



Big Pines Information Center

Volunteer NEWSLETTER

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

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"Caring for the Land and Serving People"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Deer Season	2
Improvements	2
Campgrounds	2
CERT Class	3
ANF vs BDF	3
Fire Danger	3
Volunteers	4

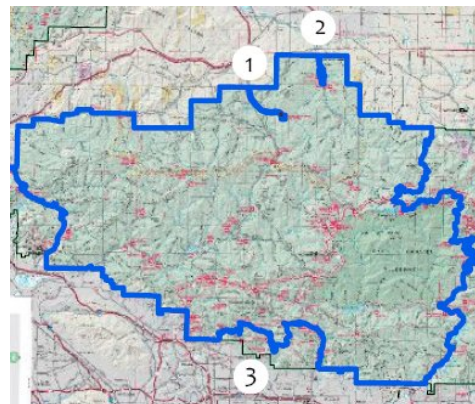
Angeles National Forest Closure Modified

Arcadia, CA – On October 1st, 2009, a new Station Fire Closure order was issued. The Closure was modified in pursuant of Order No. 01-09-08.

The Order is effective from 6:00 am October 1st, 2009 until September 30th, 2010.

The Wrightwood area, Blue Ridge, Big Rock Creek and Hwy 2 to Vincent Gap have been lifted from the closure.

The closure will continue to affect the Station Fire Recovery Area of the Angeles National Forest.



Special points of interest:

- The Angeles National Forest in the Wrightwood area is now open.
- Aaron Katona, REC-34, became the father of a brand new baby girl exactly at noon on October 6th. Her name is Scarlett Sophia Katona. Scarlett weighed 7 lbs 14 oz. and was 19 ¾ inches at birth.
- On October 2nd, the Historical Society had a meeting in the Historic Big Pines Lodge with 65 in attendance.

"Sheep" Fire Causes Evacuation of Wrightwood



Wrightwood, CA – On Saturday afternoon on October 3rd, at 2:11 pm a fire would start near Applewhite Campground in Lytle Creek and quickly advanced in the direction of Wrightwood by way of Swarthout and Lone Pine Canyons.

The entire town came

under a Mandatory Evacuation order on Sunday morning as the fire quickly moved toward the east end of town. This is believed to be the first time ever the town has had to be evacuated.

Firefighters were able to make a stand at the top of Lone Pine Canyon and keep the fire from damaging any Wrightwood residences.

The "Sheep" fire would eventually consume some 7,200 acres before being contained.

Fire-fighters were able to use the event to set backfires and burn out areas near Helicopter Hill, Circle Mountain and the Levels area that have long been a concern because of very thick brush.



Deer Season Opens



Deer Season opens in Zone D-11 on October 10th and will run until November 8th. Bag and possession limit is one buck, forked horn or better per tag. Deer tags CAN be validated by the U.S. Forest Service.

Tagging Requirements: After taking a deer the hunter is required to immediately fill out and permanently mark the date of the kill (notch tag), and attach the tag to

the antlers. A maximum of 5,500 tags will be issued for this zone.

Archery Season runs from September 26th to December 31st and either sex may be taken. Only 1,000 Archery tags are issued.

For the last two years CDFG Game Wardens have been very visible in our area of the forest and the Camp Lupine area which is a favorite of

hunters. Due to the closure of much of the ANF, our area may be very crowded this year with hunters.

Hunting is illegal within 150 yards of a campsite, road, building, etc., but a much larger area is restricted from firearms in the Big Pines area. Check out the Los Angeles County Firearms Closure Map:

www.scvqu.com/SEMap.pdf

Volunteers Help with Forest Improvements

Volunteers have been busy making improvements to the campgrounds in our area of the Angeles National Forest.

Improvements:

- Bob Moore and Aaron Katona installed a new trash bin at Vincent Gap and prepared a pad for another one to be installed at Jackson Lake.
- Arnie Trejillo along with Bob Moore repaired the stairs on the observation tower at Jackson Flat. It is now safe for public use.
- Clark Fletcher has revamped and organized the workshop located at the Mt. High West Entrance.
- Planks and the bridge have been repaired at the Mescal Picnic area.
- Clark Fletcher and Aaron Katona are working on a proposal to build a wood deck and stairs on the East side of the Big Pines Visitors Center so as to cover exposed rebar and make the area useful.
- 15 minute Parking signs will soon be installed in front of the station.

"There's just going to be sections that won't be out until it rains!"

Stan Bercovitz

Concessionaire Campgrounds Close Early

Big Pines – CA The campgrounds operated by concessionaires, including Table Mountain, Mountain Oak, Lake and Jackson Flat, are all closed for the season.

Typically these campgrounds stay open until

November 15th, but it was decided they should close for the season when the Forest Closure took effect on September 3rd, 2009 due to the Station Fire.

Other Forest Service Campgrounds such as

Apple Tree, Pevine, Blue Ridge, Guffy and Lupine remain open.

www.ReserveUSA.com



Wrightwood CERT Class Offered Again

Wrightwood – CA We dodged a very big “missile” by avoiding any damage from the “Sheep Fire” which stopped just short of the village. But wildfire is not the only potential catastrophe that threatens the community of Wrightwood, as it straddles the San Andreas Fault.

The Wrightwood Disaster Preparedness Team periodically sponsors the excellent

disaster training program known as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), which has graduated over 200 local folks over the last 3 plus years.

The next series of classes is scheduled for the Saturdays of October 31st, November 7th and 14th, from 9am to 4pm and will be held at the Sunrise Church, 770 Highway 2. Registration is required so as to plan for course

materials and the free CERT backpack, helmet and vest. CERT will again be participating in the WWGGDE event this year on October 24th.

To register, or for more information, send an email to:

wrightwoodcert@msn.com

Or visit their website:

www.wrightwoodcert.com



Confusion between ANF and BDF Forests

On Sept. 26th a group of some 45 individuals who were part of a “hiking club” were stopped and questioned when they were found to be hiking the Acorn Trail which is within the boundary of the September forest closure. The group was transported to near the Acorn Trailhead in Wrightwood via a bus, and many hiked the Acorn trail up to Blue Ridge Road and back.

In talking to the group's leader it was apparent that there was confusion as to the boundary of the forest closure. The leader felt that since they were hiking in the San Bernardino National Forest, the closure did not include the

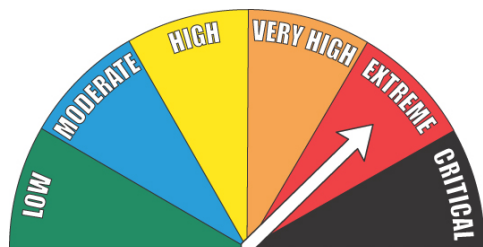
Acorn Trail. This is a common misconception and no citations or warnings were issued. The San Bernardino National Forest that surrounds Wrightwood is administrated by the ANF, as clearly shown on maps.



"We are new to the area. Volunteering is a good way to get involved and meet people in the community"

Paul Jones

Fire Danger Level is Raised to “EXTREME”



The Fire Danger Level on the Angeles National Forest was raised to “Extreme” (Level 5 of 6) from “Very High” (Level 4) on October 1st, 2009.

- Campfires are **NOT** allowed anywhere in the Forest.
- Propane, gas or jelled stoves are **ONLY** allowed in developed sites. No Permit is required.



Station Fire

Recovery Project

Anyone interested in volunteering needs to contact:

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 Methodist Church located at 1543 Barbara Street in Wrightwood. All meetings are open to the public.

Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest
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 Loren Lake, President lorenll@verizon.net