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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

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
P.O. Box 69
1209 Lytle Creek Road
Lytle Creek, CA 92358
(909) 382-2921

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 National 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 San Bernardino 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 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 big horn 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.
¡Bienvenidos! El 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 cuidie.

¿Qué es un Pase de Aventura?
El Pase de Aventura es diferente de un pago de entrada, comúnmente 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 un. 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 parquén 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 chaqueta (chumpa), guantes, una gorra y calzado para el público. Las personas bilingües son de valor especial en las áreas en su forma silvestre y libres de obstáculos.

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.

El Tiro al Blanco

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 “Children’s Forest Trail” (página 12) es un sendero de 3/4 de milla con una guía dibujada 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 área. ¡Este es un lugar magnífico para llevar a los niños!

La Pesca
El Departamento de Pesca y Caza del Estado de California (DFG) maneja 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 562-954-7268. 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 están suplidas con trucha de arco iris durante la época de pesca. También pueden encontrarse trucha china, lombriz, pez de agallas azules, y pez gato.

Día de Campo
Las áreas para día de campo generalmente tienen mesas, estufas o braseros, y escamas 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.

¿Dónde se requiere el Pase de Aventura?
El Pase de Aventura es necesario para el tiro al blanco durante ciertas épocas. También pueden encontrarse trucha china, lombriz, pez de agallas azules, y pez gato.
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

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.

Undeveloped Camping

Undeveloped camping is camping outside of a developed site. Undeveloped camping provides more solitude and an opportunity to "rough it." Camping is found in many Remote Areas (Dispersed) and at Yellow Post Sites.

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.

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.

Family Campgrounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amenities</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Daily Site Fee</th>
</tr>
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<td>Applewhitie</td>
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<td>Crab Flats</td>
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<td>Big Bear (p. 15)</td>
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<td>San Gorgonio (p. 13)</td>
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<td>San Jacinto (p. 16)</td>
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<td>4000'</td>
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| Group Campgrounds

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<th>No. People</th>
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<td>Fisherman*</td>
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<td>Shady Cove</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Tent Peg</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$120-130</td>
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<td>Big Bear (p. 15)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Pine Flat Eq</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$100-110</td>
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<td>Bluff Mesa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
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<td>Deer</td>
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<td>Oso</td>
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<td>Skyline</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>San Jacinto (p. 16)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Mountain</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$60-120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ribbonwd Eq.*</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$120/200</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Visiting Fire Lookouts

Lookouts are open to the public 9 am–5 pm daily from Memorial Day to mid-November. Follow the signs to the lookout. 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!

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 FR 6S22 for 9 miles to the lookout.

**Elevation:** 4,563 feet.

**Views:** Mount Palomar and Mt. San Diego to the south, 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 Humper Park in Idyllwild (from the ranger station) follow Pine Crest Ave. and turn on Fern Valley Road, follow to Humper Park. Take the Devil’s Slide Trail to Saddle Junction, then the far right trail marked Tahquitz Peak to Chimquapain 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 3N13. The road changes to dirt and a high clearance vehicle is recommended. Turn left on 3N13 and follow until junction with 3N13C, 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: wildfire prevention patrols. 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 provided with skiers and snowboarders 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 dyberg4fsc@earthlink.net 909-867-5833 www.wildfirevolunteers.com

Personal Fuelwood Permit

Personal fuelwood permits allow you to cut firewood on National Forest land for your household. With a 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 to 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 more a 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.

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.

Prescribing fire helps plants and animal habitats become more productive and open. Trees have more mature leaves 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.

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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 areas.
- A California Campfire Permit is required for stoves outside of developed campgrounds and picnic areas.
- 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 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) – 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.
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 in 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.

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.

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.

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

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 current 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. 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 Bernardinos*, by Robert Shipley.

**Horseback Riding**

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

**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 chain up. Always carry extra clothing such as jackets, gloves, warm hats, and dry socks in the car for sudden weather changes. It even 4-wheel drives, to chain up. Always carry extra clothing such as jackets, gloves, warm hats, and dry socks in the car for sudden weather changes.

**Leave No Trace Ethics**

- Pack out all your trash.
- Do not tie horses to trees except while packing or unloading.
- Tie horses away from camps, water, and trails.
- Scatter or bury all manure that accumulates in the tetherging 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.

**Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing**

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. Call CalTrans at 1-800-427-7623 or visit their website www.dot.ca.gov for road 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 stops 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).

**San Bernardino National Forest**

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 Idylwild Ranger Station (see map, page 16) is a good source of hiking information, the Idylwild Nature Center offers natural and cultural history exhibits, and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountain 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.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cajon (p. 10)</td>
<td>Applewhite*</td>
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<td>Arrowhead (p. 12)</td>
<td>Baylis Park*</td>
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<td>Crest Park*</td>
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<td>Big Bear (p. 13)</td>
<td>Aspen Glen*</td>
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<td>Meadow’s Edge</td>
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<td>San Gorgonio (p. 11)</td>
<td>Falls</td>
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<td>Jenkins Lake*</td>
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<td>Thurman Flats*</td>
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<td>San Jacinto (p. 14)</td>
<td>Fuller Mill Creek*</td>
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<td>Lake Fulmor*</td>
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<td>Lake Hemet*</td>
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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 untrammeled 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.

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 ¼-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
Phone
909-867-5996 Weekends

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 it 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 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.
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- If attacked, fight back. If a bear attacks a person, immediately call 911.

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, swifts, and ravens. In the chaparral look for coast horned lizards, California thrashers, and western king birds.

Mountaintop View

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.

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 38 is Lake Hemet. The picnic area is the best place to watch 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.

Wildlife Watch

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.

San Bernardino National Forest

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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).

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.

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.

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.

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.
ADVENTURES

Front Country Adventures
San Gorgonio

**Ranger Station**
Fire Station
Group Campground
Picnic Area
Fire Lookout

**ADVENTURES**
**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.

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.

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

**Trail Guides**
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**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.

San Bernardino National Forest
www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf
2014-2015 Visitor Guide
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 Gorgonio 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 Gorgonio Wilderness), views of Santa Ana River Valley, and Mill Creek Canyon.

**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**

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

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

**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.

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**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.

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**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.

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

San Jacinto

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.

Hemet on the west, and Anza Valley to the south. The San Andreas Fault, 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 Gorgonio 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 Gorgonio 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 Devils 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.
ADVENTURES

San Jacinto Adventures

Santa Rosa

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.

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.

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.
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

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, Monymyer 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, Groton 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, INO, and Lightening Gulch), and winter recreation SRP locations (Aspen Glen, Rim, Snow Valley, and Barton Flats).

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

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.

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.
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
562-396-9261
www.fs.fed.us
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 outplanting 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.sgw.org
sgw@earthlink.net
Alfredo Zarate, FS Liaison
Provide NFS 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 158
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
Bob Hoffmann • 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.

Southern California Mountains Foundation
Formerly known as the “San Bernardino National Forest Association”
602 South Tippecanneo 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 green house work. Adults assist visitors and mentor youth volunteers.

Discovery Center Volunteers
Wendy Craig, Volunteer Coordinator
909-382-2843
Great 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 Morley, 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.

Fawnskin, CA 92333
P.O. Box 290

Fire Lookout Hosts
George Morley, Coordinator
909-225-1025
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For more information, please visit the San Bernardino National Forest Website
www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf

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