Fire Prescription: Just What the Forest Ordered

With the catastrophic 2007 and 2016 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 intentionally set, or a “prescribed” fire that could prevent larger fires. Forest Service fire managers have been using prescribed fires as a tool for creating and maintaining areas of resiliency on our national forests since the early 1970’s. Prescription fire can be designed to mimic natural fire effects on the landscape, objectives typically include reducing forest canopy density and seedling competition, and pushing back encroachment from meadows in the backcountry. Fire modeling and historical weather data is used to identify conditions where fire behavior will be low to moderate, utilizing natural and man-made barriers to limit fire growth and spread potential.

The summer of 2016 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 firefighting has become so effective since the beginning of the 20th century. Wildlife disasters in the 19th and 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.

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.

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 scientific way to manage fire has been developed and is presently being applied to the wild lands 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 nutrients and sunlight, and thus grow more resistant to disease, insects and even to more intense fire. Some plant species even require fire to produce new growth; without fire, they would not reproduce.

Still Counting on You

Like doctors, prescriptions for fire should only be made with 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 (OHV’s), portable generators, and other similar engines.

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 Bernardo! Con su gran variedad de plantas y animales, el bosque 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.

¿Cuál 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 una forma de adquirir un permiso para acampar, u otras actividades recreativas, y uno de las mejores maneras de cuidar y disfrutar de los recursos naturales.

¿Dónde se requiere el Pase de Aventura?

El Pase de Aventura se requiere cuando el vehículo está parqueado en Áreas de Alto Impacto Recreativo (HIRAs) y algunos sitios designados. Lleve la caja de guardabosques o paseo para comprar un pase y exhiébase en su vehículo, usted puede recibir una multa de $100.

La Pesca

El Departamento de Pesca y Caza del Estado de California (DGF) mantiene los lagos y arroyos de pesca. Se requiere una licencia estatal para las personas de 16 años de edad en adelante. Para conseguir una guía acerca del uso del pescado llame a 562-946-7268.

El Tiro al Blanco

El pase de campo está diseñado para el uso recreativo. No se puede descargar un arma de fuego a menos que se haya hecho el pago de entrada. El Pase de Aventura es necesario para el uso del pantalón del bosque. Balas con núcleos de plomo, balas para perforación de armaduras, o munición para pistolas son permitidas. Películas de aire a presión y pistolas de bolas de pintura no se permiten ser descargadas en el bosque. El pase de campo se encuentra cerrado para el tiro al blanco durante los periodos de alta riesgo de incendios.

La Pesca

La Pesca es un recurso natural y debe ser cuidado y protegido. Los angleres y visitantes de los bosques deben adherirse a las reglas y regulaciones para asegurar que el bosque siga siendo un lugar de pesca seguro y divertido para todos.

El bosque está diseñado para el uso recreativo. Los visitantes y en otras áreas públicas deben ser conscientes de las leyes y regulaciones que rigen el uso del bosque. Asegúrese de seguir todas las reglas para garantizar que el bosque siga siendo un lugar de pesca seguro y divertido para todos.

El Pase de Aventura es necesario para el uso del pantalón del bosque. Balas con núcleos de plomo, balas para perforación de armaduras, o munición para pistolas son permitidas. Películas de aire a presión y pistolas de bolas de pintura no se permiten ser descargadas en el bosque. El pase de campo se encuentra cerrado para el tiro al blanco durante los periodos de alta riesgo de incendios.
San Jacinto Ranger District
Peaks, Valleys and Vistas!
The San Jacinto Mountains rise from the desert floor to form a sky island range. San Jacinto Peak is among the highest peaks in Southern California (10,834). The Palms to Pines Scenic Highway runs through the San Jacinto Ranger District beginning in Palm Desert, winding to Idyllwild and eventually heading north to Interstate 10. The San Jacinto Ranger District, in the town of Idyllwild, has a Visitor Information Center to provide visitors information on hiking, camping, fishing and other outdoor and local activities. Necessary hiking permits and Fee Area Passes are available here. The Forest Service Volunteer Association has a bookstore which sells Smokey Bear collectibles, t-shirts, maps and guide books.

Visitor Center Hours
Closed Wednesdays & Thursdays
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed lunch 12:00 - 1:00 daily
Phone 909-382-2921
Fax 951-659-2107

Front Country Ranger District
A Chaparral Neighborhood
Although much of the county’s plant life consists of the chaparral it is a very diverse and unique ecosystem. California’s species-rich flora and fauna are dependent on our chaparral ecosystems. The Big Bear Discovery Center is home to the “American Serpentarium”, a rotating display of the world’s most venomous snakes.

Visitor Center Hours
Closed Wednesdays & Thursdays
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Closed lunch 12:00 - 1:00 daily
Phone 909-382-2851
Fax 909-887-8197

Mill Creek Work Center
The Forest Oasis
This 121-acre oasis of shade and recreation is located on the junction of Mill Creek and California 179, 4 miles north of Big Bear City. It is a great stop for families to enjoy and learn, and guided night hikes leaving from Serrano Campground.

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 county. This 34-mile interpretive Trail at the top of Keller Peak Road can still be hiked today. There is also the 4.5-mile Explosion 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 exhibits in the visitor center. Youth leaders are available to answer questions and lead interpretive programs. Group events, such as school scout programs are available year-round.

Visitor Center Hours
Closed Wednesdays & Thursdays
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Closed lunch 12:00 - 1:00 daily
Phone 909-382-2882
Fax 909-794-1125

Dramatic changes in the air and water quality of the Bear Fire area have been reversed. The area is also a haven for wildlife, including mountain lions, bobcats, bears and several species of birds. Several acres of the Children’s Forest are set aside for wildlife research.

- **Children’s Forest Visitor Center**
  - Location: North shore of Big Bear Lake, 3 miles east of Fawnskin

- **Mill Creek Work Center**
  - Location: 1290 Mill Creek Rd, Lakeview, CA 92358

- **San Jacinto Ranger District**
  - Location: 54720 Pine Crest Ave, Idyllwild, CA 92549

- **Front Country Ranger District**
  - Location: 1209 Lytle Creek Rd, Lytle Creek, CA 92358

- **Children’s Forest Visitor Center**
  - Location: 54720 Pine Crest Ave, Idyllwild, CA 92549

- **Big Bear Discovery Center**
  - Location: 54720 Pine Crest Ave, Idyllwild, CA 92549

**Developed Camping**
- Developed camping has various services and facilities. Most campgrounds are open in May and close in October or November. Closed areas 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 camping conditions.

**Making a Reservation**
Call toll-free: 1 (877) 444-6777
Reserve on the web:
www.recreation.gov
**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 or man-made 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, bows and arrows, guns, and paint ball guns are allowed to be discharged only within designated shooting areas and target ranges. Shooters should call the closest ranger station for information on the fire safety level for that area and day. The Forest may be closed to all target shooting during periods of high fire hazard. See Project Activity Levels (PALS) before arriving by calling 909-582-2997.

For more information on firearms regulations, please visit the California Department of Justice Bureau of Firearms website.ang.us.gov/firearms

**Off-Highway Vehicles**

The Forest's off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail system features many miles of varied terrain for OHV's, drive vehicles, ATVs, and motorcycles. The Forest has 52 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 64 routes. The trail system includes terrain suitable for novice, intermediates, 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 OHV and Sticker regulations and licensing requirements, please visit this website: www.off.parks.ca.gov

Red Sticker vehicles may only be used from October 1 to April 30 on the Front Country and Mountain Loop 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 Pinoncitos (Lake Arrowhead), Baldy Mesa and Summit (Cajon) and at the entrance to Blue Canyon. Check out Big Pine Flat and Crab Flat 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/gto/sanbernardino/ohv

**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 5-50 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 drive, to chain up. 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 popular winter activities, but finding legal parking areas can be difficult. Be sure not to park in private driveways, block gates or snow plow operations. An Adventure Pass is required. See links to specific areas in the following beloved locations are closed to all human entry from 12/1 to 4/1 each year due to Bad Eagle holiday. Do not drive or snowplay in these areas. Pull off your part and clean up all picnic waste, broken sleds and other garbage.

Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding Areas are centered around Arrowhead and Big Bear. Extensive snow-making equipment allows Snow Summit (844-462-2372), Big Bear Mountain (909-866- 2519), and Snow Valley Ski Resort (909-867-2751) to operate even in the driest winters. These areas open as early as November and stay open as late as April. Call ahead for snow conditions. Snow Summit and Big Bear Mountain keep the number of skiers and snowboarders on some busy days, but offer a reservation service at 909-866-3841 and www.bigbearmountainsresorts.com.

**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 other animals.
- Scatter or bury all manure that accumulates in the tarrying area.
- Use certified Weed-Seed-Free feed at least 2 days before your trip.
- Do not build fires in lakes or streams.
- Do not cut switchbacks.

**Why Weed-Seed-Free?**

Hay and feed can contain seeds of invasive plants. Use “ Weed-Seed-Free” feed at least 2 days before your trip. Please obey all signs and respect all closures. The Forest does not have “open areas” for hilly-camping or cross-country travel, or motocross tracks for racing. Make sure you have a U.S. Forest Service-approved spark arrester on your motorized vehicle and meet licensing requirements. Explore 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. Explore 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. Explore 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. Explore 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. Explore 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.
The return to the wilderness was not, however, devoid of new technology. The Rim of the World Drive commenting on upcoming projects or suggesting new ones, we are writing new chapters in this story.

The Youth Build the Forest

During the Great Depression-era, high-school aged kids came to work in the San Bernardino National Forest as part of one of the most successful New Deal Conservation programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC youth built roads to facilitate fire fighting, outfitted fire lookout towers, and carried out other conservation tasks. They also built camps and improvements to allow visitors to enjoy the managed forests.

Visiting Fire Lookouts

Lookouts are open to the public daily, subject to staffing, 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.

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.

Butter Peak

Directions: On the North Shore of Diamond Lake, take Butter Peak Road to the north. Turn left onto Butter Peak Road, go 3.5 miles to Fawnskin. Watch for signs following FR 3N14 to the junction with FR 213 near the summit of Butter Peak. Follow FR 213 to the lookout.

Elevation: 8,535 feet

Views: Big Bear Lake to the east, Barstow to the north, San Gorgonio to the north, San Jacinto to the east, and San Gorgonio Wilderness.
The forest belongs to YOU!
Cajon Adventures

Adventure 1
Cucamonga Wilderness Hike
With trails reaching elevations of nearly 9,000 feet, the Cucamonga Wilderness offers hikers rugged vistas of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Eighteen miles of trails traverse this subalpine wilderness that features diverse habitats from chaparral to lush riparian to 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, bears, mountain lions 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 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 2 passenger trains run through the pass daily.

Trailhead: Pacific Crest Trail entry point, Wagon Train Road (From I-15 take 138/Silver Lake east, first right, .6 miles to trailhead).
Difficulty: Easy
Permits: Adventure Pass required
Points of interest: Chaparral, oaks, view of Mormon Rocks formation, wooden treestile from historic Santa Fe Railway. Turn-around point at 5.14 miles is Swarthout Canyon Road.

ADVENTURE 2

TRAIL GUIDES

Mormon Rocks Nature Trail (Interpretive)
Mormon Rocks Nature Trail is a 1-mile loop with views of cemented sandstone rock formations, as well as views in the Cajon Pass. Trail guide available at trailhead or Lytle Creek Ranger Station.
Difficulty: Easy
Permits: Free Wilderness permit required.
Points of interest: Waterfall, bighorn sheep, bears, mountain lions and wildflowers.

TRAIL GUIDES

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Difficulty: Easy
Permits: Free Wilderness permit required.
Points of interest: Waterfall, bighorn sheep, bears, mountain lions and wildflowers.

ARROWHEAD ADVENTURES

Recreation Fee Sites
Picnic Areas:
• Baylis Park
• Crest Park
• National Children’s Forest
• Splinter’s Cabin
• Swiss Park
Hiking Trailheads:
• Heaps Peak Arboretum Day Use Area (Trail of the Phoenix 2W09)
• Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Staging Areas:
  • Miller Canyon
  • Pinnacles
Trail Guides (Interpretive)

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 3-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 2.5-mile interpretive loop. This is an 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!

Big Bear Adventures

Recreation Fee Sites

Picnic Areas

• Aspen Glen

• Great Bay

• Juniper Point

• Meadows Edge

Hiking Trailheads:

• Cougar Crest 1222

• Cactus Flats

• Grey’s Peak 1W06

• Lightning Gulch

• Pinckon Hill

• Woodland 1223

View of Big Bear Lake

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

Points of Interest: Spectacular views of Mt San Gorgonio.

Adventure 5

Cougars 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 Cougars Crest Trailhead is on Highway 38, 2.5 miles east of Fawnskin. Adventure Pass required.

Distance, time and difficulty: 2.5 miles, 1-hour, easy, minimal elevation gain.

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

Points of Interest: Spring wildflowers, summer waterfowl viewing, Fall autumn leaf color, Winter eagle watching. Leashed dogs are welcomed.

Adventure 7

San Gorgonio Wilderness

An oasis in a sea of humanity, the San Gorgonio Wilderness embraces the summit of the San Bernardino Mountains, the highest in Southern California. Within its boundaries are 59,060 acres of trees, small lakes, and large barren slopes. The highest peak, San Gorgonio, rises to 11,500 feet and is the focal point of the Sand to Snow National Monument, which was created in 2010. A free permit is required for entry into the wilderness. Permits can be obtained in person at the Mill Creek Visitor Center, Barton Flats Visitor Center (open Thursday-

from Forest Service staff while planning your trip.

Directions: Most trailshead 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 Mill Creek and Barton Flats Visitor Centers. Gateways to the Sand to Snow National Monument are the Vivian Creek and Momry Creek. The Vivian Creek Trail is the shortest and steeps route to the top of Mount San Gorgonio. The trail is both challenging and dangerous, depending on the conditions, and your skill. 18.6 miles round trip and 5,306’ elevation gain. The Momry Creek Trail is a longer route to the San Gorgonio peak: 24.6 miles round trip and 6,567’ elevation gain. Both trailheads are located near Forest Service staff while planning your trip. For trail closures due to the 2015 Lake Fire visit https://www.fs.fed.us/adm
tion/?id=fooed3f57072.

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.

San Gorgonio Adventures

Trail Guides

Whispering Pines is a 3.5-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 Visitor Center, or the Barton Flats Visitor Center (open summer only). Adventure Pass required ONLY during snow play/recreation.

Points of Interest

Greyback Amphitheater will have Saturday night programs hosted by the San Gorgonio Wilderness Association. Programs will run from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. For more information contact the Mill Creek Visitor Center, Thursday - Monday at 909-382-2882.

Jenks Lake presents 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 San Antonio 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. Adventure Pass required.
The San Jacinto and Santa Rosa area is best known for its contrast of landscapes. The subalpine forest of pine and fir is not far from the barrel cactus and palm trees of the desert. Sightseers have many views of the San Bernardino Mountains National Monument, Garner Valley, Lake Hemet, San Jacinto peak, Idyllwild, County Visitor Center, Lake Palermo, Indian Vista interpretive panels, views of Banning Pass, the San Andreas Fault, and San Gorgonio Wilderness, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument.

Adventure 9
Humber Park Devil's Slide Trail and Ernie Maxwell Trail
Those 2 trails begin at the Humber Park trailhead. Ernie Maxwell Scenic Trail is located at the bottom of Humber Park. Parking is available here. This is an easy 2.6 mile trail beginning at 6,400 feet. While crossing streams along the way you will descend 700 feet as you enjoy this walk through the woods with views of Suicide Rock. Devils Slide Trail is located at the top of Humber Park. This moderately strenuous trail ascends 2.5 miles from Humber Park to Saddle Junction. The trail climbs 6,400 feet as you hike along the many switchbacks you will enjoy the views making the 1,700 feet elevation gain less noticeable. From Saddle Junction connecting trails lead to San Jacinto Peak (10,834 ft.), the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (8,516 ft.) and Tahquitz Peak Fire Lookout Tower (8,846 ft.). A day use wilderness permit is required and you are limited to a maximum of 12 people in your party. Only 30 permits are available on Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend due to high use. Humber Park is a fee area and requires an Adventure Pass or Interagency Pass. Mountain bikes are not allowed on any Wilderness Trails. Directions: Drive into Idyllwild on Highway 243 from Interstate 10 in Banning, or the Highway 74 up from Palm Desert. You need an Adventure Pass or Interagency Pass. Mountain bikes are not allowed on any Wilderness Trails.

Adventure 10
Santa Rosa Mountain For a real backcountry adventure, drive the sometimes rocky Santa Rosa Mountain Road to reach the beauty and solitude of the highest elevations of the Santa Rosa Mountains. You will find several yellow post campsites, hiking opportunities and spectacular views over Palm Canyon, Coachella and Anza Valleys. You can identify six varieties of conifers, including the limber pine which is only found on the very highest peaks. Mule deer, bobcats, gray fox, tree squirrels, Stellar’s jay and Cassin’s finch are some of the many species of wildlife that can be found here. Directions: From Highway 111 in Palm Desert, drive South on Highway 74 approximately 20 miles, or from Highway 371 junction with Highway 74, drive East for five miles, to the Santa Rosa Mountain Road (Forest Road 7902).

Distance and Time: Santa Rosa Mountain Road (7902) is an unpaved road that is not frequently graded. It is slow going for 10 miles to Santa Rosa Peak. The road ends before Toro Peak. Allow 2 - 3 hours round-trip for drive-time. Four-wheel drive, high clearance vehicles are best suited for this road. This road is often closed in the winter. Call 760-862-9984 for current road closures and conditions before your trip.

Adventure 11
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 6513). 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 return 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 Pahom.
Respect All Wildlife

All wildlife has the potential to be dangerous. Do not approach, interact with, handle or feed wild animals. Allow them to go about their daily routine earning a living, looking for food, and watching for predators or prey, uninterrupted by visitors.

WILDLIFE = DISTANCE = SAFETY for both people and wildlife!

For your safety and that of the forest animals, please follow these simple rules:

- Children should remain near parents and should always be in sight.
- Never have a child pose for a photo with a wild animal, even if it appears tame.
- Never approach wildlife, especially seemingly abandoned baby animals, and never try to feed, pet or catch/handle wild animals.
- Keep pets under control at all times.
- Always keep a clean camp. Keep your gear together, minimize the space that you occupy.
- Keep your sleeping area, tent, and sleeping bag free of food and odors.
- Clean barbecue grills and store them so they are unavailable to bears and other wildlife.
- Do not leave food, beverages or coolers unattended. Store them so they are unavailable to bears and other animals when you are not in camp. If available, use the bear proof food storage lockers and trash containers.
- If a bear or mountain lion approaches you, back away and maintain a safe distance; do not run; instead face the animal, make noise and try to appear as large as possible.
- View or photograph wildlife from a trail or observation area. Use binoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto lenses.

For more information on safe interactions with wildlife, please visit this website: http://www.bebearaware.org/

Birdwatching

Can you imagine a concert by over a million traveling singers? Catch a performance of any spring or summer morning in the San Bernardino National Forest. Migratory 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 migratory (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 step on the world tour. It is important to identify and protect those areas used by birds.

The best places to watch the migrating birds are along streams and other areas with lots of plants and insects. Thurman Flats Picnic Area is a well known resting area. Refer to the Birds of San Bernardino National Forest for lists of commonly found species at the following website: www.fs.usda.gov/main/sbnf/home/.

Native Plant or Animal - or not?

Plant and animal species are considered to be invasive when they are non-native to the area where they are found and are capable of causing environmental, economic or human harm. Some examples of invasive plant species are: Spanish broom, English ivy, yellow star thistle, tamarisk or salt cedar, trees of Heaven and Himalayan blackberry. A few examples of invasive animal species are: bullfrogs, goldfish and feral domestic animals released into the wild (i.e. dogs, cats, and pigs).

Humans are the primary way invasive species are introduced. We can help prevent the spread. Here’s how to:

- Be knowledgeable: Learn about invasive species in your geographic area.
- Be garden wise: plant native species to replace invasive species.
- Be on the lookout: find new infestations before they spread and become established.
- Be a scout: report invasive species to local authorities.
- Be proactive: control and eradicate existing infestations.
- Be involved: form a local invasive species watch group

Winter Bald Eagle Count - Be a Citizen Scientist!

Several dozen bald eagles typically spend their winter vacations around Southern California’s lakes, adding to a few resident nesting bald eagles that stay year round.

Adult bald eagles acquire the full white head and tail in their fifth year. Until then, they are different plumages of brown and white.

Each year the San Bernardino National Forest participates in the winter bald eagle counts, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the California state parks. The count occurs at Lake Hemet, Lake Perris, Lake Silverwood, Lake Arrowhead and Lake Gregory, and Big Bear Lake. These counts are open to the public and occur on the second Saturday in December, January, February and March.

Please join us for one of the bald eagle counts during the winter months. No experience is needed. Signing up ahead of time is unnecessary - just show up at the designated time and location, dressed warmly, bring binoculars and watch. Counting Eagles is fun, easy, and only takes a couple of hours.

Smokey Bear’s Five Rules For Fire Prevention

1. Only you can prevent forest fires.
2. Always be careful with fire.
3. Never play with matches or lighters.
4. Always watch your campfire.
5. Make sure that your campfire is completely out before leaving it.

How many words can you make using the letters from the words NATIONAL FOREST? Example: EAR SNAIL

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Can you find these things while you visit the forest?

- Something from nature
- Something you can use as a tool
- A feather
- A bird nest (Do Not Touch)
- Something not from nature
- A sharp leaf
- An insect with wings
- An ant carrying something
- A prickly pine cone
- A colorful flower
- A wren nest

Download Scavenger Hunt

Scan this QR Code with your mobile device to visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sbnf/learning/kids

Scan this QR Code with your mobile device to visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sbnf/pdf/SBNF_FirePrevention.pdf

Scan this QR Code with your mobile device to visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sbnf/pdf/DevilsDance101.pdf

Bird walks are given throughout the year by the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society. For more information, call the San Bernardino County Museum at 909-307-2669.

For species, please visit the quick link to the Current Forest Orders at https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/plants-animals/ for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. For California State protected species, please visit https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/ for California State protected species. The San Bernardino National Forest is home to several plant and animal species, please visit the quick link to the Current Forest Orders at https://www.fws.gov/ for species listed for the San Bernardino National Forest participates in the California state parks. The count occurs at Lake Hemet, Lake Perris, Lake Silverwood, Lake Arrowhead and Lake Gregory, and Big Bear Lake. These counts are open to the public and occur on the second Saturday in December, January, February and March.

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Forest Adventure Pass Program

The Adventure Pass Program is now in its 20th 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 $5 a day or for $30 a year.

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, maintenance to the designated developed areas and sites within their borders. The Adventure Pass uses facilities and services. Since these are recreation “entry” to the national forest travel through the forest such as stopping to take a developed overlook or using a restroom. Individual developed recreation sites (like campgrounds) may require a separate overnight camping fee. Funds from the Adventure Pass are used to repair and maintain the many trails throughout the San Bernardino National Forest.

Where is the Adventure Pass required?

The Adventure Pass is required when your vehicle is parked in certain designated sites. Contact the closest Ranger Station or the Adventure Pass website for a list of current fee areas and sites. 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 too. You may search for a vendor near you and also buy passes online at the Adventure Pass website: www.fs.usda.gov/adventurepass

Interagency Passes

The Interagency Recreation Pass Program is comprised of six distinct passes: the Interagency Annual, Senior, Access, Military, and Volunteer Pass. The Golden Age, Senior and Access passes never expire and 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 sites, swimming, boat launches and for specialized interpretive services. Current cost is $10. Will change to $20 for Annual or $80 lifetime.

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 info, please visit www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/military.shtml.

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

Every Kid in a Park Pass (EKIP) The 4th Grade Pass is part of the Every Kid in a Park program, an effort to introduce America’s youth to the outdoors. This pass is FREE & given to every fourth grader who obtains a “paper pass” from the Every Kid in a Park website www.epark.gov.