

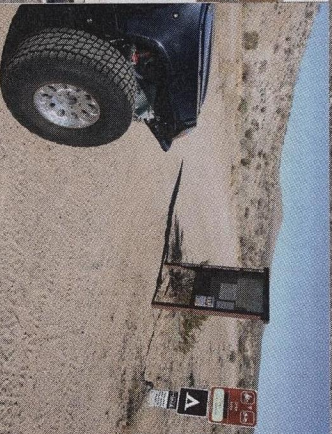
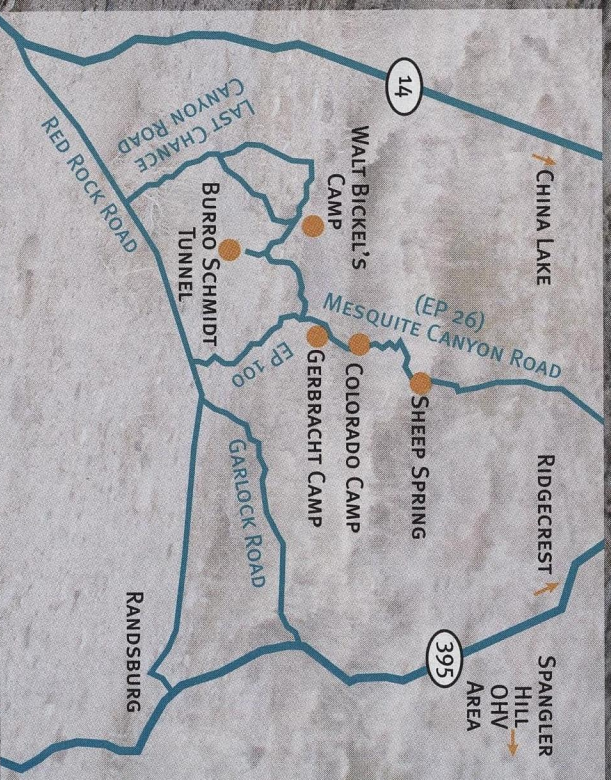
START AT RIDGECREST

Dirt in Every Direction

BY KEVIN BLUMER

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEVIN BLUMER

“WHICH WAY TO THE TRAIL?” EVERY OFF-ROADER WANTS TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS. IF YOU ASK THIS QUESTION IN RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA, YOU’RE GONNA HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.



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Click here to find out more about our free trial. The stock Toyota rear suspension will be exchanged for SAE items complete with all-metal locknuts. Better to find loose bolts here than miles from help.

The day's goal was Burro Schmidt's Tunnel in the El Paso Mountains. We started by heading south on Highway 395. Here, we're putting our tires in the dirt just off of the highway in the Spangler Hills OHV area. Spangler Hills is an open-travel area open to all off-road vehicles, street legal or not.

Directly across Highway 395 from Spangler Hills, you'll find the El Paso Mountains BLM area, where you need to stay on established trails. The El Paso Mountains BLM area is also open to all types of off-highway and street-legal vehicles. The trail in the photo is a rails-to-trails route and follows an old railroad grade.