

## Bureau of Land Management

# Hieroglyphic Mountains Loop



**GENERAL INFORMATION:** The Hieroglyphic Mountains Loop, 35 miles North-West of Phoenix, Arizona, is a long looping route with several points of access. The loop takes trail users from the staging area, around the Hieroglyphic Mountains and returns to the staging area. The entire loop is four-wheel drive (4WD) width, but may have off-camber sections or hills that are difficult for 4WD vehicles. ATVs and motorcycles should traverse the sections with caution. The loop is comprised of routes that are not maintained regularly. During winter or rainy seasons, washout sections should be expected.

The Hieroglyphics Mountains Loop meanders through classic Sonoran desert landscapes, including stands of Saguaro and Cholla cactus and traverses the Arizona desert on existing routes. Only existing routes are open for travel; cross country travel is not permitted. Wildlife in the area includes desert tortoise, wild burros, rattlesnakes and many species of lizards and birds. When encountering wildlife, watch from a distance. Do not harass wildlife.

People live in the surrounding area. Please respect private property rights and be mindful of others when recreating in the area. Other activities in the area include ranching, mining, horseback riding, hiking and recreational shooting.

**ACCESS:** The Hieroglyphic Mountains Loop is accessible from many areas but the primary access point is from the staging area called the "Boulders." The Boulders is located eight miles west of Lake Pleasant. From north Phoenix head north on Interstate 17 to the Carefree Highway exit and go west 18 miles to mile marker 11.5. From west Phoenix take State Route 60 towards Wickenburg. Turn east on State Route 74 and go 12 miles to mile marker 11.5. The staging area is one mile north of the mile marker 11.5 turnoff.

**FACILITIES:** The staging area offers parking for individuals or large groups and primitive camping. The site is accessible for RVs and trailers. A vault toilet is available however there is no water and trash collection is not provided. Follow the rule of **Pack it in, Pack it out!**

**MAPS:** The Hieroglyphic Mtns Loop is not signed as a loop, but rather as individual routes that connect. Arizona USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps "Red Picacho" and "Garfias Mtn" can be used to generally navigate the area. Maps with land ownership status and an access guide can be purchased from the Phoenix District or the Arizona State Office. Land ownership status maps are highly recommended due to the scattered land ownership in the area.

### NOTES:

- This area is very remote and you may not encounter anyone. Always tell a friend or relative where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Drinking water is not provided anywhere along the routes so bring plenty.
- You may encounter reptiles such as desert tortoise and rattlesnakes. If a desert tortoise is encountered on routes they should be avoided. If the tortoise cannot be avoided, it should be carefully moved to safety by carrying it horizontal to the ground, not tilted, and placed in the shade no more than 50 feet away. If a rattlesnake is encountered, leave it alone. Most bites occur from people playing with, handling or, attempting to kill them.
- Motorcycles, ATVs and sand buggies must be equipped with a USDA Forest Service approved spark arrestor.
- Educate yourself and practice the *Tread Lightly!* ethics. Briefly these are:
  - Travel Responsibly
  - Respect the rights of others
  - Educate yourself
  - Avoid sensitive areas
  - Do your part

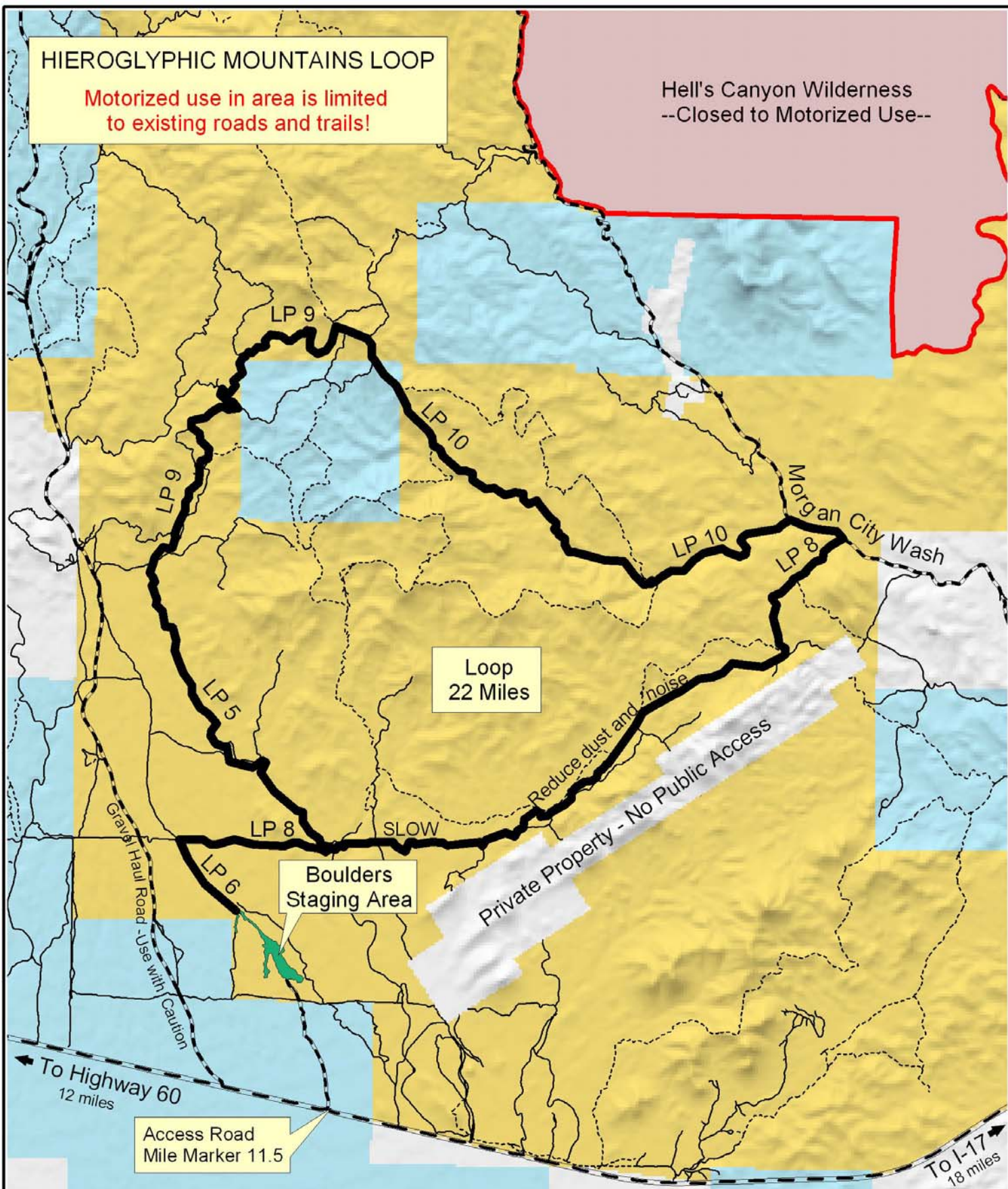
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# HIEROGLYPHIC MOUNTAINS LOOP

Motorized use in area is limited to existing roads and trails!

Hell's Canyon Wilderness  
--Closed to Motorized Use--



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Portions of routes that traverse State Trust Land require a Recreation Permit. Routes shown across private lands are shown for information purposes and DO NOT imply permission to enter.

### Legend

- Access Roads
- Two Track Roads
- Motorcycle Trails

- Land Ownership**
- BLM
  - Private
  - State



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