

Bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel Mountains need your help!



***We need hikers and climbers interested in conservation
to assist in the annual survey of bighorn sheep***

Sunday, March 4, 2012
**Mount Baldy area, Lytle Creek
& surrounding canyons**

Volunteers will hike to observation sites in the San Gabriel Mountains and count and record all bighorn sheep observed. Each volunteer group will be led by an experienced observer from the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep (SCBS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), or US Forest Service. Survey participants must be at least 16 years old and capable of hiking one mile on rugged terrain, though most routes will be longer. Most of the hikes are not on trails, and may involve scrambling over boulders, climbing steep slopes, or bush-whacking through chaparral. Two sites may be available for those with limited mobility.

The CDFG, Forest Service, and SCBS have been conducting annual surveys for bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel range since 1979. The mountain range once held an estimated 740 bighorn sheep, which made the San Gabriel population the largest population of desert bighorn sheep in California. The population declined over 80% through the mid 1980's but appears to be on the increase, with recent estimates showing just over 400 bighorn sheep.

Volunteers must attend a mandatory orientation at 6:00 PM on Saturday, March 3rd at the Verdumont Center, 3664 W. Little League Drive, San Bernardino. The Verdumont Center is located approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mi. northwest of the Palm Ave. exit on 215. Participants are encouraged to camp and hit the trails early Sunday. Volunteers should bring binoculars or spotting scopes in addition to hiking gear. Mountain weather can be unpredictable and volunteers should be prepared to spend several hours hiking and making observations in cold and windy weather. Sign-ups this year are via **Web Page**. **Please visit: sangabrielbighorn.org to register and receive a volunteer information packet.** If you absolutely cannot access the internet, please leave a telephone msg. at (626) 574-5287 or (909) 382-2870 so that we may arrange to get you the information.

For those who wish to camp, complimentary campsites will be available on a first come, first serve basis at the Applewhite Campground in Lytle Creek on the night of March 3rd.