



Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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

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

The Limber Pine...

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Limber Pine
Photo: by Daniel Mayer

Big Pines, CA – The limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) is so named because its branches are extremely flexible. It is a slow growing, long-lived species, sometimes taking several hundred years to reach maturity. Mature trees may exceed 1000 years of age. Here in the Angeles National Forest the oldest limber pine is thought to be close to 2,000 years old.

Limber pines inhabit some of the driest sites capable of supporting trees. The limber pine is typically a high-elevation pine, often marking the tree line either on its own, or with the lodgepole pine. It is one of two pine trees here in the Angeles National Forest that is distinguished by having

their needles in fascicles (bundles) of five. The other is the sugar pine.

In favorable conditions, the limber pine is known to reach 66 ft tall. However, on exposed tree line sites, mature trees are much smaller, reaching heights of only 16 ft. On steeply-sloping, rocky and windswept terrain the limber pine is even more stunted, occurring in old stands where mature trees are consistently less than 9 ft in height.

Trees often have an irregular or multi-stem growth form. At high elevations they sometimes form stunted, twisted shrub-like formations caused by exposure to wind. The species is cold and drought tolerant as the trees have deep taproots, and are very wind firm. Cones of limber pine are cylindrical, 3 to 6 inches long. Limber pine is often killed by fire because of its relatively thin bark.

The wood of limber pine has been used for mine props and railroad ties, it has little commercial value. Its potential for timber and fuel wood production is low, because the trees are slow growing with irregular form.



The oldest trees in our forest



Limber pine foliage



The tree has dense branching habits

Special points of interest:

- CalTrans has done a good job in keeping Angeles Crest Highway open this year. Most can't remember the last time it wasn't closed throughout the winter.
- It has been a very dry year for us here in the forest. Last year for the period of Nov – Feb, Big Pines had 19.59 in. of precipitation. This year we've only had 3.93 in. for the same period.

2012 Bighorn Ground Survey:

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

February 2012

Low: 28th 17°

High: 22nd 63°

Wind: 13th 36

Precipitation: 0.90 in



The San Gabriel Mountains – On Saturday, March 3rd, the facility used for the mandatory orientation meeting was filled to capacity, standing room only. In fact, registration for the 2012 Bighorn Ground Survey had to be closed as early as February 8th, as all expectations had been surpassed due to the unprecedented interest in volunteers wishing to participate.

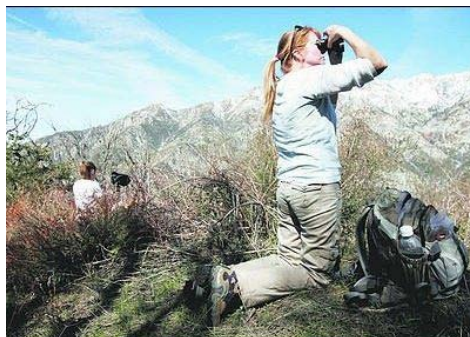
This year was rather unique because of the lack of snowpack. Typically the snow will keep the bighorn sheep collected at lower elevation “wintering” ranges which

make them easier to see, count and classify from the ground. With the lack of snow they were spread all over the range and at higher elevations. Taking advantage of Angeles Crest Highway being open, one group was able to drive up to Islip Saddle and into the higher elevations to do their survey.

According to Jeff Villepique, a biologist with the CDFG, “We only saw 66 animals from the helicopter, and at higher elevations than in past years. The good news is that the lamb:ewe ratio appears good, better than 0.5”.



Limber pine cone





Current Fire Danger



c. 1925



c. 1930

Interested in Volunteering out of the Historic Big Pines Station?

Call: (760) 249-3504 or Email:
 Todd Cook: mtcook@fs.fed.us or
 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

grassyhollow@hotmail.com

President: Loren Lake email: lorenll@verizon.net