

Bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains need your help!



*We need hikers and climbers interested in conservation
to assist in the annual survey of bighorn sheep*

Feb 23rd -24th, 2007
Lytle Creek & surrounding canyons

Volunteers will hike to observation sites in the San Gabriel Mountains and count and record all bighorn sheep observed. Each volunteer group will be led by an experienced observer from the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS). Survey participants must be at least 16 years old and capable of hiking one mile on rugged terrain, though most routes will be longer. Most hikes are not on trails, and may involve scrambling over boulders and climbing steep slopes. Some routes require bouldering skills, bush-whacking through chaparral, or overnight backpacking.

The California Department of Fish and Game, U. S. Forest Service, and SCBS have been conducting annual surveys for bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel range since 1979. The mountain range once held an estimated 740 bighorn sheep, which made the San Gabriel population the largest population of desert bighorn sheep in the United States. The population declined over 80% through the mid 1980's but, as of 2006, appears to be on the increase, with recent estimates showing approximately 300 bighorn sheep.

No survey experience is necessary, however, **volunteers must attend a mandatory orientation at 7:00 PM on Friday, February 23, at David Dreyer Hall, 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga.** Complimentary campsites are available on a first-come basis at the Applewhite campground in Lytle Cr., and participants are encouraged to camp and hit the trails early Saturday. Mountain weather can be unpredictable and volunteers should be prepared to spend several hours hiking and making observations in cold and windy weather. Please **call the Lytle Creek Ranger Station at 909-382-2851 no later than February 15, to sign up and receive a volunteer packet.**