



# Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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:

- **November 11<sup>th</sup>**, Veteran's Day, is a **FREE PASS** day. No Adventure Passes are needed to recreate in the forest.
- The 15 minute only signs have been installed in front of the Big Pines Station. We are ready for the snowplayers...



## Explosions at the Big Horn Mine

**Big Pines, CA** – In the early afternoon of November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 a series of explosions rattled Vincent Gulch in the vicinity of the Big Horn Mine. It was heard from Jackson Lake to Wrightwood. Residents of Wrightwood said it sounded like thunder but there were no clouds.

At Vincent Gap there was a very large cloud of dust, dirt and debris rising hundreds of feet into the air.

The current owners of the mine are making modifications to make the area safer. The explosions were set off to bring down rock and debris across the trail to make the mine inaccessible.



## Weeds are being removed from Jackson Lake



**Jackson Lake, CA** – The lake is being drained so as to expose the cattails and other weeds.

Fenner Crews have been using chain-saws to cut the weeds which then are

thrown into a roll off dumpster to be removed.

After the weeds and cattails are removed, a plastic material will be used to cover the areas so as to inhibit future growth.

Draining the lake is not as easy as it looks and the siphon hose has been clogging up with debris. Employees of the nearby camps have been keeping an eye on the draining process and checking several times a day to make sure the water keeps flowing into Mescal Creek.

As the colder weather moves in and the lake starts to freeze over, the project will have to be suspended.

## CalTrans Plans to Re-open Hwy 2



**Angeles Crest Hwy** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) closed SR-2 to the public to repair the damage to the Angeles Crest Highway (SR-2) caused by the Station Fire.

A portion of SR-2 from La Canada-Flintridge to Clear Creek is expected to open by mid-October. SR-2 is expected to fully open to the public by mid-November.

“Three contractors hired

under a \$12 million emergency contract are working 24-hours a day to replace guardrails and repair portions of the pavement,” said Deputy District Director of Maintenance, Dan Freeman.

“Residents and the public will only be allowed to use SR-2 when it is deemed safe by authorities.

“Construction crews and emergency responders need the road clear, additional road

traffic could hinder their efforts to ensure public safety.”

Several thousands of feet of guardrail and hundreds of road signs will need to be repaired or replaced. Several debris basins filled with ash will need to be cleared.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/>

## Driving Safely on Icy Roads

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. Allow at least three times more space than usual.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean..
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive.
- Be careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, you might encounter ice in shady areas
- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. They have limited visibility.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

*“Recreation in the mountains this time of year calls for extra caution.”*

Jody Noiron

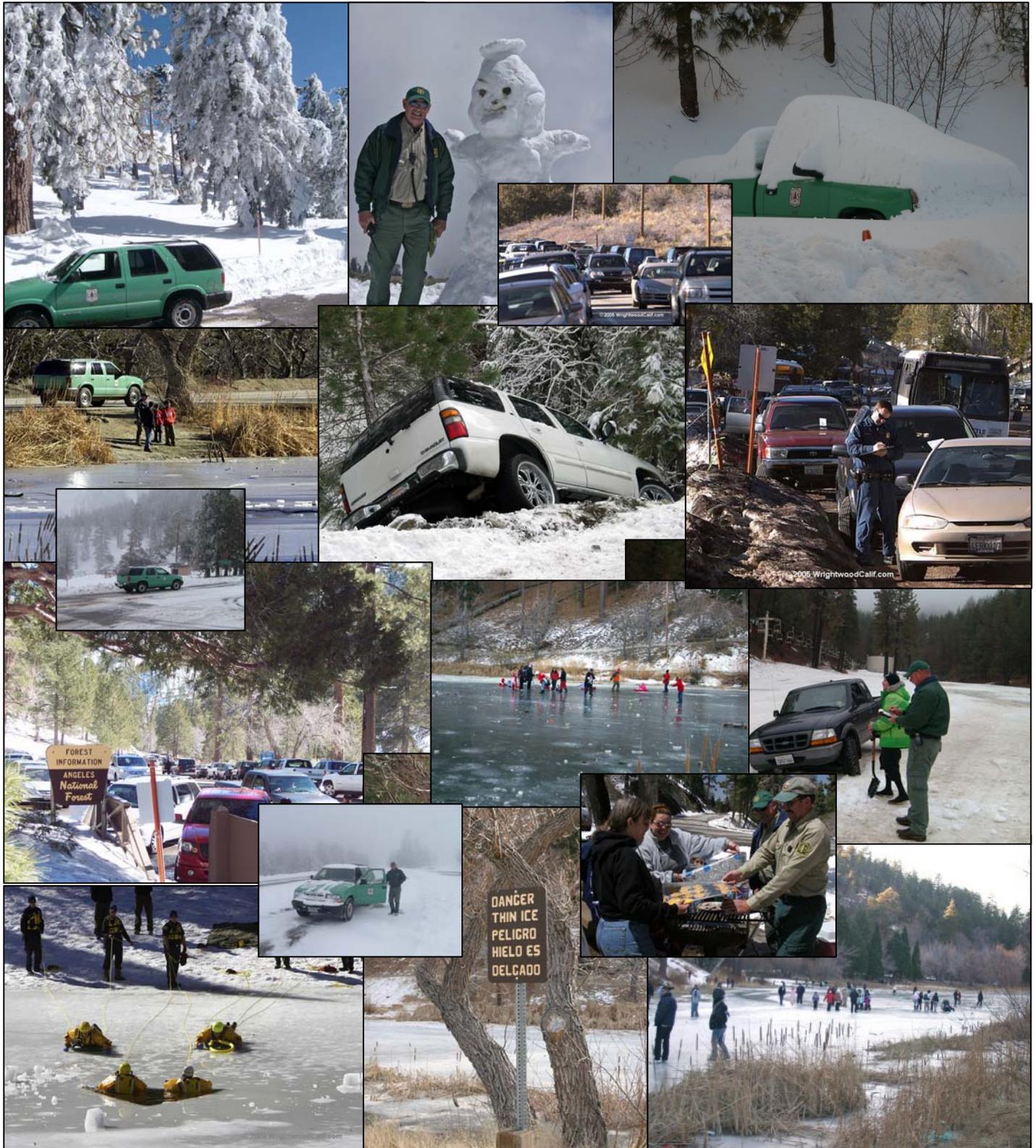
## Winter Safety Gear

**Big Pines – CA** Last year many of the volunteers used “boot chains” while out on the highways and slippery turnouts writing NNCs. Winter brings very icy conditions. Especially when walking around the cars on the highway next to the snow berms it can

be very slippery. Boot chains offer very good traction and can be worn all day long, even while driving without taking them off. A popular brand of boot chains are called YakTraks and can be found at most camping and sports supply stores.



# Getting Ready for the Winter Season





**Station Fire**

**Recovery Project**

*Anyone interested in volunteering needs to contact:*

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

*Please leave name, city of residence, contact information (phone number and email) and the type of Volunteer Projects of interest.*



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

**Upcoming meetings**  
(3rd Tues each month)

- Tues Feb 17, 2009
- Tues Mar 17, 2009
- Tues Apr 21, 2009
- Tues May 19, 2009
- Tues Jun 16, 2008
- Tues Jul 21, 2009
- Tues Aug 18, 2009
- Tues Sep 15, 2009
- Tues Oct 20, 2009
- Tues Nov 17, 2009
- Dec 2009 - No Meeting

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

Meeting Information:  
(760) 249-5248



*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>

**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>

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Loren Lake, President [lorenll@verizon.net](mailto:lorenll@verizon.net)