WELCOME TO BIG SANTA ANITA CANYON!

There is much to see and do in this unique portion of the Angeles National Forest!

The best way to explore this beautiful canyon is on foot, horseback or bicycle. Over forty miles of trails wind through the area, with many leading to bubbling brooks, spectacular views, and places of quiet solitude. Wildlife is abundant, and it is not uncommon to see animals along the trails.

Sturtevant Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in the forest (55 feet), is a popular 1-3/4 mile hike in Big Santa Anita Canyon. Start at Chantry Flat and descend into the canyon via the Gabrielino Trail. Watch your step, as people who have strayed from the trails have been severely injured by falling! Do not climb the steep rock sides!

Mt. Wilson Skyline Park offers a spectacular view across the Los Angeles Basin to the Pacific Ocean, and is a great place for a picnic. The road to Mt. Wilson turns off Highway 2 at Red Box. Not only is one of the world’s largest telescopes located at Mt. Wilson, but millions receive radio and television broadcasts beamed from transmission towers located there.

Chanter Flat and Cascade Picnic Areas (upstream from Sturtevant Falls) also offer beautiful picnic sites. Although quiet on weekdays, weekends get busy. Parking is allowed on the road as long as visitors are not over the white line or blocking traffic.

Hoegee’s and Spruce Grove Trail Camps offer a chance to camp in quiet, remote settings. These campgrounds are not accessible by car. Sites provide stoves, tables and restrooms, but no piped water. Open wood fires and barbecues are not permitted outside.

developed forest service campgrounds and picnic areas. Only portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel may be used outside developed sites, and a California Campfire permit is required for their use. Fire restrictions may be imposed during high fire danger. Free Campfire Permits and current fire restriction information may be obtained at any Forest Service office.

Campfire permits are not required at developed drive-in Forest Service campgrounds or picnic areas. Visitors may use the stoves, fire pits and campfire circles provided by the Forest Service, or their own barbecues, liquid or gas fuel portable stoves, as long as proper 5-foot clearance is maintained. Visitor built “rock ring” campfires are not allowed.

To report a fire or other emergency, phones are available at Mt. Wilson - dial 911. In Big Santa Anita Canyon, emergency phones are not available at Chantry Flat.

Vehicles parked on the forest while visitors are engaged in recreation activities are required to display a National Forest Adventure Pass or an Interagency Pass, available at many locations - call a Forest Service office for information on where you may purchase your Pass.

For further information contact:

Angeles National Forest
Los Angeles River Ranger District
12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon Road
San Fernando, CA 91342
(818) 899-1900 Mon-Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated. Treat water from springs, lakes, ponds and streams before drinking. One recommended method of treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for 5 minutes.