



It's Time for

**Scenic Highway Designation
for**

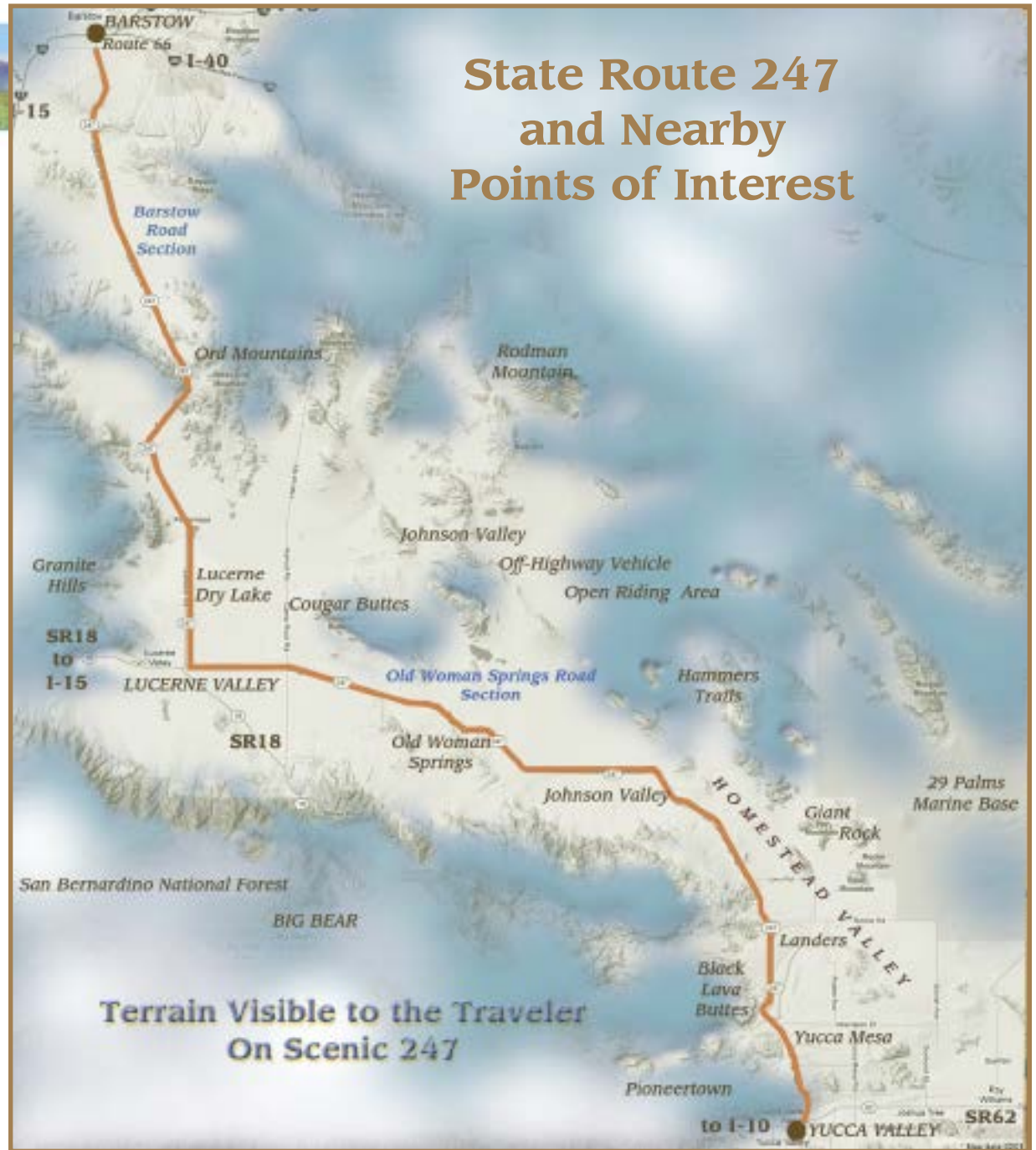
SR 247

in the

**California High Desert
North of the San Bernardino Mountains**



- 78 miles Through High Desert Vistas
- Historic Associations
- Easy Access from Heavily Populated Southern California
- A Country Drive to the Mountains and Joshua Tree National Park
- A Jumping-off Place to Off-Highway Adventures



State Route 247 and Nearby Points of Interest



The status of a proposed state scenic highway changes from

ELIGIBLE to

OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED

when the local governing body (San Bernardino County)

A. Applies to Caltrans for scenic highway approval,

B. Adopts a Corridor Protection Program,

C. Receives notification that the highway has been officially designated a Scenic Highway.

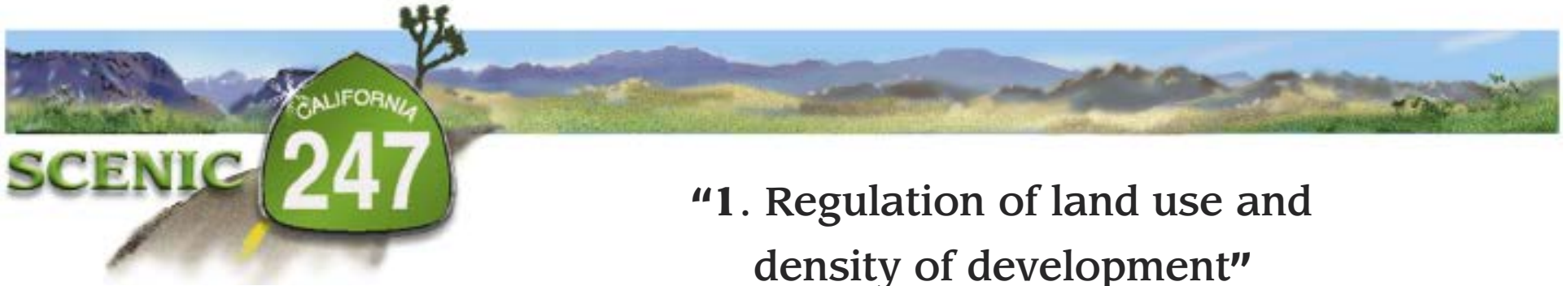


A SCENIC CORRIDOR

is land that is visible from the highway.

There are five legislatively required elements for scenic corridor protection:

1. Regulation of land use and density of development;
2. Detailed land and site planning;
3. Control of outdoor advertising;
4. Careful attention to and control of earthmoving and landscaping; and
5. The design and appearance of structures and equipment



“1. Regulation of land use and density of development”

Regulations already exist in local codes

The Town of Yucca Valley:

5 miles of highway are within town boundaries,
some zoned industrial with little visible development

Homestead Valley communities:

Rural Low Density Zoning is
established in the County Plan,
with one Commercial Strip

Lucerne Valley:

Rural and Agricultural Zoning

Miles and miles of BLM

administered public lands





“2. Detailed land and site planning”

247 mostly travels through wide open desert, Small Homestead Act communities settled in the 1950's, and the old agricultural community of Lucerne Valley homesteaded in the early 1900's.

Built up areas are sparsely populated consistent in appearance with historic rural settlement.

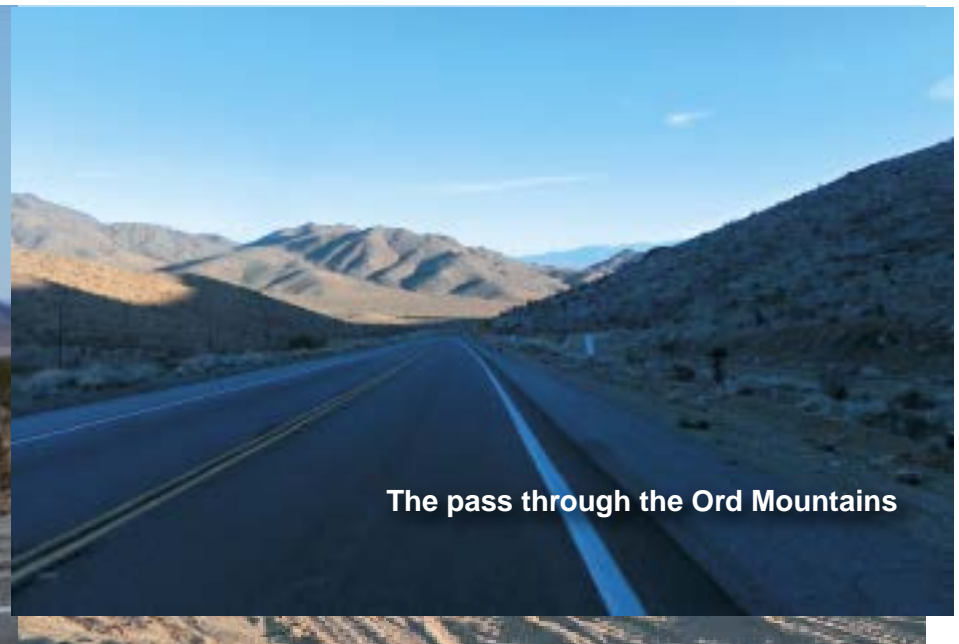
Some old structures are abandoned to the weather with ghost town ambiance





“3. Control of outdoor advertising”

**No billboards are placed at the side of the highway.
The infrequent signage is on or near the
few commercial enterprises.**





- “4. Careful attention to and control of earthmoving and landscaping; and
5. The design and appearance of structures and equipment”

Already regulated in state and county codes





Two Distinct Sections – Two Distinct Histories

The Old Woman Springs Road Section and the Barstow Road Section

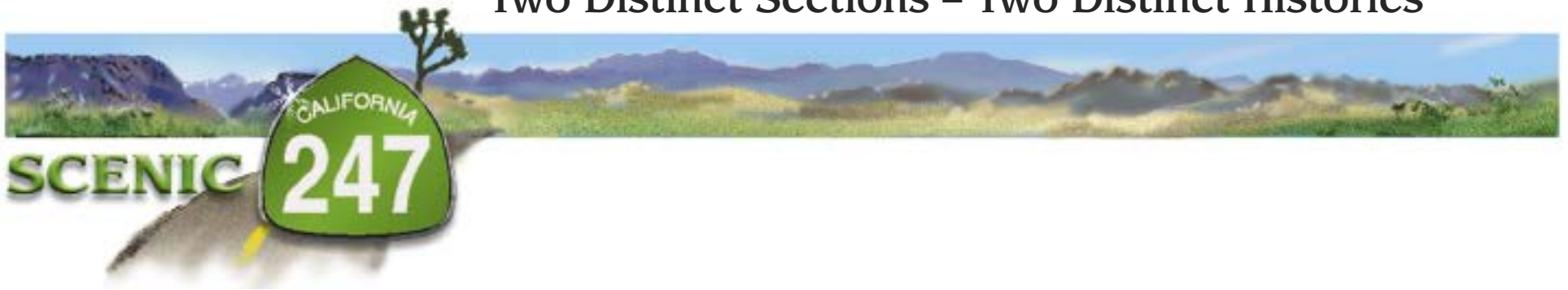


Sunrise paints a dusting of snow on the San Bernardino Mountains



Sunset backlights a desert garden in the Ord Mountains

Two Distinct Sections – Two Distinct Histories



The Old Woman Springs Road Section

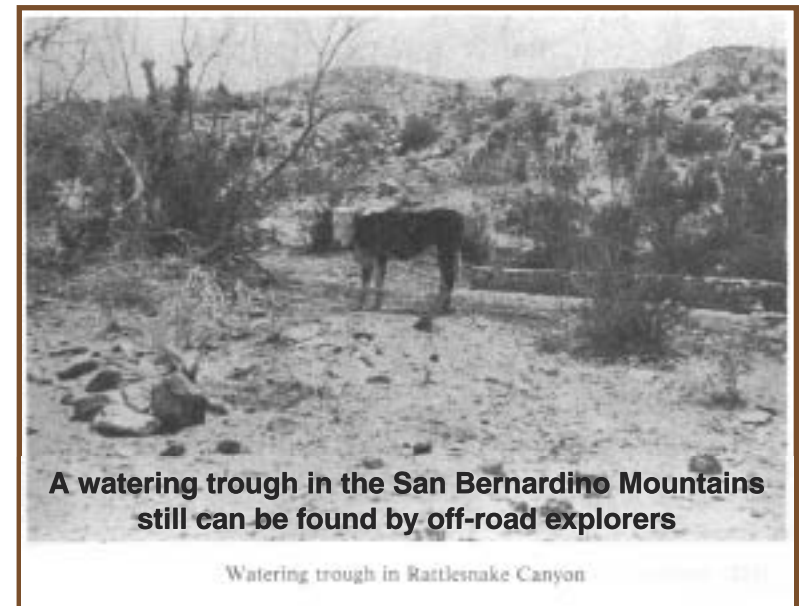
is a prehistoric and historic pathway, close to year-round springs flowing from the northern face of the San Bernardino Mountains.

It carried the first surveyor, who found a native encampment of old women.

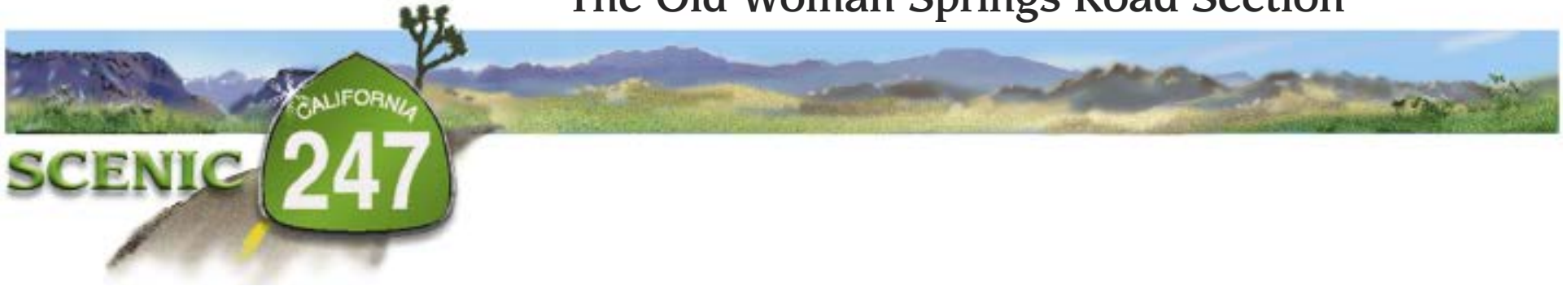
It carried miners and freight headed for the Dale District east of Twentynine Palms.

It became a main trail through the grazing lands of the desert half of the Heart Bar Ranch.

And it brought the city folks after World War II to homestead their own 5 acres of desert living.

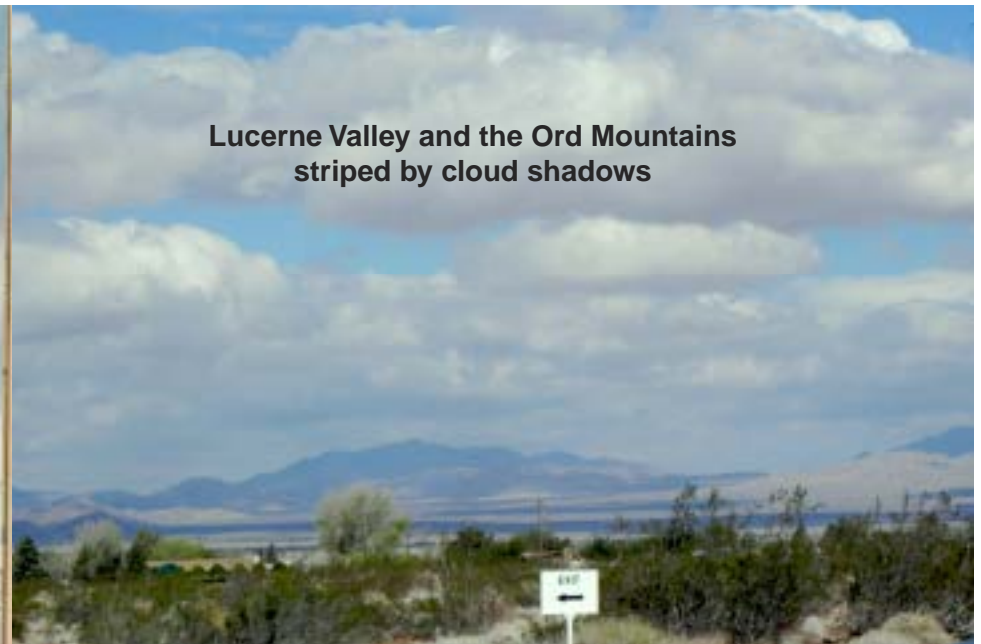


The Old Woman Springs Road Section



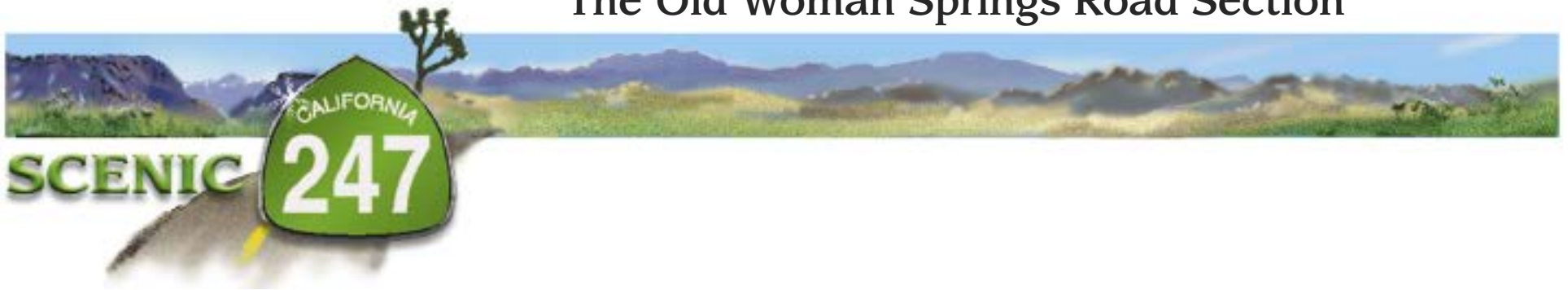
An access route to historic California

The 247 traveler follows the trail of the early settlers, cowboys and miners on the only route along the San Bernadino Mountains. It is one of the least altered landscapes in the state.



Lucerne Valley and the Ord Mountains striped by cloud shadows

The Old Woman Springs Road Section



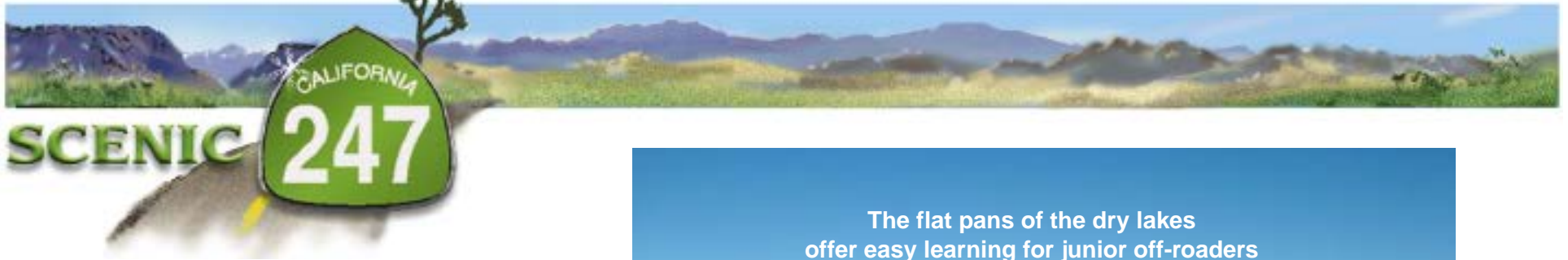
Amazing geological diversity

- Lava flows and volcanic ash testify to recent volcanic activity
- The enormous Blackhawk landslide, a prehistoric mountain collapse
- Granite outcrops rise above alluvial fans, the remains of old mountains

Comparatively recent lava flows and ash hills decorate the vistas along Old Woman Springs Road



The Old Woman Springs Road Section




An Access Route to Unsurpassed Desert Adventure in Johnson Valley

The 247 traveler with
4-wheel drive finds

- hiking
- motorized recreation and racing
- horseback riding
- camping
- skywatching
- rockhounding and more
in the Johnson Valley OHV Area



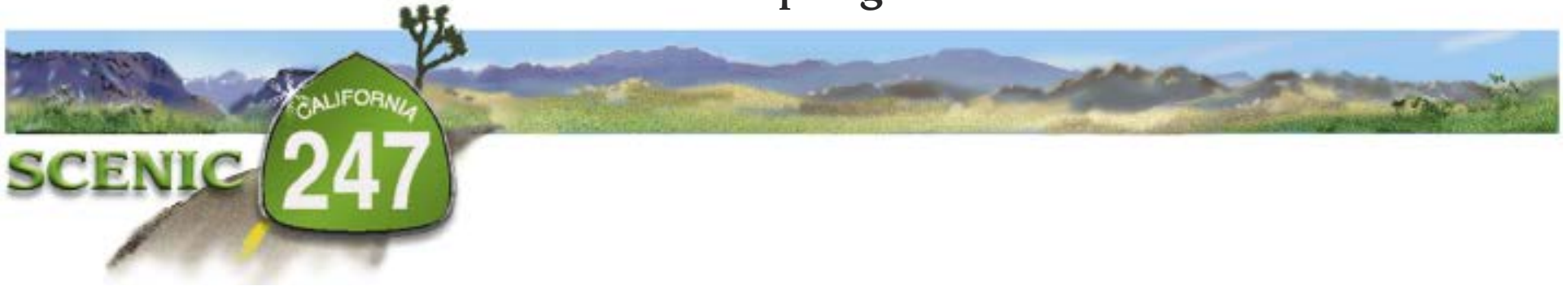
The flat pans of the dry lakes
offer easy learning for junior off-rovers

A wide, flat, light-colored desert landscape under a clear blue sky, with low mountains in the distance.

Self contained camping in groups or in seclusion
attract visitors from all over the country

A desert landscape at sunset or sunrise, with mountains and a valley illuminated by warm light. The foreground is rocky and sparsely vegetated.

The Old Woman Springs Road Section



Popular with Nature Lovers and Filmmakers
Scenic 247 in the Johnson Valley area travels through vistas
without transmission towers, buildings or pavement...
a journey back in time



Rainy years bring out a
flower display



360° with no modern
visual intrusions

VALKYRIE

Two Distinct Sections – Two Distinct Histories



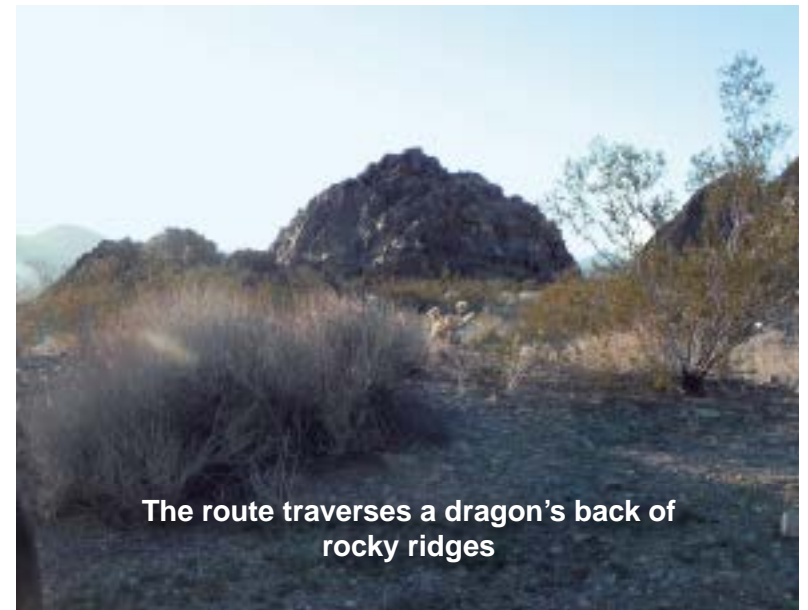
The Barstow Road Section

goes north through the old agricultural homesteads of the Lucerne Valley ending at the railroad hub at Barstow.

It travels across the flats of the huge Lucerne Dry Lake, and climbs into the Ord Mountains before it swoops down into the Mojave River Valley.

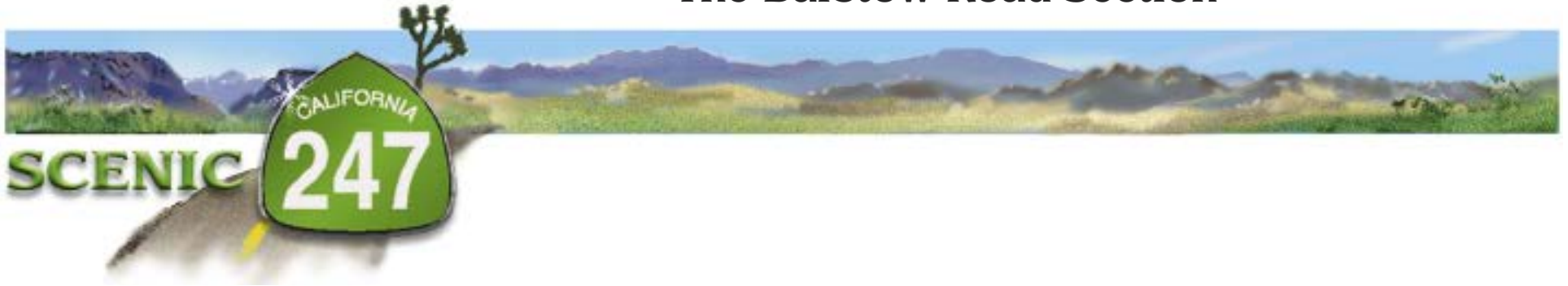
It fed into Route 66 at Barstow. Graded and paved later than the other section, it also carried its share of miners.

Great stretches of the road are hardly settled at all.



The route traverses a dragon's back of rocky ridges

The Barstow Road Section

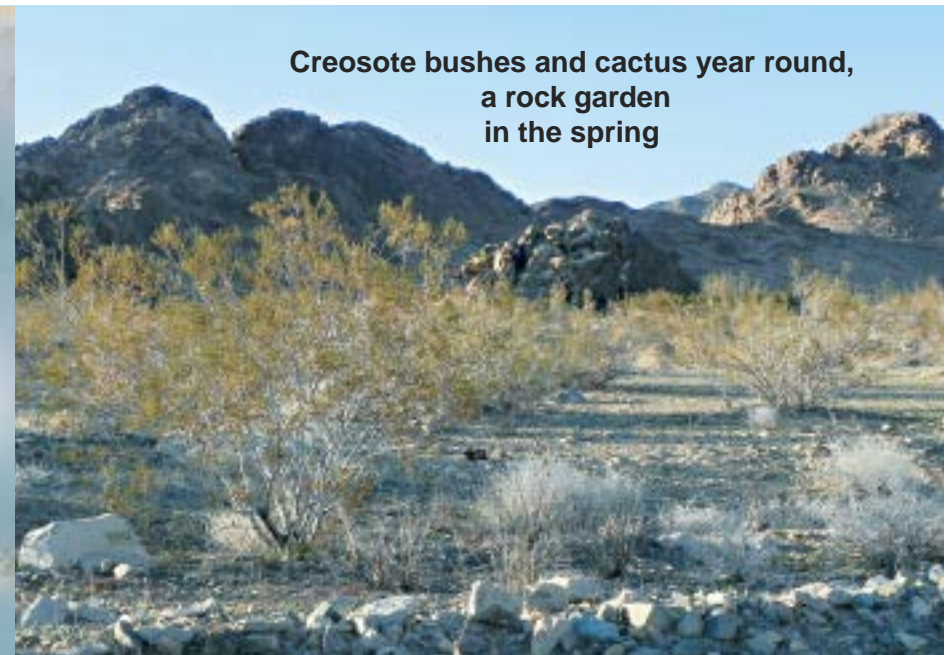


Access to more Desert Adventures

- A beautiful drive through valleys and mountain passes
- Access to the Ord Mountain wilderness areas
- Access to off-highway travel on numbered trails through public lands.

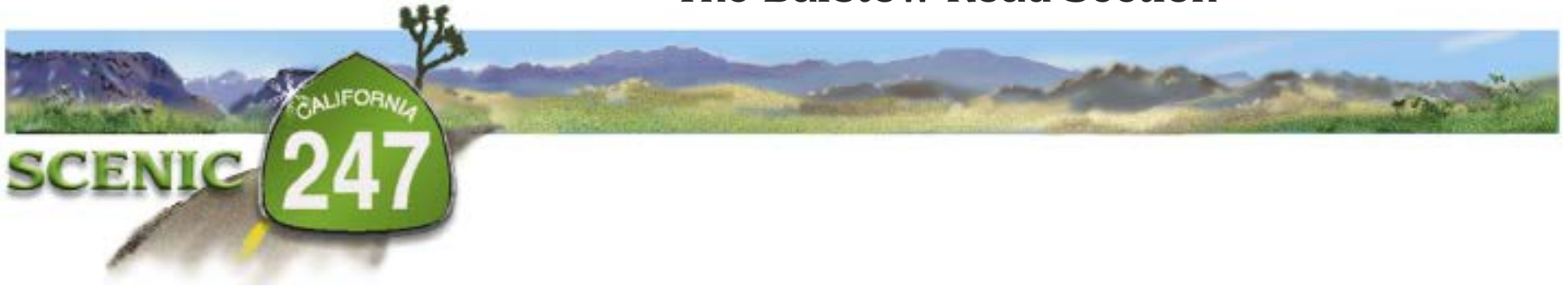


**Terrain Visible to the Traveler
on the Barstow Road Section**



**Creosote bushes and cactus year round,
a rock garden
in the spring**

The Barstow Road Section



Access to More Off-Road Recreation

- Stoddard Valley trails for exploration by 4WD, dirt bike or quad
- Historic Stoddard Wells is an easy drive from the highway
- The Ord Mountain wilderness areas for hiking, photography

Just a slight increase in elevation
means an increase in vegetation



Open Riding on any trail in the
Stoddard Valley OHV Area



Where Can You Go From Here?



Near Yucca Valley at the South End

- Gateway Communities to Joshua Tree National Park
- Pioneertown Historic Western Movie Set
- Restaurants, hotels
- Access to SR 62 to Twentynine Palms to the east, Palm Springs to the south, and to Interstate 10



The Integretron in Landers



Pioneertown live-in Western movie set, seen in Roy Rogers and Gene Autry shows



Gubler's world famous orchids in Landers



Antiquing in Old Town Yucca Valley

Where Can You Go From Here?



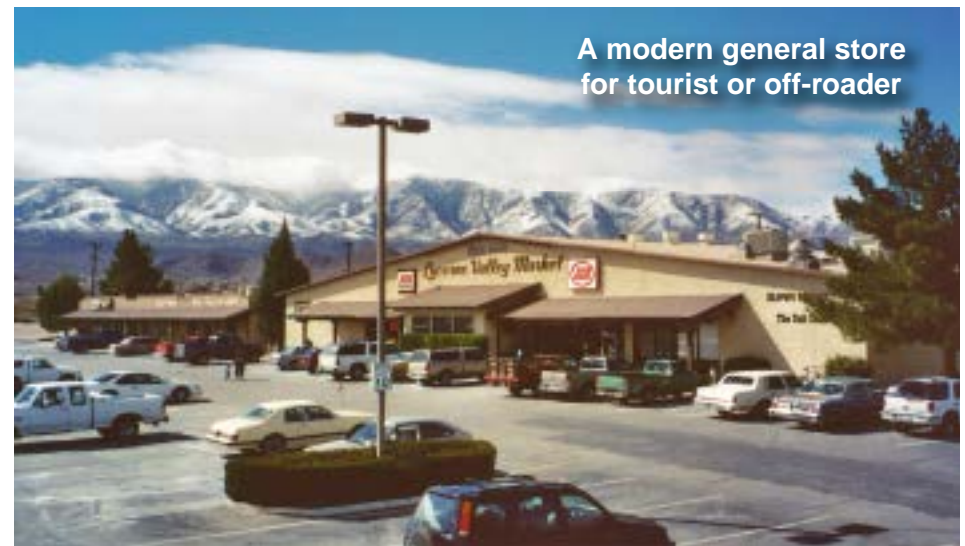
A stop in Lucerne Valley offers fuel and good food

- Surrounded by the San Bernardino, Granite and Ord Mountains.
- Access to SR 18 south to the mountains and Big Bear Lake ski area.
- Access to SR 18 west to Apple Valley, Victorville and Interstate 15.

The unincorporated community of Lucerne Valley has a population of about 6,000 people in 100 square miles.

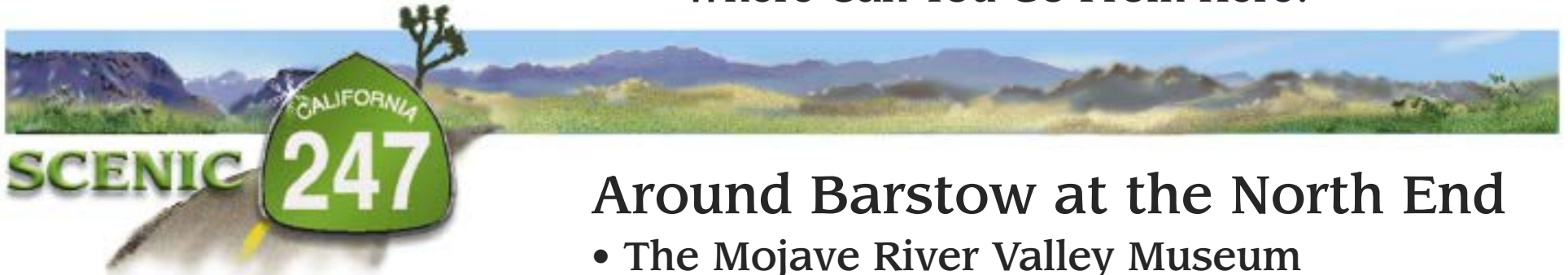
Tours are offered of limestone quarries visible on the flanks of the San Bernardinos.

The Lucerne Valley Market and Hardware is a famous destination for travelers on Scenic 247



A modern general store
for tourist or off-roader

Where Can You Go From Here?



Around Barstow at the North End

- The Mojave River Valley Museum



Prehistoric relics and historic artifacts greet the visitor

In the restored Barstow Railroad Station:

- The historic Harvey House
- The Route 66 Mother Road Museum
- The Western Railroad Museum
- Restaurants and hotels
- Access to I-15 to Las Vegas, I-40 to Needles



The historic Harvey House in the beautiful Casa del Desierto railroad station



The Route 66 Mother Road Museum



The crossroads city of Barstow offers everything from fast food to fine dining for the traveler



WHAT DOES SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION DO FOR US?

1. Protects the scenic corridor from encroachment of incompatible land uses such as junkyards, dumps, concrete plants, and gravel pits, etc.
2. Mitigates activities within the corridor that detract from its scenic quality by proper siting, landscaping or screening.
3. Prohibits billboards and regulates on-site signs so that they do not detract from scenic views.
4. Makes development more compatible with the environment and in harmony with the surroundings



WHAT ELSE DOES SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION DO FOR US?

5. Regulates grading to prevent erosion and cause minimal alteration of existing contours, and to preserve important vegetative features.
6. Preserves views of hillsides by minimizing development on steep slopes and along ridgelines.
7. Prevents the need for noise barriers (sound walls) by requiring a minimum setback for residential development adjacent to a scenic highway.



The King Clone, a single creosote bush spreading out from its center, considered the oldest living organism



IN ADDITION, SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION WILL:

- 1. Enhance community identity and pride, encouraging citizen commitment to preserve community values.**
- 2. Enhance land values by maintaining the scenic character of the corridor.**
- 3. Provide a vehicle for the community to promote local tourism that is consistent with the community's scenic values.**



The unique lava buttes near Pioneertown, recently reprieved from the installation of wind turbines by grass roots community efforts



Yes, It's Time for

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SR 247**

