



Kofa National Wildlife Refuge

Welcome to Kofa National Wildlife Refuge

The Kofa Mountains rise abruptly from the plains of the Sonoran Desert, reaching a height of 4,877 feet atop Signal Peak. Desert bighorn sheep skillfully navigate the rugged mountains while turkey vultures search for carrion as they soar overhead. Below in King Valley, endangered Sonoran pronghorn forage and venomous rattlesnakes bask in the sun.

The 664,327 acre refuge was established in 1939 for the conservation of desert bighorn sheep and other native wildlife following a campaign by the Arizona Boy Scouts. More than 80 percent of Kofa National Wildlife Refuge is protected under the Wilderness Act of 1964. This wilderness designation recognizes the relatively undeveloped nature of the land and ensures it will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for unconfined recreation.

Desert Ecosystem

The climate of the Sonoran Desert is characterized by hot summers, mild winters and low annual rainfall (4-8 inches). Able to store large quantities of water in their leaves, stems and roots, cacti thrive under these harsh conditions. Towering saguaros reach up to 50 feet in height while pricklypear, cholla and hedgehog cacti grow closer to the ground.

For More Information Contact

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www.fws.gov/refuge/kofa/



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As rain is infrequent, most animals have adapted to survive with little water. Many species, such as the desert tortoise, obtain needed moisture from plant material and depend on water conservation for survival. Some animals, including kit foxes and kangaroo rats, remain in cool burrows during the day to prevent water loss.

Things to Do at the Refuge

Visitors are welcome to explore Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. Drive across McPherson Pass in the Castle Dome Mountains and enjoy expansive views of the desert landscape. Sit quietly at Horse Tanks and look for jackrabbits, Gambel's quail and other wildlife. Hike up to Big Eye Cabin and view historic mining structures.

Please stop at the Visitor Contact Station, located approximately 50 miles southwest of the refuge in Yuma, for brochures and information about seasonal interpretive programs. The staff and volunteers can also offer assistance in planning your trip to the refuge.

Exhibits

Exhibits in the Visitor Contact Station in Yuma feature the biological diversity and cultural history of Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. Outside the building, enjoy the pollinator garden and learn to identify native plants.

Hiking

The Palm Canyon Trail is a half-mile National Recreation Trail located at the end of the Palm Canyon Road. The rocky, steep trail leads to a viewpoint where California fan palms, the only native palm species in Arizona, can be observed.

While the Palm Canyon Trail is the only designated trail on Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, visitors are welcome to hike anywhere on the refuge so long as vehicles remain within 100 feet of the road and they do not enter mines or the area closed for the recovery of the Sonoran pronghorn.

Camping and Historic Cabins

Visitors are welcome to camp on the refuge for a maximum of 14 days in any 12-month period. Campfires are permitted, though only dead, down and detached wood from areas not designated as wilderness may be used. As wood is scarce, it is suggested that visitors bring their own supply.

Spend the night in Kofa Cabin or Hoodoo Cabin, historic cabins built by the CCC and a cattle company. They are available on a first come, first serve basis and no fee is required.

Hunting

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge offers hunting for bighorn sheep, mule deer, cottontail rabbit, quail, fox, and coyote. Hunters are required to have the proper licenses and permits (if applicable).

Rock Collecting

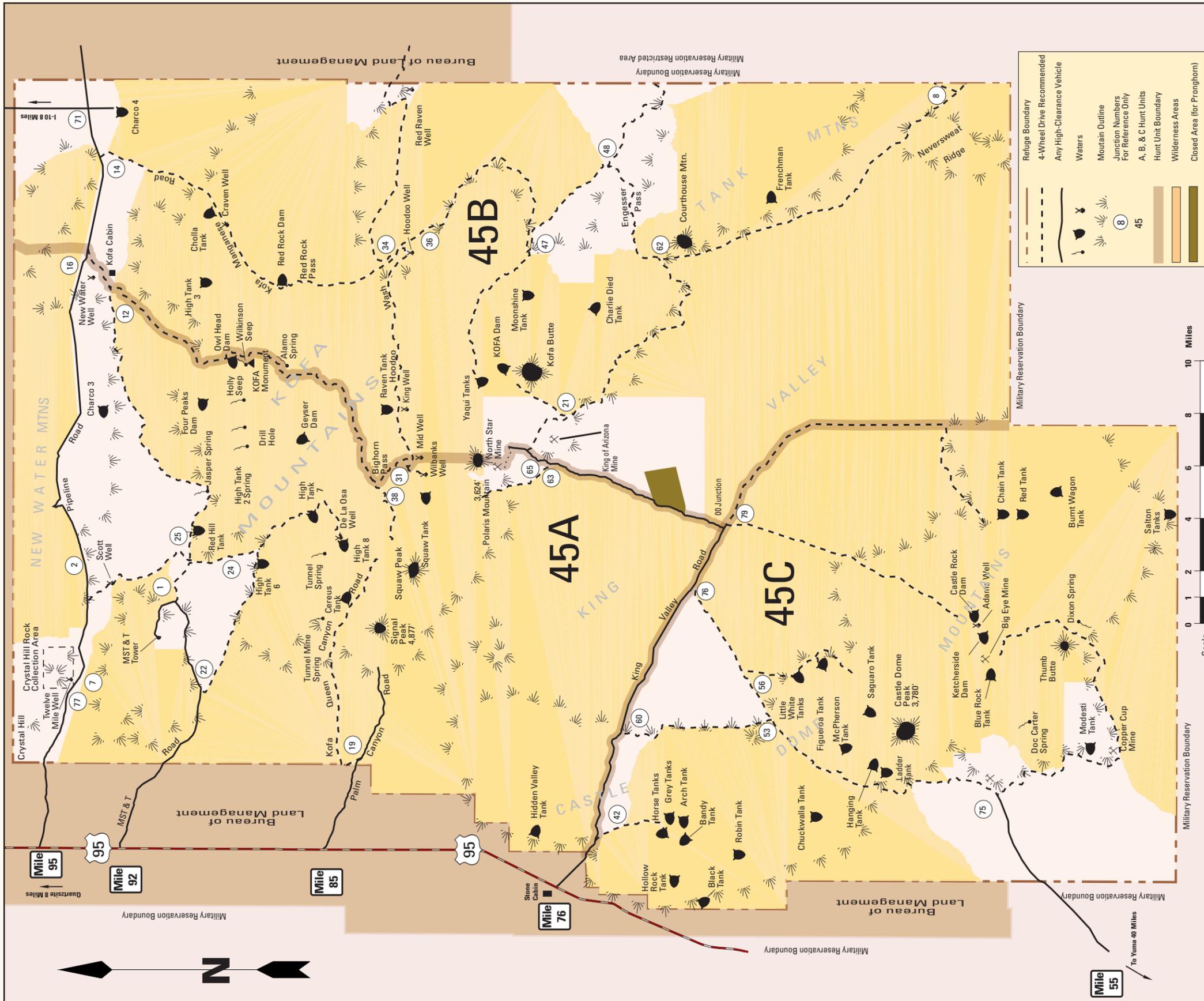
Visitors are permitted to collect up to 10 specimens or 10 pounds (whichever occurs first) of quartz and other rocks in the designated Crystal Hill area in a 12-month period. The collection of rocks and minerals is prohibited on the rest of Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.

Enjoy Your Visit

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge is open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. The Visitor Contact Station is open Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, except on all federal holidays when the building is closed.

Photographs from left to right,
View from Slumgullion Pass
Sonoran Pronghorn. / © John Kulberg

Skull Rock in Kofa Queen Canyon.
Kofa Cabin.
Desert Bighorn Sheep
All Photographs unless noted / USFWS



Come prepared with water, snacks, sunscreen, and clothing layers. Summer temperatures can soar above 110 degrees. Daytime winter temperatures are usually mild, but it can cool down considerably at night. Monsoon rains generally occur from early July into October. Storms may cause flash flooding on the refuge, so please use caution when entering washes, narrow canyons or low-lying areas.



Please be aware that most roads require the use of a four-wheel drive vehicle. Mines and private inholdings are closed to public entry. Unexploded ordnance may be encountered on the refuge as desert military training exercises were conducted in the area during World War II. Do not pick up any military hardware, but note its location, with GPS coordinates if possible, and report it to refuge headquarters.



Please see the *Public Use and Hunting Regulations* leaflet for additional information about visitor activities and refuge regulations.



Top, Agave in bloom.
Middle, Desert Tortoise.
Bottom, Thumb Butte.
All photographs / USFWS

