Camping
SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Backcountry camping is permitted in undeveloped areas ½ mile away from public roads, trailheads, and developed sites. Camping is available at the Miller Backcountry Camp along the San Pedro Trail between the San Pedro House and Hereford. It has tent pads, a storage box, and a pit toilet. Pack it in, pack it out. Motor home, RV, or car camping is not allowed anywhere in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNRCA).

Plan your trip: Become familiar with the area, rules of conduct and regulations, trailheads, trail conditions, and emergency services. Plan on being self-sufficient - ensure that you have adequate water and are prepared for hot or inclement weather. The area has minimal facilities and poor cell phone coverage. Reaching the Miller Backcountry Camp requires a 4 mile hike south from the San Pedro House. Make sure someone knows where you are and what to do if you do not return on time.

A camping permit is required for overnight camping by all individuals and groups. Permits are available in self-service stations at most trailheads. There is a $2 per person a night fee for camping.

Length of stay: Persons may stay at the Miller Backcountry Camp or anywhere else in the SPRNRCA for no more than 7 days in any period of 21 consecutive days, unless otherwise authorized.

Camping is not allowed within a 1/2 mile of trailheads, interpretive or educational sites (Murray Springs loop, Terrenate loop, Millville loop, Fairbank Cemetery, Saint David Cienega, Hereford river trails, Waters Road river trails, south of Highway 92, and the Lehner site) visitor contact stations, administrative facilities, public roads, or other developed areas. Camping is not allowed in the Recreation Management Zones surrounding the San Pedro House and the Fairbank Townsite.

The Palominas area south of Highway 92 to the international border is closed to camping.

Overnight parking at trailhead and access points is allowed for vehicles belonging to primitive and backcountry campers. RV, motorhome, and car camping are not allowed. Place the tag that is part of the camping permit on the dashboard of your vehicle.

Campfires are allowed at the Miller Backcountry Camp within fire rings provided for that purpose and in dispersed camping areas, subject to seasonal fire restrictions.

Make sure there are no fuels that could catch fire within 15 ft. of any campfire and make sure the fire is DEAD OUT before leaving it. The use of portable camp stoves is encouraged.

Firewood- Woodcutting is prohibited. Gathering of dead and down wood for use in campfires is permitted only for use in designated areas.

Pack out all litter and waste. Use toilet facilities where available, and properly dispose of human waste when in the back country.

Pets must be leashed in all developed facilities and in other posted areas. All dogs must be kept under direct control at all times.

Trailheads and parking areas are graveled, infrequently maintained, and may become eroded.

Leave What You Find: Vegetation, archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites and artifacts are protected by federal law. It is illegal to dig, damage, destroy or remove any artifacts or structures in the SPRNRCA. Metal detectors are not allowed.

Water is available from hose bibs at the San Pedro House and Fairbank Historic Townsite trailheads.

Do not disturb wildlife: The area is natural habitat for avian, mammal, reptile, and aquatic wildlife species.

Watch Out for Hazards: Potential hazards include thorny vegetation, falling tree branches, hidden sink holes, quicksand, steep drop offs, unstable ground, collapsing riverbanks, rattlesnakes, large predators, venomous insects, extreme temperatures, flash floods, unexploded munitions, and other natural hazards.

Special recreation permits (SRPs) are required for commercial recreational use including group camping. Contact the BLM office for information (520-258-7200).
Please Note:
Camping in Motorhome, RV, or car is not allowed in trailheads or parking areas; only backcountry hike-in or ride-in camping is allowed.