?

All camping within the ACEC is limited to the Slocum Creek Campground. A concrete boat ramp provides Owyhee Reservoir access for smaller water craft.

- ◆ The campground is a No Shooting Zone.
- ◆ Camping is limited to 14 days.
- ◆ Be cautious with fires. Conform to any fire restrictions.
- ◆ If needed, use generators from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please be considerate of neighbors
- ◆ There is no developed drinking water anywhere on public land in the ACEC.
- ◆ Keep pets under control at all times.
- ◆ Fireworks are not permitted within the ACEC.
- ◆ Park your vehicle only in designated areas.

Thank you, and please leave your camp site clean for the next visitors.



Some Helpful Safety Tips

It is a minimum of 25 miles of dirt roads from Slocum Creek Campground to a highway (U.S. 95). The closest available services are located in Jordan Valley, OR (43 miles) and Homedale, ID (40 miles).

DRIVE SLOWLY AND ENJOY! Take caution and be prepared for:

- ◆ Ticks, rattlesnakes, and extreme weather conditions.
- ◆ Unstable rocks, boulders, and soils while hiking.
- ◆ Rapidly changing weather which can affect road and driving conditions. Flash flooding and winter conditions can prevent access.
- ◆ Variable and changing road surface conditions — high clearance vehicles are recommended. Larger recreation vehicles are not recommended.

Remember ...

- ◆ Respect private property and get permission for access.
- ◆ Special use permits are required for large group and commercial activities, and for any vegetation or mineral collection. Please contact the BLM Vale District office.
- ◆ **Take only pictures and memories of Leslie Gulch!** Enjoy your visit.