



Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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"100 years of Caring for the Land and Serving People"

"Footprints in the Past"...

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Special points of interest:

- The road leading down into Camp Lupine was heavily damaged and may be closed for sometime.
- The Fuel Reduction Project continues along Blue Ridge. Hikers need to remain cautious in the area...



[For More Info](#)

- June 9th, is "Get Outdoors Day". No Adventure Pass is required.



Big Pines, CA – Passport in Time ([PIT](#)) is a volunteer archaeology and historic preservation program of the **USDA Forest Service**. PIT volunteers work with professional FS archaeologists and historians on national forests throughout the U.S. on such diverse activities as archaeological survey and excavation, rock art restoration, archival research, historic structure restoration, oral history gathering, and analysis and curation of artifacts.

For two weeks between April 23rd and May 5th 10 volunteers, a diverse group from California, Arizona and as far away as Washington and Delaware, took part in the program here at Big Pines. The group, ranging in age from 25 to 70+, joined Doug Milburn, our USFS Archeologist, and Ron Heinig, Assistant Recreation Officer for our district, for another spring venture of the ongoing "Footprints in the Past" project. This project was initiated more than 12 years ago to examine prehistoric and historic settlement patterns in the San Gabriel Mountains of southern California! This year, PIT volunteers and Forest Staff did additional "foot recon" to locate and record Native Californian residential sites and specialized activity locations along the margins between the San Gabriels and the western Mojave Desert.

During their survey, they mapped and documented artifacts and features from prehistoric and historic settlements. The numerous sites they encountered ranged from a small scatter of stone flake artifacts to a seasonal village near a creek. In this village they found fragments of stone manos and metates to grind and process vegetable materials. There were many cache rock clusters that were used to store pinyon nuts, yucca roots, and other foods. There was also a rock circle that could be the foundation of a circular domed habitation framed structure. Projectile points and other tools had been found there on previous visits.

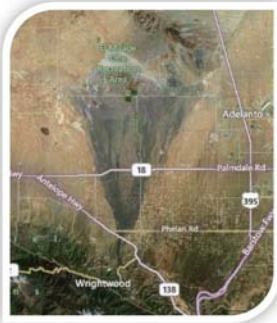
The volunteers reported that not only was this project educational, but a lot of fun as well. Why not join them next spring?



Scan the QR Code or [click here](#) for a detailed report with pictures of this year's PIT project. Report by "PIT" Volunteer Chris Reed



Big Pines History...“The Great Mudflow, 1941”



Satellite Picture of the
“Alluvial Fan”

Mudflows have occurred from Blue Ridge to the El Mirage Dry Lake Bed for centuries, depositing Pelona schist across the desert floor which is easily visible in satellite pictures



Heath Canyon Slide



[1953 Geological Report of the
Mudflow of 1941](#)



Heath Canyon Scarp 1948

Big Pines, CA – When driving along Blue Ridge toward Wright Mountain, just past Guffy Campground, you can't help but notice a large slide area at a turn in the road where the PCT trail and Blue Ridge Road meet. The Heath Canyon “slide” or “scarp” is clearly visible from Hwy 2 high on the mountainside above the small alpine community of Wrightwood and stands as a testament to the forces of nature, snow melt and water runoff.

This part of the mountain has always been moving; in fact there have been over 13 major mudslides in the past 90 years. The more recent ones occurred in 1965, 1969, 1976 and 1977. But it was on May 7th, 1941 that residences would see geology in the making as “Old Mother Earth” shifted her heavy burden of mud and rocks down the mountain.

The great mudflow's origin was at the head of Heath Canyon where conditions were ideal. The bedrock in this section of the San Gabriels is pre-Cambrian pelona schist consisting of a large variety of metamorphic rocks. This area also lies within the San Andreas rift zone and is subject to very intensive “shattering” and subsequent “weathering”. This erosive action produces vast amounts of talus, which, due to the very narrow gorge at the canyon's head, accumulates to a considerable depth.

Since the talus is mainly composed of weathered schistose rock, it becomes extremely slippery when moist. Most years this area receives heavy winter snows and since it is on the northern flank of the mountain, the snow pack becomes quite deep. Such were the conditions in 1941 when an unseasonably warm spell melted the snow, thus providing the lubricant for the mudslide.

With a tremendous roar, hundreds of tons of

slimy mud, very much like wet concrete, began its descent. The flow was slow, licking along and smothering everything in its path. The mudslide removed a good portion of the mountain's side, some 1.2 million cubic yards of earth, and it is estimated to have affected some three fifths of the small town of Wrightwood.

An apple orchard was buried with the trees standing upright. A cabin and some sheds were inundated to the eaves though the buildings were not moved. This moving mass crossed the highway and spread out like soft fingers on the desert floor. It traveled 15 miles and descended 5,000 feet in elevation as the runoff of water continued on and flowed into El Mirage Dry Lake.

For more than a week the surges of mudflow continued daily, with several coming in succession during mid-day. The coming of each new surge was sometimes heralded by the roar of sliding coming from Heath Canyon, and the surge itself made a noise like that of concrete in a mixer. Bumping boulders, some as large as six feet tall shook the ground and the splashing of mud was audible throughout the Swarthout Valley.

Thankfully, only five structures were lost (after all it was only 1941) in an area that today hosts hundreds of cabins and homes, and there were no fatalities or reports of injury. Erosion, shattering along the fault zone and weathering are forces of nature that never sleep. When enough talus accumulates above the narrows and a heavy snow pack is melted by early summer weather, the oozing mud will again creep down from the mountain to the desert floor.



Sidney Yoakum's buried cabin 1941

Grassy Hollow Summer Programs...

- Saturday, June 2nd, 1:00 PM**
Rocking Geology Talk
 What's underfoot in the San Gabriel Mountains? Learn about the rock cycle and what rocks you might see when you hike our local trails.
Time: Approximately 1 hour
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leader: Bruce Garbaccio; Geologist, California EPA
- Sunday, June 3rd, 1:00 PM**
Hug-A-Tree
 Do you know what to do if you are lost in the mountains? Learn how to keep from getting lost as well as learn what to do to make it easier for someone to find you.
Time: Approximately 45 minutes
Location: Grassy Hollow Amphitheater
Leaders: Tom Schneider; San Bernardino Search and Rescue
- Saturday, June 9th, 10:00 AM**
Bird Walk and Talk
 Learn about the birds we can identify right from our deck at Grassy Hollow and then, join us on a bird-sighting walk. Approximately 1 mile easy walk
Time: Approximately 1- 2 hours
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leader: Dan Guthrie, Neil Gilbert; Audubon Society, Pomona Valley
- Sunday, June 10th, 10:00 AM**
Earthquake Walk
 Join us for a walk along a local stretch of the famous San Andreas Fault and learn about earthquakes. See some interesting formations.
Time: Approximately 1 1/2 hours
Location: Apple Tree Campground
Leader: Gail Nieto; VANF Member
- Saturday, June 16th, 10:00 AM**
Geology of the Area
 What's above the ground in the San Gabriel Mountains? Learn about the topography of our area, inspect our relief map.
Time: Approximately 1 hour
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leader: Loren Schneider; Geology Teacher, Serrano High
- Sunday, June 17th, 10am-4pm**
Father's Day
 Come up and enjoy our natural surroundings at the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center. Bring a picnic lunch and celebrate Father's Day. Take our one-mile loop on the Pacific Crest Trail and catch a beautiful view of the Antelope Valley (easy hike), hike to the Big Horn Mine (moderate), or hike to the top of Mt. Baden Powell (strenuous).
- Saturday, June 23rd, 1:00 PM**
Native American Plants and Culture
 Learn how local plants were used by Native Americans for food, medicine, and more.
Time: Approximately 1-1 1/2 hours
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leader: Robin Cornett; Wrightwood Library
- Sunday, June 24th, 1:00 PM**
Keeping the Forest Green and Fire Safe
 Learn how NOT to start a fire in the Forest to protect humans, animal life and trees.
Time: Approximately 1 hour
Location: Grassy Hollow VIS
Leader: Captain Jim Wilkins; San Bernardino Fire Dept, Retired

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

May 2012

Low: 26th 26°
 High: 21st 82°
 Wind: 25th 49
 Precipitation: 0.00 in



[Entire Summer Schedule 2012](#)



The stage at the Table Mountain Campground Amphitheater is being renovated and will be ready for "Movie Night" on June 16th.

Programs at the Table Mt. Amphitheater...

- Saturday, June 16th, 8:00 PM**
Movie Night
 "Jerico" A Father's Day Western
- Saturday, June 23rd, 5:00 PM**
Music Night
 "Country Crooning Cowboys"

News and Updates:



**FS Fire Lookout
Volunteer
2012 WADAD**



Wildfire and Disaster Awareness Day 2012

The USFS Angeles National Forest booth at the Wrightwood Wildfire and Disaster Awareness Day event was a big hit. The crew from Engine 38 was there to explain the tools of their trade in putting out fires and show off and demonstrate many of the features found on the engine.

Many young ones tried on the equipment for size, including the heavy gear, supply and hose packs, boots, pants, jacket and helmet. Smokey Bear, as always, was a big hit with both the kids and the adults.



Bob's Tree

On May 15th, the first anniversary of the passing of Bob Moore, a commemorative tree was planted in his memory at the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center by Ron Heinig, John Rivera and Arnie Michels. The healthy five year old ponderosa pine is located next to the Kiosk across from "Bob's Rock".



Safety Engagement Training

Sixteen volunteers were present for the Safety Engagement Training class on May 19th. It was held at the historic Big Pine Recreation building. The instructors were Ron Ashdale, The Forest Safety Officer and our own District Ranger, Bob Blount. Ron Heinig, the Assistant Recreation Officer of our district, was also there to answer our questions and share some thoughts.

While all 35,000 full time US Forest Service employees have attended the class, the volunteers out of the Big Pines station and Grassy Hollow VIS are the first volunteers to be offered this training.

On average there are 5 fatalities a year and countless injuries while working on the job. The Forest Service Chief wants to reduce the number of fatalities or major injuries to zero. The purpose of the program is to change the way we think, talk and act relative to safety. The intention is to catalyze a shift in safety, from a "program" or "priority" to a "core" or "shared value".

While safety "compliance" is important and will obviously continue, it is not enough. It was stressed that the safest organizations are working to shift their focus from compliance-based safety to become organizations that are continually "learning" and improving in regards to working safely.



**Smokey Bear at the
2012 WADAD**



Current Fire Danger



c. 1925



c. 1930

**Interested in Volunteering out of
the Historic Big Pines Station?**

Call: (760) 249-3504 or Email:
Ron Heinig: rheinig@fs.fed.us

Photos: From the Collection of Terry Graham



*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>



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

Upcoming meetings (3rd Tues each month)

Tues Jan 17, 2012
Tues Feb 21, 2012
Tues Mar 20, 2012
Tues Apr 17, 2012
Tues May 15, 2012
Tues Jun 19, 2012
Tues Jul 17, 2012
Tues Aug 21, 2012
Tues Sep 18, 2012
Tues Oct 16, 2012
Tues Nov 20, 2012
Dec 2012 - No Meeting

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

Meeting Information:
(760) 249-5248



**Grassy Hollow
Visitor's Center**

www.grassyhollow.net

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

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