

## Las Cienegas National Conservation Area

The Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) received its name from the cienegas, or marshes, which run the length of the Cienega Creek. The creek runs all year round which gives this area lush vegetation and a lively riparian area.

The LCNCA also includes a working cattle ranch. When traveling through the area please leave all gates as you found them.

Today there are more than 45,000 acres of rolling grasslands and woodlands in this southern Arizona location. The landscape ranges from oak studded hills, mountain ranges and lush riparian corridors. Cienega Creek provides the lifeblood of the LCNCA and supports diverse plant and wildlife communities.

Thanks to the efforts of local governments, elected officials and the public, the Empire and Cienega ranches, along with portions of the adjacent Rose Tree and Vera Earl ranches, are now under public ownership and managed by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the principles of multiple-use and ecosystem management for future generations to use and enjoy.



The BLM has formed a partnership with the nonprofit Empire Ranch Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving the historic buildings and surrounding landscapes.

### Visitor Activities

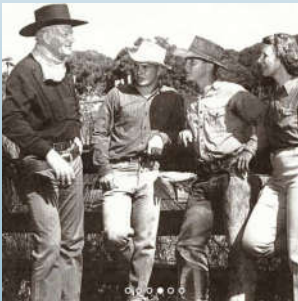
- Wildlife viewing
- Birdwatching
- Photography
- Picnicking
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- OHV Use
- Historic site

### Movies Filmed in LCNCA

The LCNCA could also be a mecca to fans of classic films about the old west.

John Wayne, Barbara Stanwick, Charlton Heston, Paul Newman, Lee Marvin, Kirk Douglas, William Holden, Burt Lancaster, Shelley Winters, Jennifer Jones, Steve McQueen, Gregory Peck, Spencer Tracy, Jimmy Stewart and others have made such classic films in or near the Empire Ranch. The historic Empire Ranch remains a working cattle ranch, complete with enchanting old headquarters, now operates under an innovative rangeland management style unique to the area.

These are some classic movies that have been filmed on or near the Empire Ranch: "Red River," "Duel in the Sun," "Hombre," "Winchester 73," "The Big Country" and others.



## Arizona OHV Grant Program

The mission of the Arizona Off Highway Vehicle Program is to develop vehicular recreational opportunities and educational programs that promote user education, interagency cooperation and natural resource protection.

The Arizona Legislature created the OHV Program in 1991. The Legislature set the funding mechanism at 0.55 percent of the annual state motor fuel tax revenues. In 2009 the decal program began and today both funds are used for OHV projects.

Arizona State Parks administers the program [azstateparks.com/ohv](http://azstateparks.com/ohv):

- 60 percent of the funds goes to OHV grants and agreements (12 percent is for administration of the program), road construction, development, maintenance, signage and maps of roads/trails;
- 35 percent goes to Game and Fish Department for law enforcement, education and outreach;
- 5 percent goes to the Arizona State Land Department for mitigation, signage and enforcement.

More information can be found at the Game and Fish website [azgfd.com/ohv/](http://azgfd.com/ohv/).

### Arizona OHV Decal Requirements



The OHV decal program is intended for vehicles designed by the manufacturer to travel over unimproved roads, to have a laden weight of 2500 pounds or less, and/or an engine greater than 49cc. A decal is required for use on all public and state trust lands and must be displayed in the upper left hand corner of your license plate. Pickup trucks, SUVs, cars and other recreational vehicles are not required to have an OHV decal.



The decal is not a registration and you are required to have a registration if you plan to travel on paved and improved roads and streets.



Arizona residents will need an Arizona certificate of title, insurance and an Arizona license plate. Decals can be purchased through any Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) office or [azmvdnow.gov](http://azmvdnow.gov) and are good for one year from date of purchase for each vehicle.

The cost of the decal is \$25.

Non-Arizona residents will need to purchase an OHV decal for each vehicle they. The decal must be purchased prior to riding in Arizona.

The non-resident decal is only available online through the Arizona Game and Fish Department at [azgfd.com/OHV/Decals/](http://azgfd.com/OHV/Decals/)

### Development and Printing

The development of this brochure was in cooperation between the AZ State Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs and the Bureau of Land Management Tucson Field Office, December 3, 2021.

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[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)



[www.asa4wdc.org](http://www.asa4wdc.org)

**For More Information, Contact:**  
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**Email: [blm\\_az\\_tfoweb@blm.gov](mailto:blm_az_tfoweb@blm.gov)**

Site	Use	Wildlife Viewing	Toilets
Ag Fields Groups Site - site reserved for special permitted events, contact the Tucson BLM Field Office for permission	B	N	N
Airstrip Group Site—Group site reserved for special permitted events, contact the Tucson BLM Field Office for permission	B	N	N
Airstrip Site—Public day use/overnight camping site south of Airstrip Group Site	B	N	Y
Apache Spring Cabin—Located on 6910 road, 4 wheel drive high clearance vehicles recommended	DU	Y	N
Cieneguita CG—(10 sites)	B	Y	N
Cottonwood Wildlife Pond—Located on the 6900 road—South Road	DU	Y	N
Forty-Nine Wash (3 sites) —Located on 6907 road	B	N	N
Gaucha Wildlife Pond—Located on 6914 road	DU	Y	N
Heritage Discovery Trail—Interpretive trail located at the Empire Ranch Headquarters	DU	Y	Y
Hummel House—Located on the 6919 road —Curly Horse Road	DU	Y	N
Maternity Well Group Site—Group site reserved for special permitted events, contact the Tucson BLM Field Office for permission	B	Y	N
Oak Tree CG (4 Sites)—Not recommended for large RV's, no campfires or parking under Oak Trees	B	Y	N
Prairie Dog Town—3 dispersed campsites are located along the road before arriving at the interpretive site.	DU	Y	N
Road Canyon CG—Two campsites are located on both sides of the 6900 road	B	Y	N
The Narrows— non motorized path leading into Cieniga Creek	B	Y	N

DU—Day Use; OC—Camping; B— Both

No potable water, trash receptacles, picnic tables or fire rings are located in the LCNCA.

## OHV Trail Etiquette

- Check with local clubs about difficulty of the trail.
- Let someone know where you are going, your destination and time you expect to return.
- Leave all gates as you found them. If they are open do not close. If they are closed please close them. This is open range.
- Yield to non motorized users equestrians, hikers, bikers, trail runners, etc.)
- Travel on designated routes only.
- Invite a friend so you don't travel alone.
- Not all trails are for stock vehicles.
- Use existing campsites and fire rings.
- Please pack it in/pack it out.
- Downhill traffic has the right of way.
- When passing others let them know how many in your group.

## Disclaimer

The AZ State Association of 4 Wheel Drive Clubs and affiliated clubs, AZ Four Wheel Drive Foundation, Tucson RoughRiders, Bureau of Land Management, AZ Game and Fish Department, and AZ State Land Department are not responsible or liable for any mishap to or injury, death or damage to any vehicle, person or public/private property.

