



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:

- Ventran's Day, Wed, November 11th, is a FREE Day. No Adventure Pass is required while recreating in the forest.
- Volunteers of the SMMRRD have been invited to a "Volunteer Appreciation" party on November 13th, from 5 – 7:30 pm at Big Pines VIS
- Mt. High is preparing for an early opening. The reservoir is full and employees have been clearing the slopes of large rocks.

Are they in our forest or not?...



"The Angeles National Forest is host to many different kinds of animals; Bear, Mountain Lion, Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Bobcat, Coyote, Ringtail Cat, Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Squirrel, Rabbit, Chipmunk, Bats, Rats and Mice.

But what about a small handful of animals that some say do exist in our forest while others say they don't?

Take the porcupine for instance. A former teacher at the Outdoor Science School and an expert on animals around this area of the forest insists that there are no porcupines. Jane Strong, a Naturalist and USFS Volunteer said: "You will need a dead animal to prove a porcupine in the forest".

On the other hand, according to Southern California Camping's website in their field guide to mammals;

"...field crews conducting research on California Spotted Owls have reported several sightings of porcupine during the 1990s" in the San Bernardino Mountains. It goes on to say: "There is a reliable report of a road kill in the San Gabriel Mountains during a large wildland fire in the 1980s".

Are porcupines here in our forest or not? Could it be that they were here at one time?

How about the Flying Squirrel? It has been documented that the San Bernardino Flying Squirrel inhabited the San Bernardino Mountains to as far west as Lake Silverwood. In a 1986 report to the California Department of



Fish and Game, D. F. Williams suggested that flying squirrels were probably present in the San Gabriel Mountains as well but there is no documented evidence to support that contention.

Spend any time at Newcomb's Ranch and you'll hear stories of motorcycle riders encountering Wild Boar crossing Angeles Crest Highway. Biologists suggest they'll make their way here from the far western edges of the forest if they haven't already. So, keep watch and report any sightings.

Oak Trees in our forest...



Big Pines – In Area 12 we have four types of Oak trees that dot our landscape.

The beautiful oaks with lobed leaves that turn color this time of year are the California Black Oak or *Quercus Kelloggii*. It is deciduous and is found in the valleys from Lightning Ridge / Blue Ridge Summit down past Mt.

High and throughout Wrightwood.

Interestingly, the Black Oak is not found again in the Angeles National Forest until the Liebre Mts. near Gorman.

The other three oaks are evergreen. We have the Canyon Oak which can grow to be a large tree. It has leaves that are dark green on top but gray underneath.



The Canyon Oak generally has leaves where the edges are smooth and can be found all through the Vincent Gap area from Vincent Gulch to Fenner canyon and Big Rock Creek.

The other two are the Scrub or Tucker's Oak and the Live Interior Oak which has glossy leaves.



Safety Tips... Wilderness Survival...

Do you know the basic rules if you are lost and alone in the wilderness?

- **Stop:** Sit down and stay put until the fear, anger, and or frustration has gone from the system.
- **Think:** Think through your situation. What do you have that can help you in this situation? Your mind is your greatest survival tool.
- **Observe your surroundings:** Where should you stay? If you told someone where you were going, people may be searching for you. Is there an open area where the searchers would have a better chance of seeing you?
- **Plan your action:** In most cases it should be to find or make a shelter against the weather, build a fire for heat, signal to attract attention and find water.

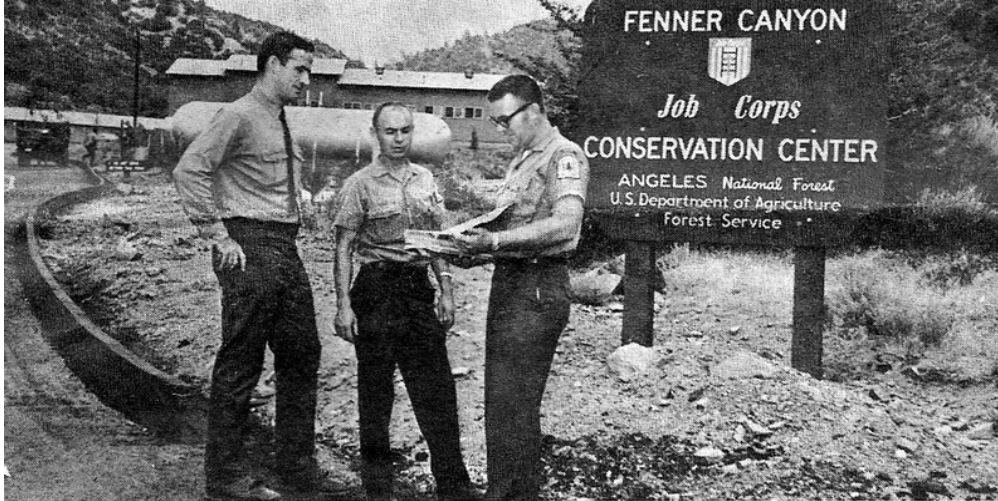
Next Step:

- **Warmth:** Maintaining body temperature is crucial. Your body operates within a narrow temperature range. In most survival situations, the challenge is to keep you warm, especially at nights.
- **Water:** Since the human body is 75 per cent water, you need a constant supply of water to function. The average person can survive for only three days without water.
- **Sleep:** As humans we need a certain amount of sleep to remain rational and to make conscious decisions to better your situation.
- **Food:** An average adult can survive for weeks without food; therefore, food is rarely a first priority, but it is very important to keeping a healthy mental state.



The Ringtail Cat is one of the shyest Mammals of the Angeles National Forest.. Because they are nocturnal, sightings are rare.

Big Pines History... Fenner Camp



VALYERMO DISTRICT RANGER Glenn Hampton (left) listens to plans for Fenner Canyon outlined

by Project Officer Ken David and Center Director Bob McDonald (right). c. 1965

Fenner Canyon – Forty-five years ago a special center was built. Not only would it change lives for the good, but it helped the Angeles National Forest thrive.

The "Job Corps" began during the "War on Poverty" in the 1960s, and was meant to offer alternatives to young disadvantaged Americans who might otherwise turn to the seedy side of life. It was a federal program that provided food, shelter, work clothes, health care, job training and vocational skills to teenagers and young adults between 14 and 21 years of age at 115 locations across the United States.

One such location Southeast of Big Rock Creek, tucked away on a 60 acres parcel in a quiet little canyon named after Colonel F. C. Fenner, was the Fenner Canyon Civilian Conservation Center.

The Job Corps center opened in 1965. By 1967 six teachers, six vocational instructors and eight resident staff worked closely with one hundred and twenty eight boys.

The rotating training was seven months long; during that time the boys earned \$30 a month. But the biggest payoff was at the completion of the training. The youths were placed in various forms of employment.

The Job Corps at Fenner Camp worked on many of the campgrounds, built forest rest stops, painted and repaired structures within the forest, improved 40 miles of trails, including building a brand new one in the Big Pines area, planted well over a thousand trees in areas ravaged by wildfire, improved fire breaks and assisted in fire suppression.

The axe fell on June 30th, 1969 when many of the centers were closed due to budget cuts, but during those four years over 600 trainees completed the program.

What an amazing outfit the Fenner Canyon Civilian Conversation Center was! The efforts of the staff and enrollees resulted in the installation of more than one-half million dollars worth of National Forest campgrounds, picnic sites, visitors' rest areas and fire station facilities.

Today the Fenner Canyon Conservation Camp, CC #41, houses 136 inmates and is jointly operated by CAL-FIRE and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Under a special use permit that allows them to occupy National Forest lands and facilities, they must provide free labor as part of the agreement.

Conservation Camp Quick Facts:

- The inmate Fire Camp population is more than 4,400.
- Only minimum security inmates are allowed to participate.
- Inmates typically earn \$1 per hour and can earn up to two days off their sentence for every day they work fighting fires.
- Conservation Camp Program inmates average ten million work hours a year.



"Snow Beach" Cleanup...

"I have worked with the inmates and captains of Fenner and I have enjoyed every minute of it."

"I do not know what the condition of our forest would be without them!"

Micheline Bradley
USFS

Weather Extremes Big Pines Station

October 2010

Low: 7th 31°

High: 11th 76°

Wind: 24th 34

Precipitation: 3.12in



**Grassy Hollow
Visitor's Center**

www.grassyhollow.net



Angeles Crest Hwy- Approximately three miles west of Vincent Gap next to a large turnout, is a spot known to local snowboarders as "Snow Beach".

There you'll find a very deep and steep canyon that fills in very heavily with snow during the winter months. Because it is shielded from the sun, snowboarders can make use of the snow well into summer, long after all the other snow in the area is gone.

Over the past couple of seasons the snowboarders have built obstacles and rails so as to test their skills and abilities performing "slides".

Updates...

The Grassy Hollow Visitor's Center is getting a little sprucing up. A brand new metal roof is being installed.

The previous roof was not leaking but was pretty beaten up by the harsh elements. The work is being done by a contractor.



In October the Fenner Crew, as part of their highway cleanup routine, removed all the debris that was used by the snowboarders to perform their tricks.

Metal rails, pallets, both wood and plastic, as well as 8 inch steel piping measuring up to six feet long had been left behind along with other trash.

The Fenner crew has piled the debris along side the road, as they do all along our area of Angeles Crest and the Big Pines Hwy, to be picked up by CalTrans.



Mike Worshum, Volunteer 332

In August the "NRF" (Notice of Required Fee) replaced the Notice of Non Compliance.

We are finding that the public is much more compliant thanks in part to the efforts of the volunteers. At Vincent Gap compliance is 95%.

The Fenner Fault, Fenner Canyon and Fenner Conservation Camp were all named after F. C. Fenner, a Colonel in the Spanish American War. He bought the Bighorn Mine in 1901 and died 16 years later in 1917.



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>



Non-profit 501 (c) (3)

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