

San Bernardino National Forest

VISITOR GUIDE



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region

A free guide to enhance your visit to the National Forest

2014-2015

Welcome to Southern California's Backyard

The wild lands of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountain Ranges were designated a National Forest more than a hundred years ago. The Forest Reserve Act was passed in 1891, giving the president authority to "set apart and reserve, in any state or territory having public land bearing forests . . . as public reservations."

From this act was born the San Bernardino Forest Reserve, which became the San Bernardino National Forest in 1907. The San Bernardino National Forest as public land was set aside for the conservation of natural resources such as trees, water, minerals, livestock range, recreation, and wildlife.

Originally, the forest was home to Native Americans, since long before recorded history. Mexican and European settlements occurred sporadically for the first half of the 19th century, but the chain of events that led to the creation of the National Forest in 1893 really began after California became part of the United States in 1848 (it had been part of Mexico since 1822).

In 1855, gold was discovered in the San Bernardino Mountains. Over the second half of the 19th century, mining, timber, and grazing grew quickly, taking a heavy toll on the land. By the end of the 19th century, significant sectors of the forest had been felled and overgrazed. Streams and rivers were silting in and water quality was declining. Meanwhile a growing population and a thriving citrus industry made increasing demands for clean drinking and irrigation water.

Protecting the Resources

A pioneering populace, who had conquered what seemed like an endless frontier, began to realize that it now must manage the land much more thoughtfully. A Board of Forestry report in 1886 found that "the necessity of the hour is an intelligent supervision of the forest and brush lands of California, with a view to their preservation." Five years later the Forest Reserve Act made this preservation possible.

Today the San Bernardino National Forest is comprised of several departments and three Ranger Districts spanning 676,666 acres in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Our Forest has Fire, Police, Planning and Permits, Recreation, and a Roads department just like a city, county or state government. In addition we have a scientific arm that deals with issues relating to cultural, water, soil, wildlife, plants and trees.

The employees of the San Bernardino National Forest are tasked with protecting a huge area with a rich diversity of geographical features, flora and fauna. The elevations on the forest range from a few thousand feet to 11,501 feet at Mount San Gorgonio, the highest peak in Southern California. This large elevation range creates a wide variety of habitats in which plants and animals thrive. Indeed the San Bernardino National Forest is one of the most diverse in the country when it comes to types of



HOLCOMB VALLEY CABIN

PHOTO BY SERPICORABBIT

plants and animals - everything from desert cactus to evergreen forest to alpine tundra can be found here, within a very short distance of one another. Wildlife such as the black bear, mountain lion, deer, and bighorn sheep inhabit the Forest while the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and the red-tailed hawk soar in the wind.

An All Season Playground

Today, the San Bernardino National Forest serves as southern California's outdoor year-around recreation destination. Annually the forest receives more visitors than either Yosemite or Yellowstone National Parks! Even with high visitation, fortunately there are still many places to find solitude if that is what you seek. There are many ways to discover the Forest. Drive the scenic Rim of the World or Palms to Pines Scenic Byways which afford tremendous views. Hike a short nature trail or plan an extended backpacking trip in one of our eight wilderness areas. Camping, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, and OHV riding are just a sampling of the activities that the forest provides. And, remember, the fun doesn't stop in the winter! The forest is the location of three downhill ski resorts, or you can try out cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or just having an old-fashioned snow ball fight.

For visitors who wish to learn more about their National Forest, there are seven ranger station/visitor centers and hands-on activities such as guided hikes and campfire programs throughout the forest. And there is no better place for people who would like to get involved in protecting the forest and its resources! The San Bernardino National Forest is known for its extensive volunteer and partnership programs and logs more volunteer hours than any other forest in the country. A list of our volunteer organizations and pertinent information is printed on the reverse of this guide.

San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor's Office
602 S. Tippecanoe Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909) 382-2600

San Jacinto Ranger District
P.O. Box 518
54270 Pine Crest Ave.
Idyllwild, CA 92549
(909) 382-2921

**Front Country Ranger District
Lytle Creek Ranger Station**
1209 Lytle Creek Road
Lytle Creek, CA 92358
(909) 382-2851

Mill Creek Work Center
34701 Mill Creek Road
Mentone, CA 92359
(909) 382-2882

**Mountaintop Ranger District
Big Bear Discovery Center**
P.O. Box 69
40971 North Shore Dr., Hwy 38
Fawnskin, CA 92333
(909) 382-2790

Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
51500 Highway 74
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 862-9984

**Please call for business hours
For TDD/TTY dial 7-1-1**

Contents

¡Bienvenidos!.....	2
Camping.....	3
Fire Lookouts, Wood Permits ..	4
Fire Information.....	5
OHV, Fishing, Hunting, Shooting, & Hiking.....	6
Mountain Biking, Horseback, & Winter Recreation.	7
Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mtns, Picnicking, Wilderness.....	8
Wildlife	9
Forest Vicinity Map.....	10-11
Cajon/San Gorgonio Maps and Adventures.....	12-13
Arrowhead/Big Bear Maps and Adventures.....	14-15
San Jacinto/Santa Rosa Maps and Adventures.....	16-17
Adventure Pass.....	18-19
Volunteer Info.....	20

The information in this guide is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is subject to change at any time. Call a local ranger station for current information.

¡Bienvenidos!

¡Bienvenidos al Bosque Nacional San Bernardino! Con su gran variedad de plantas y animales, el Bosque le ofrece un hermoso paisaje, soledad, y una de las mejores oportunidades recreativas en el Sur de California. Estos terrenos públicos están disponibles para que los disfrute y los cuide.

¿Qué es un Pase de Aventura?



El Pase de Aventura es diferente de un pago de entrada, comunmente cobrado por el Estado y Parques Nacionales. Es para uso recreativo, no para entrada en el Bosque. Por lo tanto, no todas las personas que viajan a través del bosque necesitan comprar uno. A pescadores, jinetes, cazadores, excursionistas, campistas y la mayoría de otros usuarios al aire libre se les requiere comprar un pase y exhibirlo en su vehículo cuando se parquean en el Bosque Nacional para recrearse. De no comprar un pase y exhibirlo en su vehículo, usted puede recibir una multa de \$100.

¿Dónde se requiere el Pase de Aventura?

El Pase de Aventura se requiere cuando el vehículo está parqueado en algunos sitios designados. Llame la estación de guardabosques más cercana o visite www.fs.usda.gov/adventure-pass.

Esté Preparado

En el bosque, la altitud oscila entre 2,000 pies cerca del fondo del valle y 11,000 pies en la montaña de San Gorgonio. Las temperaturas pueden variar ampliamente—bien puede estar a 70 grados en Los Angeles y a 40 grados en Big Bear Lake. Puede nevar en casi cualquier mes del año. Se pueden acumular desde 5 hasta 20 pies de nieve en ciertas áreas. No importa cuánta experiencia tenga, siempre averigüe cómo está el clima en las montañas antes de partir.

Durante el invierno, lleve cadenas para sus llantas dentro de su vehículo y aprenda a instalarlas. Lleve ropa adicional en caso de haber cambios repentinos en el clima. Se requiere chamarra (chumpa), guantes, una gorra y calcetines secos para los paseos en coche durante el invierno. Durante el verano, lleve suficiente agua consigo, especialmente si viaja por los senderos remotos. No es seguro tomar el agua de los arroyos o del lago en ningún lugar del Bosque Nacional.

Acampar

Si lo desea, puede acampar en campamentos que han sido establecidos cerca de los senderos remotos o al lado de senderos para ciclistas. Puede acampar en el desierto, en las alturas del bosque o cerca de un lago. Existen reglamentos especiales para cada uno de estos sitios y la mayoría de los campamentos tienen sus propias cuotas (vea lista en página 3). Asegúrese de llamar o visitar una oficina de Servicios de Bosques al planear su paseo de campamento.

Los incendios de bosque son un problema mayor para el Bosque Nacional San Bernardino. Muchos de estos son causados por el descuido de las personas que van a acampar. Por tal motivo, existen reglas acerca del uso de fuego en los lugares abiertos. En general, se puede hacer una fogata en un campamento ya establecido (uno donde hay agua y se paga una cuota). En los lugares más remotos, se permiten las fogatas solamente durante ciertas épocas del año y se debe obtener un permiso. El personal de las Oficinas del Guardabosques le puede informar acerca de los reglamentos actuales en cuanto a fogatas.

Día de Campo

Las áreas para día de campo generalmente tienen mesas, estufas o braceros, y escusados cubiertos. Hay agua para tomar disponible en ciertas áreas (página 8). No se le permite pasar la noche en las áreas designadas como áreas para día de campo.

La Pesca

El Departamento de Pesca y Caza del Estado de California (DFG) mantiene los lagos y arroyos públicos suplidos de peces. Se requiere una licencia estatal a las personas de 16 años de edad en adelante. Para escuchar una grabación acerca del suplido de peces llame al 562-594-7268. Para obtener más información sobre los reglamentos y las licencias llame al (Department of Fish and Wildlife) 909-484-0167 o visite la página web del (DFW) www.dfg.ca.gov.

La mayoría de áreas son suplidas con trucha de arco iris durante la época de pesca. También pueden encontrarse trucha café, lobina, pez de agallas azules, y pez gato.

El Tiro al Blanco Como Forma de Recreación

El bosque estuvo cerrado temporalmente para el tiro al blanco en 1997 y 1998 por cuestiones de seguridad pública y para la protección de los recursos. Algunas áreas se han vuelto a abrir en 1999 en tanto se finaliza un plan que abarca el bosque entero. El personal del bosque le pide a las personas que practican el tiro al blanco que respeten las reglas y ayuden en los días de limpieza voluntaria para hacer del tiro al blanco un éxito en el Bosque Nacional.

El Tiro al Blanco es permitido sólo en áreas designadas en el Bosque Nacional San Bernardino. Llame a la estación de guardabosques más cercano para mapas e información detallados sobre los niveles de actividad de incendio para esa área y día. Tiradores tienen prohibido destruir cualquier elemento natural en los bosques nacionales, incluyendo plantas y árboles. No se puede descargar un arma de fuego a 150 yardas de cualquier área desarrollada. Un Pase de Aventura es necesario para la mayoría de las zonas de tiro al blanco en el bosque. Balas con núcleo de acero, balas para perforación de armadura, o munición de teflón no son permitidos. Pistolas de aire suave y pistolas de bolas de pintura no se permiten ser descargados en el bosque. El bosque se encuentra cerrado para el tiro al blanco durante los períodos de alto riesgo de incendios.



MUCHAS FAMILIAS DISFRUTAN DE COMER AL AIRE LIBRE (CAMPESTRE) EN APPLE-WHITE PICNIC GROUNDS Y VADEAN EN LYTLE CREEK

Aprendiendo Más Acerca del Bosque

Puede aprender más acerca de la vida salvaje, las plantas, y la historia del bosque visitando algunos de los muchos lugares de interpretación. Busque este símbolo en los mapas, páginas 9–15. Algunos de estos lugares tienen guías impresos de los senderos, y algunos tienen signos a color por todo el sendero. El “Chaparral Neighborhood Trail” (página 10) cuenta con una guía de un sendero natural de 1/2 milla escrita en español.

Las torres para detectar incendios están abiertas al público durante los meses de verano. Puede subir hasta el tope y disfrutar del paisaje. Usualmente, los voluntarios del bosque están disponibles para contestar sus preguntas. Busque este símbolo en sus mapas.

El “Children’s Forest Trail” (página 12) es un sendero de 3/4 de milla con una guía diseñada y escrita por y para niños. Si lo visita durante el verano, los jóvenes naturalistas le servirán de guía y le contarán más acerca del área. ¡Este es un lugar magnífico para llevar a los niños!

Usted Puede Ayudar

¡Ayude a cuidar el bosque cada vez que lo visite! Tenga cuidado con el fuego; es algo muy importante que puede hacer. Ponga la basura en su lugar y así ayudará a mantener al bosque luciendo bien. Estacionese y acampe solamente en áreas designadas para ayudar a mantener las demás áreas en su forma silvestre y libres de obstáculos.

Sirva como voluntario en uno de los proyectos del bosque. Los voluntarios ayudan a edificar y construir senderos naturales, a trabajar en los centros para visitantes y en otras áreas públicas, y a presentar programas educativos para el público. Las personas bilingües son de valor especial en las comunicaciones. Los voluntarios también trabajan con biólogos y botanistas para inspeccionar y medir la fauna y la flora. Los voluntarios patrullan las áreas salvajes. Para mayor información acerca del trabajo de voluntario, comuníquese con la oficina general al (909) 382-2600 y pregunte acerca del Programa de Voluntarios.

Developed Camping

Developed campgrounds have various services and facilities. Most campgrounds open in May and close in October or November. Some are open all year (marked with an asterisk * in the table to the right). All campgrounds may be closed due to wildfires, storms, or repairs. Check with the local ranger station for current conditions.

Making a Reservation

Call toll-free: 1 (877) 444-6777

Reserve on the web:

www.recreation.gov



Scan this QR code with your mobile device to visit www.recreation.gov

Reservation Fee Charged

The **National Recreation Reservation Service** handles reservations for most campgrounds, the remainder are on a first-come, first-served basis. Holiday weekends book early. Campground prices are subject to

change. Holiday weekend fees may be higher. There may be a charge for extra vehicles. There are some double sites in some campgrounds which charge a higher fee than single sites.

Family Campgrounds

Family campgrounds generally have vault or flush toilets, fire rings and/or stoves, tables, and parking spaces. Drinking water and showers are available if noted in the table to the right.

Group Campgrounds

Group campgrounds can accommodate groups of 8 to 100 people. The number of people and vehicles is limited (see table).

Undeveloped Camping

Undeveloped camping is camping outside of a developed site. Undeveloped camping provides more solitude and an opportunity to “rough it.” Camping is allowed in many Remote Areas (Dispersed) and at Yellow Post Sites. At all sites please Pack it in, Pack it out and dispose of trash properly.

Remote Areas

Remote areas are areas away from highways and development where camping along backroads or trails is permitted. Because of year-round fire danger, wood fires and charcoal BBQs are not allowed in remote areas. Chemical or propane stoves may be used if you have a free **California Campfire Permit**, which may be obtained at ranger stations throughout California.

Check at the nearest ranger station for current fire restrictions. The general rules for remote camping are:

- Camp at least 200 feet away from springs, water, meadows, trails, and Forest roads.
- Your camp should be at least a quarter mile away from designated campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, private property, or state highways.
- Camp “out of sight” of others and do not disturb them.

Yellow Post Sites

Yellow Post Sites are campsites within remote areas on back roads or trails where campfires are allowed as long as the fire stays within the designated fire ring and fire restrictions allow. A free **California Campfire Permit** is required for any Yellow Post site in the Forest. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wilderness Campsites

The number of visitors admitted to the Wilderness is limited. On summer weekends some Wilderness areas may fill to capacity well in advance. Wilderness campsites are accessible by foot and/or horseback only, and require a free **Wilderness Permit**, which may be reserved up to three months in advance from the local ranger station. Permits are issued through the mail, via fax or in person. When camping in the Wilderness, lightweight stoves are recommended. Campfires are never allowed in any Wilderness Area on the San Bernardino National Forest.

Family Campgrounds

Name	Amenities	Appr. Elev.	No. Sites	Space Size	Daily Site Fee
Cajon (p. 12)					
Applewhite*		3300'	44	30'	\$10
Arrowhead (p. 14)					
Crab Flats		6200'	27	15'	\$20-22
Dogwood		5600'	87	22'	\$30-32
Green Valley		7000'	37	22'	\$22-24
North Shore		5300'	28	22'	\$22-24
Big Bear (p. 15)					
Big Pine Flat		6800'	19	30'	\$22-24
Hanna Flats		7000'	85	35'	\$26-28
Holcomb Valley*		7400'	19	25'	\$20-22
Horse Springs*		5800'	11	25'	\$10
Pineknott		7000'	47	35'	\$26-28
Serrano		6800'	111	55'	\$30-32
San Gorgonio (p. 13)					
Barton Flats		6500'	52	55'	\$28-30
San Gorgonio		6500'	54	55'	\$26-28
Heart Bar		6900'	89	50'	\$22-24
South Fork		6400'	24	30'	\$22-24
Wildhorse Eq.		7000'	11	50'	\$28-30
San Jacinto (p. 16)					
Boulder Basin		7300'	34	15'	\$10
Dark Canyon		5800'	17	15'	\$12
Fern Basin		6300'	22	15'	\$10
Marion Mtn.		6400'	24	15'	\$10
Pinyon Flat*		4000'	18	15'	\$8
Ribbonwd. Eq.*		4000'	8	50'	\$15

Group Campgrounds

Name	Amenities	No. Sites	No. People	No. Cars	Daily Site Fee
Arrowhead (p. 14)					
Fisherman's*	Hike In Only	4	8	0	\$10
Shady Cove		3	30	16	\$90-100
Tent Peg			30	5	\$120-130
Big Bear (p. 15)					
Big Pine Flat Eq			25	8	\$100-110
Bluff Mesa			40	8	\$120-130
Boulder			40	8	\$120-130
Buttercup			40	8	\$120-130
Deer			40	8	\$120-130
Gray's Peak	Call for Current Status	40	8		\$120-130
Green Spot Eq.			25	8	\$100-110
Ironwood			25	5	\$100-110
Juniper Spring*			40	8	\$120-130
Tanglewood			40	8	\$120-130
San Gorgonio (p. 13)					
Coon Ck. Cabin			25	10	\$100-110
Council			50	10	\$200-210
Heart Bar Eq.			65	21	\$260-270
Lobo			75	15	\$300-310
Oso			100	20	\$400-410
Skyline			25	9	\$100-110
San Jacinto (p. 16)					
Black Mountain			100	25	\$60-120
Ribbonwd Eq.*			75	30	\$120/200

- Drinking water on site
- RV dump
- Showers
- Hookups
- Vault Toilets
- Flush Toilets
- 1st Come/1st Served
- Reserve through recreation.gov

Camping Regulations

- Camping is limited to 14 days per stay, with a maximum of 30 days in a calendar year
- Dogs are allowed in campgrounds, but they must be on a leash under your control at all times.
- Horses are not allowed in developed campgrounds, with the exception of designated equestrian campgrounds.
- Campsites must be occupied the first night of your stay.
- Store your food properly - use bear resistant containers if available, or store food in the trunk of your vehicle.
- Please keep a clean camp and dispose of trash properly..

Visiting Fire Lookouts

Lookouts are open to the public 9 am–5 pm daily from Memorial Day to mid-November. Mornings are the best time to get the clearest view. You can climb up the ladder, go into the observation room, and see the equipment. Special Smokey Bear fire prevention materials are available for kids.

Remember, children must be directly supervised by an adult. Five visitors are allowed in the lookout at once, and don't climb lookouts during thunderstorms. Enjoy your visit!



Strawberry Peak

(Arrowhead)

Directions: Take Highway 18 to Rim Forest (west of Skyforest). Turn north on to Bear Springs Road toward Twin Peaks. The lookout is 2 miles on a paved road.

Elevation: 6,143 feet.

Views: Excellent views of the San Bernardino Mountains and Mt. San Diego on a clear day, views of San Bernardino and Riverside; three lakes: Arrowhead, Gregory, and Silverwood.

Keller Peak

(Arrowhead)

Directions: Take Highway 18 or 330 to Running Springs. Go past the village and immediately after Deerlick Fire Station turn right on Keller Peak Road (1N96). This 5-mile road is paved all the way to the lookout. At a fork in the road, turn right and drive to the lookout.

Elevation: 7,882 feet.

Views: San Bernardino Mountains, Seven Oaks Dam, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Gorgonio Wilderness.

Black Mountain

(San Jacinto)

Directions: Take Highway 243 north out of Idyllwild for 8.1 miles to the turn-off of Black Mountain Road (FR 4S01). Make a sharp left turn and drive a half mile to the end of the road (5.8 miles from the highway). Take the paved walkway to the lookout.

Elevation: 7,772 feet.

Views: San Gorgonio to the north, Banning, the San Jacinto Range, the Palomar Range, and, on a clear day, the Santa Ana and San Gabriel Mountains.

Red Mountain

(San Jacinto)

Directions: Take Hwy 243 south from Idyllwild, continue on Highway 74 (towards Palm Desert). Turn on Highway 371 toward Anza. Turn right on to Carey Road, go 5 miles, turn left on the dirt road toward Tripp Flats Fire Station, and follow FR 6S22 for 9 miles to the lookout.

Elevation: 4,563 feet.

Views: Mount Palomar and Mt. San Diego to the south; to the north San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains.

Morton Peak

(San Gorgonio)

Directions: Follow Hwy. 38 east from Redlands. Go past Mill Creek Work Center 2 miles. Turn left on FR 1S12, opposite the Vista Point parking area. Follow for 1.3 miles, park, then turn left and hike on FR1S13 approximately 1 mile to the lookout.

Elevation: 4,624 feet.

Views: To the east Mill Creek Canyon, San Bernardino Peak, and Galena Peak. To the north Strawberry and Butler Peaks. To the west are the San Gabriels.

Tahquitz Peak

(San Jacinto)

Directions: Hike a 4.5 mile uphill trail from Humber Park in Idyllwild (from the ranger station follow Pine Crest Ave. and turn on Fern Valley Road, follow to Humber Park). Take the Devil's Slide Trail to Saddle Junction, then the far right trail marked Tahquitz Peak to Chinquapin Flats. Go right and follow for .5 mile to the lookout.

Elevation: 8,828 feet

Views: San Jacinto Wilderness, Salton Sea, Coachella Valley, Santa Rosa Mountains.

Butler Peak

(Big Bear) Call for Current Status 909-382-2791

Directions: On the North Shore of Big Bear Lake, take Highway 38 to Fawnskin. Watch for signs for Forest Road (FR) 3N14. Follow 3N14 to the junction with FR 2N13. The road changes to dirt and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Turn left on 2N13 and follow until junction with 2N13C, which takes you to Butler Peak.

Elevation: 8,535 feet

Wildfire Prevention Volunteers

There are many opportunities to support the Forest Service in its wildfire prevention efforts. If you are interested in becoming a prevention volunteer you may have the opportunity to participate in one of the following areas. You could drive the USFS Model T in one of the numerous parades or special events that it is requested at each year. Some of our volunteers are asked to respond to incidents for Logistics Support or Fire Information efforts, serve as Smokey Bear at a special event or at a local school or classroom activity. During the winter, a special Winter Sports Team is provides skiers and snow-boarders with fire prevention information as well as Forest rules and regulations. In the spring/summer months you can join our Mountain Bike Team. Team members patrol and monitor public use for fire safe behavior while providing assistance to those in need. For more information or to sign up contact:

Laura Dyberg Program Manager 909-867-5833
dyberg4fsc@earthlink.net www.wildfirevolunteers.com
PO Box 2582, Running Springs, CA 92382

Personal Fuelwood Permit

Personal fuelwood permits allow you to cut firewood on National Forest land for your household. With your permit you will be given the specific rules and regulations for the San Bernardino National Forest including information about where you may cut. It is your responsibility to know where you are cutting, as well as, to know and follow the rules and regulations governing your permit.

Basic Conditions and Rules

Fuelwood permits are issued at district offices only. Call ahead for current prices, season dates, and availability. Permit issuance and use may be restricted due to conditions and fuelwood availability.

- Gathering of fuelwood must be on National Forest Land, location will be provided.
- One permit per household at one time. Limit 10 cords per year, per household.
- Permits are not refundable.
- All chainsaws must have a US Forest Service approved spark arrester.
- You must have a serviceable round point shovel no less than 46 inches in length, and an approved ABC class fire extinguisher within 25 feet of the cutting area. You must report any fire immediately – Dial 911.
- Cutting may be restricted on days posing high fire danger and current weather conditions. Permit holders are required to contact the Forest Service in advance of cutting to determine the fire restrictions in effect for that day.
- All forest products transported must have load ticket completed and attached to load. Forest products (firewood) from private property or purchased cannot be transported without a bill of sale, or written permit. (California Penal Code 384.5)

Other Forest Products

Those wishing to collect products such as seeds, pine cones, plant specimens, manzanita, mistletoe, and other forest products are required to obtain a permit before removing anything from National Forest land. Permits may not be available in all areas. The permit will tell you where you may collect and any restrictions which may apply. Contact the Ranger Station in the area you would like to visit to find out how to obtain your permit. Some permits will have an associated fee depending on type and product amount. Plan ahead, as some permits require advance notice of several weeks.

Buy it where you burn it!

The Goldspotted Oak Borer is an invasive pest transported in oak firewood, so it is critical that Californians keep firewood local and not move it out of the area. To help stop the spread of Goldspotted Oak Borer use firewood from local sources - "Buy it Where you Burn It." Also, leave firewood at home do not transport it to recreational cabins, campgrounds or parks. Anyone planning to purchase or burn firewood is encouraged to visit the website firewood.ca.gov to learn how help stop the spread of Goldspotted Oak Borer and other pests through the movement of firewood.



Fire Prescription: Just What the Forest Ordered

With the catastrophic 2007 and 2009 Southern California wildfires still fresh in our minds, the sight of smoke may still be a little scary. But it is not uncommon on the San Bernardino National Forest. It could be a wildfire or it could be an intentionally set, or “prescribed,” fire to prevent larger fires. More and more, Forest Service fire managers are using “prescribed” fire as a remedy for overgrown areas of the forest to restore them to a more natural state, when fire provide a natural cleansing element in the ecosystem.

The fall of 2009 was another extreme fire year for much of Southern California. Drought contributed to the intensity of the fire season. Ironically, part of the reason fires were so severe is because fire fighting has become so effective since the beginning of the 20th century. Wildfire disasters in the 19th and early 20th centuries, along with the dire need for timber during World War II, caused an all-out war on fire in U.S. forests. In the past, there was a mindset that all fire was destructive and bad. But with much scientific study, ecologists, fire managers, and elected officials now realize that fire is natural and essential.

Fire is Natural

As in most western forests, fire is a natural process that existed on the San Bernardino National Forest long before the Forest Service managed these lands. Lightning sparked fires that cleaned accumulating plant materials, thinned tree stands, released nutrients back into the soil, spurred seed germination, and cleared pathways for wildlife. Native Americans used fire for similar purposes. Their fires would clear dead and dying plants, allowing fresh young shoots to sprout, which was beneficial to them and the wildlife they hunted.



MOMYER FIRE

AL KELLEY

A careful and scientific way to manage fire has been developed and is presently being applied to the wildlands of the San Bernardino National Forest. Natural and man-made features are evaluated to determine the level of fire intensity that they can withstand, if any. Landscapes then get a “prescription” based on their need for fire, much like a doctor who

evaluates a patient’s need for medicine and prescribes it if necessary.

Recreation sites and areas may be closed for short periods of time due to fires or tree removal projects. Call a ranger station for current conditions.

Prescribing fire helps plants and animal habitats become more productive and open. Trees have more nutrients and sunlight, and thus grow more resistant to disease, insects, and even to more intense fire. Some plant species even require fire to survive and

others to germinate. Landscapes return to the balanced, open, and healthy state of the days before all fires were put out.

Fighting Fire with Fire

Fire managers must also take into consideration the fuel build-up, houses, and communities surrounding national forest lands. Part of the “prescription” for burning is a very detailed plan that takes all contingencies into account. Accumulated fuels are gradually and carefully removed, with safety as a primary concern. In fact, a lot of prescribed fires are conducted for community protection. The Westridge Fuelbreak is a good example. Prescribed fire combined with mechanical reduction in overgrown areas has been employed for the express purpose of protecting the community of Idyllwild from an uncontrolled fire. In other words, we are fighting fire with fire.

Still Counting On You

Like doctors, prescriptions for fire should only be made by those with the knowledge and experience to make such a powerful decision. Treatments need to be designed carefully so that burns achieve desired results. It’s not simply a matter of letting things burn. Wildfires must still be prevented. Smokey Bear is still counting on you!

Every fire season the San Bernardino National Forest restricts fire use. These restrictions are necessary to prevent fire catastrophes. Some important fire restrictions include:

- Wood and charcoal campfires are permitted only in designated campfire rings, which are engineered to be safe. Designated campfire rings are found at developed campgrounds, picnic areas and Yellow Post sites. A ranger station can help you to find places to have a safe and legal campfire. Barbecues and charcoal BBQ’s are included in this restriction.
- A California Campfire Permit is required for stoves outside of developed campgrounds and picnic areas. Contact your nearest Ranger Station for a permit and current fire restrictions.
- Smoke cigarettes, cigars, or pipes only in cleared areas or in an enclosed vehicle.
- Additionally, fireworks are prohibited. Spark arrestors are required for off-highway vehicles (OHVs), portable generators, and other similar engines.

Fire is Powerful

Fire can be a powerful tool or a destructive force. Fire should always be handled with care no matter its size or purpose. Carefully planning and managing fire is a lot safer than reacting to unplanned and unmanaged fire. The San Bernardino National Forest is carefully planning and managing fire. Visitors can help by taking steps to prevent wildfires. Report any smoke column you see, but be prepared for the possibility that the smoke could be coming from a fire prescribed for forest health and community protection.

Please stay on designated roadways, especially in burned areas, as soils are extremely fragile and easily damaged by any soil disturbance. Help preserve the environment by letting these areas heal.

To see the benefits and damaging effects of fire, as well as recovery after a fire, visit these areas:

The Mountain Fire (2013) – can be seen from Hwy 74 southeast of Mountain Center. It burned through the Bonita Vista area then along the Desert Divide and southern portion of the San Jacinto Wilderness.

The Old and Grand Prix Fires (2003)–were the largest fires in recorded history on the San Bernardino National Forest at more than 150,000 acres. These fires are an example of the destruction fire can cause. Originally two separate fires joined near the I-15/I-215 Junction north of the city of San Bernardino.

The Willow Fire (1999)–At more than 63,000 acres, it was the biggest fire to burn on the Forest until 2003. Check with the Big Bear Discovery Center for information on the best roads to take to see the burn and recovery.

The Bear Creek Fire (1970)–The Children’s Forest, (page 13) near Highway 18 and Running Springs, is an excellent place to see a forest’s recovery after a fire.

To Report a Fire

The quickest way to report a fire is to dial 9-1-1. Emergency call boxes are located along most state highways. Be sure to note your location when making the report. If you don’t know where you are, use the milepost markers along the highway or give the nearest cross street.

You can also report fires or other emergencies at any of the fire stations located throughout the national forest (see maps, pages 10-17).

You may also contact a ranger station; see front page.

Hunting

Hunting is permitted during open seasons. Popular game animals are mule deer, mountain and valley quail, and turkey. Band-tailed pigeons, cottontail rabbits, jack rabbits, and black bears can also be hunted. “Predator calling” for coyote, fox, and bobcat is done in some areas. An Adventure Pass is required when parked in many areas of the Forest.

Hunting is regulated by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (www.dfg.ca.gov or 909-484-0167) and a license is required.

Any animal not listed as a game animal in the California Hunting Regulations is protected in the national forest. Regulations are available at sporting goods stores and some ranger stations. Poaching and pollution should be reported by calling CalTip at 1-888-334-2258. Hunters are asked to help prevent unintended lead poisoning of wildlife scavengers. Bury gut piles to a depth that will discourage scavengers. Lead-Free bullets required in California Condor areas—check with your ammunition supplier for the latest products. Due to the number of populated areas near the national forest, check with your local ranger station or Fish and Wildlife office for legal hunting areas. Shotgun and bow-hunting is permitted almost everywhere except near populated areas.

**Prevent lead poisoning!
Use lead-free bullets**

Fishing

Public lakes and streams in the Forest are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (www.dfg.ca.gov or 909-484-0167). A state license is required for persons 16 years of age and older.

For a stocking information recording, call 562-594-7268. Most areas are stocked with rainbow trout during fishing season and may also contain bass, bluegill, and catfish. Deep Creek and Bear Creek are wild trout streams where the trout reproduce naturally. Check at the ranger stations for special regulations for these areas.



FISHING BIG BEAR LAKE

ROBIN PRINCE

Prospecting

Prospecting, gold panning, mining, and claim staking are permitted on National Forest system unappropriated land. Check with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM www.blm.gov) for land status pertaining to mining claims. Also, check with the local ranger station for Forest Service use regulations before you begin prospecting. Some areas require a “Notice of Intent” to be submitted to the local ranger station for review by the district ranger before activities begin. If the District Ranger determines that the proposed activity may cause a significant surface disturbance, then the prospector will be required to submit a “Plan of Operation.”

Metal detecting to locate mineral deposits such as gold and silver on National Forest land is considered prospecting and is allowed under the provisions of the General Mining Law of 1872. Searching for coins of recent vintage (less than 50 years) and small objects having no historical value is allowed, as a recreational pursuit, using a hand-held metal detector, as long as the use of the equipment is confined to areas which do not possess historic or prehistoric resources. Exploration, excavation and removal of objects of historic or archaeological value requires a special use permit.

Hiking & Backpacking

Hiking is a popular activity on the forest. There are dozens of scenic trails suited for day hiking as well as overnight trips, including the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). The PCT is one of 11 National Scenic Trails and it links together the great mountains of the west through California, Oregon, and Washington.

Before you go

Check with the local ranger station for trail information, permit requirements, maps, and cur-

rent conditions. Remember, weather may change quickly, especially at high elevations, at any time of the year. Check weather forecasts and avoid storms. Leave your itinerary with a friend.

Safety

Open water sources are often contaminated by human and animal waste. Don’t drink water without treatment. Either boil water for 15 minutes, or use a filter or chemical treatment.

Natural hazards in the forest include fallen trees, falling limbs, steep dropoffs, and swift streams. Rattlesnakes and black bears are commonly seen.

Recreational Shooting

Recreational (target) shooting is allowed only in designated shooting areas and target ranges on the San Bernardino National Forest. Please call your local ranger station for detailed maps and information. Shooters are prohibited from destroying any natural feature in the national forest, including plants and trees. A firearm may not be discharged within 150 yards of any developed area. An Adventure Pass is required at some shooting areas on the Forest. Because of the risks of starting a fire, steel core, armor piercing, or Teflon ammunition is not allowed. Air rifles, bow and arrows, gas guns, and paint ball are allowed to be discharged only within designated shooting areas or target ranges. Shooters should call the closest ranger station for information on the fire activity level for that area and day. The Forest may be closed to all target shooting during periods of high fire danger.

Target ranges operated under permit from the Forest

- Arrowhead Fish & Game at 909-337-3310; Membership required
- Big Bear Valley Sportsman’s Club at 909-585-4686.
- Lytle Creek Firing Line at 909-782-7438.

For more information on firearms regulations, please visit the California Dept of Justice Bureau of Firearms website oag.ca.gov/firearms

Off-Highway Vehicles

The Forest’s off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail system features many miles of varied terrain for SUV/4-wheel drive vehicles, ATVs, and motorcycles. The Forest has 42 miles of 24-inch to 50-inch wide trails, 169 miles of Forest roads for non-highway legal registered vehicles (Green Sticker or Red Sticker), 900 miles of road for SUV/4x4 travel, and 104 miles of 4x4 routes. The trail system includes terrain suitable for novice, intermediate, and expert users, and the trails are signed from easy to difficult.



Remember to bring your non-highway legal registration (Green Sticker or Red Sticker).

For more information on Green and Red Sticker regulations and licensing requirements, please visit this website www.ohv.parks.ca.gov

Red Sticker vehicles may only be used from October 1 to April 30 on the Front Country and Mountaintop Ranger Districts and from October 1 to May 31 on the San Jacinto Ranger District

Designated OHV routes are primarily in the Cajon, Arrowhead, and Big Bear areas. A smaller system exists in the San Jacinto area. Staging Areas are available at Cactus Flat (Big Bear), Miller Canyon and Pinnacles (Lake Arrowhead), Baldy Mesa and Summit (Cajon). Check out Big Pine Flat and Crab Flats campgrounds near OHV areas.

Make sure to pick up a free Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) at a ranger station, where you can also check current road closures and other restrictions. This information is also available online at this website:

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/sanbernardino/ohv

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/sanbernardino/ohv



Please obey all signs and respect all closures. The Forest does not have “open areas” for hill-climbing or cross-country travel, or motocross tracks for racing. Make sure you have a U.S. Forest Service-approved spark arrester on your vehicle. Use wildlife-safe anti-freeze and clean your equipment to prevent invasive weed introduction.

Poison oak is common in many areas. Keep dogs restrained on a leash at all times.

Bring these essentials

Sturdy boots, fleece or wool sweater, packable raincoat, plenty of water (at least 1 gallon per person per day), water filter or other treatment, food, whistle, sunglasses, sunscreen, pocket knife, waterproof matches, first aid kit, flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries, map and compass, and a trowel to bury your waste.

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a growing sport in the mountains. Riding is permitted on many public roads and trails. Riding is not permitted on the Pacific Crest Trail and within designated Wilderness areas.

A few mountain biking areas within the San Bernardino National Forest include:

- San Jacinto Thomas Mountain Road (6S13).
- Santa Ana River Trail between South Fork Campground and Angelus Oaks.
- Snow Summit Ski Area transports mountain bikes on their chairlift to the top of the mountain. From there, riders may access Forest system roads and trails.

Challenging routes can be found for all skill levels, but the more spectacular rides are best attempted by the experienced cyclist. Route information is also available in the book, *Mountain Biking in the San Bernardinios*, by Robert Shipley.



Always announce your presence to others when you need to pass. Remember to yield to both hikers and equestrians. If you follow this rule, everyone will be safe and have fun.



Avoid excessive speed because of the potential danger to yourself and others. Ride safely and responsibly.

Remember that weather conditions vary daily, even hourly, trail conditions are unpredictable, and safe drinking water is scarce.

Stay on designated roads and trails to prevent erosion and resource damage.

Leave no litter and look for opportunities to remove litter left by others.

Maintain your bike in top condition—particularly the brakes. Carry tools and know how to use them.

Clean your equipment after each ride. Dirt clods and vegetation can introduce invasive weeds.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is permitted on all national forest roads and trails, except for nature trails and the Alpine Pedal Path. The Spitler Peak and Fobes trails in the San Jacinto area connect with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and have spectacular views of the desert below.

Pack it in, pack it out!

The nearby McCall Equestrian Park and Ribbonwood Equestrian campground offer overnight camping. The San Gorgonio Wilderness trails

are very popular, and the Heart Bar Equestrian Group and Wildhorse Equestrian Campgrounds are nearby. Big Bear has a series of gentler trails that also connect with the PCT. Campers stay at Greenspot and Big Pine Flat Equestrian Campgrounds. Baldwin Lake Stables, located near Big Bear, operates on National Forest land under a Special Use Permit, and offers guided horseback rides.

Leave No Trace Ethics

- Pack out all your trash.
- Do not tie horses to trees except while packing or unpacking.
- Tie horses away from camps, water, and trails.
- Scatter or bury all manure that accumulates in the tethering area. Use certified Weed-Free-Seed-Free feed
- Do not bathe horses in lakes or streams.
- Do not cut switchbacks.



Why Weed-Free-Seed-Free Feed? Hay and feed can contain seeds of invasive plants. Use "Weed-Free-Seed-Free" feed at least 2 days before your trip.

Winter Recreation

Snow can fall in the mountains any time between October and June. Snow brings lots of opportunity for outdoor fun but can be treacherous for those who are unprepared or inexperienced. During some winters, snow accumulation can be 5-20 feet. No matter how experienced you may be, always check mountain weather before leaving on your trip.

Carry tire chains in your vehicle and be able to install them. During times of heavy snow or ice, the California Highway Patrol may require all vehicles, even 4-wheel drives, to chainup. Always carry extra clothing such as jackets, gloves, warm hats, and dry socks in the car for sudden weather changes. It can be 70 degrees in Los Angeles and 40 degrees in Big Bear! Call CalTrans at 1-800-427-7623 or visit their website www.dot.ca.gov for road conditions.

Snowplay & Sledding are fun activities but parking can be hard to find. Be sure to park well off the road and do not block other vehicles or the snowplow. An Adventure Pass is required for some areas. Snowdrift Winter Playground (909-867-2640) and Snow Valley Ski Resort (909-867-2751), located off of Hwy 18 east of Running Springs, both offer tobogganing. Alpine Slide and Big Bear Snowplay are snowplay areas located on private land in the Big Bear area.

Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding Areas are centered around Arrowhead and Big Bear. Extensive snowmaking equipment allows Snow Summit (909-866-5766), Big Bear Mountain (909-866-2519), and Snow Valley Ski Resort (909-867-2751) to operate even in the driest winters. These resorts open as early as November and stay open as late as

April. Call ahead for snow conditions. Snow Summit and Big Bear Mountain limit the number of skiers and snowboarders on some busy days, but offer a reservation service at 909-866-5841 and www.bigbearmountainresorts.com.

Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing depend on natural snow accumulation, which varies depending on elevation and type of exposure. North-facing slopes tend to have more snow. Snow conditions are so variable that most skiers prefer waxless skis. Two cross-country ski facilities operate under Special Use Permit from the Forest Service in the Arrowhead area: Green Valley and Rim Nordic (both at 909-867-2600). In the winter months you can explore the different areas of Big Bear Valley by participating in one of our guided snowshoe trips. For a listing of dates and times, or to make reservations, please contact the Big Bear Discovery Center at 909-382-2791

Snowmobiling is permitted only on the following designated snowmobile routes: Coon Creek Rd (1N02) near Barton Flats. Contact the Mill Creek Work Center at 909-382-2882 for current conditions and to request a permit. In Running Springs off Highway 18, Keller Peak Rd. (1N96); contact the Big Bear Discovery Center at 909-382-2791 to check conditions.



Birdwatching

Can you imagine a concert by over a million traveling singers? Catch a performance any spring or summer morning in the San Bernardino National Forest. Migrating songbirds stop here for a rest in the trees, meadows, stream banks, and lakes. Some stay to nest and spend the summer while others continue north. These neotropical (New World) migrants return to Mexico, Central and South America in the fall. This group includes such familiar birds as orioles, hummingbirds, swallows, thrushes, warblers, vireos, and tanagers.

Recently, spring has grown noticeably quieter. The number of migrating birds has declined, due to destruction of natural habitat in breeding grounds, along migratory routes, and in wintering areas. This national forest is just one stop on the world tour. It is important to identify and protect those areas used by birds.

The best places to watch the migrating birds is along streams and other areas with lots of plants and insects. Thurman Flats Picnic Area (see map, page 1) is a well known resting area. Refer to the Birds of San Bernardino National Forest for lists of commonly found species. Bird walks are given throughout the year by the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society. For more information, call the San Bernardino County Museum (909-307-2669).

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

This 280,000-acre Monument near Palm Springs was created in 2000. It includes a unique combination of Federal, private, state and county, and Native American lands (see map, page 11). The Monument is administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

Information about the Monument can be obtained at each agency office. The Idyllwild Ranger Station (see map, page 16) is a good source of hiking information, the Idyllwild Nature Center offers natural and cultural history exhibits, and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center (760-862-9984) south of Palm Desert on Highway 74, has interpretive displays and information about the Monument (see maps, pages 16-17). Mt. San Jacinto State Park has a small visitor center at the top of the Palm Springs Aerial Tram.



CAHUILLA TEWANET VIEWPOINT ON HIGHWAY 74 SOUTH OF PALM DESERT

NITL SCENIC BYWAYS—MARTHA ALEJANDRE

Picnic Areas

Use caution when recreating in or near streams and rivers. Flash flooding may occur after storms.



Cajon (p. 10)

Applewhite*   

Arrowhead (p. 12)

Baylis Park* 

Switzer Park*   

Crest Park*   

Big Bear (p. 13)

Aspen Glen* 

Grout Bay   

Juniper Point   

Meadow's Edge   

San Gorgonio (p. 11)

Falls   

Jenks Lake*  \$5 parking

Thurman Flats* 

San Jacinto (p. 14)

Fuller Mill Creek* 

Lake Fulmor*   

Lake Hemet*   

Key

-  Drinking water on site
-  Fishing nearby
-  Adventure Pass required
- * Open year-round

Wilderness Areas

Wilderness is Federal land designated by Congress. It is a place “where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain...which is protected and managed to preserve its natural condition.” (Wilderness Act 1964). In the Wilderness, preservation of the land, its natural processes, native vegetation and wildlife is the first priority of management. Human use is secondary. All mechanized equipment and vehicles are prohibited (including mountain bikes), except for wheelchairs.

The San Bernardino National Forest has eight designated Wildernesses: San Gorgonio, Cucamonga, San Jacinto, Santa Rosa, Bighorn Mountain, Cahuilla Mountain, South Fork San Jacinto, and part of the Sheep Mountain wilderness area (see map on pages 10-11). Detailed maps of these areas (except the Bighorn, Cahuilla Mountain and South Fork San Jacinto) are available for purchase at ranger stations. The San Gorgonio, Cucamonga, San Jacinto, and Bighorn Wilderness Areas require free permits for day hiking and camping.

Where permits are required, the number of people admitted to the Wilderness is limited. On some summer weekends, Wilderness areas fill to capacity well in advance. The best advice is to plan ahead. When camping in the Wilderness, lightweight stoves are recommended. They are more convenient and efficient than open campfires. Fires are not permitted in Wilderness areas in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Big Bear Discovery Center

Your Gateway to Adventure!

More than 250,000 annual visitors stop in at the Big Bear Discovery Center for useful forest information including hiking, biking, and camping, along with permit information and to purchase Adventure Passes. The Center is also a great environmental family learning hub starting with free guided nature walks available year-round on Saturdays and Sundays to gain a basic understanding of local plant life, wildlife and interesting historical facts. Seasonally, snowshoe, canoe, kayak and Holcomb Valley Gold Rush guided tours by a naturalist are available on weekends for families to experience the sport, learn seasonal ecology, the wildlife, and more historical fun facts of the Big Bear Valley while having great family fun.

From Memorial to Labor Day Weekends, family-oriented programming is expanded on Saturdays and Sundays to include nature crafts, animal tracking, map and compass, gold panning, Junior Forest Ranger, along with special events aimed at families learning together how to become more responsible caretakers and to heighten their enjoyment of our Natural Forest. Evening events include Music in the Mountains, a summer concert series, offering the best classic rock tribute music on the San Bernardino National Forest along with a summer campfire series offering different nature themes for families to enjoy and learn. The Big Bear Discovery Center is also an outdoor classroom for school and youth groups.

Open all year

Closed Tues/Wed
909-382-2790

Location

North shore of Big Bear Lake,
3 miles east of Fawnskin

Children's Forest Visitor Center

A Great Stop for Families!

The Children's Forest was created in the wake of the 1970 Bear Fire; the designated 3,400-acre area was replanted with trees bearing the names of children. In 1993, the first trail was established by a work group of children from around the country. This ¾-mile Interpretive Trail at the top of Keller Peak Road can still be hiked today. There is also the 4.5-mile Exploration Trail.

Along with recreation opportunities, Children's Forest hosts a Visitor Center, an Environmental Education Program, a Youth Leadership Volunteer Program, and an active reforestation program. Children's Forest is a place where children learn how to become stewards of the land.

Stop by during the summer to see the youth designed nature exhibits in the visitor center. Youth leaders are available to answer questions, sell adventure passes, lead nature walks, give tours of the greenhouse, and lead family activities. Group events, such as school/scout programs are available year-round.

Visitor Center Hours

May 24 to September 1
Saturdays and Sundays only
9 am - 5 pm

Guided Tours

Saturdays & Sundays: Youth-led nature walks.

Phone

909-867-5996 Weekends

Location

One-half mile east of Running Springs at Deerlick Fire Station (see map, page 12).

For more information and events, please visit
www.mountainsfoundation.org

Keep Wildlife Wild

The forest is home to many types of wild animals including black bears, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, bighorn sheep, and mule deer. The animals in the forest are wild and are unpredictable. In order to keep both animals and humans safe, it's important to never feed or approach wildlife

Bears

Bears have lived in these mountains for hundreds of years. Once even grizzly bears lived here—indeed it is from them that Big Bear got its name. Unfortunately grizzly bears were hunted to extinction by humans and were gone by the early 20th century. Now only black bears live in the Forest.

Black bears can be brown, blonde, or gray, as well as black. They generally do not hibernate and are active year-round on the San Bernardino National Forest. They are generally shy and will avoid people.

- Never feed a bear. Feeding bears teaches them to approach humans. These bears become accustomed to getting food at campgrounds or residences and they become unsafe. Feeding bears may ultimately lead to their death. Please help avoid that tragedy.
- Keep your site clean! Throw away garbage immediately after meals. Use bear-resistant garbage cans whenever possible.
- Never leave food out on the table or in a tent. Do not leave your ice chest out. Bears are smart. They know what is in an ice chest and they can open one easily.
- Store food in an airtight container in the trunk of your vehicle or use bear-resistant food containers if available. Portable bear-resistant canisters are available for rental or purchase at the Mill Creek Work Center. They are highly recommended for storing your food while backpacking.
- While hiking, make noise to avoid a surprise encounter with a bear.
- Keep a close watch on children, and teach them what to do if they encounter a bear.
- If you encounter a bear, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to appear as large as possible.
- If attacked, fight back. If a bear attacks a person, immediately call 911.

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are also native to our mountains and are an important member of the ecosystem. If you ever see a lion, consider yourself lucky, because like bears, they generally avoid people. Most of the time mountain lions will not bother you, but should one get close, the same rules that apply to encountering a bear apply to a lion. Never run away, face the mountain lion and make yourself look large and make a lot of noise. If attacked, fight back.



Wildlife Watching

Wildlife watching can be enjoyed any month of the year. Early morning and early evening are usually the best times to catch a glimpse of birds and mammals, especially on hot summer days. Watch for lizards and snakes during the heat of the day. Hawks can be seen almost anytime. The listing to the right includes some convenient roadside pull-offs and short trails where you are most likely to see animals. They are shown on the five area maps with the binocular symbol. Most are good for viewing year round, though in the higher elevations winter snow can hamper viewing of some species.



Learning About the Forest

This symbol indicates an Interpretive trailhead: a trail with printed guides or panels describing the plants, animals, and history of the area. Evening campfire programs are given during the summer months at Greyback Amphitheater, Big Bear Discovery Center, and Dogwood Campground.

The visitor centers at Big Bear, Barton Flats, and Idyllwild also have interpretive programs.

Where to Watch for Wildlife

Cajon Viewing

Mormon Rocks Fire Station

Take Highway 138 west exit off I-15 in Cajon Pass. Follow the signs for the Forest Service Fire Station. Walk a scenic, one-mile loop trail that runs along a ridge above the fire station. In the cliffs watch for white-throated swifts, hawks, and ravens. In the chaparral look for coast horned lizards, California thrashers, and western king birds.

Mountaintop Viewing

Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area

Call the park office at 760-389-2303 for current information. Take Hwy. 138 East exit from I-15 in Cajon Pass. In the oak woodlands surrounding the lake, look for acorn woodpeckers, western bluebirds, and ground squirrels. In the ponderosa pines high above Lake Silverwood look for juncos, mountain chickadees, and Steller's jays.

Heaps Peak Arboretum

This nature trail is on Hwy. 18, 1.5 miles east of the village of Skyforest. A trail guide leads you through the mixed forest, where you can watch for dark-eyed juncos, songbirds, signs of bobcats, and gray foxes.

Big Bear Lake

One of the best places to view wildlife in Big Bear is at the Stanfield Cutoff, the causeway that crosses the eastern portion of Big Bear Lake. In winter watch for bald eagles or call the Big Bear Discovery Center to volunteer to help count the eagles, 909-382-2791. All year watch for white pelicans, coots, great blue herons, and mergansers.

San Gorgonio Viewing

Santa Ana River Along the stream watch for dip-pers, yellow warblers, red-breasted sapsuckers, raccoons, two-striped garter snakes, quail, rainbow trout, brown trout, and signs of deer.

Thurman Flats

This picnic area is on Highway 38, about 3.5 miles northeast of the Mill Creek Work Center. This is one of the best bird watching areas on the Forest, with over 200 species seen here. Look in the incense cedars at the picnic area and in the alders growing along the creek: yellow warblers, and Lawrence's goldfinch, scrub jays, hooded orioles, and northern orioles. Many of the birds are using the trees as a resting place while migrating to and from Central and South America.



San Jacinto Viewing

Indian Vista

This scenic viewpoint is on Highway 243, 9.5 miles northwest of Idyllwild. Watch for songbirds in the chaparral and oak trees and redtailed hawks and ravens soaring above. In the warmer months a variety of lizards sun themselves on the rocks. If you are lucky (and patient) you may see deer, bobcat, gray fox, and coyote.

Lake Fulmor

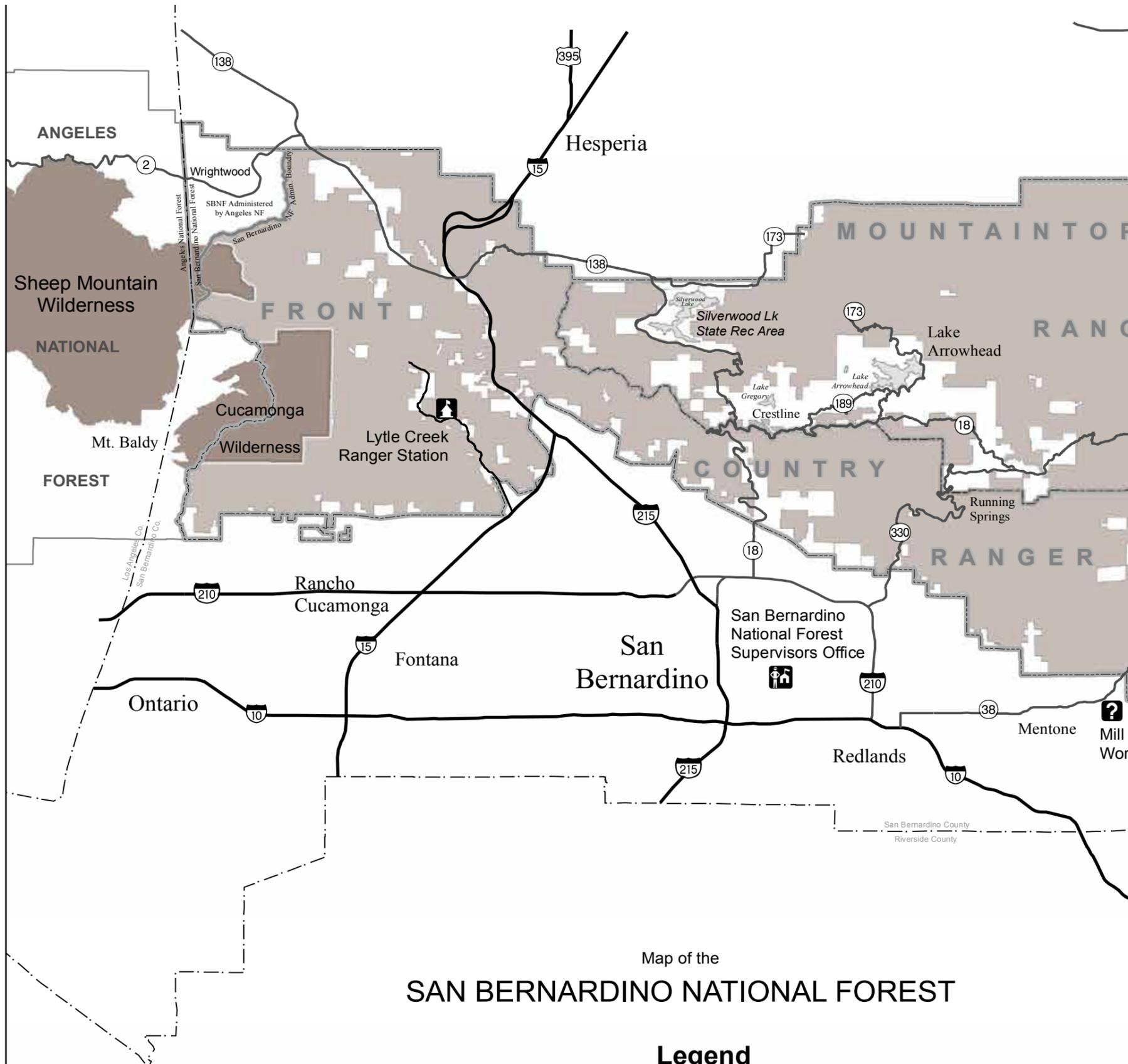
Located about 10 miles north of Idyllwild, Lake Fulmor is a delightful oasis for people and wildlife. On the trail winding around the lake look for ground squirrels, tree frogs, butterflies, and dragonflies; listen for the raucous chatter of Steller's jays.

Alandale Fire Station

This site is about 5 miles north of Idyllwild, on Highway 243. Interpretive signs illustrate the wildlife of the area, including woodpeckers, bluebirds, jays, deer, squirrels, pack rats, hawks, and insects.

Lake Hemet

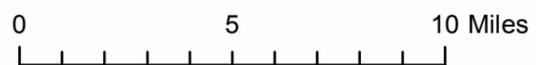
Eight miles south of Idyllwild on Highway 74 is Lake Hemet. The picnic area is the best place to view wintering bald eagles, Canada geese, white pelicans, and other waterfowl. In the summer, see great blue herons, violet green swallows, and Caspian terns. Coyotes, deer, and bobcat are sometimes seen along the shore.



Map of the
SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

Legend

- Supervisor's Office
- District Office
- Forest Information
- County Line
- Proclaimed Boundry
- Administrative Boundary
- National Monument
- District Boundary
- Wilderness Area



Know Before you GO

SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

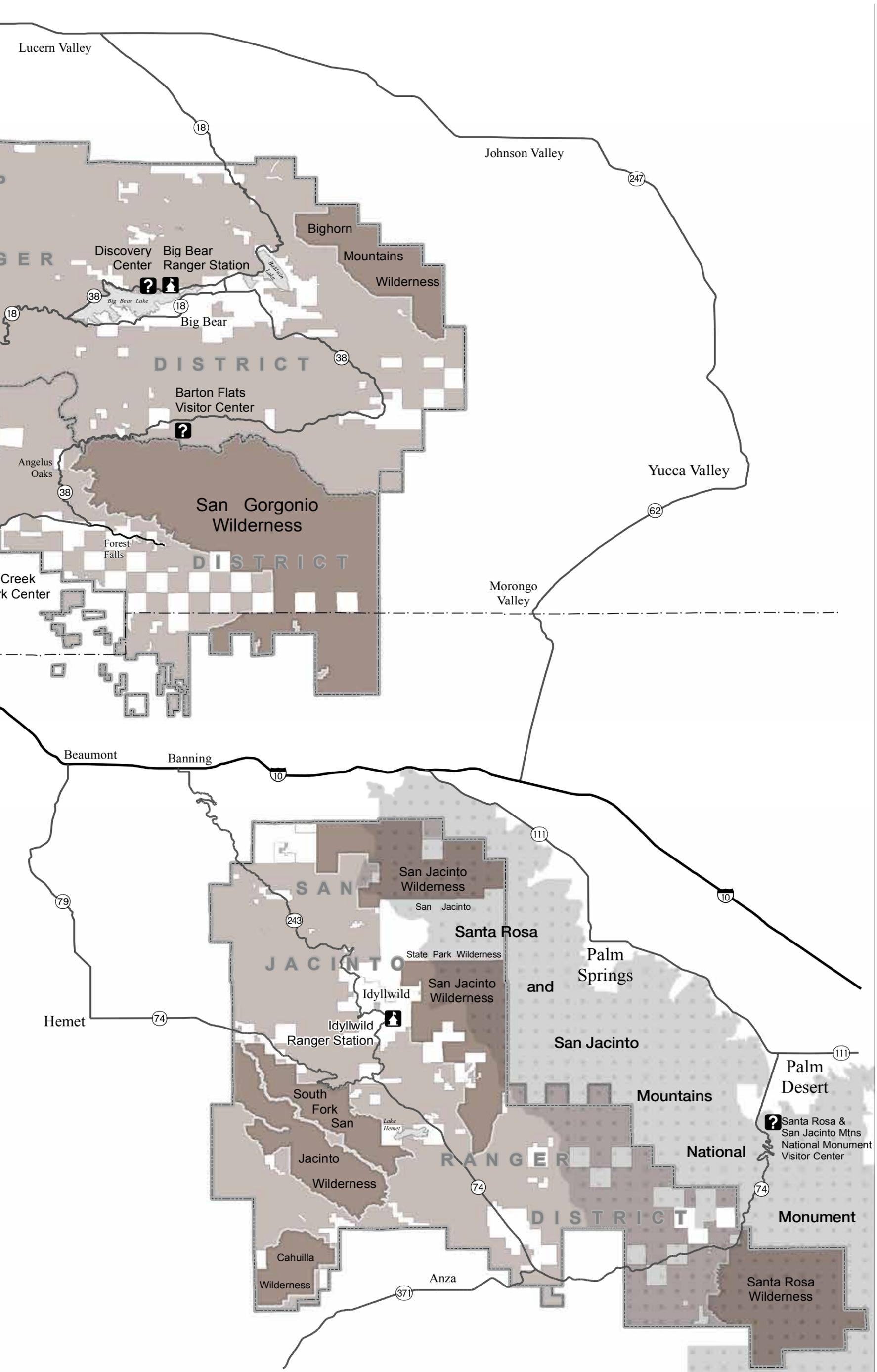
Check The Current forest Use Guidelines

(909) 382-2600
www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf

Scan this QR Code with your mobile device to visit www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf



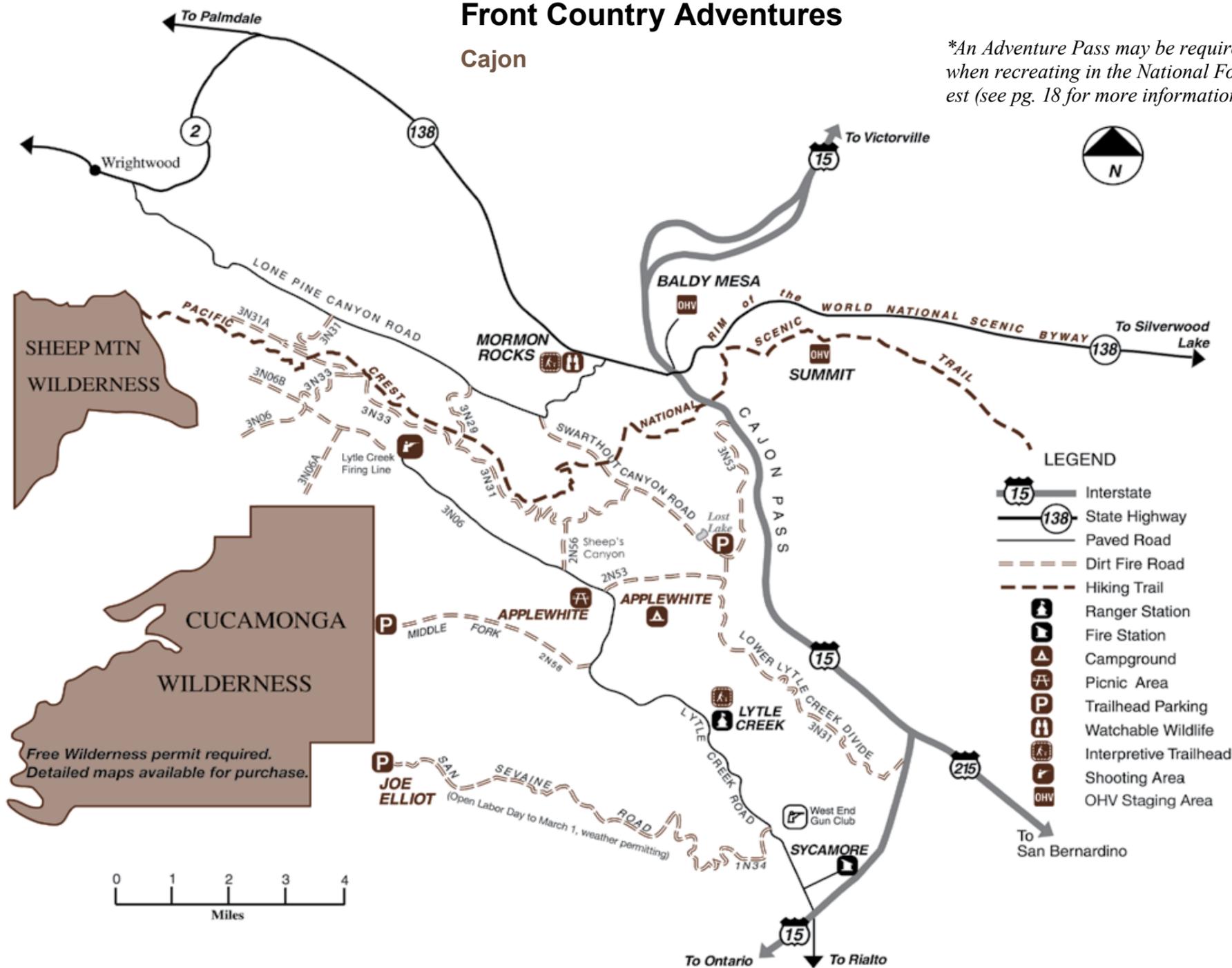
FOREST MAP



Front Country Adventures

Cajon

*An Adventure Pass may be required when recreating in the National Forest (see pg. 18 for more information).



This is one of the lowest elevation areas in the Forest, so most roads and trails are open all year. Lytle Creek is the center of activities in the Cajon area with a picnic area and campground near its banks.

Summer weekends and holidays are crowded along the creek. Alternate areas for day use are Lost Lake, Swarthout Canyon, Middle Fork Road, and Cucamonga Canyon. An Adventure Pass is required when visiting many of these areas.

Bonita Falls, a 90-ft waterfall, can be seen by hiking from the Lytle Creek Road in the South Fork Area. A free map can be obtained at the Ranger Station to show hikers how to get to Bonita Falls.

The Lytle Creek area is easily accessible from I-15 and I-215. Lytle Creek Ranger Station (909-382-2851) is located 5 miles north of I-15 on Lytle Creek Road (take the Sierra Ave exit north).



LOST LAKE

CAROL UNDERHILL

Adventure 1

Cucamonga Wilderness Hike

The Cucamonga Wilderness provides a rugged backdrop to Lytle Creek Canyon. Hikers have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of habitats from chaparral to lush riparian to high elevation conifers.

Trailhead: Middle Fork Parking Area, 4.5 miles (3 miles on dirt road) from the ranger station. Adventure Pass required.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Permits: Free Wilderness permit required.

Points of interest: Waterfall, bighorn sheep, and wildflowers.

Adventure 2

Cajon Pass Scenic Drive

This is earthquake country! The Cajon Pass is one of the youngest and most geologically active regions in North America. Two mountain ranges, the San Gabriel and the San Bernardino, overlap here, producing earthquakes and other seismic activity along the San Andreas fault line. Cajon Pass, meaning “box” pass, was used by Native Americans and later by Mormon settlers heading to San Bernardino. Today, Cajon Pass is a major transportation and utility corridor for Southern California. Fifty freight trains and 4 passenger trains run through the pass daily.



Adventure 3

Mormon Rocks Nature Trail

Mormon Rocks are a series of cemented sandstone deposits. They are much more resistant to erosion than the surrounding rocks. Thus the rocks stand out in relief called “hogbacks” above the alluvial fans of Cajon Canyon wash. Trail guide available at the trailhead or Lytle Creek Ranger Station.

Directions: Take I-15 north through Cajon Pass, exit at Highway 138 West. Follow signs for the Mormon Rocks Fire Station. Park and take the trail winding through high desert plants behind the Fire Station.

Distance: 16-mile drive from the Lytle Creek Ranger Station to Mormon Rocks, one mile loop walk.

Difficulty: An easy drive on paved roads, easy walking.

Points of interest: Trains, views of Mormon Rocks and Cajon Summit Ridge, high desert plants (manzanita, yucca, and sage), views of wildlife.

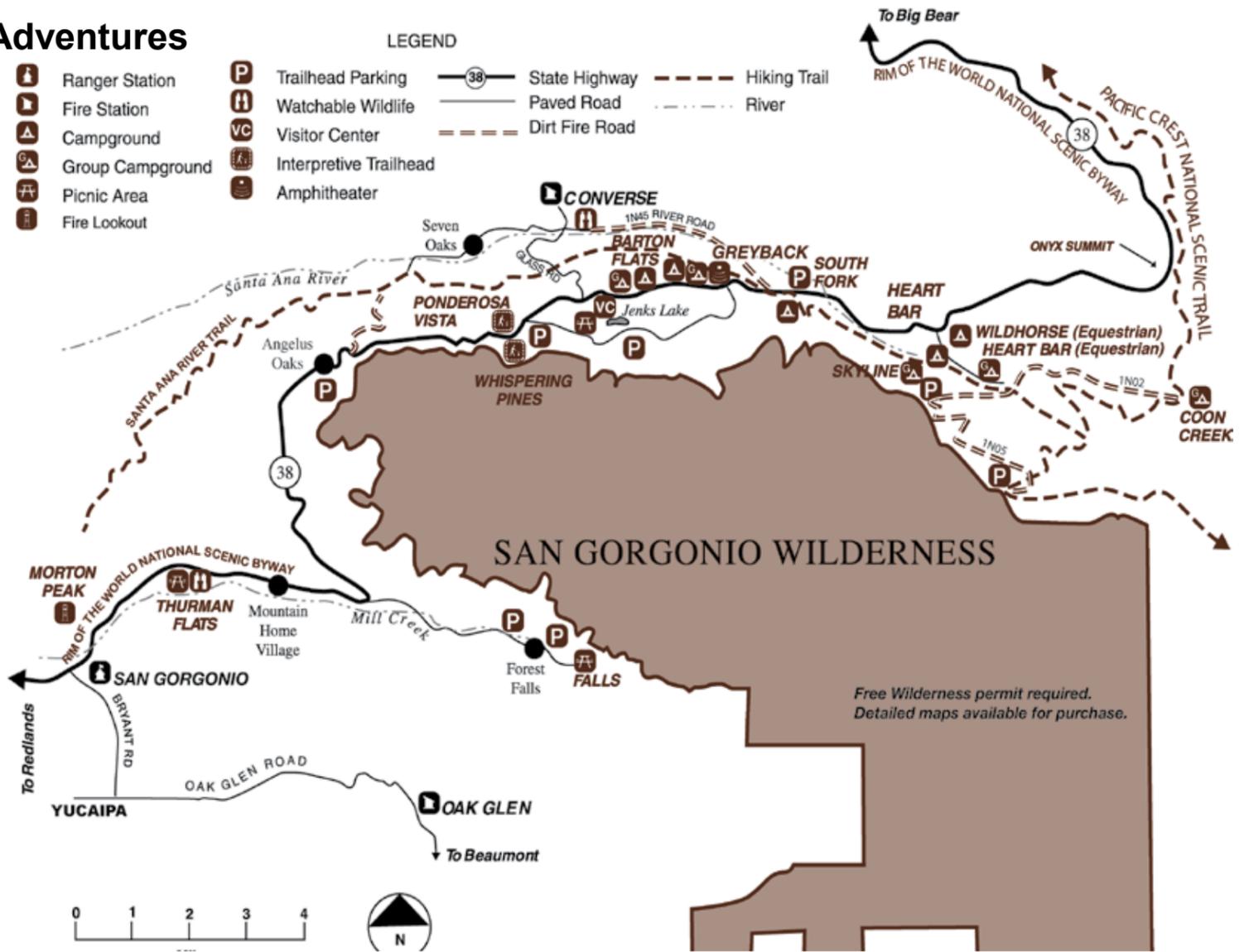
Trail Guide

Chaparral Neighborhoods Trail begins next to the Lytle Creek Ranger Station and weaves through plant and animal habitats. A free self-guided trail brochure is available at the Lytle Creek Ranger Station.

Front Country Adventures

San Gorgonio

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
|  Ranger Station |  Trailhead Parking |  State Highway |  Hiking Trail |
|  Fire Station |  Watchable Wildlife |  Paved Road |  River |
|  Campground |  Visitor Center |  Dirt Fire Road | |
|  Group Campground |  Interpretive Trailhead | | |
|  Picnic Area |  Amphitheater | | |
|  Fire Lookout | | | |



*An Adventure Pass may be required when recreating in the National Forest (see pg. 18 for more information).

Adventure 4

San Gorgonio Wilderness Hike

The San Gorgonio Wilderness embraces the summit of the San Bernardino Mountain Range, the highest in Southern California. Within its boundaries are 59,000 acres of trees, small lakes, and large barren slopes. The highest peak, San Gorgonio, rises to 11,502 feet.

A free permit is required for all entry into the Wilderness. Permits can be obtained in person at the Mill Creek Work Center, Barton Flats Visitor Center (open summer only), and the Big Bear Discovery Center. You may also request a permit application by mail, fax, (or download



from www.sgwa.org) up to 3 months in advance. Permits are issued on a quota basis. When the daily quota for a trailhead has been filled, additional permits will not be issued for that area.

Popular Wilderness trailheads are South Fork, Vivian Creek, Momyer, Aspen Grove (these three trailheads require the Adventure Pass), Fish Creek, Forsee Creek, and San Bernardino Peak. A wilderness map is available at ranger stations and

visitor centers. You can hike for a couple of hours or for a week—be sure to get advice from Forest Service staff while planning your trip.

Directions: Most trailheads are in the Barton Flats and Forest Falls areas.

Distance, time and difficulty: Trails in the Wilderness range from moderate to strenuous. Trail description guides with elevation information are available at the ranger station. One popular route is from South Fork Trail, climbing 4,700 feet to the top of San Gorgonio. Round trip is 21.5 miles, recommended as a 2-day (or longer) hike.

The Vivian Creek Trail is the shortest and steepest route to the top of the 11,502 ft. San Gorgonio Peak.

The trail is both challenging and dangerous, depending on the conditions, and on your skill. The trailhead is near Forest Falls: 15.6 miles round trip and 5,300 elevation gain.

Season: The best hiking time is June to October. The rest of the year trails

are snow covered (often icy and dangerous). Some trails on south facing slopes may be snow-free longer. Always check at a ranger station for trail conditions.

Points of Interest: Pine and fir forests, lush subalpine meadows, sparkling streams, placid lakes, bighorn sheep, black bears and other wildlife. Look for Dollar Lake, Dry Lake, San Gorgonio Peak, San Bernardino Peak, Fish Creek, and Aspen Grove.

Trail Guides

Whispering Pines is a .5-mile trail designed especially for school and camp groups along Highway 38 west of Barton Flats. The trail guide follows the California science curriculum for elementary-age students. The guide includes a bird list and a key to identifying trees. The guide can be purchased at the trailhead, the Mill Creek Work Center, or the Barton Flats Visitor Center (open summer only). Adventure Pass required ONLY during snow play/recreation.

Points of Interest

Jenks Lake panels present the life of Captain Jenks and his creation of the lake. Follow the paved Jenks Lake Rd. off Hwy 38 in Barton Flats. (\$5 parking fee; Adventure Passes are not accepted here.)



Barton Flats Visitor Center panels portray the Serrano Indians, early ranching, and the beginnings of recreation development in the area.

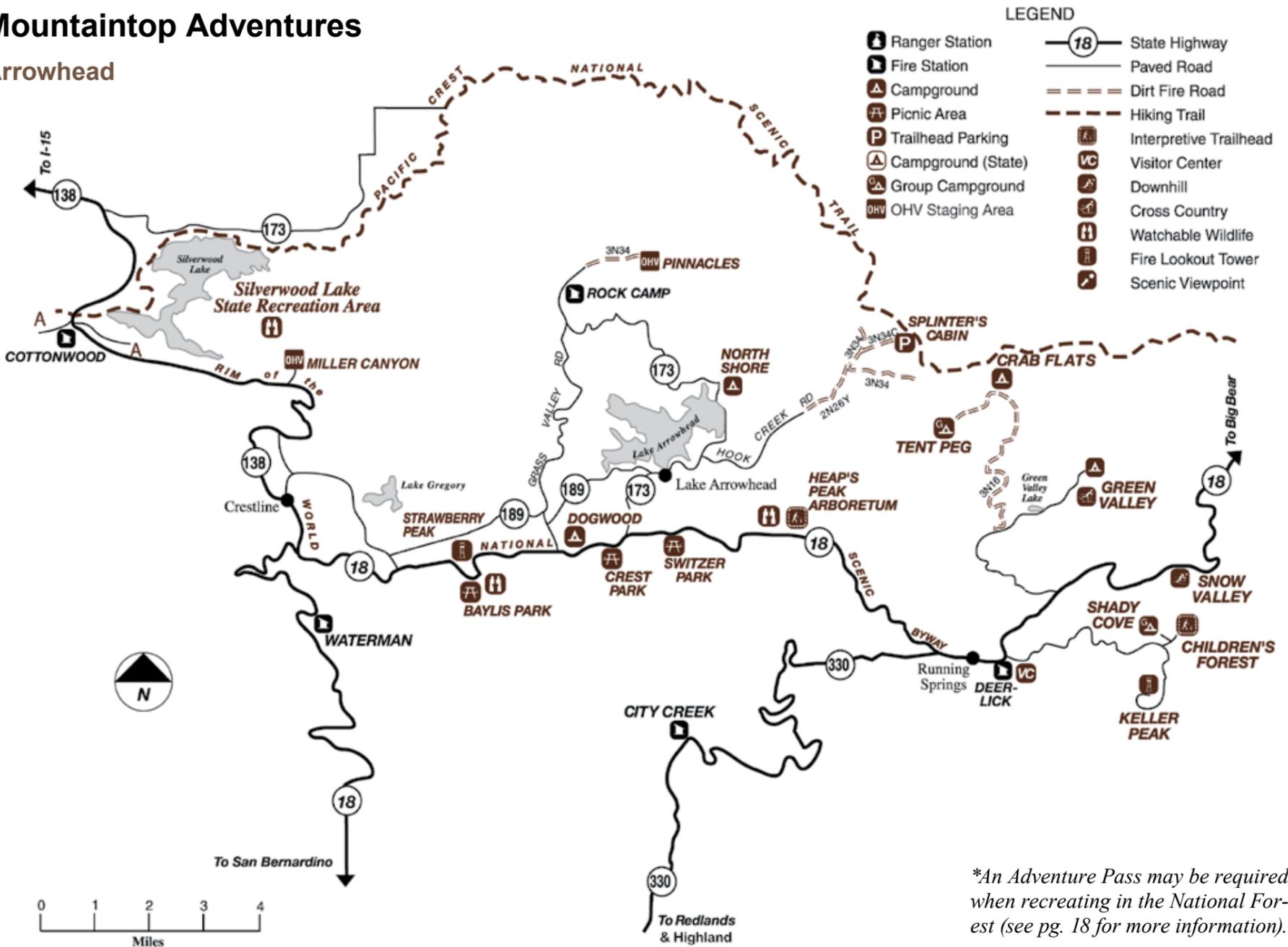
Ponderosa Vista is a short (1/3 mile) trail to a scenic viewpoint overlooking the Santa Ana River Valley. Panels illustrate the wildlife, trees, and history of the area. The trailhead is directly across the highway from the Whispering Pines Trail. Adventure Pass required ONLY during snow play/recreation.

Santa Ana River interpretive panels along the river north of Barton Flats present the plants and animals dependent on the river, including the insects and fish that live in the water. Follow Glass Road out of Barton Flats for 2.5 miles to River Road. Turn right and go .5 mile to a sign. Park at the first large turnout and walk to the river.

Thurman Flats Picnic Area panels highlight the migratory birds that visit this area along Mill Creek. See page 9. Adventure Pass required.

Mountaintop Adventures

Arrowhead



*An Adventure Pass may be required when recreating in the National Forest (see pg. 18 for more information).

Clean air, blue skies, mountain lakes, challenging trails, and beautiful views of the valley below are some of the surprises awaiting visitors to the San Bernardino mountains. During the spring and fall, clouds cover the valley floor, and the mountains are bathed in sunlight. The lush green forest slopes are like islands rising above the sea of civilization.

Most of the mountaintop is public land. The Forest Service is the largest land manager, but there are also state and county parks. Over forty thousand people make their home here, and the resorts of Arrowhead and Big Bear attract thousands of visitors. There are also deer, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, coyotes, bald eagles and hawks. Most of the trout in the streams and lake are planted, but in a few remote areas native trout swim in the cold, fresh creeks.

Maps and guides to mountain bike trails, off-highway vehicle roads, and hiking trails are available at the Big Bear Discovery Center.

ADVENTURE 5

Rim of the World Scenic Byway

This 110-mile route traverses the entire mountain range, from Cajon Pass to San Geronio Pass. You will experience a diverse and remarkable landscape while viewing the highest mountains in Southern California. The highway is part of the National Scenic Byway System, so watch for signs along the way. Interpretive panels at Heaps Peak, Meadow's Edge Picnic Area (Big Bear) and Barton Flats Visitor Center (open Memorial Day through September) depict early inhabitants in the mountains as well as the wildlife you can find today.



Directions: Take Highway 138 East exit from I-15 in Cajon Pass (elevation 2,940 ft.). Follow the highway until it meets Highway 18 just past Crestline. Follow Hwy 18 along the rim of the mountains to Big Bear Lake. Begin following Highway 38 on the north side of the lake, crossing the lake at the east end. The Byway begins climbing with Hwy 38 over Onyx summit (8,443 ft.) and then drops into Barton Flats, a forested flatland above the Santa Ana River. Continue downhill through Mill Creek Canyon to the Forest boundary near Mill Creek Work Center (2,750 ft.). Access to I-10 is nearby via Yucaipa or Redlands.

Distance and time: The round trip from San Bernardino is about 175 miles. Plan to spend all day enjoying the sights. You can access the Byway via Hwys 18 (Waterman Canyon) and 330 (City Creek) for shorter trips.

Seasons: The highways are open all year, but snow can fall almost any month! Be sure to check mountain weather before beginning your trip. Some of the best views are during early mornings in winter. At other times smog in the valleys can obscure the views.

Points of Interest: Silverwood Lake, Heaps Peak Arboretum, Keller Peak Look-Out, Children's Forest, Big Bear Discovery Center, Big Bear Lake, Onyx Summit (with views of the San Geronio Wilderness), views of Santa Ana River Valley, and Mill Creek Canyon.



RIM OF THE WORLD DRIVE—LAKE ARROWHEAD VIEW.

NCB—MARTHA LEJANDRE

Trail Guides

Heaps Peak Arboretum Trail winds through a wooded hillside for about 3/4 mile. A guide is available at the trailhead along Highway 18 near Skyforest. Donations are appreciated for the use of the guide and trail, maintained by volunteers with Rim of the World Interpretive Association. Adventure Pass required.

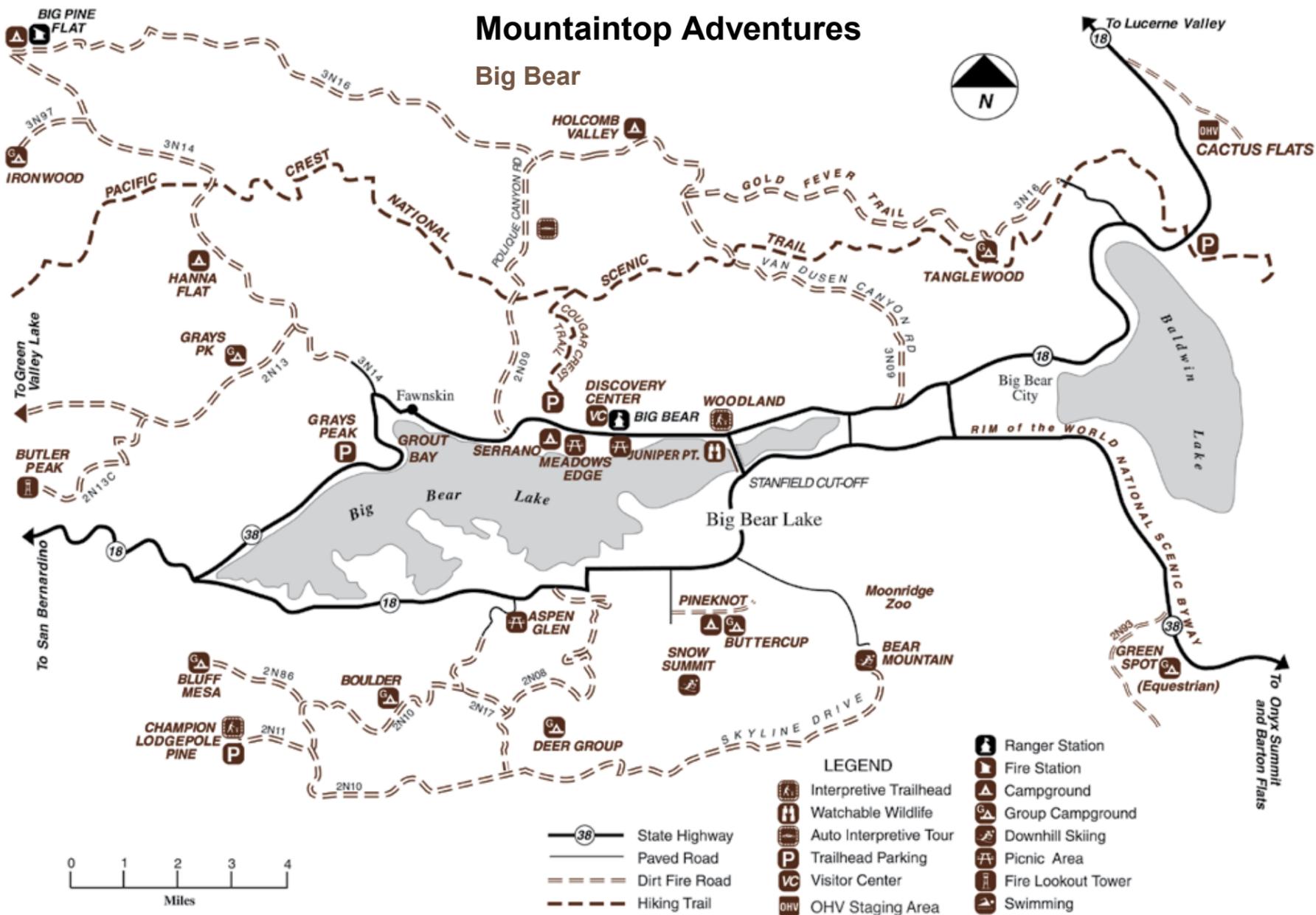
Children's Forest Trail is a 3/4-mile-long trail near Keller Peak Lookout, designed by young volunteers. The trail and activity guide is geared for family use and is available at the trailhead. Youth Naturalists are on site during the summer months to help you learn more about the area. The Children's Forest Visitor Center is .5 mile west of Running Springs, open weekends May through September (see page 8 for more information). Adventure Pass required.

Point of Interest

Heaps Peak Arboretum panels describe the history of the area, including early lumbering. The panels are near the trailhead. Adventure pass required.

Mountaintop Adventures

Big Bear



*An Adventure Pass may be required when recreating in the National Forest (see pg. 18 for more information).

Trail Guides

The **Woodland Trail** is a one and one half mile path through the woods on the north side of Big Bear Lake. The trailhead is a 5-minute drive east of the Discovery Center. A free guide written by volunteers may be picked up at the Big Bear Discovery Center. Adventure Pass required.

The **Baldwin Lake Ecological Reserve** is a 0.6-mile interpretive loop. This is a unique area known to support high concentrations of rare plant species. Trail guides are available at the Big Bear Discovery Center.

The **Champion Lodgepole Pine Trailhead** is south of Big Bear Lake, a scenic 45-minute drive from the Discovery Center (including 30 minutes on unpaved roads). The 1/2 mile trail leads to the largest lodgepole pine in the world!

Point of Interest

Meadow's Edge Picnic Area panels describe the geology of the area, mining, the history of Big Bear resorts, and wildlife on Big Bear Lake. The picnic area is on the north shore of Big Bear Lake near the Discovery Center. Adventure Pass required.

Adventure 6

Gold Fever Trail

Take this scenic auto tour through Holcomb Valley north of Big Bear Lake. Named for an early prospector and miner, this remote valley makes you feel like you're in the old west. (Many Westerns were filmed here!). Site of the biggest gold strike in southern California in 1859, you can still find a few historic buildings and cemeteries. Pick up an auto tour guide at the Discovery Center.

Directions: On Highway 38 between Fawnskin and the Discovery Center, turn north on Forest Road 2N09. This becomes Polique Canyon Road and joins Forest Road 3N16, the Gold Fever Trail. The route continues east and comes out at the north end of Baldwin Lake.

Distance, time and difficulty: The auto tour is 12.3 miles. Plan on 2-4 hours to enjoy all the stops. This unpaved road can be rough.

Seasons: Spring, summer, and fall (check for road conditions during wet seasons).

Points of Interest: Hangman's Tree, Pygmy Cabin, Ross' Grave, stamp mill, views of Baldwin Lake.

Adventure 7

Cougar Crest Hike

For the best views of Big Bear Lake, take this short trail along a ridge of Bertha Peak. The trail climbs gently through pinyon pines, junipers, and scattered Jeffrey pines. After two miles it meets the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). You can continue on the PCT for almost 40 miles through the Big Bear area!

Directions: The Cougar Crest Trailhead is on Highway 38, 2.3 miles east of Fawnskin. Adventure Pass required.



VIEW OF BIG BEAR LAKE

Distance, time and difficulty: Two miles to the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail; 1.5 hours. The trail is moderately strenuous—bring plenty of water!

Season: All year. This south-facing slope is often free of snow in winter.

Points of Interest: Views of Big Bear Lake

Adventure 8

Alpine Pedal Path

For a quick introduction to the lake environment, walk the paved Alpine Pedal Path on the north shore of Big Bear Lake. Stroll through pine trees and open meadows close to the water's edge. This popular path is also open to bike riders, joggers, and rollerbladers.

Directions: Park at Juniper Point or Meadow's Edge Picnic Areas (Adventure Pass required) or Stanfield Cut-off on the north shore of Big Bear Lake.

Distance, time and difficulty: 3.2 miles, 1 to 2 hours, easy, paved path.

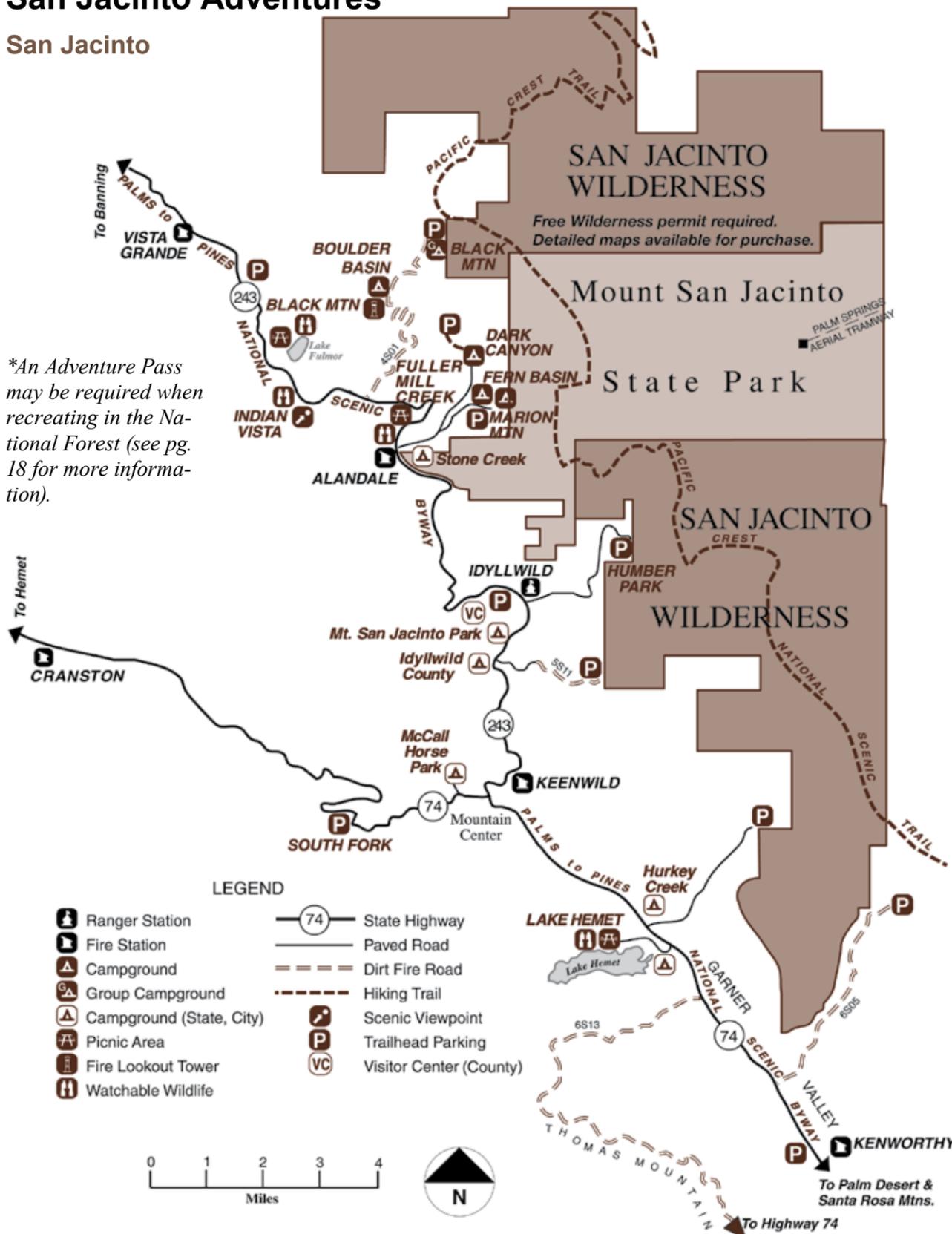
Season: All year, but in winter Juniper Point and Meadow's Edge Picnic Areas are closed to protect eagle roosting areas.

Points of Interest: Wildlife and wildflowers

San Jacinto Adventures

San Jacinto

*An Adventure Pass may be required when recreating in the National Forest (see pg. 18 for more information).



The San Jacinto and Santa Rosa area is best known for its contrast of landscapes. The sub-alpine forest of pine and fir is not far from the barrel cactus and palm trees of the desert. Sightseers have many views of flatlands and rolling hills as well as rockribbed peaks that soar above the tiny village of Idyllwild.

While the San Bernardino Mountains stretch east-west, this mountain range stretches north-south. The San Jacintos are the backdrop to Palm Springs and other desert communities on the north and east, Hemet on the west, and Anza Valley to the south.

A mixture of private, county, state, and federal facilities provide services for visitors throughout the year. Call the Chamber of Commerce (951-659-3259) for lodging information. The County Nature Center (951-659-3850) offers information and exhibits just

north of Idyllwild. The State Park Ranger Station (951-659-2607) issues Wilderness permits.

The Forest Service Ranger Station, in downtown Idyllwild at Pine Crest Avenue and Highway 243 (909-382-2921), sells books and maps and also issues Wilderness permits. The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center (760-862-9984) is on Highway 74 just south of Palm Desert. This Bureau of Land Management facility has exhibits about desert wildlife, history, and a short nature trail.

Adventure 9

Palms to Pines Scenic Drive

Follow this designated National Scenic Byway from Palm Desert to Banning Pass. The 67-mile route travels from desert oasis to snow-peaked mountains. Many roadside pull-offs with interpretive panels illustrate the life of the early inhabitants of the mountains, wildlife, and



BRAD ELLIS

A VIEW OF TAHQUITZ PEAK AND LILY ROCK FROM SUICIDE ROCK

the effect of fire on the mountain landscape.

Directions: Take State Highway 74 south out of Palm Desert (elevation 248 feet). Follow 74 up the desert mountainside, through Garner Valley to Mountain Center. Take State Highway 243 toward Idyllwild (elevation 5,303 ft.). The Scenic Byway continues along the edge of the mountain, through forest and chaparral and then drops to Banning in San Geronio Pass at 2,349 feet.

Distance and Time: From Palm Desert to Banning is 67 miles, but plan on at least 2 hours to enjoy all the sights. A round trip from Palm Desert is about 110 miles and 2 to 3 hours.

Seasons: The highways are open all year, though snow may hamper travel in the winter. Be sure to check mountain weather before beginning your trip.

Points of Interest: Cahuilla Tewanet interpretive site, Garner Valley, Lake Hemet, views of San Jacinto peaks, Idyllwild, County Visitor Center, Lake Fulmor, Indian Vista interpretive panels, views of Banning Pass, the San Andreas Fault, and San Geronio Wilderness.

Adventure 10

Deer Springs Trail to Suicide Rock

This trail provides dramatic views of Strawberry Valley and Lily Rock. After about 2.3 miles the trail forks - the Deer Springs Trail continues north to Mount San Jacinto and the trail to Suicide Rock branches off to the right. The one-mile trail to Suicide Rock crosses Marion Creek at the base of a small waterfall. A free day-use permit is required for hiking in the Wilderness. Stop at the Idyllwild Ranger Station for the permit and trail information. Dogs are not allowed on this trail as much of the trail is in the Mount San Jacinto State Wilderness.

Directions: From the Idyllwild Ranger Station, turn right on Hwy 243 towards Pine Cove. Look for a dirt parking area on your right just after the Idyllwild Nature Center. An Adventure Pass is not required. You can also park in the paved parking lot in front of the gate to the Nature Center (Fee charged).

Distance, Time and Difficulty: It's about 3.3 miles mostly uphill to Suicide Rock. Plan on at least 4 hours for the round trip. If you want a shorter hike turn around at the Suicide Rock cutoff. This moderate hike is a little steeper at the beginning than the Devil's Slide Trail, but levels out before the first mile. The trail gains about 1300 feet to the Suicide Rock junction and gains another 600 feet at the end of the trail (elevation 7528'). Bring plenty of water. Do not drink water from springs and streams in the National Forest.

Seasons: Spring, summer, and fall are the best seasons to hike this trail. You may need crampons or snowshoes during the winter. **Points of Interest:** Views of Strawberry Valley and Lily Rock, a waterfall, creeks, tall pines, cedars, oaks, manzanita, bracken ferns, flowers, birds, and mammals.

San Jacinto Adventures Santa Rosa

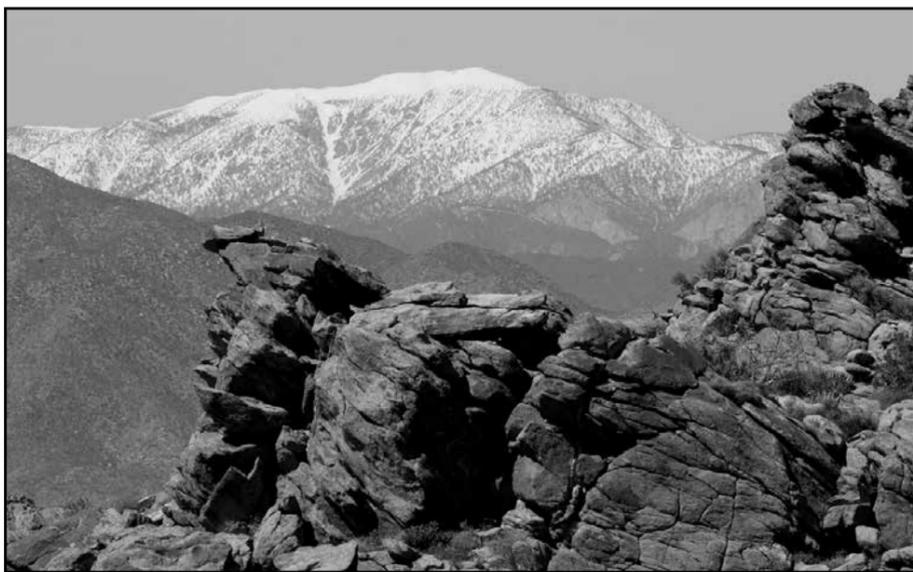


Points of Interest

Indian Vista is a Scenic Viewpoint a few hundred feet from Highway 243, 9.5 miles north of Idyllwild. Interpretive panels explain the role of fire on the landscape.

Alandale Fire Station is a quiet roadside pull-off on Hwy 243 with panels describing the wildlife living in the oak trees.

Cahuilla Tewanet is south of Idyllwild along Hwy 74. At this scenic vista, signs illustrate the culture of local Native Americans. Small signs along a path identify desert plants and how they were used by the Cahuilla.



A VIEW OF MT. SAN GORGONIO FROM SAN JACINTO

Adventure 11

Fishing Fun

Some mountain lakes and streams are stocked regularly. Lake Hemet, south of Idyllwild, is owned and operated by the Lake Hemet Municipal Water District. The water district (951-659-2680) operates a campground and boat launching site, and the Forest Service operates a picnic and fishing area. Lake Fulmor, to the north of Idyllwild, has a fully accessible pier, picnic tables, and toilets. Boats are not permitted.

A state fishing license is required for persons 16 years and older. Call 562-594-7268 for a recording with stocking information (updated weekly).

Directions: Lake Hemet is on Highway 74, 8 miles south of Idyllwild. Lake Fulmor is 10 miles northeast of Idyllwild on Highway 243. Adventure Pass required.

Season: All year, depending on weather and road conditions.

Fish: Lake Hemet is frequently stocked with rainbow trout but also contains channel catfish, black and brown bullheads, green sunfish, bluegill, carp, and largemouth bass. Lake Fulmor has rainbow trout and bluegill.



LAKE FULMOR

Adventure 12

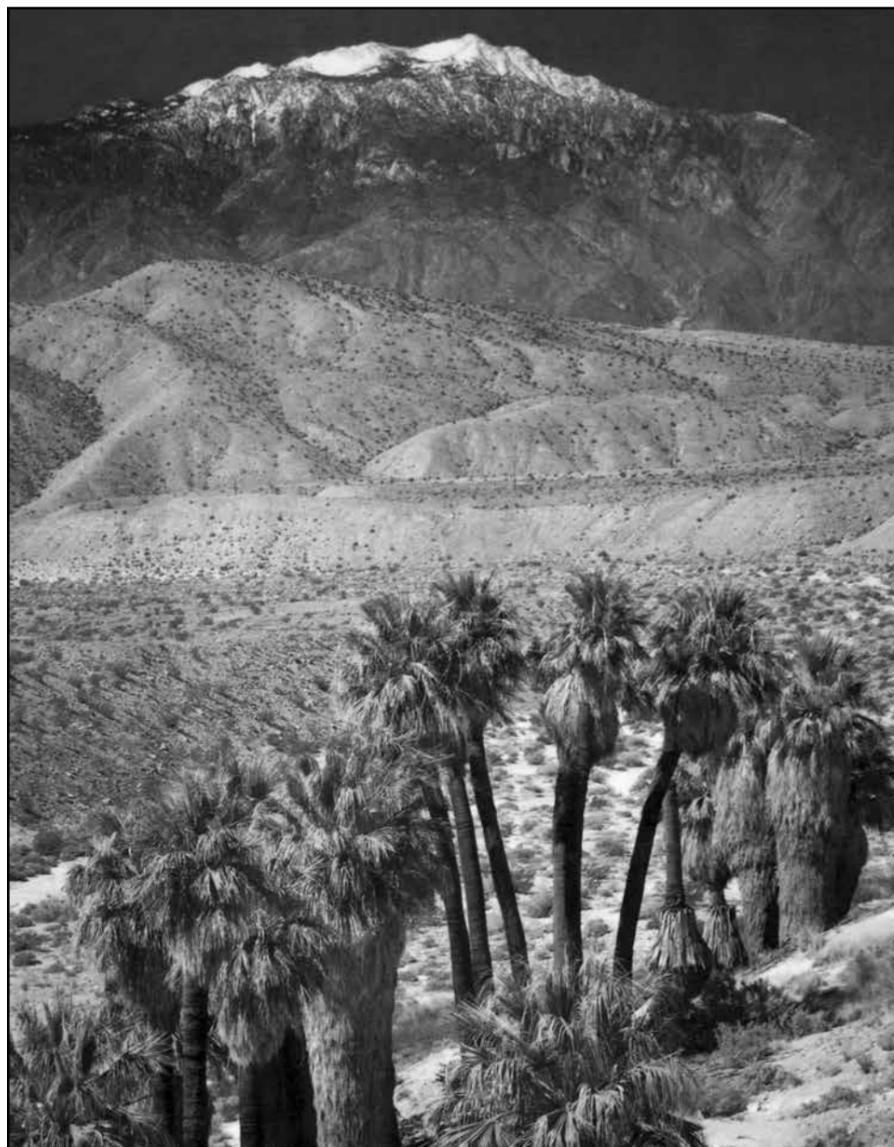
Thomas Mountain Backroad Drive

If you want to get off the main roads, try a drive up Thomas Mountain near Garner Valley. Charles Thomas settled in Garner Valley in the mid-1880s and raised Mexican longhorn cattle and 12 children. He bought his land from the Cahuilla Indians and later sold it to San Bernardino stockman, Robert Garner.

Directions: From Idyllwild, take Highway 243 south to Highway 74. Continue on 74 (toward Palm Desert). Just past Lake Hemet, turn right on the Thomas Mountain Road (Forest Road 6S13). Follow the road for 8 miles to the top. From the Thomas Mountain Campground, climb on foot for 15 minutes to the summit. To return, you can continue southeast on the road downhill. After 10 miles you rejoin Hwy 74.

Distance and Time: Round trip from Idyllwild is about 45 miles, including 18 miles on a dirt road. Expect to take 2 to 3 hours for the drive.

Points of Interest: The dirt road climbs through chaparral and pine forest. The views from the road are spectacular. Below is Lake Hemet, to the east is the San Jacinto Range, and on a clear day you can see Mount Palomar.



PALMS TO PINES

BONNIE ADKINS

Forest Adventure Pass Program



The Adventure Pass Program is now in its 18th year in the Southern California National Forests. In 1996 Congress passed legislation authorizing the Forest Service to charge fees for recreation use. People recreating in Southern California National Forests are required to purchase a pass for many popular sites in the Forest and display it on their vehicle. The pass can be purchased for a day (\$5) or for a year (\$30).

What is an Adventure Pass?

The San Bernardino National Forest is one of four heavily visited forests in southern California that are a part of the Adventure Pass program. All four forests are heavily used, requiring constant up-keep and maintenance to the designated developed sites within their borders. The Adventure Pass is a day-use fee established for use of facilities and services that support heavy visitation. Since these are recreation “use” fees and not fees for “entry” to the national forest, no pass is required for travel through the forest or for ‘incidental’ activities such as stopping to take a photograph, visiting a developed overlook or using a restroom. Individual developed recreation sites (like campgrounds) may require a separate overnight camping fee.

Where is the Adventure Pass required?

The Adventure Pass is required when your vehicle is parked in certain Designated Sites. A list of sites is included below for your convenience. *Adventure Passes are not required for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.*

Where can I buy an Adventure Pass?

Ranger Stations, visitor centers, and many local businesses (vendors) sell passes. You may search for a vendor near you and also buy passes online at the Adventure Pass website:

www.fs.usda.gov/adventurepass



Scan this QR code with your mobile device to visit www.fs.usda.gov/adventurepass

Fee Sites

Lytle Creek Standard Amenity Area, Applewhite Picnic Area, Big Falls Trailhead (TH), Aspen Glen Picnic, Baylis Park Picnic, Children’s Forest Trailhead, Falls Picnic, Crest Park Picnic, Vivian TH, Heaps Peak Arboretum, Momyer TH, Miller Canyon OHV Staging Area, Cactus Flats OHV Staging, Pinnacles OHV Staging, Cougar Crest TH, Lake Fulmor Picnic, Gray’s Peak TH, Switzer Park Picnic, Grout Bay Picnic, South Fork TH, Juniper Point Picnic, Fuller Mill Creek Picnic, Meadows Edge Picnic, Woodland TH, Splinters Cabin TH/Picnic, recreational target shooting Special Recreation Permit (SRP) locations (Arrastre, Big Pine Flat, 1N09, and Lightning Gulch), and winter recreation SRP locations (Aspen Glen, Rim, Snow Valley, and Barton Flats).



ADVENTURE PASS FUNDS ARE USED TO REPAIR AND MAINTAIN MANY TRAILS THROUGHOUT THE SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST (DIAMONDBACK CREW)

Interagency Passes

The Interagency Recreation Pass Program is comprised of five distinct passes: the Interagency Annual, Senior, Access, Military, and Volunteer. The Golden Age and Access passes never expire and do not need to be exchanged.

These passes are honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service sites charging entrance or standard amenity fees (Adventure Passes, etc).



Interagency Annual Pass is valid for one year from date of issue for entrance or standard amenity fees (such as the Adventure Pass). No other discounts are provided. Cost \$80

Interagency Senior Pass is a lifetime pass available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are 62 years of age or older. In addition to the benefits provided by the Interagency Annual Pass, the Interagency Senior Pass holders may receive up to a 50% fee discount at campgrounds, highly developed boat launches and swimming sites and for specialized interpretive services. Cost \$10

Interagency Access Pass is a lifetime pass available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have a medical determination and documentation of blindness or permanent disability. This pass provides the same benefits as the Interagency Senior Pass. This is a free pass.

Interagency Military Pass provides the same benefits as the Interagency Annual Pass. This pass is free to active military personnel and dependents with proper identification - for more information, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/military.shtml>

Interagency Volunteer Pass provides the same benefits as the Interagency Annual Pass. The pass is free for volunteers who log in 250 volunteer hours. This pass is available through agency volunteer program coordinators (see last page) who track and record hours.

How Do I Pay a Notice of Required Fee (NRF)?

There are 3 options to remedy your \$5.00 fee

- 1) Visit our website: www.fs.usda.gov/adventurepass
- 2) Mail your NRF with a check or money order in the envelope provided
- 3) Pay by phone with a credit card by calling 909-382-2622

Adventure Pass Free Days!

- January 20, 2014** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 15-17, 2014** President’s Day Weekend
- Saturday, June 14, 2014** National Get Outdoors Day
- Saturday, September 27, 2014** National Public Lands Day
- November 8-11, 2014** Veterans Day Weekend

What's Been Accomplished

Making improvements for Forest visitors is the reason for the Forest Recreation Fee Program. The San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland and Los Padres National Forests have worked hard to provide the services that visitors have said they want most; cleaner restrooms and more frequent trash removal, better maintained trails, more information, better protection of the environment, and less crowded places to recreate.



ABOVE: INCREASED VISITOR SERVICES



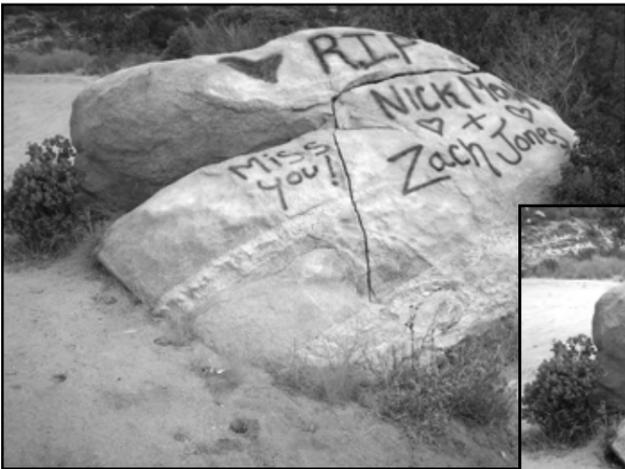
ABOVE: EVERYBODY APPRECIATES A CLEAN RESTROOM! ADVENTURE PASS FUNDS HAVE ALLOWED FOR MORE FREQUENT CLEANING.



LEFT: ADVENTURE PASS PROVIDED FUNDING FOR A PARTNERSHIP WITH SAN BERNARDINO CO. SCHOOLS (DIAMONDBACK CREW SHOWN HERE) AND THE SAN BERNARDINO CO. YOUTH PROBATION DEPARTMENT.



ABOVE: PAINTING



ABOVE AND RIGHT: BEFORE AND AFTER GRAFFITI CLEANUP



RIGHT: DIAMONDBACK CREW HELPS CLEAN CAMP SITE



ABOVE: REPAIRING A PICNIC TABLE



ABOVE AND RIGHT: BEFORE AND AFTER TRASH CLEANUP



ABOVE: REMOVING TIRES DUMPED IN THE FOREST

Volunteer Program

Part of the Forest Service mission is to “Inspire and engage volunteers and service participants to conserve our nation’s natural and cultural resources and ensure the sustainability of the public lands legacy”. With this in mind, each year volunteers contribute several million hours of service on national forests throughout the U.S. Here on the San Bernardino National Forest volunteers make significant contributions every year in nearly every program area.

Volunteering in a National Forest can be a rewarding and educational experience. Individuals with and without professional skills are equally welcome since many tasks may be acquired via on-the-job training. Many volunteers work fulltime for a short period of time, while others donate a few hours a day each week or for a special event. Volunteers help build and repair trails, work at visitor centers, present environmental educational programs, preserve archaeological sites, patrol Wilderness areas and assist Forest staff with surveys. Office jobs include desktop publishing, public affairs, and administration. Make a difference on the San Bernardino National Forest by joining one of the existing organizations or volunteering on your own. For more information, regarding volunteer opportunities, please contact the Forest Volunteer Coordinator, at the Supervisor's Office. Thank you for your commitment to help protect and restore your public lands!

Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps

Tom Walsh, Executive Director
P.O. Box 1102
Azusa, CA 91702
562-596-9261
www.frvc.org
Established in 1994 to monitor and patrol wild trout streams in the Angeles and San Bernardino Forests.

Greenthumbs Volunteer Program

P.O. Box 290
Fawnskin, CA 92333
Juli Goss 909-382-2826
Volunteers will learn seed collection, germination, native plant propagation, noxious weed removal and out-planting on the forest.

Heritage Stewardship Program

Gina Griffith 909-382-2661
Travis Mason 909-382-2716
Help find, study, preserve or promote archaeology sites and historical buildings.

San Gorgonio Wilderness Association

c/o Mill Creek Work Center
Val Silva, Volunteer Coordinator
909-382-2906 • www.sgwa.org
sgwa@earthlink.net
Alfredo Zarate, FS Liaison
Provide information to visitors, support the wilderness permit program, lead nature walks, present programs, construct displays, patrol the San Gorgonio Wilderness, and operate the Barton Flats Visitor Center and Big Falls Information Center.

Forest Service Volunteer Association

P.O. Box 394
Idyllwild, CA 92549
Bob Romano, Volunteer Coordinator
www.FSVA.org
Patrol the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Wildernesses and San Jacinto RD trails, and provide visitor information at the Idyllwild Forest Service office.

Lytle Creek Forest Volunteer Association

c/o Lytle Creek Ranger Station
Jennifer Jenkins, FS Liaison
909-382-2763
Provide information to the public, Adventure Pass enforcement, repair and maintain trails, pick up litter, and monitor resources.

Rim of the World Interpretive Association

P.O. Box 1958
Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352
Gloria Anderson, President
909-338-4163
www.heapspeakarboretum.com
Maintain and staff the Heap's Peak Arboretum and operate a retail outlet. Present interpretive events and tours.

Forest Service Adopt-A-Trail

Greg Hoffman • 909-382-2811
c/o San Bernardino NF Supervisor's Office
www.sbnf-adopt-a-trail.com
Maintain backcountry Four Wheel Drive roads, Off Highway Vehicle trails, Off Highway Vehicle Staging Areas and Trailheads.

Pacific Crest Trail Association

5325 Elkhorn Blvd., PMB #256
Sacramento, CA 95842
www.pcta.org
916-349-2109, info@pcta.org
Anitra Kass, PCTA Regional Rep.
909-492-9836
Work on the 2,600-mile-long Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) both as trail adopters and through regularly scheduled weekend projects (1-4 days) and service trips (5-10 days).

Mountaintop Recreation Volunteers

c/o Big Bear Ranger Station
Bob Poole, FS Liaison
909-382-2768
Volunteers provide information to the public, repair and maintain recreation facilities and trails, provide site restoration and resource monitoring.

Friends of the Desert Mountains

P.O. Box 1281
Palm Desert, CA 92261
760-568-9918
www.friendsofthedesertmountains.org
James Foote, BLM Liaison
(760) 833-7136
Volunteers provide many services including community outreach and educational programs, visitor services, scientific research, and cultural preservation.

Big Bear Valley Trails Foundation

P.O. Box 4008
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315
www.bigbearvalleytrailsfoundation.org
Organize, sponsor and supervise trail maintenance and building days on Big Bear area trails.

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Southern California Mountains Foundation

Formerly known as the “San Bernardino National Forest Association”
602 South Tippecanoe Ave
San Bernardino, CA 92408
Sarah Miggins, Executive Director
909-382-2796
www.mountainsfoundation.org

Children's Forest Volunteers

Meredith Brandon, Youth & Interpretive Services Manager 909-382-2842
Youths from 11 to 17 serve as naturalists and assist with interpretive programs, forest restoration, and greenhouse work. Adults assist visitors and mentor youth volunteers.

Discovery Center Volunteers

Wendy Craig, Volunteer Coordinator
909-382-2843

Greet visitors at the Big Bear Discovery Center, provide information, present interpretive programs, use skills to educate visitors on forest stewardship, and enjoy the outdoors while giving back to the community. Required training offered year round.

Fire Lookout Hosts

George Morey, Coordinator
909-225-1025
Kelli Haggerty, FS Liaison
909-382-2747
Volunteers watch for fire and provide interpretation and visitor information at lookout towers on Butler Peak, Keller Peak, Strawberry Peak, Black Mountain, Tahquitz Peak, Morton Peak, and Red Mountain.

Off-Highway Vehicle Volunteers

Rick Lavello, Program Director
909-382-2600 ext. 4007
Greg Hoffman, FS Liaison
909-382-2811
Ride the roads and trails, provide visitors with safety messages, maintain roads and trails, and monitor resource conditions.

The Forest Explorer

Pam Morey, Program Coordinator
909-261-2767
The Forest Explorer is a rolling forest field trip that comes to your event or school. Specially outfitted with interactive exhibits and activities for all ages, experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the forest while guided by interpretive specialists that covers the basics of forest ecosystem.

For more information, please visit the
San Bernardino National Forest Website
www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to visit
www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf

