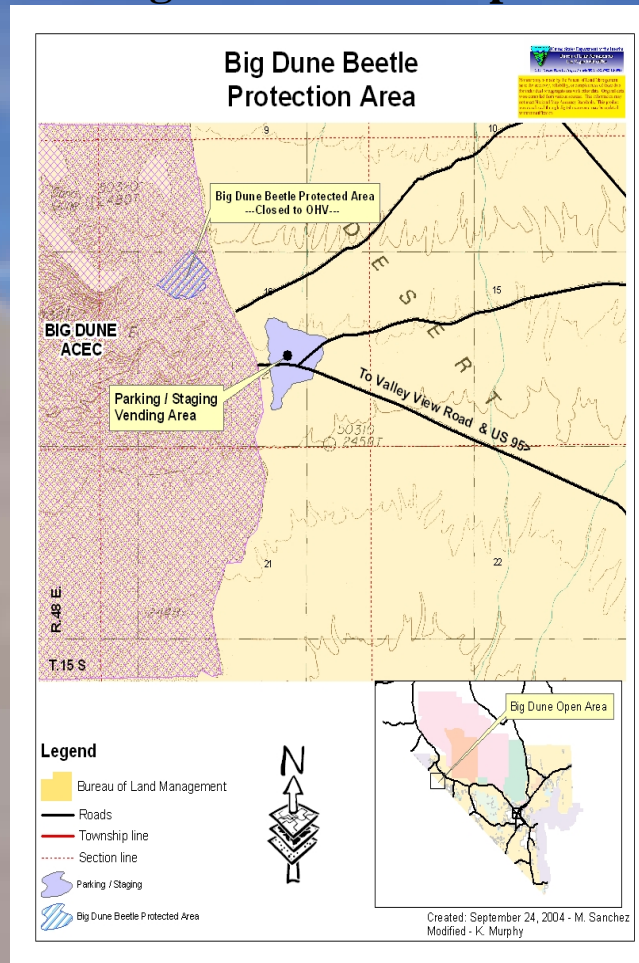


Three other sensitive beetle species can also be found at Big Dune:

- **Large Aegialian Scarab Beetle** (*Aegialia magnifica*)
- **Rulien's miloderes weevil** (*Miloderes rulieni*)
- **Big Dune aphodius scarab beetle** (*Aphodius* sp.)

Big Dune Area Map



Richard W. Rust, 1994

Large Aegialian Scarab Beetle (*Aegialia magnifica*)



Richard W. Rust, 1994

Rulien's miloderes weevil (*Miloderes rulieni*)



Richard W. Rust, 1994

Big Dune aphodius scarab beetle (*Aphodius* sp.)

Vegetation around and on the dunes includes creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), sandpaper plant (*Petalonyx thurberi*), prickly poppy (*Argemone corybosa*) and astragalus (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *variabilis*).

These plants and the dune itself are very important for survival of these rare beetle species. All four Big Dune beetle species rely on dune plants for survival. The plants provide food and mating sites and, when covered with sand, shelter and food for their larvae. The beetles also burrow into the harder layers of sand below the loose, wind blown dune surface when they are inactive.

Recreation Opportunities:

- Non-competitive off-highway vehicle use
 - Limited to existing roads and the open dunes
- Sandboarding and sandskiing on open dunes
- Wildlife viewing
- Photography

The entire dune is protected as a BLM designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Within the ACEC, a five-acre area on the east side of the dunes has been set aside specifically for protection of these species.

In addition to the Big Dune beetles, elevations below 5,000 feet in Southern Nevada are home to the largest living reptile in the arid southwest – the desert tortoise.



Kristen Murphy, 1997

Tortoise populations in the Mojave Desert have been federally listed as threatened with extinction under the Endangered Species Act. This designation makes it illegal to harass, collect, transport or harm tortoises and provides for penalties of up to \$50,000 in fines and a year in prison for each violation.

- Stay on existing roads
- Avoid disturbing any vegetation
- Pack it in, pack it out –dispose of your garbage properly
- Check with BLM Las Vegas Field Office for current fire restrictions
- Report any inappropriate use to BLM
- Help protect the threatened desert tortoise. Do not touch, disturb or collect them. Watch this animal only from a distance.
- Leave plants and animals undisturbed. Even boulders, dead plants and wood provide important habitat.
- Drive slowly enough to see and avoid tortoises and other species
- Before moving your vehicle, check underneath to be sure a tortoise has not sought refuge in its shade from the hot desert sun
- Do not release pets into the desert. This is very stressful to a pet and can introduce disease into healthy wildlife populations.



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas Field Office

4701 N. Torrey Pines Las Vegas, Nevada 89130-2301 (702) 515-5000

Big Dune is a unique place in southern Nevada. It is 1.5 square mile complex star dune that reaches 2,731 feet above sea level.

The dune is home to some very rare creatures and the Bureau of Land Management needs your help to keep these species off the Endangered Species List!

Giuliani's big dune scarab beetle (*Pseudocotalpa giulianii*) was proposed for listing as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in August 1978. In addition, the entire Big Dune Complex was proposed as critical habitat for the species. Off-road vehicle use was identified as the largest threat to the species at the time.



Richard W. Rust, 1994

Giuliani's big dune scarab beetle (*Pseudocotalpa giulianii*)

How you can help:

**Enjoy Big Dune
Responsibly!**