



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"

Angeles National Forest Remains Closed

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vetter Destroyed	2
Help Needed	2
New Tires	2
Ron Heinig	3
BEARS!	3
Volunteers	4

Special points of interest:

- The Angeles National Forest Remains closed.
- As of Sept. 1st, 2009 wood or charcoal fires are NOT allowed anywhere in the San Bernardino National Forest.
- Saturday, September 26th is "National Public Lands Day" No Adventure Pass is required.
- Volunteers are needed to help with the restoration of the Forest that was damaged by the Station Fire.

Arcadia, CA – As a result of extreme fire activity, and to protect public health and safety, Angeles National Forest officials implemented an area closure of the southern portion of the Angeles National Forest on September 03, 2009.

The closure will remain in place until it is determined that it is safe to reopen forest areas. The closure Area consists of all National Forest System lands within the Angeles National Forest south and east of California State Route 14 and California State Route 138.

The closure will affect the use of all national forest recreational facilities,

roads and hiking trails. A violation of the closure is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both. For further information about the closure contact the Fire Information Center at 626-821-6700.



Archer Brings Bear into Big Pines Station



Big Pines, CA – On Saturday August 29th a bear was brought into the Big Pines VIS Information Center by hunters who had killed it with a single arrow. Archery season for bear was from August 15th to September 6th. It was killed near the water tower above Sycamore

Campground in Big Rock Creek.

According to the hunters, this 270lb female bear had been making a pest of itself in the Big Rock Creek area, even dragging an ice cooler from the campground.

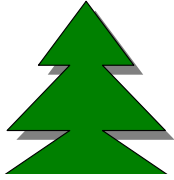
As a reminder the USFS cannot validate Bear tags. Only CDFG employees may validate Bear tags and the skull must be presented to a CDFG office or officer within 10 days of the kill.

The "skull" (usually all

that is required is a tooth from the bear) becomes the property of the CDFG for scientific purposes.

Should the Forest Closure end, Bear season using rifles will run from October 10th – December 27th.

Last Year 21 Bears were killed in Los Angeles Co. and 23 in San Bernardino Co. Out of 26,000 Bear tags that were issued for the entire State last year, only 2,000 tags were validated.



Vetter Mountain Lookout Destroyed in Fire



Before

Vetter Mountain was the site of the historic Vetter Mountain Fire Lookout Tower. It was a ground mounted BC-3 type cab

built in 1935. Sadly, it was destroyed in the Station Fire which started on August 29th, 2009.

The tower was operated by the Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (ANFFLA) citizen volunteers in cooperation with the United States Forest Service since 1998.

Several of the volunteers working out of Big Pines had

the privilege of working in the lookout, which had such spectacular views of Angeles Crest, Mt. Wilson and Mt. Pacifico.



After

Remember...

*"You can't fix
stupid."*

Volunteer 332

The Angeles National Forest has requested volunteers for work due to the Station Fire.

There is a BAER or Burned Area Emergency Response Team on the forest. Their job is to assess watershed conditions in the area of the fire, map out the severity of the burn on the soil, determine where watershed emergencies exist and develop a plan to alleviate emergency conditions, stabilize soils, and prevent further impairment of ecosystems.

Work that will be required will entail

Trail maintenance/reconstruction Sign installation - Developed Recreation Sites, Trails etc. – Developed Recreation Sites rehabilitation – replace fire damaged infrastructure and also planting trees.

Anyone interested in volunteering needs to send a short message to rcole@fs.fed.us, who is coordinating the volunteer projects.

Howard S. Okamoto

hokamoto@fs.fed.us

USFS Ford Pickup Get's New Tires



After receiving two flat tires in as many days, the Ford F150 pickup finally received a much needed set of new tires.

Concerned campers would report that someone had stolen all the truck's tires.



New Assistant Recreation Officer

Ron Heinig will soon be permanently talking over the position that was vacated by Ray Kidd.

Ron will be the new Assistant Recreation Officer for the SCMRD. He has filled in at that position on a temporary basis in the past.

Ron is a Wrightwood resident and brings much to the community. As an avid HAM operator he is involved with

the Wrightwood Disaster Communications Group.

Ron was an active participant and served as an "evaluator" in the Wrightwood Golden Guardian Disaster Exercise held last Fall in which multiple agencies practiced their communication skills after Wrightwood was hit by a mock 7.5 earthquake.

Ron is also a "weather buff" and serves as a NWS

Weather Spotter for the San Diego Office of the National Weather Service.



Ron with Bob Fino



Grassy Hollow Meeting is for the Bears

Even though Grassy Hollow has been closed due to the forest Closure, their monthly meetings continue. On Tuesday, September 22nd the Volunteers of the Angeles met at the historic Big Pines Recreation Hall at 7:00 pm. The public was also invited.

Their Guest speaker was Kevin Copley who gave a presentation on Bears. Kevin has many years of experience and research working with bears here on the Angeles, as well as in Alaska.

"Great presentation by Kevin Copley!" said John Aziz who attended the meeting. Thirty-three people were in

attendance.

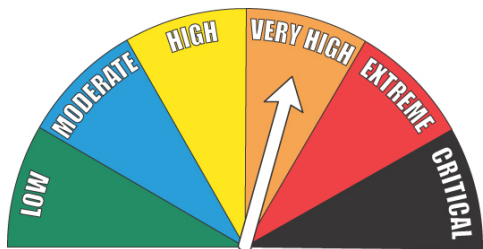
Kevin expects that black bear numbers will increase in the Wrightwood area due to the Station Fire.



"I love the outdoors and want my grandkids to experience the same experiences in nature I have."

Bob Blount

Fire Danger Level is Currently: "Very High"



The "Very High" fire danger level is the fourth in a six-level graduated rating system which is used by the Angeles as a tool to convey current fire danger levels to forest visitors. These levels each convey an intended use restriction to inform people of the limits of fire use under the cumulative fire danger for the forest.



Are You a Volunteer?

“Caring for the Land and Serving People”. Those seven words sum up the Forest Service's Mission. It's a pretty big mission and the truth is, it couldn't be accomplished without the help of volunteers.

If you're already a volunteer, thanks for all you've done. If not, there are many ways you can volunteer. Some of these involve sweat, blisters, and bug bites.

Some jobs require pounding nails, maintaining trails or manning Visitor Centers.

Chances are, if you've got a skill or interest, the USFS may be able to match it with a need.

If you're interested in getting involved, please take a few minutes to explore this site:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/volunteering/>

The Volunteers of the Angeles...



Construction of the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center began in 1993. The exterior was completed in 1994; but the interior was not completed until 1995. Due to lack of staff and funds, the Center was closed and vacant for one year. A group of interested local Wrightwood residents led by Helga Wallner organized under the name Wrightwood Volunteers, and with permission from the Forest Service, opened the Visitor Center in 1996. In 1999 in deference to the many volunteers from other communities, Wrightwood was dropped and the name was changed to **Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest**.

The Volunteers staff the Visitor Center and supply information, directions and education to the public by means of their knowledge of the area, pictorial displays and video presentations of forest lore, as well as their extensive display of preserved local animals, birds and reptiles. In addition, they maintain a feeding station to provide a local bird appreciation and viewing opportunity from the Visitor Center deck.

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, and the Volunteers would welcome the opportunity to explain their group and its mission in detail. They are always happy to have new members.

The Wrightwood Communications Group has a disaster preparedness net each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm.

<http://www.kw6ww.com/>

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