

Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Region

THE MOJAVE AND COLORADO DESERTS BIOSPHERE REGION (MCDBR) is an extraordinarily beautiful place that spans over 25 million acres of California's desert ecosystems, an area the size of Ohio that includes North America's hottest, driest, and lowest places as well as mountains over 11,000 feet. This landscape of extreme temperatures and aridity is home to thousands of desert-adapted plant and animal species, generations of human history, and opportunities for rural economic development.



What Biosphere Regions Do

The Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Region is one of 28 in the US Biosphere Network (USBN) working toward a healthy environment where people and communities prosper based on shared knowledge and stewardship of the beauty and benefits of nature. Partners in biosphere regions cooperate voluntarily to sustain healthy lands and waters for the benefit of human and natural communities. By working together, individuals and organizations who live, work, steward, and recreate in the MCDBR can achieve more than by working alone.

A Bioregional Approach

The MCDBR is under pressure from rapid environmental change. Our region's shared ecology, cultures, and values cross land ownership lines and so must solutions to environmental challenges. The geography and purpose of the MCDBR provide a unique design for governments (federal, state, and tribal), academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to collaborate voluntarily on regional and local issues. The MCDBR provides an open forum for a diverse array of individuals and organizations from across the landscape to convene, discuss and align around their mutual interests and concerns.

Biosphere regions are non-regulatory, voluntary entities that support three main functions:



Conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage

Desert bighorn ram. Photo: NPS.



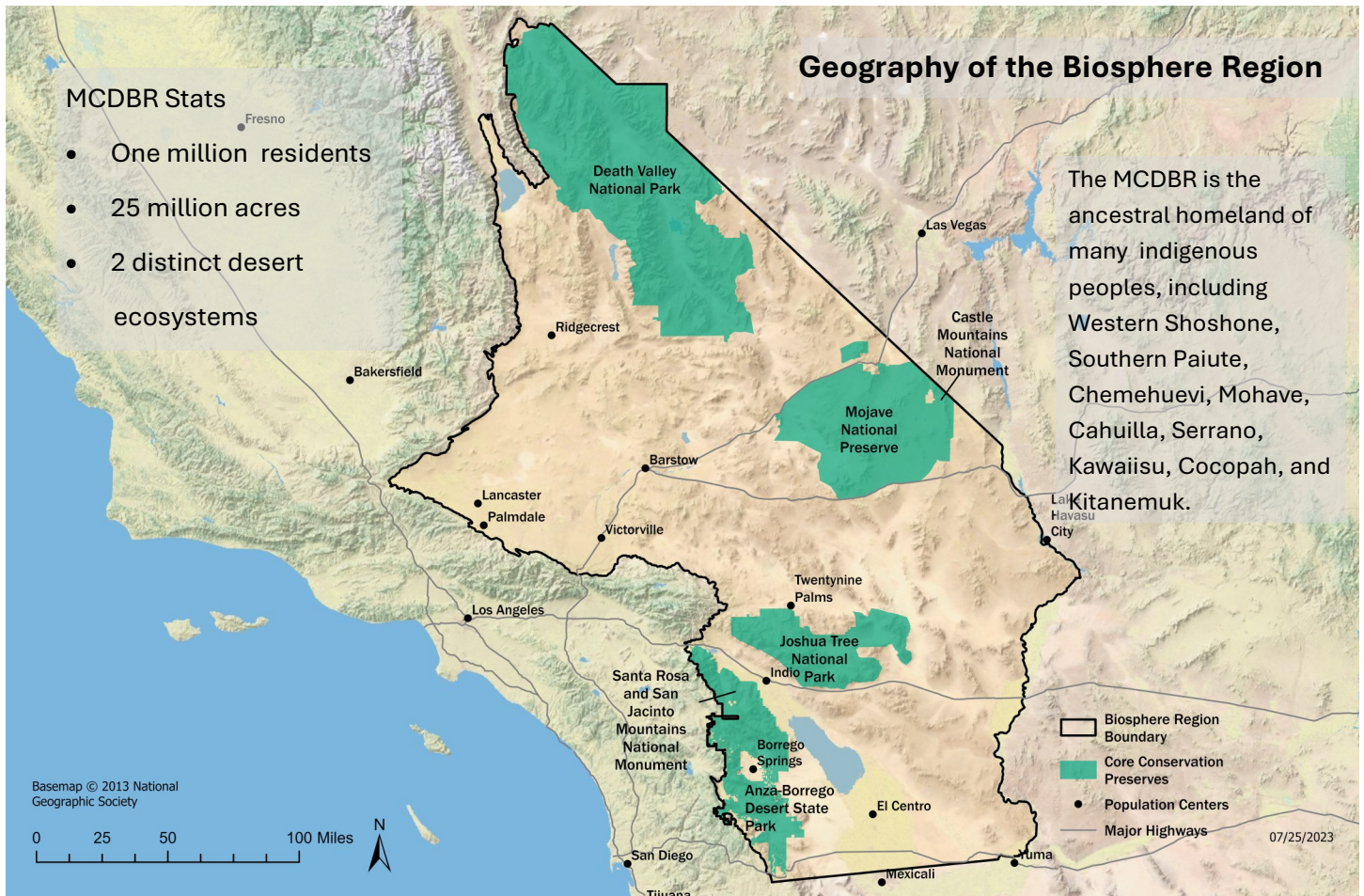
Economic development that is socially compatible and environmentally sustainable

Vendors selling vegetables at an outdoor farmer's market. Photo: Imperial Valley Press/Eric Miller.



Logistic support underpinning development through research, monitoring, education, and training

Students collecting ecological data in the Mojave Desert. Photo: M. Kate Gallagher.



National and Global Connections

The Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Region is one of 28 Biosphere Regions in the United States, and 748 around the world in 134 countries. The MCDDBR is a member of the United States Biosphere Network, which fosters national and international connections among biosphere regions, facilitates the sharing of best practices, and supports the work of individual biosphere regions. We are also a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Connecting with other BRs in the U.S. and around the world allows us to share knowledge and ideas and receive technical support for local and regional action.



Joshua trees and rocky hills in Joshua Tree National Park. Photo: NPS.

Connect With Us

The MCDDBR seeks to forge long-lasting partnerships with individuals and organizations who live, work, research and recreate in these lands, from all sectors. We invite any community or organization that has an interest in conservation, sustainable development, environmental justice, or climate change resiliency to help us reach our vision of a healthy biosphere where people and nature thrive.

For more information, contact:
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Visit biospherenetwork.org to learn more about the US Biosphere Network and en.unesco.org/mab to learn more about the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme.



United States
Biosphere Network



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme