



Palominas Area

The Palominas section of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) is sandwiched between Highway 92 and the border. It is a good place for wildlife and there are numerous remnants of the farms and ranches that once operated visible here. You can hike to the border from the trailhead.

History: The Palominas area started with ranching in Mexican times when the San Pedro Land Grant was issued along the San Pedro River. The land grant was not validated by U.S. courts and in 1903 the area was opened to homesteaders who came here to raise cattle and farm. By 1911, the famous "Colonel" William Greene owned most of the area, part of his Greene Cattle Company. His ranch ran up to 50,000 cattle and 2,500 horses on over 1 million acres across Arizona and Sonora. Remnants of Greene's historic corrals are still found in the SPRNCA east of the River, just north of the border. Homesteads in the area were purchased by the U.S. government in the 1980s and became part of the SPRNCA. Today, the San Pedro Trail provides day-use access to visit the riparian area, historic farm fields naturalizing into sacaton grass, remnants of homesteads, irrigation ditches, Greene's corrals, and the international border.

This is a great area to see wildlife and their signs. The low population density and scarcity of visitors makes it attractive to wild animals. The San Pedro River is generally dry here except for flooding following storms. However, a walk down the riverbed will reveal a number of waterholes where wildlife come to drink.

Plan your visit: Starting from the trailhead, the hike to the border and corrals via the San Pedro Trail is 3.25 miles one-way. There is limited shade and water. The roughly 0.5-mile hike to the river is not marked or maintained. Know your route, bring adequate water, and dress for the weather. Let someone know where you are and what to do if you do not return on time.

Watch Out for Border Activity: Intensive Border Patrol activity is common in the area. Illegal smuggling activities and other traffic may be encountered. Avoid suspicious activity and take precautions. Nighttime visits are not advised. The road along the International Boundary is not open to public use.

Trailhead and Parking: The trailhead access road south of Highway 92 and parking area are graveled. There is parking for cars and horse trailers.

The San Pedro Trail is open to hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. The trail is a two-track administrative road, closed to public vehicles. There is also an unmaintained trail that leads from the trailhead west to the San Pedro River that is open to hikers only. Many people use these trails - respect their rights.

Pets must be leashed in all developed facilities and in other posted areas. All dogs must be kept under direct control at all times. Clean up after your dog and pack out the waste.

Picnicking: A shelter and tables are on an historic homestead concrete pad; nearby is a waterless toilet. The

picnic area is available on a first come-first served basis. Clean up all waste and litter after use. Water is not available.

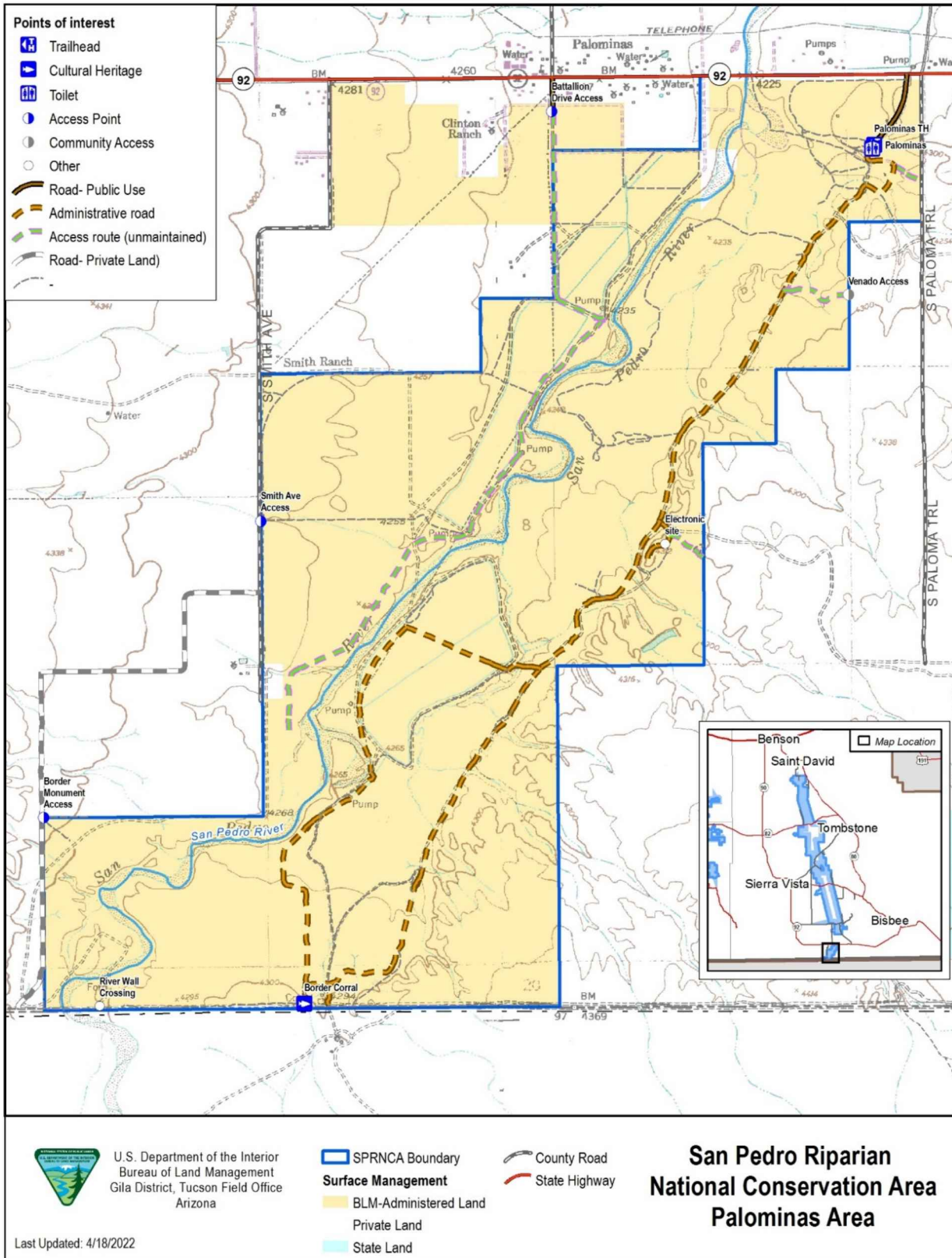
Camping is not allowed anywhere south of Highway 92 to the border due to safety issues.

Leave What You Find: Vegetation, archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites and artifacts are protected by federal law. It is illegal to damage, destroy or remove any artifacts or structures found within the SPRNCA. Metal detecting is not permitted.

Watch Out for Wildlife: The area is habitat for avian, mammal, reptile, and aquatic wildlife species. Avoid disturbing animals and watch out for venomous snakes and predators.

Respect the Neighbors: Public lands in this area are intermingled with private property, residences, and ranching activity. Private land is not open to public use.

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, and others.



Directions: From Sierra Vista go south and east towards Bisbee on Highway 92. The trailhead access road is east of the San Pedro River about 1 mile.

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