



# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

## ANF, Climate, and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

by Mike Halley

IN THIS ISSUE

### Climate! Climate! Climate!

As volunteers in the Angeles National Forest, we see flora and fauna migrating to various degrees, we see poison oak getting ever more vibrant and appearing at higher elevations than have been expected in our lifetimes, and sadly we have watched as creeks, streams, and lakes have dried up or have diminished to flow rates that underscore the decade-long drought that we're experiencing.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 which Congress recently passed seeks to fund infrastructure and technology which is expected to reduce carbon emissions in the United States by a minimum of 30% across the next eight years. The Bill itself targets a reduction of 40% yet realistic projections of carbon reduction gains by the year 2030 fall somewhere between 30% and 40%.

Of particular interest to ANF volunteers is the \$369 billion which has been slated for what Congress classed as "Energy Security and Climate Change" programs which will be applied over the next ten years.

H.R. 5376 is [https://www.democrats.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/inflation\\_reduction\\_act\\_of\\_2022.pdf](https://www.democrats.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/inflation_reduction_act_of_2022.pdf) is 725 pages long. Page 546 of the Act, ***Subtitle D – Forestry*** contains Section 230001 which is titled ***National Forest System Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects***, and it is this section that volunteers working in the Angeles may find to be the most relevant to the work that we do. It lays out the proposed funding specific to our nation's National Forests, including in part:

- \$1.8 billion for hazardous fuel reduction
- \$200 million for vegetation management with watershed management plans in place
- \$100 million to improve the science applied to research oversight to assure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- \$50 million to improve the processes, technology, and application of science toward the protection of old growth forests and to complete a formal survey of the old growth that remains in the United States

There is much about the Act which addresses prioritization, the sharing of funds among land management agencies, public and private, and the need to always be cognizant of existing policies and practices which protect watersheds, forest health, the rights of citizens, and the need to continue to protect public and private property from the consequences of the warming climate.

There is also text in the Act which covers the restoration of forest regions which have suffered adverse consequences from wildfires, something which certainly encompasses the Angeles National Forest in the aftermath of our big ones: Station Fire and Bobcat Fire, two extreme fire events which occurred during an endless series of smaller though equally destructive fire events.

## Citizen Scientists!

Last year a training event was held for citizen scientists to learn how to monitor and report the health of urban and forest trees within Los Angeles County and through the Santa Monica Mountains. The training event was called "Bad Beetle Blitz 2" where citizens learned how to recognize Shothole Borers (*Scolytus rugulosus*) and Goldspotted Oak Borers (*Agrilus coxalis*) which are both invasive species.

The research and awareness campaign were organized by various groups, including the University of California's "**Agriculture and National Resources**" and "**Invasive And Exotic Pest Management**" departments.

Much of the focus of the BioBlitz training was focused upon urban trees however invasive species are prevalent at the Urban / Forest interface and within the Angeles National Forest, so the volunteers who are now trained and certified have a wide area where they may monitor and report their findings to the University.

To learn more about identifying Invasive Shothole Borers and how to report them, go to <http://www.ishb.org> for free training and resources



## Bad Beetle Blitz 2

### You are needed!

**Learn how to find and document the possible presence and distribution of bad beetles (invasive shothole borers and goldspotted oak borer) in the Santa Monica Mountains.**

During this four-part training, experts from the UC ANR will teach you how to identify infestations in native and non-native trees. Then, join us to collect valuable and much-needed data. Sponsored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Kuehl with many thanks to the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources/UC Cooperative Extension (UC ANR) and Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures.

Volunteers are required to attend all four events (first training is online, second will be in-person, third is to survey an area on your own, and fourth is an online office hour). The in-person event will be held outdoors and will abide by current CDC COVID-prevention guidelines, including social distance, small group size, mask wearing, and frequent hand sanitizing.

Space is limited. RSVPs required. Please contact Carina Walker at [badbeetle.project@gmail.com](mailto:badbeetle.project@gmail.com) to RSVP. Come prepared with appropriate shoes for hiking, hat, sunscreen, and drinking water. Red flag or excessive heat warnings will cancel the event.

  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

### TRAINING #1

**ONLINE at [www.ishb.org](http://www.ishb.org).** Must be completed before May 18th. Email Carina a copy (or screenshot) of the completion certificate to [badbeetle.project@gmail.com](mailto:badbeetle.project@gmail.com).

Must download and make an account with iNaturalist on cellphone prior to training #2. Join the Ventura and LA County Bad Beetle Watch project. For more iNaturalist project information, go to <https://www.rdsimmn.org/resources/caring-for-your-oak-trees/>

### TRAINING #2

**TUESDAY, MAY 18, 9:30am to 12:30pm (In-person)**

**LOCATION**  
Shane's Inspiration Playground 4800 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027  
Enter Griffith Park and follow signs on Crystal Springs Drive to the Ranger Station near Fern Canyon. Turn on the Fire Road, pass the Merry Go Round, and park across from the playground in Merry Go Round Lot 3.

**AGENDA**

9:30 - 9:45	Registration
9:45 - 10:15	Introductions, site overview and safety. Divide into 2 groups.
<b>Group 1</b>	
10:15-11:05	Pest identification & management
11:05-11:55	iNaturalist and observation practice
<b>Group 2</b>	
10:15 - 11:05	iNaturalist and observation practice
11:05 - 11:55	ISHB identification & management
12:00 - 12:30	Whole Group Wrap-up and questions. Feedback survey. Signing up for May 25 <sup>th</sup> survey locations

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Review the information learned in the online training
- Assess trees and identify signs and symptoms of ISHB-FD infestation
- Differentiate signs of ISHB from lookalike pests, especially in dead wood
- Learn about signs and symptoms of GSOB infestations in oaks
- Understand general preventative measures and management practices
- Understand the value of volunteer-based data and how it will be used in this project
- Learn how to use iNaturalist to submit an observation for this project

### TRAINING #3

**TUESDAY, MAY 25, 9:30am to 12:30pm**  
Meet at Survey site selected during Training 2.  
Small group guided tree surveys using iNaturalist in the field.

### TRAINING #4

**THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 10:30am to 12:00pm**  
Online office hour. Bring your burning images and questions and we will answer them!

# Stop The Bleed Training

Volunteers are often the first people on the scene when there is a medical emergency among the recreating public. Volunteer are encouraged to maintain First Aid medical training and certification and, because so many volunteers have either worked with serious medical problems or have talked with other volunteers who have, many volunteers go beyond the basic First Aid and take Wilderness First Aid, CPR, and Delayed Response training.

In June of 2022, volunteers attended a ***Stop The Bleed*** training seminar which examined the types of injuries that visitors to the forest might be expected to exhibit with a focus on stopping bleeding.

Volunteers leaned how to tie-off limbs to quell bleeding, how to assess the medical situation at hand, how to do what one can with the materials one has at hand, and even more importantly, learned how to feel **empowered to do something** in the presence of a medical emergency.

One of the trainers was Matt Lopez, a nurse who is a new volunteer with the Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Corp (<https://www.facebook.com/ohvrcanf/>) The new volunteer saw a need to heighten medical training among the Off Highway Vehicle recreation area's volunteers and stepped up to provide serious, solid training. Matt also provided Stop The Bleed kits for the newly-trained volunteers to take home!





Further reading:

<https://www.pcta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Stop-the-Bleed-Booklet.pdf>

## Come celebrate Smokey's birthday!

Saturday, August 6th Chilao Visitor Center



Come join us - this year Smokey Bear will turn 78  
Fun and games will be all day! 9-4pm  
Smokey will make an appearance from 10-12

### The Real Smokey Bear

Did you know the original Smokey Bear was the fictional character used by the Forest Service and not the bear cub that was saved from a fire in 1950?

Smokey Bear's *living* history began when a badly burned cub survived a fire in the Lincoln National Forest near Capitan, New Mexico in 1950. Because this bear survived a terrible forest fire and won the love and imagination of the American public, many people mistakenly believed the bear cub was the original Smokey Bear. But, in reality, the bear cub did not come along until the original Smokey Bear was almost six years old!

### The Original Smokey Bear

The original Smokey Bear was born out of necessity. Smokey's official birthday is August 9, 1944 in honor of the first fire prevention poster in which he made his debut. Smokey evolved out of a looming fear of losing our forests during WWII. At this time most men were already drafted into the military, leaving almost no one to fight forest fires. The Forest Service began to use posters to educate people about the dangers of forest fires, hoping that this would prevent them from starting in the first place.

The first mascot before Smokey was Bambi, loaned to the Forest Service by Walt Disney for one year. A bear was then selected to replace Bambi. The bear was named "Smokey" after FDNY firefighter Joe "Smokey" Martin who was seriously burned and lost his eyesight during a 1922 rescue.

## 5 Surprising Facts About Smokey Bear

- It's Smokey Bear not Smokey the Bear.
  - Smokey lived at the Smithsonian's National Zoo.
  - Smokey Bear received so much mail that he now has his own zip code.
  - Before Smokey became the face of fire prevention, Bambi led the charge.
  - Smokey Bear has his own Twitter.

### What's in a name?

The name of this beloved bear is definitively Smokey Bear. In 1952, songwriters Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins wrote a song about Smokey, adding "the" to retain the song's rhythm. The tune became so popular that many fans began calling the icon Smokey the Bear, but to this day his real name remains Smokey Bear.

You can [listen to the "Smokey the Bear" song in this Public Service Announcement](#), which was produced by the Ad Council in 1952.

## The living Smokey

In 1950, a badly burned bear cub was found in New Mexico's Lincoln National Forest after a forest fire. The orphaned cub was nicknamed Smokey and taken to a veterinarian for treatment. After recovering from his injuries, he was flown to the Smithsonian's National Zoo, where he lived as an ambassador for wildfire prevention and wildlife conservation for 26 years.

## Write Smokey a letter!

Millions of people visited Smokey at the Zoo. They also sent him thousands of letters (and the occasional honey). Smokey received so much mail that by 1965 the Postal Service gave him his own zip code: 20252.

## On Loan for a Year

The U.S. began its national wildfire prevention campaign during World War II. An early poster for the campaign featured Walt Disney's Bambi, along with pals Thumper and Flower.

Smokey made his first public appearance on a 1944 poster, where he could be seen dousing a campfire with a bucket of water. His famous slogan, "Only YOU can prevent forest fires," debuted a few years later.

## Keeping Up with the Technology - Now Smokey Tweets

That's right. You can still write Smokey a letter at Smokey Bear, Washington, D.C. 20252. But if you want to skip the snail mail, you can simply tweet him [@smokey\\_bear](#).

Source:

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/news/5-surprising-facts-celebrate-smokey-bears-75th-birthday>

<https://anydayguide.com/calendar/3606>

Rescuing Smokey Bear (full story)

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2013/06/10/orphaned-cub-internationally-known-forest-service-ic-on-smokey-bear-turns-70>

# Volunteers in Action



Restoration Legacy Crew volunteers uncover concrete bench covered over by graders since Station Fire 2009

Photo: Restoration Legacy Crew,  
Brenda Beck, 2022



Pictured are Jim, Eric, and Guy

Photo: Restoration Legacy Crew,  
Brenda Beck, 2022

On Monday, June 20, 2022, five Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps volunteers spent 9.5 hours completing another **Total Maximum Daily Load** (TMDL) Survey at 4 locations on the East Fork San Gabriel River.

The data collected from these surveys will provide a range of effects that trash has on the physical, biological, and chemical integrity of the stream, in accordance with the goals of the Clean Water Act and the California Water Code.

The monitoring is also designed to help analyze land uses, evaluation of management actions and assist the State in acquiring other useful data related to trash.

Volunteers were also able to talk with and educate the forest visitors about the importance of recreating safely and responsibly when in the forest. Volunteers removed and carried out 395 pounds of trash removed from the stream.

If you are interested in volunteering with FRVC, please go to their website [www.frvc.net](http://www.frvc.net).



Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corp collecting, bagging, and hauling trash at Cattle Canyon

Volunteers Randy, Stephanie, Sherri and Tom.

Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (<https://www.frvc.net/>)  
June 20, 2022



Setting up survey area within the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.

Volunteers are Randy and Sherri.

Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (<https://www.frvc.net/>)  
June 20, 2022

## Wildlife in the Forest



Newt



Junco

A Newt is a salamander in the subfamily Pleurodelinae. The terrestrial juvenile phase is called an Eft. Unlike other members of the family Salamandridae, newts are semiaquatic, alternating between aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Not all aquatic salamanders are considered newts, however. Newts metamorphose through three distinct developmental life stages: aquatic larva, terrestrial juvenile (eft) and adult. Adult newts have lizard-like bodies and return to the water every year to breed, otherwise living in humid, cover-rich land habitats.

Newts are threatened by habitat loss, fragmentation and pollution. Several species are endangered, and at least one species, the Yunnan lake newt, has become extinct recently.

Newts are semiaquatic, spending part of the year in the water for reproduction and the rest of the year on land. While most species prefer stagnant water bodies such as ponds, ditches or flooded meadows for reproduction, some species such as the Danube crested newt can also occur in slow-flowing rivers. The main breeding

A Junco is a small North American bird in the New World sparrow family Passerellidae. Junco systematics are still confusing after decades of research, with various authors accepting between three and twelve species. Despite having a name that appears to derive from the Spanish term for the plant genus *Juncus* (rushes), these birds are seldom found among rush plants, which prefer wet ground, while juncos prefer dry soil.

Their breeding habitat is coniferous or mixed forest areas throughout North America, ranging from subarctic taiga to high-altitude mountain forests in Mexico and Central America south to Panama. Northern birds usually migrate farther south; southern populations are permanent residents or altitudinal migrants, moving only a short distance downslope to avoid severe winter weather in the mountains. These birds forage on the ground. In winter, they often forage in flocks. They eat mainly insects and seeds. They usually nest in a well-hidden location on the ground or low in a shrub or tree.

season for newts (in the Northern Hemisphere) is in June and July.

Many newts produce toxins in their skin secretions as a defense mechanism against predators. The toxins are only dangerous if ingested or otherwise enter the body e.g. through a wound. .

Source: Wikipedia

Photo taken at Dawn Mine Trail.

Source: Wikipedia

Photo taken at Dawn Mine Trail.

# Work For the Forest Service!



The U. S. Forest Service needs you! The forest needs you. Our wilderness, watersheds, our recreation spaces, they all need dedicated men and women to serve by joining possibly the greatest, most rewarding job in the world.

There has never been a better time to work for the U.S. Forest Service! Lots of new jobs are being hired now and in upcoming months.

Learn more: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/jobs/careers>

Be sure to click on the "Hiring and Recruitment Events" tab on the left of the page.

# The Ecology Corner

by Lisa Gruber



Photo credit: Crystal Lake Pine Trees, Angeles National Forest January 2020, © Lisa Gruber

## How well do you know our forest trees? Take this simple quiz and see!

(answers below)

1. What is the tallest tree in the Angeles National Forest?
2. What is the most common coniferous (cone bearing) tree in the Angeles National Forest?
3. What is the oldest living tree in the Angeles National Forest?
4. Which coniferous tree grows at the lowest elevation in the Angeles National Forest?
5. Which coniferous tree grows at the highest elevation in Angeles National Forest?

## Answers

1. Sugar Pine
2. Jeffrey Pine
3. Limber Pine about 2,000 years
4. Big Cone Spruce 900 feet
5. Limber Pine on Mount Baldy

Did you know... The Coulter Pine has the heaviest pine cones in the world.

# Ask A Special Guest Volunteer

Today we have a special treat for volunteers that is somewhat different than our usual “*Ask A USFS Employee*” series. We wanted to highlight a volunteer who is neither an employee nor a volunteer that we might otherwise feature in our “Volunteers In Action” series. Our special guest today has been volunteering picking up, bagging, and hauling trash out of public recreation areas for over 1000 straight days yet is not a formal Forest Service volunteer.

Today we sat down with Mr. Edgar McGregor (who is on Twitter as @edgarrmcgregor) about his enormously valuable volunteer work.



Interview with Edgar McGregor June 2022

Mike: Greetings, Edgar, and thank you for sitting down with us to talk about your volunteer work. I have followed you on Twitter for a long time and have been amazed at the dedication you show in cleaning up trash in canyons which see heavy recreation use and have watched you retain a cheerful, polite, and professional attitude during your volunteer work despite obstacles and the never-ending problem of trash in the forest. Let me start by asking you, where do you do your volunteer work?

Edgar: I volunteer my time at the heavily used Eaton Canyon in Pasadena, California. While away at school, I typically clean up Alum Rock Park in San Jose, California, another heavily used hiking trail.

Mike: I have seen news reports about your lengthy volunteer work and have read on-line news articles. If I’m not mistaken, you adopted responsibility for cleaning up and restoring a canyon after seeing that nobody else was taking care of the trash and spray paint vandalism, is that correct?

Edgar: I began these cleanups because of what I saw during the very active 2019 rainy season. Eaton Creek in spring 2019 was flowing quite precipitously and I wanted to see it for myself. I was sad to find quite a bit of trash and debris in the park that wasn’t supposed to be there. I had been looking for something to do to improve my climate activism, and I thought an occasional litter pickup would bring some attention to the problem.

On March 8, 2019, I went into the park to view the river and enjoy the fresh air. On March 14, 2019, I did my first ever regular cleanup in the park and returned every Saturday thereafter. I already knew a regular solo cleanup was going to be how I wanted to approach this problem. I could join or host a

group cleanup, but with so many already occurring in the park and so much old trash still remaining out there, I knew early on that group cleanups weren't quite cutting it. Something more was needed.

On a random Wednesday in late May 2019, I was sitting in the back of a math class at Pasadena City College quite bored and decided I wanted to go do another cleanup after class. I had been 5 weeks into a weekly cleanup on Saturdays, and so to go out on a weekday was unusual. I didn't feel like waiting until the weekend, and I wanted to get the work done. In addition, it didn't seem like I was making any progress with a weekly cleanup. Trash was reappearing faster than I could remove it. I thought perhaps maybe I should try it more often. At the end of class I packed my things, went home and grabbed my bucket, and headed out to the park.

That was Wednesday, May 29, 2019, my trash pickup day 1. Today, June 30th, 2022 is my 1,071 daily trash pickup.

Mike: Have you ever asked for assistance from the responsible administration offices for the recreation spaces that you clean? I know that our public recreation departments nationally have had difficulty staffing employees for such work, so I'm curious if you have contacted those officially responsible and asked for their help.

Edgar: Yes and no. Part of the problem here is that Eaton Canyon is divided into four different governmental jurisdictions; Los Angeles County Public Work, Los Angeles County Parks And Recreation, Pasadena Water And Power, and the Angeles National Forest. For this reason, seeking out help from government entities can be tricky, even without all the red tape. I have not and likely won't reach out to government entities to help me with the basic park maintenance the hiking trails require every day, however, there have been special cases.

In October 1993, a homeless individual was cooking dinner late at night deep within Eaton Canyon. Their campfire blew embers into nearby brush which ignited. By sunrise, 220 homes in and around Eaton Canyon were damaged or destroyed. Several hundred people lost everything, though nobody died. Embers rained down on all of Pasadena, and my grandparents who owned my current home said embers were catching trees on fire on our block.

Homelessness is a serious issue affecting the state of California, and its solutions are complicated. However, campfires are illegal in Eaton Park and are heavily regulated within the Angeles National Forest. We simply cannot have people living among the dry tinder in southern California's wilderness areas.

In Spring 2019, Eaton Canyon was home to at least 11 homeless encampments which were mostly abandoned. I cannot do anything about people living in the park, but if an encampment is abandoned, it needs to be cleaned as soon as possible before someone else moves in.

For small items and trash, I can handle the situation safely on my own. However, for encampments with bulky items or ones I deem are unsanitary, I will call up the particular governmental entity responsible for whichever land the encampment is located in to help me out.

The Eaton Canyon Nature Center and I have done great work together, with one event in September 2020 where we pulled propane tanks and patio heaters out of the canyon. Talk about fire danger! In another event in December of that year, we removed 7 broken and/or dismantled bicycles from one encampment. Since I am an unofficial volunteer, I will not clean up an encampment unless I know it was abandoned for more than 2 months.

Mike: From the sheer amount of trash that you collect, bag, and haul out of public lands, do you ever return to sites that you recently cleaned and, seeing more trash and more spray paint, get discouraged? I see that you have continued your work for over 1000 straight days, donating a couple of hours here and there seemingly without annoyance so I'm curious whether you get discouraged at times.

Edgar: If I am going to be out here every day there is no room for me to get discouraged. The most important part of this mission is not how much trash I pick up in a single hike, but rather enjoying the mission enough to want to go back out tomorrow. Wondering why people would treat my park in such a way leaves me depressed, stressed, angry, confused, and uncomfortable. Those are not emotions I associate with having a good time.

This is a gorgeous piece of land, and I don't want to leave it every day not wanting to come back. If I ignore the litter bugs, treat it like a scavenger hunt, clean up the litter, and go about my day, I will feel much more enthusiastic about going out to clean up again the next day.

In my first 30 days of litter picking, I missed 9 days because I hadn't learned this lesson. I would straight up not want to go some days. As of June 30, 2022, I have surpassed 300 daily trash pickups in a row, and my cleanups are frequently the highlight of my day. I only miss days when I am sick, when I am traveling, or when there is smoke or lightning.

As a meteorology and climatology major at San Jose State University, I have zero problems with cleaning up in 60 MPH wind, 2" an hour rain rates, or even 124°F. Those conditions are not enough to stop me. Smoke and lightning however are really uncomfortable and dangerous weather conditions.

Every day I get people complaining to me about how much they hate litterbugs. Every day I suggest to these same folks to bring out a bucket and help me clean up. You wouldn't believe how often that sentence is followed by a sarcastic laugh. I'm tired of people complaining and not doing. I don't complain and only do, and despite Eaton Canyon's high littering rate, this is southern California's cleanest hiking trail.

Eaton Canyon is Los Angeles's most accessible waterfall. It, quite literally, is a hike for the faint of heart. For this reason, we see nearly a million visitors every year, many of them unique. The littering rates are through the roof, with 5-15 pounds of trash appearing in the park each and every day.

This mission requires accepting that people are going to litter. No, this mission requires expecting people to litter. I treat this like a video game. My job is to walk into the park every single day with 2 buckets in tow and find where people have littered in the last 24-72 hours. I find it, I clean it up, and I enjoy the natural world in front of me. Yes, it is annoying when I find an area I cleaned 18 hours ago messy again. But there is nothing I can do about that but clean it up again. If the proper system is in place to handle the littering, then no harm no foul. Right?

Mike: It has been interesting watching your polite and professional Tweets on Twitter. It does seem as if **Leave No Trace** is something that few hikers who are relatively new to hiking and recreating on public lands have heard of. It seems that volunteers such as yourself pick up other people's trash and, too often, people's dung which can offer something of a biological hazard to volunteers.

What have been some of the worse items of trash or litter that you have dealt with? Do you encounter potential biological safety hazards such as used baby diapers or other things that are rather unpleasant to work with?

Edgar: Doggie bags are completely unacceptable. I am writing this interview in mid-June. The noon sunshine is directly over southern California at this time of year, and those things begin to smell bad. I can put up with water bottles, candy wrappers, and even food waste, but it takes real disrespect towards the natural world, your fellow hikers, and park services to leave behind your dog's waste steaming on the side of the trail. Don't do that.

Alum Rock Park in San Jose banned dogs from being in this park for that reason. While I wouldn't push for it, you certainly wouldn't hear me complaining if Eaton Canyon enacted similar rules. Don't ruin this for everyone. Take your doggie bags to the nearest trash can. Leaving it behind with the intention of grabbing it on your way out is also unacceptable.

As for diapers, I usually let those sit for a couple of days before clearing them. I have not yet found needles, and anything bloody stays where it is. When cleaning up, I also need to think about my safety and my comfort. I am not paid to do this, so to leave behind doggie bags because you'll know I will pick them is a big no-no.

Mike: Can you use some funding for tools or materials that might help you in your volunteer work? PPE, trash pickers, anything like that?

Edgar: This mission requires 3 things: A single 5-gallon bucket from your local hardware store that will last for 5,000 cleanups, a nice pair of gloves that usually last for around 250 cleanups, and a good pair of hiking shoes that usually last around 500 cleanups. No email lists, no plastic baggies, no social media posts, no RSVPing, no Facebook groups, no electrical equipment, none of that hoopla. All it takes to undo the negligence of 1,000,000 hikers annually is a bucket, a pair of gloves, a pair of hiking shoes, and the clothes on my back.

Mike: I think that you're an inspiration to others, though getting young people to do such work, formally the way that we do in the Angeles National Forest under the direction of the Forest Service, or informally the way you have been volunteering. My guess is that the Internet and on-line games keep kids ever more glued to their seats at home on weekends, and the thought of getting outside and hiking is increasingly rare among America's youth, and the thought of volunteering – for anything – is increasingly rare.

Can you think of anything you might say to young people, High School students, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, youth groups and such about the rewards and satisfaction of cleaning up public lands as an unpaid, sometimes unappreciated or otherwise unrecognized volunteer?

Edgar: This cleanup mission is an incredible way to get exercise, get fresh air, get mental reprieve from the world, learn about your local park, learn about local ecology, learn about local geography, meet strangers, provide a public service, and learn about your local governments.

My only regret is that I started these cleanups just after my 19th birthday. I wish I had started just after my 15th birthday when I too was glued to video games. I highly recommend local governments hire high school students to hike for one hour a day after school to help clean up our parks. The education experience is limitless and it is a good way to let teenagers earn a little extra dough. While I do this mission as an unpaid unofficial volunteer, it is only because I get quite a bit of clout on Twitter which helps me build my career.

Mike: Awesome and thank you very much for taking the time to chat with us. I think I can speak for everyone at the ANF Volunteer Newsletter by saying that we greatly appreciate the work that you do, and that hikers who enjoy the public lands that you clean for them also appreciate your work even though few are likely to know your name.

Thank you for your service to the recreating public.

# Ask An LA County Employee!

Steven Frasher is the Public Information Officer of the Los Angeles County Public Works Department, and because there is renewed interest in Southern California's water catchment infrastructure as we watch water sources drying up with the warming climate and the 10 year old drought, the Newsletter sat down with Mr. Frasher to ask about the dam work being done at the Cogswell Reservoir.



Ben: The Bobcat fire interrupted plans to start the silt removal project at Cogswell Dam. When did the silt removal restart or commence again?

Steven: The Cogswell Reservoir Restoration Project first began its planning phase after the 2009 Station Fire. However, both the Cogswell and San Gabriel reservoir projects were expedited as an emergency response to address the anticipated debris production from the burned watershed resulting from the 2020 Bobcat Fire, which burned 115,796 acres in and around the Angeles National Forest.

With the significantly increased debris flow expected at Cogswell Reservoir and San Gabriel Reservoir over the next five years, sediment removal was declared an emergency by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on October 13, 2020. Construction activities at Cogswell Reservoir began in April 2021. Construction at San Gabriel Reservoir began in June 2021.

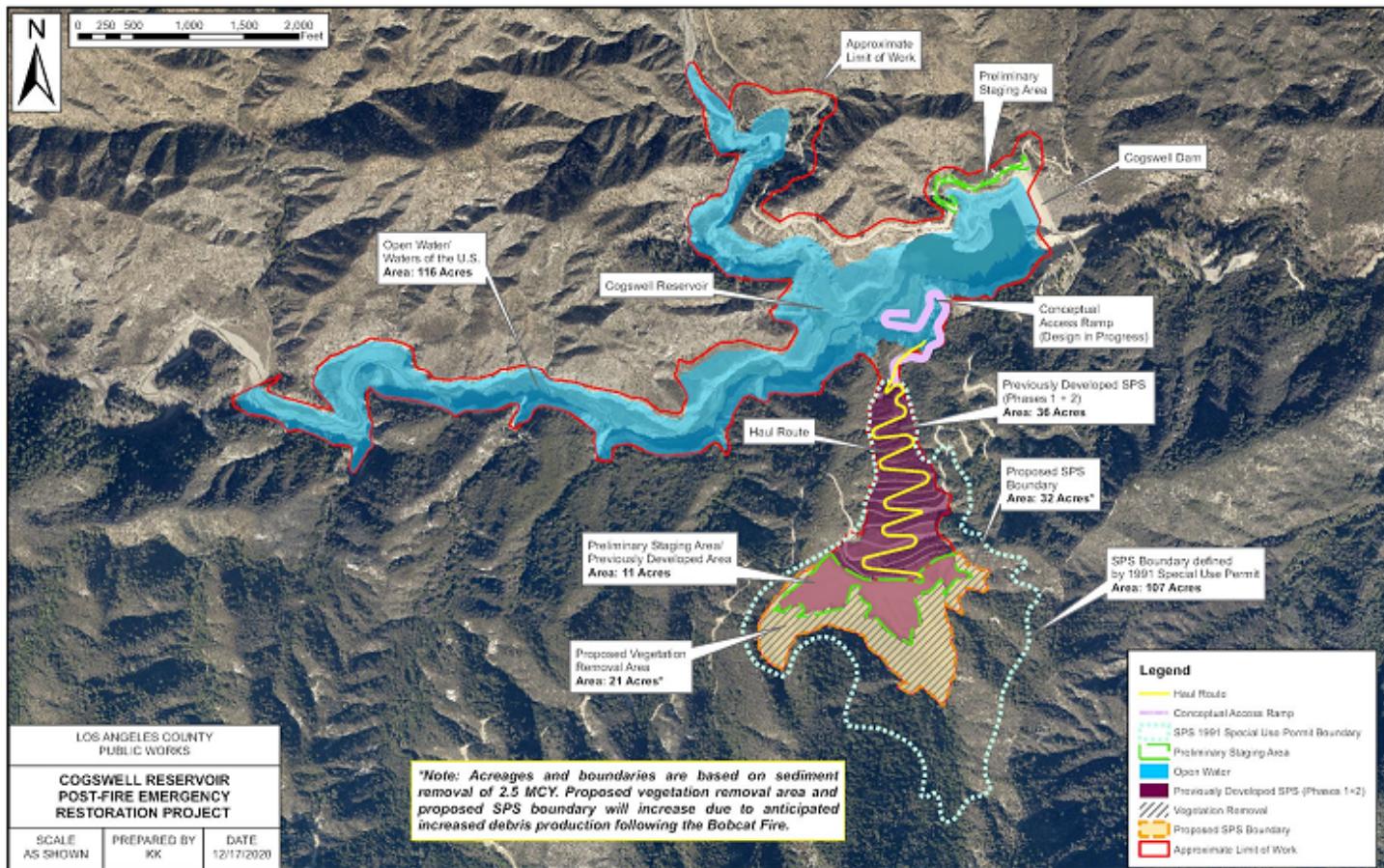
Ben: What is the time frame between silt removals? When was the last silt removal project at the dam?

Steven: The last sediment removal projects at Cogswell Reservoir was in 1997 and at San Gabriel Reservoir in 2006. Typically, these projects take years to commence due to the extensive planning and permitting process.

Ben: What is the expected cubic yard silt removal from the dam?

Steven: The Cogswell Reservoir Post-Fire Emergency Restoration Project is expected to remove 2.0 million cubic yards (MCY) of sediment, and the San Gabriel Reservoir Post-Fire Emergency Restoration Project is expected to remove 4.9 MCY -- the amount that may flow into each reservoir

until the watershed recovers. Sediment removal is critical to restoring the reservoirs' flood control capacity to protect the millions of residents in downstream communities.



Ben: How much does each truck carry? How many trucks and other removal equipment are involved in the silt removal?

Steven: The project typically uses 40-ton trucks, which carry about 20 cubic yards of sediment. This year, about 20 trucks will be used to maximize production rates at Cogswell, and about 50 trucks at San Gabriel.

Aside from trucks, the projects will also utilize specialized equipment, such as forklifts, excavators, skip loaders, grader blades, dozers, sweepers, water trucks, etc. More than 100 pieces of equipment will be actively used on site during construction.

Ben: What are the hours of operation of the silt removal?

Steven: Due to the emergency nature of these projects, the contractors are authorized to excavate and haul sediment from sunrise to sunset. However, work hours have typically been from 6 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Construction activities are taking place from April through November, weather permitting.

Ben: The big question on everyone's mind is where is the silt going? Will there be only one location for silt deposit? How many trucks each day are necessary to keep to your schedule?



(Photo credit: Mikey Speedy Arroyo, August 2022)

Steven: The sediment from the Cogswell Reservoir is being deposited in an adjacent Sediment Placement Site (SPS) that is located in a canyon south of the reservoir. This will be the only location for the hauling and placement of sediment from Cogswell Reservoir. Approximately 24 trucks will be used on the Cogswell project.

The sediment from the San Gabriel Reservoir is being deposited in the Burro Canyon SPS, located approximately 4 miles north of the San Gabriel Dam. Approximately 50 trucks will be used on the San Gabriel project.

Ben: Besides fill, are there any other commercial uses of the silt?

Steven: There are no expected commercial uses of the sediment being excavated from the reservoirs.

Ben: How will this project affect the fish on the six miles of the West Fork of the San Gabriel River below the dam?

Steven: The project's purpose is to restore capacity of the reservoir, which allows necessary water conservation and flood protection downstream of Cogswell Dam. Without the Project, the dam's inlet works would also be at risk of becoming buried, leading to increased frequency of uncontrolled spillway flows. Ultimately, this would result in sediment deposit within the West Fork San Gabriel River (WFSGR), impacting the sensitive habitat.

The increased storage capacity provided by the project, also enables more water to be retained behind the dam after the storm season. For many years, the WFSGR has no longer flowed toward the end of the summer. With increased and more frequent dry years, these flows discontinue even earlier and negatively impact the downstream habitat and wildlife. The dam naturally seeps water to the downstream WFSGR, benefitting the fish and other wildlife. With increased capacity, the seepage and feeding of the WFSGR can continue longer.

The Project has also helped to re-establish the river downstream after the December 2021 storms delivered an extensive amount of burned debris and sediment into the WFSGR downstream of the dam from the tributary creeks. The three December storms delivered about 25 inches of rain in the watershed.



Photo credits: Los Angeles County Public Works, August 2022. Excavators, Cogswell Dam, and San Gabriel Dam

The sediment significantly altered the habitat downstream. Before dewatering for the Project began, Public Works consulted the California Department of Fish and Wildlife which recommended the release of higher flows (up to a peak of 450 cubic feet per second) from the reservoir to scour this excess sediment from the WFSGR. The higher releases were able to flush some of the sediment and debris from the stream, which has helped to re-establish the habitat.

Public Works is also processing the discharge water through a treatment system and having designated biologists monitor conditions throughout the length of the WFSGR until Highway 39.

Ben: Is there any damage to the West Fork stream environment mitigation plan after the silt removal is complete?

Steven: Please see above.

Ben: Anything more that is interesting that you can tell us about this project?

Steven: In addition to the Cogswell, San Gabriel, and Morris reservoirs providing flood protection, they are also a critical component in capturing storm water that benefits the local water supply for downstream communities of Los Angeles County.

Generally, the water captured at these facilities is supplied to the Main San Gabriel and Central Basins for groundwater recharge. The Main San Gabriel Basin is a source of water supply for approximately 2 million residents in cities such as Alhambra, Duarte, San Dimas, West Covina, etc. The Central Basin is a source of water supply for approximately 2.5 million residents in cities such as Artesia, Bellflower, Compton, Long Beach, etc.

Ben: Dam-keeper life: I presume that at least one family lives at the dam site. If there are residents, how many families? I seem to remember seeing a bus stop at the road down to the dam. Did or do the children that live at the site go to Azusa school? I always imagined what a great place for a child to live and grow up the site would be. I can imagine myself riding my bike down the road on the south face of the dam. What a trip!!!



Photo Credit: Los Angeles County Public Works, August 2022, Morris Dam

Steven: At San Gabriel Dam there are currently three families living on-site, and two families reside at Cogswell Dam. And, yes, the bus from the Azusa school district comes up through the canyon to pick up all the kids living along the canyon road, including any residing at the dams.

Children who reside with their families at the dam ride bikes, scooters, or skateboards and play backyard basketball like other kids, but they've also got incredible hiking at their doorstep and the "front yard" is perfect to invite schoolmates over for a camping sleepover.

The most amazing part, families say, "is to share and respect the nature of life around us." Black bears, mountain lions, deer, bald eagles, rattlesnakes, tarantula, scorpions, red tail hawk, are the near neighbors, and "a beautiful treat."

Ben: What are the typical job duties of the tender? I believe that I heard that one electrical power turbine was installed a number of years ago. Is the dam tender responsible for running that and for maintenance?

Steven: Dam operators are the eyes and ears of LA County Public Works at the dam sites, monitoring operations for flood control and water conservation. Their work is especially crucial during storm events when they monitor flow rates for flood control and water levels to prevent uncontrolled release over the spillway.

Crews corral and boom debris after storms and remove that debris to a nearby rock quarry, and patrol the reservoir for trespassers or any signs of vandalism.

During the summer valves are inspected and serviced and all maintenance is carefully documented.

At San Gabriel Dam there are two hydroelectric plants capable of producing up to 4 megawatts of power, that dam operators are trained to operate.

Ben: What are the duties of the tender during a fire in which water is taken out of the reservoir for fighting fires?

Steven: LA County Public Works dam operators frequently assist other agencies, such as LA County Sheriff, LA County Fire Department, or U.S. Forest Service, with staging/parking at the dam site that will not interfere with any agency's operations. During a fire event, firefighters have two options for obtaining water — by obtaining stored water from water tanks at the dam, to a fire truck or pumped to a helicopter via a tire truck, while other helicopters with their own suction pumps draw directly from the reservoir.

Ben: Has the dam tender and family ever had to be evacuated from the site due to a wild fire or other disaster?

Steven: Yes, families have been evacuated from the facilities, most often due to poor air quality from nearby fires rather than immediate direct fire danger. Families are temporarily relocated to hotels. Critical dam operations staff, however, continue to report to work when safe to do so, but perform their tasks indoors.

Ben: Can the public fish at the dam or at Morris Dam?

Steven: There is no fishing at Morris Dam, however, there is fishing upstream, 500 feet above San Gabriel Dam and in the downstream riverbed below Cogswell Dam.

Ben: What kind of fish are in the reservoir?

Steven: Carp, Big Mouth bass, Small Mouth Bass, Catfish, and some Blue Gill have all been observed at the large reservoirs. At Cogswell, only native trout are observed.

Ben: What is your day like, and can you give us a most interesting day scenario?

Steven: Outside or normal dam activities, that include weather and field operations reporters and routine site maintenance, dam operators sometimes assist with traffic incident reporting or rescue support, including a dramatic case of a vehicle over the side where the dam operator took our boat to respond to a survivor screaming for help and later assisting LA County Fire Department in their scuba-diver search for a missing second vehicle.

Ben: This has been fascinating, volunteers have watched as water sources across the Angeles have dried up, and it is good to hear that our dams are being maintained to improve our drinking water down here.

Thank you very much for your time!

Further reading: <https://pw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/Bobcatfire/cogswell.shtml>

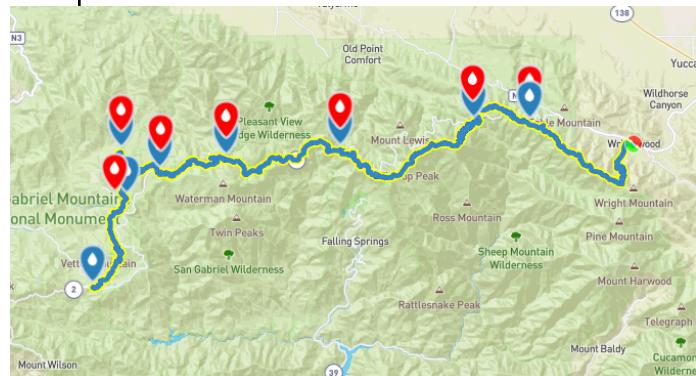


# AC100 Returning to the ANF!

## August 6 – August 7



*Out and back course for AC100 (2022)  
50.4 miles each way*



The Angeles Crest 100, a 33 hour ultra marathon endurance run, is returning to our forest after a 2 year hiatus!

But don't expect the same race as in years past. It starts Saturday August 6 and ends Sunday August 7

The course will be different this year! For the first time ever, the AC100 will be an out and back race. This is a significant, necessary change due to the current (smaller) Bobcat Fire Closure near Mt Wilson/Chantry Flats and surrounding foothills. This year the race will start in Wrightwood, head into high country for about 50 miles to Shortcut Saddle and then back to Wrightwood. While it doesn't have the same feel as the original 100 mile route, everyone is super excited to make this compromise to get the race going again after being dark for 2 years.

So what does this mean for the runners?

The runners definitely have some challenges in store this year! While the first half of the race is the same, the challenges start on the return leg of the race. Normally there is an overall loss in elevation as runners start in Wrightwood (5970') and end in Altadena (1279'). However, with an out and back race, any loss in elevation will

be canceled by going back the same way. (Anyone who does an out-and-back hike knows what I mean! If you go down the hill, you have to go back up it.)

Basically, they are doing the race twice - one downhill and once uphill. That includes climbing Mt Badden Powel -twice. Climbing in/out of Shortcut Saddle -twice. Everything they are doing, they are doing twice. The race this year went from 19,930'/24,592' gain/loss to 23,228'/23,228' gain/loss. In order to compensate for this, the race time for the return leg has been increased by 3 hours for this year. (whew!)



The other challenging, and potentially dangerous, part of the race occurs when the runners are forced to run on the margin of the Angeles Crest Highway. Yes, you heard me, the runners have to run along Hwy 2 in a couple of sections. This is due to the fact that part of the course passes through Pleasantview Wilderness which is protected from various activities -foot races included.

[Pleasantview Wilderness was designated in 2009 and covers 26,757 acres of high country in the ANF.] This is especially dangerous when the runners have to run on the road through the Williamson Tunnels where visibility is impeded even in the brightest of days. Runners will be passing through the tunnels twice - once approximately 9:30am -2:00pm Saturday and again around 6pm Saturday to 6:30am Sunday morning (times are approximate based on past races and race cut off times).

### **So what does this mean for volunteers and the public?**

Lots of people will be coming and going along Angeles Crest Highway and all of the associated stops. Traffic may be backed up at spots as drivers are looking for parking. Pedestrians may be significant in spots, many of which might not be paying attention to what they are doing. Runners will be on Angeles Crest Highway from Islip Saddle to 3 Points. This includes the Williamson Tunnels where visibility is low. More people will be in Wrightwood Friday - Sunday (restaurants, lodging, and roads will be impacted). Runners will be on the trails, however the pack thins out over time.

# Angeles National Forest History



South Mount Hawkins Lookout 1944.

Photo source is unknown



White City below Observatory  
Mount Lowe Railroad Echo Mountain  
Altadena California 1898

Photo source is unknown



Osborne Fire Finder

Photo: Wikipedia

## Memorial Day Weekend at Johnstone Peak Lookout Tower Fire Lookouts Kick Butt at LA County Fair

- Uniform: check!
- Hat: check!
- Sunscreen and water: check!
- Binoculars: check!
- Smile for visitors: double check!

That's the fire lookout checklist for Johnstone Peak!



Working the LA County Fair is always a blast... the people, the smells, the energy in the air... The first day back in the lookout tower is always a hoot. There's a sense of relief that all your hard work to prep the site has paid off- a sense of pride.

This year the fair was open in May, only on certain days (Thurs - Sun), and the grand finale on Memorial Day. With less days available and more favorable weather, the trek over to Johnstone Peak Lookout Tower was a pure joy. With assistance from the San Bernardino Fire Lookouts, the tower welcomed over 6,000 guests.... And this was just in 17 days!

Lots of people expressed a sincere desire in the fire lookout program and over 150 brochures were handed out for both forests.

I don't know about you, but I think those statistics are pretty amazing!

What's even more amazing is that **20%** of those visitors were within the last two days of the fair! Talk about foot traffic! Can you imagine explaining how everything works over 1,000 times in just two days??! That's commitment!

This year, one of the new and exciting additions to Johnstone Peak was Forest.net communications. Visitors to the tower got a chance to listen in on the radio to activity in the forest just like fire lookouts do. Most of the time the radio was silent, but then - seemingly out of the blue - an incident would come over the radio and the visitors hushed in silence, straining to hear every last morsel.

### About Johnstone Peak Fire Lookout

Nestled in the back pocket of the fairground, Johnstone Peak Fire Lookout Tower is part of the American Great Outdoors (AGO). It is one of many Forest Service exhibits available for visitors to experience and learn various aspects of forestry. The tower was originally located at Johnstone Peak in the San Dimas Experimental Forest and was moved to the LA County Fairplex in 1990 in order to preserve a piece of living history.

The tower in its current form that you see today was shortened, the cab downsized and the entire tower painted green. The very first Johnstone Peak tower was built on what was then known as San Dimas Peak in 1917.

The project was funded by the San Dimas Fruit Exchange and was placed between San Dimas and Dalton Canyons so it may detect fires that may potentially damage the watersheds above San Dimas which would subsequently damage the bustling citrus crops of that era. That tower burned shortly after the 1919 Fire. In 1923 the San Dimas Fruit Exchange funded a new tower which was either replaced or renovated around 1933 when the San Dimas Experimental Forest was established.

The improved tower was then decommissioned in 1955 due to smog (lack of visibility was a problem and several lookout towers were decommissioned around this time) and sat abandoned until relocated to the fair in 1990.

Johnstone Peak lies within the San Dimas Experimental Forest which is technically closed except under special written permit.

#### **Did You Know?**

The Johnstone Peak Lookout used to be known as the San Dimas Lookout but was renamed Johnstone Peak Lookout in 1940 when the San Dimas peak was dedicated to the memory of William Arthur Johnstone, a pioneer in California Conservation and Civic Development.

#### **Big Plans for Next Year**

ANFFLA is full of ideas on how to create memorable experiences for Johnstone Peak. One way to get visitors even more involved is to have a 'mock smoke report' where visitors get to see the fire lookouts (and fire crew) in action. The pre-planned and approved event would go like this - a smoke source is set somewhere on the fairgrounds, a fire lookout sees it, triangulates it on the Osborne Fire Finder, fills out a smoke report, calls it in (on a special frequency for the event), and FS firefighters are dispatched to put the smoke out.

This was a goal for this year, but due to time constraints we weren't able to get this approved in time. So we're hoping that this will happen next year!.

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RATTLESNAKES!

BY THE LOS PADRES FOREST ASSOCIATION

Hello Friends,

We hope you are having a great summer and still finding some cooler trail time here in the hot Los Padres! LPFA recently asked a group of hikers to list things that scared them on the trail. Their list included fears such as getting lost, poison oak, ticks, gravity, water (too much and not enough), other people and wild animals. While not everyone listed the same responses, there was a clear winner when it came to the one thing that most people are scared of here in the Los Padres..... RATTLESNAKES!

The fear of snakes, known as ophidiophobia, is certainly not unique to the Los Padres and is actually one of the more common human fears known across the world. Rattlesnake encounters can be very scary; and for good reason as their bites can be deadly. We should all have a little fear and a lot of respect for our Los Padres rattlers. For those of us who regularly venture into the forest, rattlesnake sightings are a fairly common occurrence and should be expected just about anywhere in the Los Padres during the snake season of April - October.

While encounters are common, there remain a lot of myths and information about rattlesnakes that most people might now know. With that in mind, the LPFA recently hosted three online events designed to help educate forest-users about our local rattlesnake population. Hopefully, these videos will help you learn a little more about how to avoid rattlesnake encounters and what to do in case a bite does occur. Enjoy the videos and stay safe everyone.

Sincerely, The LPFA Team -- [INFO@LPForest.org](mailto:INFO@LPForest.org)

Our first video is an online webinar filmed about a year ago with Dr. Emily Taylor from Central Coast Snake Services. This video focuses on learning about rattlesnakes and busting myths

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZMU4cA4ugk>

The second video was filmed in June 2022 and is an interview with a friend of the LPFA who bit by a rattlesnake while exploring off-trail deep within the Sespe Wilderness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxAyBuXtRHo>

And our final video is once again with Dr. Emily Taylor as she shares how to keep your dog safe while exploring in snake country.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s84wl4W8jug>

Original article appeared in the Los Padres Forest Association's July 2022 newsletter:

<https://lpforest.salsalabs.org/july2022newsletter>



## Outdoors Safety: Tips for avoiding Hunting Season Hazards for Field Workers



### SAFETY TALK

DNR employees and scientists with outdoors or field work assignments are exposed to a variety of hazards including insects, toxic plants, wild animals, heat and cold stress, treacherous terrain and weather conditions to name a few on a daily basis. Moreover, with the arrival of Autumn, Minnesota parks, trails, and forests experience an increase in recreational activities, including hunters, who are out in public land, pursuing their favorite sports or games of choice, additional hazards of working in active hunting areas would require attention to details and taking specific precautions. Use this Safety Talk to improve your safety during the season.

### Plan Ahead

If you work, hike or use the outdoors, for other reason, plan ahead. Knowing the following will improve your safety!



#### Hunting Seasons Dates.

Knowing the seasons dates will keep you informed on the type of hunting activities and associated hazards you may encounter. Bear season begins in August, followed by grouse, deer and several other species in September. October is the high point of hunting season. Check the "[Hunting and Trapping Seasons—MNDNR](#)" internet site to find out.

#### Active Hunting Areas

Determine if the areas you are assigned to use, work or conduct field research is an active hunting area during the season or not, and plan your work accordingly. Check the "[MNDNR Hunting Land Locator](#)"

#### Avoid High Use Times

Opening days, weekends, early morning and evening hours are typically high use times that should be avoided. Supervisors should plan field work activities during mid-week, preferably middle hours of the day to minimize employee risk, and the hazard of exposure to the largest number of hunters.

#### Check-In and Check-Out.

Use pre-identified procedures in your plan to let others know where you are going and when you plan to return. This is always a good protocol, but even more important during hunting season.

#### Plan and Prepare For Health & Safety Emergencies

- Have a First Aid Kit Available.
- Access to a Phone or a Two-Way Radio to communicate your location in case of a problem
- Personal Medication (allergies, diabetes, etc.)
- Emergency Calling List to summon help.



#### Dedicated to your Health and Safety

### On-Site Safety Precautions

The following tips are critical to staying safe when hiking, working or conducting field research activities in active hunting areas during hunting season.

- Wear Bright Blazing-Color Clothing. Make yourself more visible. Choose blazing colors that stand out, like red, hunting orange or green, and avoid whites, blacks, browns, or earth-toned greens and animal-colored clothing. Your bright green safety vest and orange hat may work!
- Make Noise. Whistle, sing or carry on a conversation as you walk to alert hunters to your presence. Hunters are usually listening for sounds of animal movements.
- Make Yourself Known. If you hear shooting close by, raise your voice and let the hunters know that you are in the vicinity.
- Know Your Own Comfort Level. If hunting makes you uneasy, choose a hike in a location where hunting is not allowed, such as a national park or a state park.
- Be Courteous. Once a hunter is aware of your presence, don't make unnecessary noise to disturb their hunt
- Avoid Confrontation. Never confront or argue with anyone who has a gun.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for fieldwork activities (safety glasses/goggles, gloves, hard hat, work boots, etc.)
- Work in Pairs (Buddy System). The purpose of which, is to provide rapid assistance in the event of an emergency.



# ANF Hunting Update - August and September 2022

Welcome to hunting season in the ANF!

The hunting season starts off with bear hunting later this month (archery only) followed by deer hunting at the beginning of September (archery only). Both of these categories are referred to as 'big game animals' and hunting is only open through certain means on certain dates.

Additionally there are 'non game animals' that can be legally hunted year round in the Angeles National Forest.

Jackrabbits, coyotes, skunks, opossums, weasels, moles, rodents, English sparrows, and starlings can all be hunted without limits, by any method except poison, traps or baiting.

Hunting is NOT allowed everywhere in the forest. "Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property" is not allowed:

- In or within 450 feet [150 yards] of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area
- Across or on a National Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge
- Into a cave

Additionally hunting is not allowed in the San Dimas Experimental Forest.

As always, if you witness a poaching or polluting incident or any fish and wildlife violation, or have information about such a violation, immediately dial the toll free CalTip number **1-888-334-CALTIP (888-334-2258)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone with a cell phone may send an anonymous tip to CDFW by texting "**CALTIP**", followed by a space and the message to **847411** (tip411).

Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Title 36 - Code of Federal Regulations, Section 261.10 [d]

## Volunteering During Hunting Season - Stay Safe!

Do you know how to stay safe during hunting season?

The following tips are critical to staying safe in active hunting areas during hunting season.

**Wear Bright Color Clothing** - Make yourself more visible. Choose bright colors that stand out, like red, yellow or hunting orange. Make sure it is visible from a distance.

- **Make Noise**- Whistle, sing or carry on a conversation as you walk to alert hunters to your presence. Hunters are usually listening for sounds and animal movement.
- **Make Yourself Known**- If you hear shooting close by, raise your voice and let the hunters know that you are in the vicinity.
- **Be Courteous**- Once a hunter is aware of your presence, don't make unnecessary noise to disturb their hunt.
- **Avoid Confrontation**- Never confront or argue with anyone who has a gun.
- **Know Your Own Comfort Level**-- If hunting makes you uneasy, choose to hike/work in a location where hunting is not allowed.

- **Work in Pairs**- Having a partner (the Buddy System) can help in the event of an emergency. Some other things to consider when planning your work
- **Know the Hunting Season Dates** - There is no 'one date' that hunting starts. Hunting for different animals starts at different times. Some animals known as 'non game' can be hunted year round. The hunting dates for the ANF can be found at <http://www.usfsVolunteerTraining.org>
- **Avoid Active Hunting Areas** - Determine if the area you are assigned to is an active hunting area. Some areas are known to be hot spots for hunters. Knowing where they are can help you plan your work accordingly.
- **Avoid High Use Times** - such as weekends, mornings/evenings, and opening days. Reschedule work for midweek or midday if possible.
- **Check In and Check Out** - Make sure you call in/out of service. Make sure you let people know where you will be working and check in with them when done. Most importantly - Know how to use your radio in case of emergency.

And as always: **Be Prepared** - Things happen all the time in the forest. Having the essentials, a good first aid kit, extra food/water, medications, and paper maps of the forest are always a good idea. You never know when you or someone you're with may need them.,

# ANF Forest Service Volunteer Meetings \*

Date	Time
November 17, 2021 Volunteer Recognition	5:00pm
January 19, 2022	5:00pm
March 16, 2022	5:00pm
May 18, 2022	5:00pm
July 20, 2022	5:00pm
September 21, 2022	5:00pm
November 16, 2022	5:00pm

\*The volunteer meeting is tentatively planned for every other month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 5:00pm if it remains on the Microsoft Teams platform.

## Interesting Articles and Links on the Internet!

Nature For All Newsletter – Nature for All in Los Angeles (<http://www.lanatureforall.org>)

R-6 Fuel Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring Dashboard. Region 6 (Pacific Northwest) is experimenting with making information from FTEM (fuel treatment effectiveness monitoring) more accessible to the public  
<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/66d4c2df8be04e55b70661643a500c99>

NFFE Offers Testimony on Wildland Firefighter Reforms and New Legislation, Protecting FAA Tech Center, NFFE-IAM Members Speak with VP Harris, and more  
<https://mailchi.mp/nffe/oct-29?e=7482e8baaf>

New CLT Mill in Durango for Trees From Fuel Mitigation Projects  
<https://forestpolicypub.com/2021/10/30/new-clt-mill-in-durango-for-trees-from-fuel-mitigation-projects/>

Angeles National Forest to End Free Use Firewood Permits  
<https://scvnews.com/angeles-national-forest-to-end-free-use-firewood-permits/>

Map of the Angeles National Forest - San Gabriel Mountains National Monument  
This map shows the boundary for the ANF and the Monument along with landmarks. There is a feature on this

page where you can use this map to create your own with GoogleMaps.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/angeles/maps-pubs/?cid=FSEPRD535505&width=full>

Family Resources - The Nature Institute

<https://www.thenatureinstitute.org/resources/>

Pacific Crest Trail Hanbook covering Hand Tools for Trail Work: (In PDF Format)

[https://www.pcta.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/handtools\\_for\\_trail\\_work.pdf](https://www.pcta.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/handtools_for_trail_work.pdf)

## Volunteer Website: \*\* TrailAngeles.org \*\*

Check it out! The volunteer newsletter is included on the website.

About Trail Angeles: Trail Angeles is a project of L.A. Nature for All, Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative, aimed at connecting those who want to volunteer for the forest with existing volunteer groups. Whether you want to hike, mountain bike or help guide visitors, there are volunteer trainings and events for you.

Site history and sponsors: This site was created as a part of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative's volunteer committee, facilitated in part by the National Forest Foundation with grant funding from REI.

TrailsAngeles.org is looking for all volunteer groups and events to be listed on the website. Please contact Araceli Hernandez at email: [araceli@lanatureforall.org](mailto:araceli@lanatureforall.org).

**Disclaimer:** The newsletter and its contents are not associated in any way with any official Federal or State agency or entity. The editors assume no responsibility for the accuracy or the use of the information provided here.

## The Volunteer Newsletter

The E-Mail address for the newsletter is **Newsletter@USFSVolunteerTraining.Org** so if you have corrections to the contact information for the volunteer groups listed here, or if you wish to submit articles for publication, please send what you have to that address – with our thanks!

To let people know of volunteer work events, please submit what you have at least 2 months ahead of the scheduled event so that it can be added to the newsletter.

The various volunteer group's work schedules will be added to the newsletter as they report their work days to us.

This publication can be found on TRAILANGELES.ORG.

### ADVENTURE RIDERS MOTO TRAIL CREW

Joel Paez **basecamp4adv@gmail.com**

We are a group of adventure-minded enthusiasts on who enjoy travelling on dual-sport and/or adventure motorcycles (may be dirty, but not dirt bikes.) We prefer riding through back country roads, forest service roads and other less travelled routes. Our enjoyment involves meeting other people, camping in the outdoors, visiting remote places and supporting local businesses.

Our goals are to promote responsible motorcycle travel, educate other motorcyclists, mentor new riders to become safe and better riders and participate in the public land stewardship.

Ride safe and see you back in camp!

### AMERICAN'S GREAT OUTDOORS (AGO)

AGO at the Los Angeles County Fair provides a hands-on outdoor education experience for fair guests of all ages on our Public Lands. AGO is maintained and run by Three Agencies (USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Los Angeles County Fire Department, Forestry Division) along with Volunteers and other partners.

A critical goal of AGO is the promotion of fire prevention education and mitigation practices. Additional goals include providing information related to caring for the habitats in Southern California and the wildlife species that inhabit them, safe recreation, and imparting local historic information, as well as historic agency information.

The exhibits, on 1 ½ acres of land, includes the Reptile House, OHV site, Environmental Magic Show, Urban meets Wild Path, Camp Smokey, Historic Johnston Peak fire lookout, Native American site, Wild Horse & Burro Site, Cross Cut Sawing, Leave No Trace, a General Land Office and more!

The next LA County Fair will be held May, 2022.

Contact: Jane Baumgartner email: [j19473@att.com](mailto:j19473@att.com) phone: (626) 241-6497

## THE ANGELES CREST 100 MILE RUN AND ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST TRAIL RACE TRAILWORK TEAM

Aka The AC 100 & ANF Trail Race Trailwork Team

Information on the AC100 can be found at <http://www.AC100.com>

Contact Gary Hilliard to join the trailwork team: [GaryHilliard.RD@gmail.com](mailto:GaryHilliard.RD@gmail.com)

## ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION (ANFFLA)

ANFFLA is a non profit volunteer organization dedicated to restoring, maintaining and staffing the remaining lookouts of the Angeles National Forest.

### Interested in becoming a Fire Lookout?

It just takes a few classes training and the desire to spend some time in the Angeles National Forest. Training is held once a year, usually in May. For more information about becoming a fire lookout, please go to <https://www.anffla.org/training/>

Website: <http://www.anffla.org>

Email: [info@anffla.org](mailto:info@anffla.org)

## ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL

[m.rmcguire@hotmail.com](mailto:m.rmcguire@hotmail.com)

Mt. Pacifico , Valley Forge (now closed due to Bobcat fire), West Fork (now closed due to Bobcat fire), and Devore (now closed due to Bobcat fire) are our adopted Campgrounds. The fire roads to get there could change due to major rock slides, debris and fire danger.

Our mission is to provide educational and a responsible image to all trail users. To encourage rider's to obey forest regulations. To help the Forest staff as much as possible. Extra eyes and ears. To educate mtbikers to be responsible trail steward's... and Mike has been a certified B Sawyer since 2001. Robin became a A Sawyer two years ago, so we also do trail work.

## ANGELES VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

<https://angelesvolunteers.org/av/>

Meet us at the Crystal Lake Visitor Center !

The AVA performs a number of volunteer activities in the Angeles National Forest, including staffing Visitor Centers, cleaning up around Visitor Center Parking lots, and assisting the recreating public with whatever questions they might have.

The Angeles Volunteer Association (AVA) is a public service organization dedicated to the preservation and care of the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Our volunteers assist the U.S.

Forest Service in its efforts to maintain forest/monument resources and to provide visitors with opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities, such as camping, picnicking, hiking and fishing. AVA was founded in 1993 and is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Currently, most activities of the Angeles Volunteer Association occur in the San Gabriel River Ranger District. This is the area of the National Forest north of the cities of Azusa, Glendora, San Dimas and Claremont.

#### ARROYOS AND FOOTHILLS CONSERVANCY

<http://www.arroyosfoothill.org/>

Tim Martinez email: [timmartinez@arroyosfoothill.org](mailto:timmartinez@arroyosfoothill.org)

For more calendar details go to <http://www.arroyosfoothill.org/event-calendar/>

#### BEAR CANYON TRAIL CREW

[bearcanyontrailcrew@gmail.com](mailto:bearcanyontrailcrew@gmail.com)

<https://sites.google.com/view/bearcanyontrailcrew/home>

#### BIG SANTA ANITA CANYON

**Currently closed due to Bobcat Fire until further notice.**

Website: [Adamspackstation.com](http://Adamspackstation.com)

<http://www.bigsantaanitacanyon.com/>

- The Sierra Madre Police Dept. is in charge of locking/unlocking the gate. If you are concerned that the road might be closed you can call them for info: 626 355-1414.

- Adams Pack Station Contact: (626) 447-7356

#### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Greater Los Angeles Area Council (GLAAC)

<http://glaac-hat.org>

## PAT BYLARD – Independent Forest Wide ANF Volunteer

Working on graffiti abatement and mitigation. Pick up litter too.

Contact Pat Bylard at email: [patswoodworks@earthlink.net](mailto:patswoodworks@earthlink.net)

Coordination maybe be done for Los Angeles Gateway District via Michael Paniaqua or Ray Kidd.

## CALIFORNIA TRAIL USERS COALITION (CTUC)

### CHILAO VISITOR CENTER – VIS

Volunteering to inform the public: (626) 796-5541

CITY OF GLENDALE  
Parks, Recreation & Community Services Dept  
(818) 548-3795

<https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/city-departments/community-services-parks/trails-and-open-space>  
<https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/department/community-services-parks/volunteer-opportunity-register-here>.

COMMUNITY HIKING CLUB  
<http://communityhikingclub.org/>

Dianne Erskine Hellrigel  
email: [zuliebear@aol.com](mailto:zuliebear@aol.com) phone: 661-259-2743

CONCERNED OFF-ROAD BICYCLISTS ASSOCIATION (CORBA)  
PHONE: (818) 906-4682  
FACE BOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/CORBAMTB>  
<http://corbamtb.com/>  
For schedule go to: <http://corbamtb.com/Calendar/index.shtml>

Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association was founded in 1987 to serve the mountain bicycling community of Los Angeles and surrounding areas including southern Ventura County. CORBA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to gaining and maintaining public trail access for mountain cyclists and the public at large. CORBA encourages and promotes the safe and environmentally responsible use of unpaved roads and trails for bicycling and to educate the public about all aspects of off-road cycling and trails.

## FISHERIES RESOUCE VOLUNTEER CORPS (FRVC)

Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC) is a nonprofit 501© Public Benefit Corporation, operating under the United State Forest Service Volunteers in the National Forests Program, governed by the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972. The FRVC mission is to protect and monitor 16 wild trout streams and rivers in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests and educate forest visitors with a smile. Much of our work involves interacting with forest visitors while answering their questions and making them aware of camping, fishing, fire, safety, and wilderness regulations. We also assist the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Forest Service with fisheries and conservation projects, public education, emergencies, sign maintenance, invasive plant and species removal, illegal fire ring, graffiti, and recreational dam removal. Our volunteers also help staff the Gateway Visitor Center located at the entrance to San Gabriel Canyon in Azusa.

### Contact Information:

Tom Walsh

[www.frvc.net](http://www.frvc.net)

<https://www.facebook.com/FRVC-Fisheries-Resource-Volunteer-Corps/353455568388784>

## FRIENDS OF ECHO MOUNTAIN

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofecho>

Contact: Mitch Marich email [mitchmmi@earthlink.net](mailto:mitchmmi@earthlink.net) (626) 298-0042

Mike Simms

Friends of Echo Mountain is a volunteer group dedicated to helping maintain the Cobb Estate and the Sam Merrill and Echo Mountain Trails. We cooperate with other volunteer groups to cut brush, maintain the tread, pick up trash, and remove graffiti. We also advocate for proper trail etiquette and for improvements to the trail and adjacent Angeles National Forest lands. Contact us if you want to help.

## HABITAT WORKS - Kim Clark and Tom Persons

Volunteers Improving Wildlife Habitat on the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests.  
National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks and Private Preserves

To sign up on our elist: <https://www.habitatwork.org/get-involved.html>

To contact us: email us at [wildlife@habitatwork.org](mailto:wildlife@habitatwork.org)

## HARAMOKNGNA AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

## HIGH COUNTRY RIDERS

## JPL TRAILBUILDERS

Kathie Reilly 626-379-8429 email: [Outrspcklr@att.net](mailto:Outrspcklr@att.net)

Jack Russell 562-861-3187

## LOWELIFESRCC

Contact:

Website: [lowelifesrcc.org](http://lowelifesrcc.org)

Instagram: @lowelifesrcc

Matt Baffert: [matt@lowelifesrcc.org](mailto:matt@lowelifesrcc.org)

Lowelifes is always willing to take on new volunteers.

Sign up for newsletter: <http://lowelifesrcc.org/volunteer/>

Article on November work: <http://lowelifesrcc.org/2020/11/15/back-to-work/>

Article on start of Lowelifes: <http://lowelifesrcc.org/2021/04/07/lowelifes-respectable-roots/>

Recent Newsletter: <http://lowelifesrcc.org/2021/04/22/lowelifes-techtees/>

## MOUNT LOWE RAILWAY HISTORIC COMMITTEE

<http://www.mtlowe.net/>

Brian Marcroft (562) 868-8919 E-mail: [EMWORKS@VERIZON.NET](mailto:EMWORKS@VERIZON.NET)

Our mission is to preserve the remnants (structures, trails, artifacts) of the Mount Lowe Railway in the Angeles National Forest. We work with the Angeles National Forest along with a cadre of many other volunteers who help with various projects to protect the Forest.

## MOUNT WILSON BICYCLING ASSOCIATION

<http://mwba.org/>

<https://instagram.com/mwbaorg/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MWBAorg/>

Contact: [board@mwba.org](mailto:board@mwba.org)

## MOUNT WILSON INSTITUTE

<http://www.mtwilson.edu/>

P.O. Box 94146  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
(404) 413-5484

## MOUNT WILSON RACE

<http://www.mountwilsontrailrace.com/home.html>

Pete Siberell Chair, Mt. Wilson Trail Race

(626) 574-6373  
[psiberell@santaanita.com](mailto:psiberell@santaanita.com)

### OHVRC (OFF HIGHWAY VOLUNTEER RESOURCES CORPS)

The Off-Highway Volunteer Resource Corps (OHVRC) is a volunteer organization associated with the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in the Angeles National Forest. Our function is to provide educational, safety, and maintenance support to the Forest Service personnel of the San Gabriel OHV and surrounding trails.

Our support includes, but is not limited to trail maintenance, marking and preserving sensitive habitat, maintenance, trash removal, public education, safety advice, as well as performing as goodwill ambassadors between the Forest Service, the OHV personnel, and the general public.

Instagram: @ohvrcanf  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ohvrcanf>

Contact: Peter Hultine, email: [mt.volunteer@earthlink.net](mailto:mt.volunteer@earthlink.net)  
Dale Johnson, email: [dalepsi@dslextreme.com](mailto:dalepsi@dslextreme.com), mobile (626) 353-4223

### PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

<http://www.pcta.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PCTAFan>

[volunteer@pcta.org](mailto:volunteer@pcta.org)

Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 285-1846

Volunteer your passion for the Pacific Crest Trail. Volunteers support trail maintenance, education/awareness, administrative projects and more.

### RESTORATION LEGACY CREW

<http://restorationlegacycrew.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/restorationlegacycrew>  
Brenda Beck at: e-mail [brenda.beck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brenda.beck@sbcglobal.net)

We are Los Angeles Gateway District volunteer trail builders. We work Tuesdays, Fridays and some Sundays.  
Current Project: Dawn Mine Trail

### SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (SGMHA)

San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association (SGMHA) is a 501©3 nonprofit organization dedicated to conservation education. Through a participating agreement with the Angeles National Forest we provide programs

for schools, scouts, and the general public at Forest Service educational facilities located in San Gabriel Canyon and at the Mt. Baldy Visitor Center. Our volunteers also staff front counters at the Mt. Baldy Visitor Center and help with the maintenance of public exhibits and educational materials.

Contact Information:

Dave Baumgartner (909) 982-2879

[Info@sgmha.org](mailto:Info@sgmha.org) or dabaumgartner@aol.com

## SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAIN TRAIL BUILDERS

<http://www.sgmtrailbuilders.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SanGabrielMountainsTrailbuilders>

Twitter: [@SGMTrailbuilder](#)

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SGMTrailbuilders>

And a good time was had by all! If you would like to join us, we perform scheduled work the 1st,3rd and 5th Saturday of every month, meeting at the Forest Service Gateway Information Center across from Mile Marker 17 on Highway 39 above Azusa at the base of the mountain, leaving promptly at 8:00 a.m.!

Email [bwootenwhite@hotmail.com](mailto:bwootenwhite@hotmail.com) to get on the mailing list since unscheduled volunteer work is often done during the week as well.

If you would like to volunteer your time, Call: Ben White: 626-303-1078 Or E-Mail:  
[bwootenwhite@hotmail.com](mailto:bwootenwhite@hotmail.com)

## SIERRA CLUB

## SOCAL HIKERS AND TRAILBUILDERS

Contact: Ledy Magno e-mail: [wehike2gether@gmail.com](mailto:wehike2gether@gmail.com)

We are basically an advanced hiking group. The group has engaged in events throughout our local mountains, ie, Angeles National Forest, San Jacinto Wilderness and San Gorgonio Wilderness, including out-of-state events.

We maintain three trails currently, ie, Lower Sam Merrill, Stone Canyon and Trail Canyon, in order to give back to the community that we love so much.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOUNDATION

## TREE PEOPLE

<https://www.treepeople.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TreePeople1/>

12601 Mulholland Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 Telephone (818) 753-4600  
For calendar details go to: <http://www.treepeople.org/calendar>

### TUJUNGA TRAILS POSSE

TTP Crew supports the USFS by providing trails-related volunteer services in the Big-Little Tujunga Canyons area of the Angeles National Forest.

Contact: Kristin Sabo ([4ksabo@gmail.com](mailto:4ksabo@gmail.com))

### VOLUNTEERS OF THE ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST WRIGHTWOOD, CA

WILLIAM S HART UHSD OF SANTA CLARITA ANF CREW 135  
Kevin Sarkissian, Lead Trailboss

<https://www.facebook.com/roptrails/>

W S Hart Union High School District  
Angeles National Forest - ANF Crew 135  
21380 Centre Pointe Parkway  
Santa Clarita, CA 91350  
661.877.7024  
661.284.3270 X 1438



Paul Comb  
Illustrator · Cartoonist · Author · Speaker · Firefighter



[Addressee]

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