



Big Pines Volunteers

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

24537 Angeles Crest Hwy, Wrightwood, CA 92397 (760) 249-3504

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"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

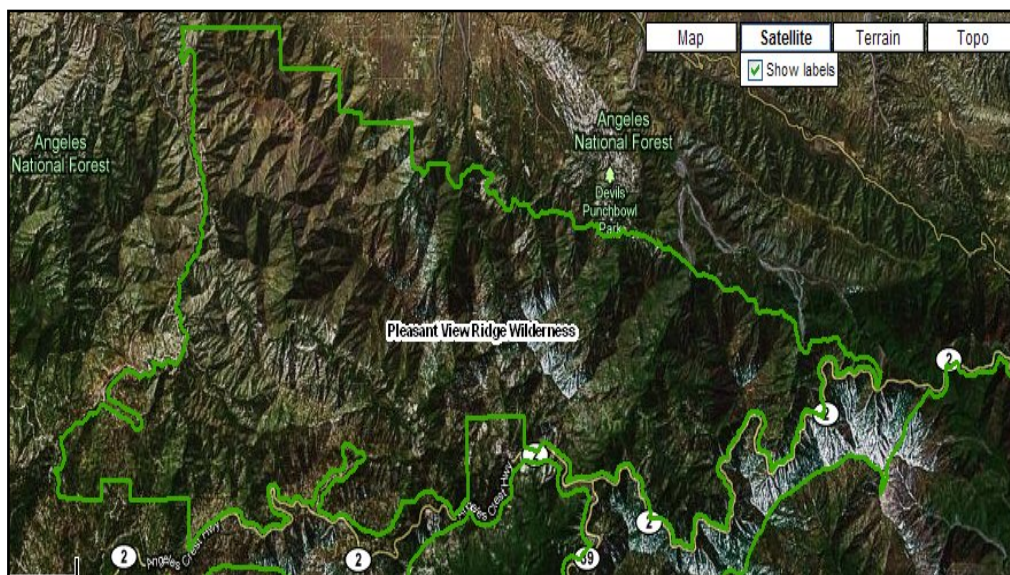
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Special points of interest:

- Back-to-School Season Weekend, August 14th and 15th, are "Free Days" and no Adventure Passes are required when recreating in the forest.
- USFS Firefighters from the SCMRD won first place in the Commercial & Specialized Vehicle category during the Santa Clarita Fourth of July Parade.
- Jackson Lake is scheduled to be stocked on Aug 12th and the 25th.

The Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness...



Big Pines, CA – The United States Congress designated the "Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness" in 2009.

It consists of 26,757 acres and features 8,200 foot Mt. Williamson, rugged backcountry, the headwaters of Little Rock Creek and a section of the Pacific Crest trail.

Its boundary begins at about the location of the new bridge on Hwy 2 near Vincent Gap and 300 feet from the centerline of Angeles Crest Hwy and the dirt road between

Vincent Gap and Big Rock Creek.

The Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness is part of the 109 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System and provides clean air, water and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals.

There is a misconception that a "wilderness area" is a "lock-up" of land that locks people out. In fact, the Wilderness Act specifically says that wilderness is for the "use and enjoyment of the

American people." However, motorized vehicles and mechanical transport, i.e. motorcycles, bicycles and hang-gliders are prohibited



Getting to know the plant life...



California Dodder

There has been an outbreak this year of this parasitic vine, easily seen as you travel along Blue Ridge. It seems to be everywhere.

Cuscuta californica, or "California Dodder" is also known as "Witch's Hair", Devil's Shoestring" "Strangleweed" or "Spaghetti Plant".

Although dodders resemble tangled masses of orange spaghetti-like stands twining over shrubs, they actually produce white flowers that resemble a miniature morning glory blossom.

The orange stems of the dodder are without chlorophyll and are completely dependent on its host for water and nutrients.

The dodder taps in on its host's nutrient supply with a modified root system (haustorium) by

penetrating the stem tissue of the host. California Dodder is partial to sages and deerweed.

It has been estimated that the total length of twining branches produced by a single dodder plant may exceed half a mile or 0.8 kilometers.

California Dodder inhabits many plant communities from sea level to 8,200 feet in most of Southern California and occasionally on the deserts. It blooms from May to July.

Safety Tips... Lightning...



When lightning strikes water the charge spreads out evenly in all directions and is dissipated rather quickly. On average there are 87 deaths in the U.S. per year with only 10% occurring while near or in water.



A sudden reversal of wind direction, a pronounced rise in wind speed, and a sharp drop in temperature are indications of a thunderstorm brewing.

During a Thunderstorm:

- Put down all tools. Turn off generators and electrical equipment. Do not use radios, telephones, electrical equipment that's plugged in, or plumbing fixtures.
- Stay away from horses and pack-stock.
- Stay in your Vehicle unless it doesn't have a metal top, or is open.
- Get away from water tanks, ponds, streams, and lakes. Avoid ridge tops, hilltops, wide open spaces, ledges, outcrops, sheds or shelters in exposed locations, or tall objects such as lone trees. Keep away from wire fences, telephone lines, electrically conductive objects, and railroad tracks.
- Take shelter in a building. If no buildings are available, the best protection is a ditch, tunnel or canyon.
- If you are in an area with isolated trees or open country, the best protection is to make yourself as small a target as possible. Drop to your knees, bend forward with your hands resting on your knees and keep your feet together.

Big Pines History... The Campgrounds



“Big Pines Recreation Camp” c. 1930

Big Pines, CA – In the beginning the campgrounds were free except for a 50 cent charge for a bundle of wood. Horses could be rented for \$4.00 a day, Burros for \$2.00 a day. A small gas station and facilities for minor repairs was located across from the Lodge.

Several campgrounds graced Big Pines Park, the closest being east of the Big Pines Recreation Center at the present day entrance to Camp Kare. In an era that bred folks with “tough skin”, the camps were used in the summer as well as in the winter.

In the early days tents were pitched, housekeeping set up and people were there for the summer.

These days to get to Big Pines it takes an hour to an hour and a half from what the mountain people call the “flat lands”. Over eighty years ago the trek was a lot more daunting. You had to travel over a two lane road through Devore and Cajon Pass, up the steep Lone Pine Canyon Road and through the Swarthout Valley over the Swarthout National Forest Highway.

The area has changed since Big Pines Park's early days, but the thrill of the calming activities of spring and summer still exists.

Today there are some fourteen Organizational campgrounds, thirteen public campgrounds and three picnic or day use areas around Big Pines.

Oh, but those glorious early days! In a time when the trails were new, when horses and mules were the mode of travel through a canopy of pines, quiet meadows and canyons and fishermen pulled in large trout, the park was indeed paradise. It still is today...

-Terry Graham notes -



Upper Mescal Canyon...

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

July 2010

Low: 4th 53°

High: 15th 89°

Wind: 13th 23

Precipitation: .41in



**Smokey Bear will
be 66 years old
on August 9th,
2010**



**Grassy Hollow
Visitor's Center**

www.grassyhollow.net



c. 1970

Look Familiar? During the winter months one of the favorite spots for snow players to use their sleds, saucers and toboggans, lies just a few hundred feet down Big Pines Hwy (N4) from the Arch Picnic Area and just East of the old Ice Rink.

It has a large area for parked cars and the sledding is some of the best in the area. The canyon is shaded to better hold the snow, is safely off the highway and contains a gentle slope that runs the canyon from Arch Picnic Area to the old skating Rink.

It also contains numerous slopes that are even more vertical for the more adventurous.

In the 60s and 70s this location contained bathroom and rental facilities and was known as the Upper Mescal Canyon Snow Play Area.

It was started by Al Myers, who also owned the Union gas station in Wrightwood. It stayed busy through the middle 1970's until liabilities and financial problems hit and it was torn down. Pieces of the building foundations can still be seen at the location today.



Grassy Hollow Summer Programs...

- Saturday, August 14th, 1:00 PM Earthquake Walk**
 Join us for a walk along a local stretch of the famous San Andreas Fault and learn about earthquakes. An easy 1½ mile hike.
Time: Approximately 1½ hours
Location: Apple Tree Campground
Leader: Don and Marion Shotliff; Volunteers of the Angeles Nat'l Forest.
- Saturday, August 21st, 1:00 PM Forest Animals**
 Learn about our local animals, including the bear, mountain lion, coyote, squirrels and birds on display.
Time: Approximately 30 – 40 minutes
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leaders: Linda Dailey; Volunteers of the Angeles Nat'l Forest.
- Sunday, August 15th, 1:00 PM Adventures in Dog Sledding**
 Hear an experienced musher tell what dog sledding is all about! Meet the dogs, see the equipment and experience it first hand.
Time: Approximately 1½ hours
Location: Apple Tree Campground
Leader: Robert Stadley;
- Saturday, August 28th, 1:00 PM History of Big Pines**
 What do the CCC, a Zoo and a Skating Rink have to do with our local area? Learn these answers and more.
Time: Approximately 1 hour
Location: Big Pines VIS
Leader: Barbara Van Houten;

Celebrate Smokey's Birthday, Saturday, August 7th, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Grassy Hollow VIS



Aug 26th, 6:50PM:
Wildfire Hazards
(new CERT module)
& Olympics Event

To be held at the
Sunrise Church on Hwy 2



c. 1925



c. 1930

Interested in Volunteering out of the Historic Big Pines Station?

Call: (760) 249-3504 or Email:
Aaron Katona: akatona@fs.fed.us
Todd Cook: mtcook@fs.fed.us or
Ron Heinig: rheinig@fs.fed.us



*The Wrightwood
Communications Group
has a disaster
preparedness net each
Sunday evening at 6:00
pm.*

<http://www.kw6ww.com/>



*Wrightwood CERT has
weekly FRS Nets on
Sundays at 5:30 pm.*

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



Upcoming meetings (3rd Tues each month)

Tues Jan 19, 2010
Tues Feb 16, 2010
Tues Mar 16, 2010
Tues Apr 20, 2010
Tues May 18, 2010
Tues Jun 15, 2010
Tues Jul 20, 2010
Tues Aug 17, 2010
Tues Sep 21, 2010
Tues Oct 19, 2010
Tues Nov 16, 2010
Dec 2010 - No Meeting

7pm, at the
Wrightwood Museum
6000 Cedar St.
(Old Fire Station)

Meeting Information:
(760) 249-5248



Current Fire Danger

The Volunteers of the Angeles...

*Meetings of the Volunteers are held on the fourth Tuesday of each
month at 7:00 pm at the United Methoist Church located at 1543
Barbara Street in Wrightwood. All meetings are open to the public.*

Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest
Wrightwood, CA
<http://www.grassyhollow.net>
grassyhollow@hotmail.com
Loren Lake, President lorenll@verizon.net