

# EXPLORATION

## Get out!

### Exploring the White-Inyo Bridge

North of the Eureka Valley Road lies some of the last unprotected roadless landscapes cradled between the White and Inyo Mountains, a wild place roughly 40,000 acres with elevations ranging from 5,000-8,000 feet. Pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, xeric shrublands, and black brush paint the topography of steep canyons and gentle rolling slopes. This area provides habitat connectivity between the Great Basin and Owens Valley and adjoins the BLM administered Piper Mountain Wilderness to the east. Search for the rare plants of the area including Mojave Fishhook Cactus and Little Cutleaf. Enjoy, but do not disturb the area's many cultural sites ranging from prehistoric house rings to old mining camps.

Numerous opportunities for exploration of the Solider Canyon potential wilderness area (PWA) and potential Piper Mountain Wilderness additions exist. From the Eureka Valley Road you can walk up Deadman Canyon all the way to 9S109, about five miles. Alternatively, you can walk in from Little Cowhorn Valley along 9S109 or drive in with a high clearance 4WD vehicle. From the road you can look southwest into the Solider Canyon PWA and north-northwest into the Piper Mountain PWA additions. For an extended adventure, leave the road and climb 8,965ft Juniper Mountain to the north. Walk eastward

cross-country about 0.8 miles and then climb to the top, another 0.8 miles. Be prepared for a steep climb as the elevation gain is approximately 1,000 feet. From there you will be in the middle of the Piper Mountain 2 PWA and will be able to see most of it as well as much of the surrounding country. To the east you will see the BLM's Piper Mountain Wilderness, to the north you the Piper Mountain potential wilderness addition, and to

the southwest a beautiful view of the potential Solider Canyon wilderness.

### Getting There

Head east from Big Pine on Highway 168, then take the Eureka Valley Road southeast towards Death Valley National Park. This road provides access to the heart of the Solider Canyon Inventoried Roadless Area. Just after the boundary with the Inyo National Forest and the turn off for 35E421, the Solider Canyon PWA begins to the north. 15,445 acres of canyons and perennial streams lie before you, including the prominent Crooked Road and Deadman Canyons. Water can usually be found during the spring in these canyons, but be sure to carry plenty of water anytime of the year. In the late spring, continue driving east into Little Cowhorn Valley to look among the Joshua trees for singing Cactus Wrens and Scott's Orioles, the northern range for these species.



Hiking along Juniper Mountain in the White-Inyo Bridge.  
Photo: Jora Fogg

