

HIKING & BACKPACKING

SANTA BARBARA & VENTURA

2ND Edition



A complete guide to the trails of the southern Los Padres National Forest



CRAIG R. CAREY

WILDERNESS PRESS



*No amount of word-making will ever make a
single soul to know these mountains.*

—*John Muir*

*Your mountain is waiting.
So . . . get on your way!*

—*Dr. Seuss*



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CRAIG R. CAREY



WILDERNESS PRESS . . . *on the trail since 1967*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

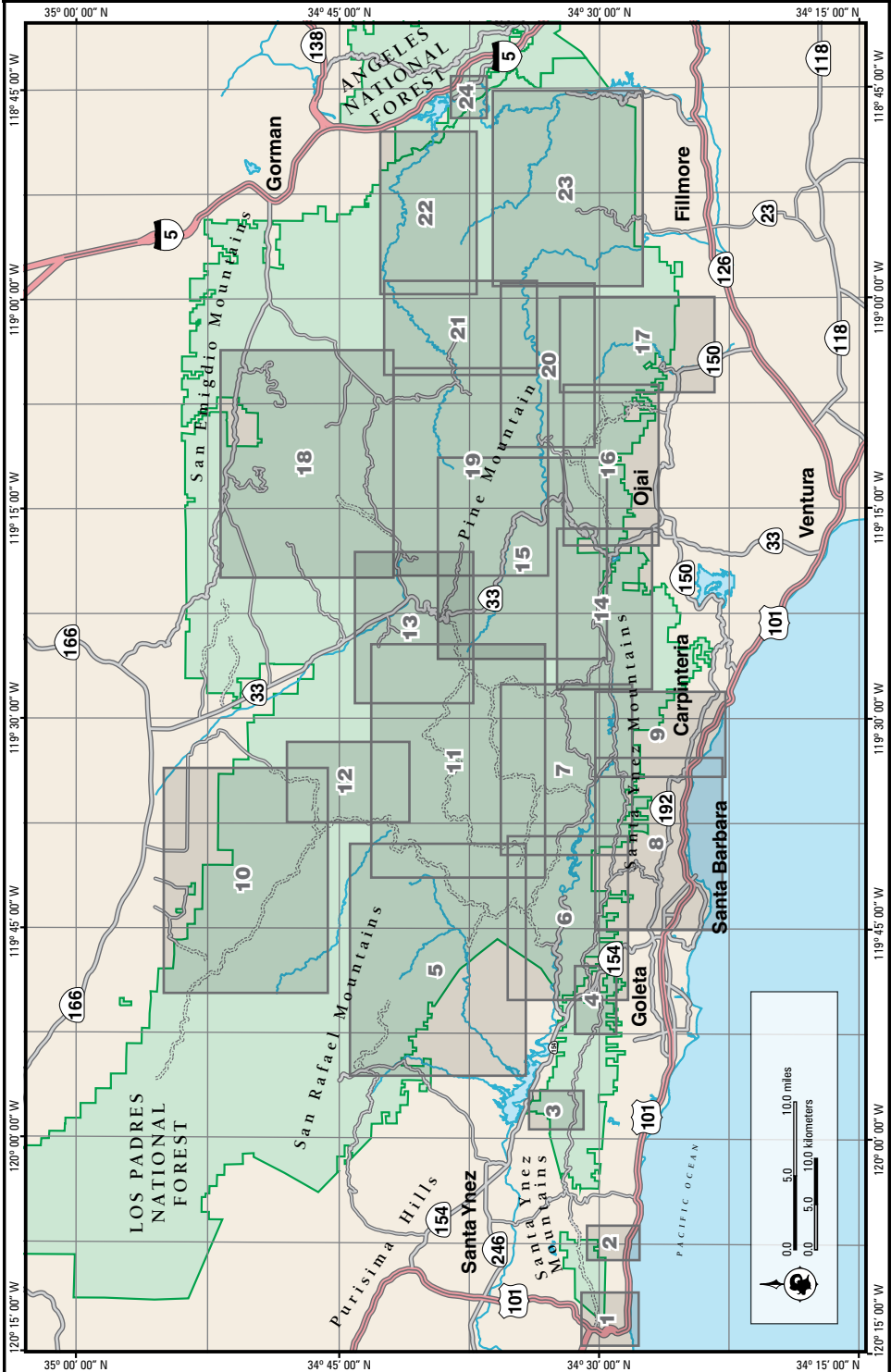


THIS ONE'S FOR THE VOLUNTEERS—those hearty souls who survey, clear trail, and remove brush and downed trees; who toil under the sun and amid the bugs and burrs; who protect the archaeological sites and the rare plants and the habitats; and who advocate from home and from afield. Thank you to the crew leaders, the Scouts, the casual and the hardcore, and all those who get on their gloves and keep public lands accessible.

—*Craig R. Carey*



Hiking & Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura



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PREFACE

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

IT'S BEEN A ROUGH DECADE for the southern Los Padres National Forest since the first edition of this guide was written between 2009 and 2011. The previous edition came in the wake of the damage wrought by the Day, Zaca, Tea, and other fires in the late 2000s, and the 2007 Zaca Fire was for a time the second-largest wildfire in California's recorded history. The damage to the trail infrastructure was huge and is something with which the U.S. Forest Service and trail volunteers still contend.

The Los Padres seems to bear a disproportionate share of fire damage this century, and the 2010s were no exception—in late 2017, the Thomas Fire tore through the Santa Paula, Ojai, Ventura, and Carpinteria trail systems. For a short while, *this* fire held the dubious distinction as the largest wildfire in state history (larger, more-recent fires continue to assail California).

In January 2018, heavy rains on the fire-ravaged landscape caused massive mudslides and debris slides—claiming more than 20 souls—and scoured numerous Santa Barbara and Montecito frontcountry trails from the canyons.

As a result, the Los Padres again finds itself in an era of recovery. And while the fires, floods, strain on resources, economic straits, and other stresses with which the Los Padres contends seem dire, there is cause for hope: conservationists work tirelessly to defend these lands, and there has been a resurgence in trail access—nearly all of the “new” entries to this guide are historic routes recently “reclaimed” largely through the efforts of volunteers and a grassroots groundswell.

Conditions are reported as accurately as possible herein, but change seems to be the only constant. Double-check conditions before departure (hikelospadres.com is a fantastic hiker-driven source) and—most importantly—please get involved if you can! There are numerous volunteer groups you can join, a handful of which are listed below.

LOS PADRES FOREST ASSOCIATION: lpforest.org

LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH: lpfw.org/get-involved/volunteer











































MONTECITO TRAILS FOUNDATION: montecitotrailsfoundation.info

OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY: ovlc.org








































































Now, get on your boots!

—C. R. C.






















































































Overview of Routes

| NUMBER | HIKE | DISTANCE (IN MILES) | TYPE | DOGS ALLOWED | GOOD FOR KIDS | MOUNTAIN BIKING | BACKPACKING |
|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Gaviota Peak via Gaviota Hot Springs | 6.1 |  | | |  | |
| 2 | Trespass Trail | 7.2 |  | | |  | |
| 3 | Baron Ranch Trail | 6.8 |  | |  | | |
| 4 | Broadcast Peak via Tequepis Trail | 11.0 |  |  | |  | |
| 5 | Lizard's Mouth | 0.25 |  |  |  | | |
| 6 | McKinley Spring and McKinley Mountain | 19.4 |  |  | |  |  |
| 7 | Mission Pine Trail | 13.8 |  |  | | |  |
| 8 | Santa Cruz National Recreation Trail | 20.5 |  |  | | |  |
| 9 | Grapevine Trail | 5.5 |  |  | | |  |
| 10 | Snyder Trail and Knapp's Castle | 6.2 |  |  |  |  | |
| 11 | Aliso Nature Trail | 3.4 |  |  |  |  | |
| 12 | Upper Oso Canyon to Nineteen Oaks | 3.6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | Arroyo Burro | 10.7 |  |  | |  | |
| 14 | Camuesa Connector Trail | 8.0 |  |  | |  | |
| 15 | Matias Trail | 6.4 |  |  | |  |  |
| 16 | Gibraltar Trail | 9.5 |  |  | |  |  |
| 17 | Mono-Alamar and Alamar Hill Trails | 13.9 |  |  | |  |  |
| 18 | Agua Caliente Trail to Upper Caliente | 5.0 |  |  | |  |  |
| 19 | Forbush-Mono | 5.5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | Forbush and Blue Canyons | 5.8 |  |  | |  |  |
| 21 | Jesusita Trail and Inspiration Point | 4.4 |  |  | |  | |
| 22 | Mission Canyon/Tunnel Trail | 8.2 |  |  | |  | |
| 23 | Rattlesnake Canyon | 4.8 |  |  | |  | |
| 24 | Cold Spring Canyon West | 4.4 |  |  | |  | |
| 25 | Tangerine Falls | 2.6 |  |  |  | | |


















































































Overview of Routes *(continued)*

| NUMBER | HIKE | DISTANCE (IN MILES) | TYPE | DOGS ALLOWED | GOOD FOR KIDS | MOUNTAIN BIKING | BACKPACKING |
|--------|---|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | East Fork Cold Spring and Montecito Peak | 9.2 |  |  | |  | |
| 27 | Montecito Hot Springs | 3.0 |  |  |  |  | |
| 28 | Saddle Rock Loop | 2.4 |  |  | |  | |
| 29 | McMenemy Trail | 2.1 |  |  | |  | |
| 30 | Girard Trail | 0.6 |  |  | |  | |
| 31 | San Ysidro Canyon | 9.0 |  |  | |  | |
| 32 | Buena Vista Loop | 2.8 |  |  | |  | |
| 33 | Romero Canyon | 7.1 |  |  | |  | |
| 34 | Franklin Trail | 13.7 |  |  | |  |  |
| 35 | McPherson Peak | 10.1 |  |  | |  | |
| 36 | Montgomery Potrero and Rocky Ridge Trail | 12.4 |  |  | |  |  |
| 37 | Salisbury Potrero and Bull Ridge Trail | 6.6 |  |  | |  |  |
| 38 | Santa Barbara Potrero and Sierra Madre Road | 11.2 |  |  | |  |  |
| 39 | Alamar Trail | 6.4 |  |  | | |  |
| 40 | Indian Creek Trail | 12.4 |  |  | | |  |
| 41 | Indian-Poplar Trail | 3.7 |  |  | | |  |
| 42 | Madulce and Madulce Peak Trails | 9.0 |  |  | | |  |
| 43 | Puerto Suelo | 3.0 |  |  | | |  |
| 44 | Santa Barbara Canyon | 7.0 |  |  | | |  |
| 45 | Don Victor Valley Fire Road and Don Victor Trail | 13.0 |  |  | |  |  |
| 46 | Upper Rancho Nuevo Canyon | 12.0 |  |  | | |  |
| 47 | Bear, Deal, and Lower Rancho Nuevo Canyons | 8.8 |  |  | | |  |
| 48 | Mine Camp via Deal Connector | 2.6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 49 | Murietta Trail | 5.0 |  |  |  |  |  |

Overview of Routes *(continued)*

| NUMBER | HIKE | DISTANCE (IN MILES) | TYPE | DOGS ALLOWED | GOOD FOR KIDS | MOUNTAIN BIKING | BACKPACKING |
|--------|--|------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| 50 | Divide Peak and the Monte Arido Trail | 11.4 |  |  | | |  |
| 51 | Ocean View Trail | 10.3 |  |  | | |  |
| 52 | Matilija Falls | 10.0 |  |  | | |  |
| 53 | Upper North Fork Matilija Creek | 8.5 |  |  |  | |  |
| 54 | Ortega Trail | 8.9 |  | | |  |  |
| 55 | Rice and Wills Canyons | 4.6 |  |  |  |  | |
| 56 | Kennedy Ridge and the East El Camino Cielo | 18.0 |  |  | |  |  |
| 57 | Cozy Dell Trail | 4.0 |  |  |  |  | |
| 58 | Wheeler Gorge Nature Trail | 0.75 |  |  |  | | |
| 59 | Stewart Canyon via Pratt Trail | 9.6 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 60 | Foothill Trail | 1.3/1.4 |  |  |  |  | |
| 61 | Fuelbreak Road and Fuelbreak Road Trail | 2.6 |  | |  |  | |
| 62 | Fox Canyon and Luci's Trail | 3.1 |  |  |  |  | |
| 63 | Gridley Canyon and Nordhoff Peak | 14.2 |  |  | |  |  |
| 64 | Chief Peak | 8.6 |  |  | | | |
| 65 | Horn Canyon | 10.6 |  |  | |  |  |
| 66 | Sisar Canyon (Southern Red Reef Trail) | 18.8 |  |  | |  |  |
| 67 | Hines Peak | 6.7 |  |  | | | |
| 68 | Last Chance Trail, Santa Paula Canyon, and Topatopa Bluff | 13.5 |  |  | | |  |
| 69 | Howard Creek Trail | 5.9 |  |  | | |  |
| 70 | Rose Valley Falls | 1.0 |  |  |  | | |
| 71 | Rose-Lion Connector | 1.6 |  |  |  | |  |
| 72 | Toad Springs | 7.1 |  |  | | |  |
| 73 | Mount Pinos to Cerro Noroeste (Vincent Tumamait Trail) | 5.7 |  |  | | |  |
| 74 | Mesa Spring | 7.2 |  |  | | |  |

Overview of Routes *(continued)*

| NUMBER | HIKE | DISTANCE (IN MILES) | TYPE | DOGS ALLOWED | GOOD FOR KIDS | MOUNTAIN BIKING | BACKPACKING |
|--------|--|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 75 | North Fork Lockwood Creek | 10.1 |  |  | | |  |
| 76 | McGill Trail | 3.7 |  |  | |  | |
| 77 | Boulder Canyon | 5.2 |  |  | |  |  |
| 78 | Raspberry Spring | 1.0 |  |  |  | |  |
| 79 | Chorro Grande | 5.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 80 | Reyes Peak Trail | 5.8 |  |  |  | |  |
| 81 | Gene Marshall–Piedra Blanca National Recreation Trail | 18.5 |  |  |  | |  |
| 82 | Potrero John | 3.4 |  |  |  | |  |
| 83 | Fishbowls–Cedar Creek Loop | 13.5 |  |  | | |  |
| 84 | Thorn Point | 7.0 |  |  | | | |
| 85 | Stonehouse | 9.4 |  |  | |  |  |
| 86 | Little Mutau | 9.4 |  |  | | |  |
| 87 | Middle Sespe Trail | 8.6 |  |  | |  | |
| 88 | Sespe River Trail | 16.9 |  |  |  | |  |
| 89 | Lion Canyon | 5.5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 90 | Red Reef Trail | 27.5 |  |  | | |  |
| 91 | Johnston Ridge and Sespe Hot Springs | 7.6 |  |  | | |  |
| 92 | Dough Flat to Shady Camp via Alder Creek | 15.0 |  |  | | |  |
| 93 | Bucksnot Trail | 11.2 |  |  | | |  |
| 94 | Agua Blanca | 11.4 |  |  | | |  |
| 95 | Buck Creek | 21.2 |  |  | | |  |
| 96 | Pothole Trail | 5.9 |  |  | | |  |
| 97 | Lower Cobblestone Trail | 8.2 |  |  | | |  |
| 98 | Slide Mountain | 10.8 |  |  | | | |

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO THE LOS PADRES!

Named for the Spanish *padres* who established a network of missions along California's southern and central coasts, the Los Padres National Forest is the second-largest national forest in the state, encompassing approximately 1,950,000 acres.

In 1903, the General Land Office in California established the Santa Barbara Forest Reserve through the consolidation of the 1,644,594-acre Pine Mountain and Zaka Lake Forest Reserve and the much smaller 145,280-acre Santa Ynez Forest Reserve. After transfer to the stewardship of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in 1905, the Santa Barbara Forest Reserve was proclaimed a national forest in 1907. Subsequent absorption of the San Luis National Forest in 1910 and Monterey National Forest in 1919 made for a large stretch of land running more than 200 miles along the California coast. Renamed the Los Padres National Forest in 1936, these lands have been added to and reduced here and there over the years but have remained a welcome refuge for generations of area outdoors enthusiasts.

Nearly half of the Los Padres is now federally designated wilderness and stretches from Big Sur's rugged coast to Lake Piru near the edge of Los Angeles

County. The southern section of the Los Padres (the focus of this guide) features five such wildernesses (including part of the San Rafael, the first primitive area designated as wilderness after the 1964 Wilderness Act) in a diverse swath of forest, ranging from only a few hundred feet above sea level to nearly 9,000 feet in elevation. The forest contains countless natural and archaeological resources, numerous endangered species (among them the magnificent California condor), as well as the last major undammed river in Southern California, the Sespe.



Forest Reserve boundary post, set in 1904

But the Los Padres is also the only local national forest with sizable natural gas and petroleum reserves, and drilling occurs on some 15,000 acres of the forest. This juxtaposition of preservation interests, land management, and industry has become one of many points of contention between conservationists, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and those who've secured rights to extract such resources. Further, numerous access issues and their associated drama afflict various corners of the forest, leaving some historically accessible sites in a legal limbo and often restricting availability to the public.

Much of the Los Padres is dominated by chaparral, that fire-susceptible, non-deciduous blanket of shrub defined by the coastal areas' Mediterranean climate, the hillsides of which seem to erupt into wildfire every few years. Other landscapes are represented as well, of course: riparian sycamore- and alder-dotted ravines abound, lush pine forests dominate the higher elevations, the largest pinyon forest in Southern California spreads out over the Cuyama badlands and the San Emigdio Mesa, and the Sespe drainage is home to some of the most impressive slot canyons and geology in the state.

Geography and Geology

MOST OF THE SOUTHERN LOS PADRES stretches across the western section of the Transverse Ranges, a section of the Coast Ranges considered unique due to its east-west orientation. Starting at Point Conception on the coast, the range—which includes the Santa Ynez, San Rafael, and Sierra Madre Ranges through Santa Barbara County and the Topatopa Mountains, Pine Mountain, and the Mount Pinos area in Ventura County—extends into Los Angeles County, terminating among the high peaks of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains.

In very simplified geologic terms, the orientation and form of the range are the result of faulting along the San Andreas, with the Transverse caught between the forces of the Pacific and the North American plates.

The mountains and all that come with them result in varied terrains ranging from a few hundred feet in elevation (the Santa Barbara frontcountry) to nearly 9,000 feet above sea level (the Mount Pinos area), with terrain crossing sedimentary stone (for example, the Santa Ynez Mountains) to granitic and metamorphic rock (e.g., the San Emigdio Mountains). And while there is no active volcanism in this stretch of Southern California, there are numerous hot springs throughout the forest (most of which are detailed herein).

Climate (And When to Go)

MOST OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS fall within the Mediterranean climate and are characterized by cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Precipitation falls primarily between November and April, with annual totals averaging anywhere from 8 to 38 inches in the southern districts. In winter, high-elevation areas such as Pine Mountain, Mount Pinos, Big Pine, Madulce Peak, and the Mission Pine Ridge are not practical for backpacking, as they remain under heavy snow until the spring. Further, the backcountry can be brutally hot in the summer, with most water sources bone-dry until the autumn rains. Plan accordingly, and call the local ranger station for conditions and updates.

Plant and Animal Communities

Flora

Plant Communities of the Southern Los Padres (with credit and thanks to the Los Padres National Forest Supervisor's Office)

The Los Padres is often touted as one of the most botanically diverse US national forests. The USDA identifies eight communities in this area, detailed on the following pages.

Chaparral

No plant community quite defines the Los Padres as does chaparral. Covering nearly two-thirds of this book's scope, this drought-adapted collection of plants

dominates the frontcountry and is the ground cover visible to the majority of passersby driving through the forest along the highways or viewing the USFS lands from afar. Chaparral includes numerous varieties of manzanita, chamise, scrub oak, mountain mahogany, sugar bush, monkeyflower, toyon (also known as California holly), laurel sumac, buckwheat, and the true sages. Plants of this community feature moisture-conserving leaves and a large root system. Several of the plants also



produce large amounts of terpenes and oils: this makes many of them aromatic but also extremely fire prone.

Conifer Forests

Conifer forests occur in all districts of the Los Padres at high elevations—typically on cooler and wet north-facing slopes and canyon bottoms. This community consists of pure and mixed stands of Jeffrey pines, ponderosa pines, sugar pines, knobcone pines, Coulter pines, white firs, incense cedar, and bigcone Douglas-firs.

Camper's Note: While the sugar pine is known to produce the longest cones of any conifer, it's the cones of the Coulter (and the tree itself) of which you should be mindful when camping, especially in fire-scarred areas. Studies indicate Coulter pines demonstrate less drought tolerance than other conifers in Southern California, and when further weakened by air pollution, many Coulters have succumbed to bark beetle infestations. These compounded factors result in compromised trees quite susceptible to toppling in high winds, and their massively heavy and spiked cones can rain down on unsuspecting campers with little warning. They hurt, and tent walls are no match (trust us on this one).

Bigcone Douglas-firs, while related to the northern Douglas-firs, occur only in Southern California in a thin stretch ranging from San Diego to Santa Barbara. They are typically found in steep and fairly inaccessible north-facing drainages.



Grassland

Native California grasses have been drastically supplanted by farmland and European annual grasses over the past few centuries. Botanists concede it has proven difficult to pinpoint when the peak of the invasion occurred, even noting foreign grasses mixed into the adobe bricks made during the Mission era. Remaining native species



include needlegrass, melic grass, and wild rye. These can be found in some areas throughout the forest, along with annual species of wild oats, barley, and brome, which dominate the forest grassland.

Oak Woodland

Visitors to the forest will observe woodlands composed of pure and mixed stands of blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*), black oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*), valley oaks, coast live oaks, interior live oaks, and canyon live oaks. Oak acorns were once a major food source for Native Americans, and today numerous wild animals, including deer, squirrels, bears, and birds, consume acorns and rely upon the woodlands for shelter.

Pinyon–Juniper Woodland

Pinyon–juniper woodland occurs primarily in the Mount Pinos Ranger District, and the district is, in fact, home to the largest pinyon community in Southern California. It thrives in the hostile badlands here, weathering snow and the brutally cold winters as well as the hottest summer temperatures in the forest. Pinyon pines (specifically, singleleaf pinyon, or *Pinus monophylla*) occupy the cooler north-facing



slopes, and their seeds were once a staple for the Native American communities that occupied the region. Junipers tend to dominate the south-facing slopes. Other plants found in this woodland include Great Basin sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and scrub oak. Often depicted as a barren land, this community actually provides abundant food and shelter for many animal species, from the rare blunt-nosed leopard lizard to bighorn sheep. It also provides habitat for many rare plant species.

Riparian Woodland

Riparian woodland is one of the most productive and diverse plant communities in the forest. Dense stretches of willows, alders, cottonwoods, and sycamores are typically the few survivors of wildfires . . . saved by the very water-courses on which they depend.

Serpentine Plants

Serpentine soils occur in scattered locations in the Santa Barbara Ranger District (as well as in the Monterey and Santa Lucia Districts to the north). Serpentine soils possess a high magnesium content and a low calcium content, a rare chemical composition most plant life finds intolerable. Of those plants that have adapted, several grow exclusively on these soils. Of the six botanical areas in all the Los Padres, three were established specifically to protect this unique plant community.

For those interested in learning more about the plant life of the southern Los Padres, the University of California Press's *Introduction to the Plant Life of Southern California (Coast to Foothills)* is an excellent place to start. The guide is part of the California Natural History Guide series, which also includes volumes detailing desert and mountain wildflowers, native trees, and other topics of interest and relevance to the forest.

Subalpine Fell-Fields

This community occurs at elevations above 8,000 feet in the Mount Pinos Ranger District. Fell-fields are characterized by undulating flats and scree slopes covered with highly porous soil, rock, and/or gravel. These terrain features are shaped by cold





winter winds and snow, both of which limit the majority of plant life to small, ground-hugging perennials. In summer, small flowers bloom in abundance and attract prolific pollinators. Limber pines can also be found in this community. The Mount Pinos Ranger District offers a leaflet detailing ferns, conifers, and flowering plants above the 8,500-foot contour atop Mount Pinos. The pamphlet can also be downloaded in PDF format from the internet: Google “Plants of the Mount Pinos Summit.”

Lions, (No) Tigers, and Bears . . . Oh My!

There are some large animals in the forest, some larger (or more dangerous) than you. In the southern Los Padres, these include black bears and mountain lions (the latter are also known as pumas or cougars).

The last California grizzly was killed in 1922, but the black bears of the Los Padres are still a presence and should be a consideration when planning trips into the wilderness. Black bears are nowhere near the nuisance as the conditioned bears

of Yosemite and other national parks, nor are they as dangerous as the grizzlies in the higher latitudes of North America. The American black bear is a nonconfrontational, almost shy opportunist—if he (or she) can secure an easy meal from your nonsecured cache of food, it will so long as there’s no danger involved. Bear canisters may be overkill, but at a minimum food and other “smellables” should be hung overnight



Going bear-foot in the sand

or when otherwise unattended, and all the usual rules apply—eat those sardines around the campfire rather than in your sleeping bag. Bears will seek to avoid you, so don't give them a reason to visit (e.g., don't leave that freeze-dried blueberry surprise unattended next to the fire overnight).

If you encounter a bear, more often than not it will retreat: bears have little interest in humans and their racket. Make yourself heard and back away slowly. Don't run—you can't outrun a bear—and don't climb a tree—the bear can climb it better than you. Don't make threatening gestures or display threatening behavior.

Scat, prints, and claw-raked trees are common sights in the Los Padres backcountry. But given that hunting and dogs (both of which bears typically view as negatives) are allowed in our national forests, sightings are uncommon and instances of bears stealing food are rare. Attacks or other negative accounts are almost unheard of. Let's keep it that way.

Mountain lions are predators, most often seen at dusk and dawn. Sightings are uncommon and attacks incredibly rare. If you encounter a cougar, stand still, control any dogs, and pick up your children. Make yourself look as large as you can. Do not run. If attacked, fight back with everything you have.

Other Fauna and Flora Hazards

In addition to bears and mountain lions, there are a few other (admittedly smaller) hazards of which you should be aware.

Rattlesnakes

These shy but venomous pit vipers are on that flag for a reason: don't tread on them. Lethargic at night and in the cold, rattlesnakes can be found sunning themselves across stretches of trail in the morning and hunkered down in a coil under the shade of a bush or a tree during the heat of the day. Their buzz/rattle is unmistakable. Watch where you step (especially in grassy areas), and watch where you put your hands if bushwhacking, climbing, or otherwise scrambling off-trail. If struck, stay calm and seek medical attention immediately. Snakebite kits are overrated and typically do more damage than good.



photo by Grace Carey

Poison Oak: "Leaves of Three, Let Them Be"

Poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*, below) is easily identified by its shiny leaves in clusters of three and its small white berries. The leaves, which range from green to red depending on the season, contain the oil urushiol, which causes an allergic reaction with most humans. The severity of the reaction varies, but it typically entails an inflammation of the skin (with a maddening itch!) and blisters. During winter the shrub can lose its leaves, making it more difficult to avoid (the bare branches also carry the oil).



Another plant of concern is poodle-dog bush (*Turricula parryi*, left), a fire-follower that can cause contact dermatitis. The effect is similar to that of stinging nettle, but the rash and duration of poodle-dog bush inflammation typically last much longer (often for at least a week). It can be identified by its rather skunky smell, an appearance somewhat reminiscent of cannabis, and its telltale purple flowers.

Endangered Species

While not known for its prodigious big-game wildlife, the southern Los Padres has a unique wildlife population and is

ground zero for several preservation programs.

Among the fauna are steelhead trout, California condors, California red-legged frogs, arroyo toads, western pond turtles, and two-striped garter snakes. In terms of restricting access, the California condor takes the most precedent, of course, having two sanctuaries within the forest dedicated to its preservation (see next section). Over the past few decades, the arroyo toad has also been cited as the reason for several campground and road closures, including Lion Campground (now Piedra Blanca



photo by Jonathan M. McCabe

Trailhead) and the (former) Blue Point, Hardluck, Beaver, and Juncal Campgrounds and the roads leading to them, to name but a few.

As disappointing as the loss of some great recreation spots may be, please respect the efforts of the USFS and other agencies working to preserve these endangered species.

Condors

The California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) is a massive scavenger with a 9-foot wingspan, and it's one of the greatest symbols of modern conservation efforts in the western United States.

As recently as the 1800s, the condor ranged from what is now southern British Columbia to present-day Baja California, and is thought to have roamed over much of North America during the Pleistocene era. But as early as the 1850s, the decline of the condor population was being noted, and over the next century that decline only accelerated. The population dwindled to 22 by 1982, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) spearheaded the rather controversial step of capturing the remaining condors for captive breeding. The last wild condor was captured in 1987. Progress has sometimes been slow and there have been setbacks, but the intensive captive breeding efforts—bolstered by public education programs—have seen a steady increase in both the captive and wild condor population. As of this writing, the population hovers near 500 (approximately 300 of which live in the wild).

Numerous factors contributed to the condor's precipitous fall toward extinction, chief among them poisoning (lead, cyanide, and others), shortage of food, habitat loss, DDT, shootings, and nest disturbance. One particularly infamous death in recent memory was that of Condor 358 in July 2009, who died after getting tangled in some rope left by climbers or hikers in the Tar Creek area, a popular—but legally forbidden—Los Padres climbing spot within the Sespe Condor Sanctuary.

Abandoned webbing, rope, and straps can prove especially deadly to these giant birds, and it is imperative that users of such items *pack it out*. As condors are curious creatures, they are also attracted to shiny objects, including aluminum can pop-tops, litter, glass, and other small items of refuse that they sometimes ingest. These items cause horrific damage to the bird's digestive tract and can result in an agonizing death for the threatened bird. In this vein, volunteer groups have participated in several microtrash cleanup events, from Cuyama Peak to Tar Creek. Help these birds on their route to recovery by packing out all trash, and consider taking the extra step of carrying out more than your own.

Condors are distinguishable not only by their great size and bald, vulturelike heads, but also by the white or mottled lining on the underside of their massive wings. Further, if one is close enough, the condors' numbered wing tags are easily discernible.

Two sanctuaries in the forest—the 1,200-acre Sisquoc Condor Sanctuary in the San Rafael Wilderness (Santa Lucia Ranger District) and the massive 53,000-acre Sespe Condor Sanctuary (primarily in the Sespe Wilderness, Ojai Ranger District)—provide vast expanses of rugged terrain in which the condors can roost and live without interference from humans. Unauthorized human entry into either sanctuary is prohibited. Bitter Creek and Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuges adjacent to USFS lands (managed by the USFWS) provide additional grounds for the condor.

Nature-goers are reminded that all large dark birds are protected by law. If you witness anybody harassing or otherwise distressing or attempting to harm a condor, you are encouraged to contact any of the following agencies:

CALIFORNIA STATE POLICE: 213-620-4700 (24-hour number)

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST (supervisor's office): 805-968-6640

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE: 805-644-5185

A highly recommended reference is *Introduction to the California Condor* (University of California Press), by Noel Snyder and Helen Snyder.

CANNABIS COUNTRY ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

No matter your position or politics, the illegal marijuana harvest in the Los Padres backcountry presents a tenuous situation for both law enforcement and those who recreate in the national forest. It presents a genuine danger in some areas—one of which backpackers and cross-country trekkers especially need to be cognizant.

While Humboldt County and other more-traditional environs are well known for their cultivation of cannabis, the Ventura and Santa Barbara County backcountries have become a prime location for Mexican cartels looking to grow the product locally but with (relatively) low overhead and limited accountability if the product is discovered by law enforcement. Growing marijuana on secluded public property with all the necessary conditions fulfills those requirements . . . in the form of huge tracts of the southern Los Padres.

Shrewd drug traffickers and those in their employ typically aren't so foolish as to establish their pot groves within easy access of the masses; therefore,



Backcountry agriculture

such groves are not within immediate reach of the many trails the USFS has cut and maintains through the forest. These secret gardens are in seldom-traveled stretches of the wilderness, but where water is available or can be easily diverted. When off-trail, one of the first signs you are nearing a pot field is litter.

Growers often establish makeshift campsites at many of the grow sites; most of these sites and the guerrilla trails leading in and around them are often beset with trash and debris, irrigation pipe, camping equipment, and chemicals used to fertilize the plants (or empty containers therefrom).

The preparation of sites for cannabis growing causes significant damage to the environment (stream diversion, the cutting and removal of various trees and brush, as well as aggressive and disruptive landscape terracing), practices lamented by local forest officials and environmental concerns throughout the region.

Every year the USFS—in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration and local authorities' air and narcotics units—identify, remove, and ultimately destroy thousands of pounds of illicit marijuana sourced from the remote grow sites of the Los Padres. Law enforcement agencies urge hikers who inadvertently come across such sites to exercise caution. Leave the area immediately (and certainly don't help yourself to any samples, no matter how tempting!).

When back in communications range, notify the sheriff of the site's location:

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department: 805-681-4150, sbsheriff.org

Ventura County Sheriff's Department: 805-654-9511, vcasd.org

THE CLOSING DOWN OF SUMMER ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Even with flood, fire, and the inevitable human manipulation, the forest and its topography remain largely static. The same cannot be said for its numerous trails and camps. Over several decades some trails have been rerouted (or closed altogether) only to be again rerouted (or reopened), and numerous camps have come and gone (mostly gone) over the years. Many sites formerly accessible by passenger car or four-wheel drive are now limited to foot traffic. Campgrounds that were once available on forest lands—Lion, Beaver, Sespe Gorge, Sandstone, Hardluck, Blue Point, to name but a few—are now memories, trailheads, or mere curiosities.

Camps and trails are closed for numerous reasons. Some closings are in response to legislation or administrative changes intended to protect the various endangered species native to the forest; see “Endangered Species” on page 9 for the most recent changes in access. Others are for lack of use (or overuse) or a combination of factors. Sites such as Cow Springs (closed to vehicles in 1973 due to recurring vandalism and its proximity to the Sespe Condor Sanctuary) and Mine Camp (closed to vehicles in the 1970s) have had their access limited but are still very much in use and still retain some of the amenities they offered when accessible by vehicle.

We can do it!



Newer sites, such as the Valley View trail camp along the Pratt Trail (see *Route 59*), have been built in response to increased use (in Valley View's case, after the 1985 Wheeler Fire).

The largest contraction of forest services since WWII on the Los Padres occurred in 1974, when numerous campsites (primarily trail camps) in the southern Los Padres were closed as a result of federal spending cuts prompted by the fiscal crisis of the time. Some are now nothing more than historical footnotes; others continue to be heavily used without USFS maintenance. The trip entries in this guide address relevant abandoned or historical sites in the trip descriptions as appropriate.

Looking Forward

Condor Trail

An ambitious project conceived by local hikers, backpackers, and backcountry advocates, the Condor Trail is a projected 400-mile through-route traversing the Los Padres National Forest from Botchers Gap (Monterey Ranger District) in the north to Lake Piru (Ojai Ranger District) in the south, crossing through nearly every terrain the Los Padres has to offer. For more information, visit condortrail.com.



Permits

Fire Permits

Ever susceptible to fire, the Los Padres National Forest is subject to fire restrictions every year, and regulations governing campfires change with weather and season. There are times in the summer when all fires are forbidden.

Even when fire restrictions are not in effect, visitors are still required to carry a California Campfire Permit to use a stove or lantern outside any developed recreation area or campfire use site (i.e., established car campgrounds and day-use areas). A (free) California Campfire Permit is required if you plan to build a campfire, use a barbecue grill, or use a stove anywhere on the Los Padres outside of developed car campgrounds. The permit is good until December 31 of that year. Visit readyforwildfire.org/permits/campfire-permit to obtain one.



Fireside chat in the Dick Smith Wilderness

Trail Etiquette

COMMON COURTESY GOES A LONG WAY.

Sharing the trail with other hikers can be approached like driving in American traffic: stay to the right and pass on the left. If you're stopping to enjoy the view, do so in a way that does not impede traffic. Hikers heading uphill receive right-of-way. While there are vast sections of the southern Los Padres where you're not likely to see many other hikers, there are some stretches—especially the Santa Barbara and Montecito frontcountry and the Santa Ynez Recreation Area—where you'll often be sharing it with dozens of other users.

Love them, hate them, or be indifferent, but mountain bikers, equestrians, and dog owners have access to much of the Los Padres trail network. Everybody yields to horses, and mountain bikers are to yield to everybody. That puts hikers in the middle. Give right-of-way to horses. You *should* be granted right-of-way by mountain bikers, but for your own safety, don't assume it has been given until you're certain.

HIKING WITH DOGS

Dogs are great hiking companions and often enjoy venturing into the wilderness as much as—or perhaps even more than—their biped cohorts. They are a good friend in any weather, find great joy in the simplest pleasures, have no



Semper volens ("always willing")

compuncions following us through questionable terrain, and are more loyal to us than we deserve. Further, of all the federal lands, those managed by the USFS typically offer some of the greatest accessibility and provide opportunities for hiking with dogs second only to the BLM. It's a great place for dogs!

But it's the responsibility of the humans to not allow their dogs to be a nuisance to others or to be a detriment to the forest and its wild denizens. I hike with at least one dog nearly 90% of the time, but I am also consistently disappointed not by the conduct of other dogs I meet on the trail, but rather the conduct of their human companions.

Know the Rules

Every agency—from California State Parks to the National Park Service—has specific rules and conditions with regard to dogs. Know them and abide by them. Also bear in mind that simply because your dog is allowed within the boundaries of a given area, that does not give him or her free roam (e.g., dogs are usually allowed within national parks but seldom on trails or even dirt roads, and almost never in creeks, lakes, and so on . . . and that's not much fun for an active pooch). Check with your local office to learn the specifics.

Control Your Dog

If your dog doesn't obey, don't bring it. Don't allow your dog to jump on others, chase other dogs, or act up. A dog that is not under voice control should be leashed or—better yet—left at home. Aggressive dogs (leashed or not) have no place in the forest.

Clean Up After Your Dog

Simply grabbing a poop bag at the trailhead and collecting your dog's waste isn't enough, especially if you collect it and then leave the plastic bag alongside the trail. Be considerate of others and the environment: *pack it out*. If odor is a concern, carry a few heavy-duty quart-size zip-top freezer bags with you to carry the pick-up bag. If that doesn't sit well with you, Rover shouldn't be on the trail.

That said, if your pooch is hearty enough to join you on a multiday trek through the wilderness and you're far removed from civilization, it is acceptable to treat the waste as you would treat your own. Dig a cathole (if Rover will pardon the expression) at least 8 inches deep, and bury your dog's waste at least 200 feet from water and 50 feet from the trail or camps.

Finally, two key things to remember when you bring your canine companion into the forest: first, you and your dog(s) are ambassadors for others who would bring their dog to the wild; and second, do not expect everyone to love your dog as much as you do.

Leaving No Trace (Boiled-Down Edition)

THIS IS THE PART OF THE BOOK dealing with outdoors etiquette—specifically, your treatment of the actual outdoors. It's quite simple, so little word count will be spent here.

If you're holding this book, you presumably have some interest in the outdoors. Plain common sense tells us to not cut switchbacks, to clean up after our dogs, to not deface trees, to not scrawl on rocks, and to not leave litter. Don't justify an exception; just don't do it. You're not being cool by going against the grain, nor being an independent thinker, nor a free spirit—you're part of the problem. Don't be lazy, and do the right thing.

If you can't abide by these basic principles, please stay home.

For more information, visit Int.org.



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

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IN THIS BOOK, trips in the southern Los Padres National Forest are described in two parts:

Part I details the Santa Barbara Ranger District and the western Mount Pinos Ranger District (including the Santa Barbara frontcountry, the Upper and Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Areas, the Little Pine Mountain area, Carpinteria, Lake Casitas, the western Santa Ynez Mountains, the southern stretch of San Rafael Wilderness, and the Dick Smith Wilderness).

Part II details the eastern Mount Pinos and Ojai Ranger Districts (including the Ojai frontcountry; the Sespe, Matilija, and Chumash Wildernesses; Pine Mountain; Lockwood Valley and Mount Pinos; and Rose and Cuyama Valleys).

Each part is subdivided into chapters detailing routes ordered from west to east and accompanied by detailed maps. Each trip entry also includes a detailed route summary and instructions, along with waypoints and side trips as relevant. The routes detail trails ranging from easy, family-friendly day hikes of less than 1 mile to strenuous, multiday backpacking treks of 20 miles or more, and everything in between.

This guide doesn't cover *every* trail within the subject three ranger districts, but it sure comes close. Rather than confine the reader to a prescribed itinerary, nearly all the entries are descriptions of the trail from point A to point B, allowing the reader the freedom to choose his or her target mileage and/or destination. Use the entries—paired with the accompanying maps—to devise your own trip as you see fit. For instance, rather than simply following the upper Cold Spring Trail (*Route 19*) to Forbush Flat and back, you could devise a route combining Routes 26, 16, 15, and 22 for a challenging near-circuit along which you'll witness numerous geologic features and plant communities.

Forest-Speak

HERE'S A SHORT GLOSSARY of relevant terms in this book.

CAMPSITE: For the purpose of this book, campsites are defined as trail sites with few or no amenities. There is no car access. Water, where available, must be purified.

CAMPGROUND: These are camping areas to which one can drive. Some campgrounds are detailed in this guide only in that they may serve as a trailhead or provide a base from which to launch backcountry explorations.

Salvia amid the chaparral

SYSTEM TRAILS: Routes officially maintained and recognized by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), usually with a trail designation. These are the opposite of nonsystem trails.

NONSYSTEM TRAILS: Unofficial use or “guerrilla” trails not maintained by the USFS but kept in use (and possibly even maintained) by historical traffic. The Cathedral Peak Trail (not detailed herein) in the Santa Barbara Ranger District is one example.



Treating water from Rancho Nuevo Creek

Anatomy of a Trail Entry

Summary

EACH TRAIL ENTRY BEGINS with a summary index. These indexes include the following elements:

ROUTE NUMBER: As determined (roughly) by its west-to-east order within its group

ROUTE TITLE: The common route name and, if applicable, its USFS trail designation

LENGTH AND TYPE: The route length and whether it’s configured as a loop, out-and-back, one-way trip, and so on

DIFFICULTY: The physical exertion demanded by the trip: *easy*, *moderate*, *strenuous*, or *challenging*

TRAIL CONDITION: The trail’s general condition at the time of this writing. *Well-maintained* trails are those regularly traveled with a clear route and regular maintenance or which follow service roads and the like. *Clear* trails are well defined with some possible obstacles (fallen trees in the off-season, etc.) but without any major impediments. *Passable* trails are those that receive little use and may require some navigation and those that do not receive regular maintenance. *Difficult* trails are those that have been abandoned by the USFS and/or are no longer in use, are cross-country

routes, or are those that follow a stream or river and may require Class 3 scrambling, rock-hopping, and/or swimming. Navigation skills are a must.

MAP(S): The relevant map or maps recommended to supplement the in-book map covering a particular route. These are generally maps by Tom Harrison (tom.harrisonmaps.com) or Bryan Conant (bryanconant.com) and/or U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute (1:24,000) topographic quadrangles. See “Maps,” on the following page, for more information.

CAMP(S): Backcountry campsites along the described route. Sidebars detailing such camps accompany the trip descriptions as appropriate.

HIGHLIGHTS: Natural features, views, or other items of interest worth noting during the course of the trip

TO REACH THE TRAILHEAD: With a few exceptions, this refers the reader to the pertinent trailhead in the Trailhead Index (see pages 24–43).

TRIP SUMMARY: A brief overview of the route

Trip Description

EACH TRIP ENTRY details the route and trail, including trail conditions, navigational considerations, travel hazards, seasonal considerations, geology, flora, fauna, and historical notes (including relevant fire history and any “legacy” comments). The route description also includes spur trails, trail camps, junctions, major river convergences or forks, and other considerations. The key points of the description are noted in **bold-face** and are accompanied by a parenthetical notation usually including mileage from your starting point, elevation, and degree–decimal minute (DDM) coordinates, e.g., **Raspberry Spring Camp (0.4 mile, 6,640', N34° 38.418' W119° 18.763')**.

Because many routes interconnect or overlap with each other, notes will often guide the reader to reference other trip entries for the continuation of a given route or optional spur or side trip. Conversely, directions from a previous entry may provide the first portion of the relevant directions, in which case the reader will be directed to that entry first, for example, “see *Route 31* for the first 9.1 miles of this route [to Mission Pine Spring].”

Sidebars detailing side trips, toponymy, and historical anecdotes are distributed throughout the text.

Maps

This guide contains 24 small-scale route maps—each trip is depicted on at least one of these. In addition, a general overview map of the entire southern Los Padres is found on page vi, and closer-in overview maps depict the areas comprising Parts I and II (see pages 46–47 and 184–185, respectively).










USGS topos—once the gold standard of backcountry navigation—aren’t what they once were, and the current digital editions tend to be outdated and riddled with errors. The maps produced by Messrs. Harrison and Conant are on-the-ground, old-school vetted maps and the most reliable and up to date—not only do I highly recommend them, but I caution against exploring without them. Together, the Harrison (*Sespe Wilderness*) and Conant (*San Rafael Wilderness* and *Matilija and Dick Smith Wilderness*) maps cover most of the southern Los Padres trail network, with the notable exception of the Chumash Wilderness, San Emigdio Mesa, and Mount Pinos environs.

Please note that the maps provided herein are entirely suitable for day trips and shorter journeys, but on the whole they’re intended more for general reference and planning—the large-scale topographic maps referenced in each trip entry are those best suited for backcountry and multiday treks. When navigating the southern Los Padres, a GPS receiver is, of course, a valuable tool, but nothing can replace a large-scale map coupled with the navigational skills to use it effectively.

See the individual trip entries for specific map recommendations. Also see the legend below for details about the symbols found on the in-book maps.



Map Legend

| | |
|--|---|
|  Trail |  Trail Camp or Campground |
|  Service Road/Alternative Route |  USFS Ranger or Fire Station |
|  Route Number Marker |  Information |
|  Trailhead |  Day-Use/Picnic Area |
|  Parking | |

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TRAILHEAD INDEX

THE LOS PADRES IS LARGE and many of its trailheads far-flung and rather remote. Be diligent in your planning to reach the deeper trailheads—vet the route and approach you'll be taking, and check weather conditions and road closures ahead of time. In the winter, ensure that you go prepared with chains, blankets, and additional provisions stored in your vehicle. Frontcountry trailheads are often crowded on weekends, and break-ins can be a problem. Do not leave anything valuable in your vehicle nor anything tempting within view.

Following is an alphabetical list of the trailheads for the trips in this book. Detailed driving directions (including DDM waypoints) to reach the trailhead from the nearest major town, highway, or other landmark, are included; details regarding facilities, water accessibility, and fees are listed as well where applicable. Within the trip profiles, these trailheads are cross-referenced under "To Reach the Trailhead" (see "Anatomy of a Trail Entry," page 20).

Note: Some trailheads require a USFS **Adventure Pass** to park or camp. Adventure Passes cost \$5 for a day pass and \$30 for an annual pass and are available at many outdoors retailers; for more information, including a vendor list, go to fs.usda.gov/main/r5/passes-permits/recreation and click "Learn more about Adventure Passes." Further, bear in mind that if you hold a federal **Interagency Pass** (or one of the equivalents, e.g., Senior, Military, or Volunteer Passes), it will suffice in place of an Adventure Pass. Standard Interagency Passes cost \$80 per year and can be purchased online at store.usgs.gov/pass.

Alamo Canyon Trailhead (3,478', N34° 46.463' W119° 35.176')

From CA 33 in the Cuyama Valley, head west along Foothill Road just south of the Santa Barbara–San Luis Obispo county line 2.1 miles—crossing the Cuyama River en route—to Santa Barbara Canyon Road. Turn left (south) here and follow Santa Barbara Canyon Road 3 miles to the private property boundary. Turn right (south) here to follow Santa Barbara Canyon Road/Forest Service Road 9N11 another 4.4 miles to the split near Santa Barbara Canyon Ranch. Follow the right fork onto the dirt road and continue 4.9 miles (keep right at the split with Dry Canyon Road/FS 8N19), passing through Cox Flat to the gate at the end of the road. There's plenty of room in the turnaround for parking. There are no facilities here.

If coming from Santa Maria or points farther north—or if the Cuyama presents too great an obstacle for your vehicle (either due to your vehicle's clearance or capabilities or due to the river's level)—you can also access Santa Barbara Canyon through a series of surface roads from

the town of Cuyama along CA 166 (thereby utilizing the state highway to cross the river). From CA 166 just east of Cuyama, follow Kirschenmann Road southward approximately 2.4 miles to Foothill Road. Turn left (east) onto Foothill Road and follow it 3 miles to Santa Barbara Canyon Road, turning right (south) here. Follow the directions described above from that point.

Note: The trailhead is slightly farther west along the road from where it is shown on the USGS *Fox Mountain* quad.

Aliso Canyon/Sage Hill Trailhead (980', N34° 32.752' W119° 47.231')

From the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**, continue along Paradise Road 4.5 miles to the Los Prietos Ranger Station. Turn left (north) here and follow the road (and signage) 0.25 mile (passing the station), turning right and across the Santa Ynez River (this is often a wet crossing) to Sage Hill Group Campground. The trailhead is in the northeast corner of the grounds, past Loop 5 (Caballo) and in its own space. There are facilities (including flush toilets and potable water) here.

Note: The Aliso Canyon/Sage Hill Trailhead is currently managed by a concessionaire, and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park here.

Aliso Park Campground (2,900', N34° 54.423' W119° 46.154')

From Santa Maria, follow CA 166 eastward approximately 49 miles to the turnoff for Aliso Canyon Road. Turn right (south) here and follow the signage approximately 6 miles to the campground.

Alternatively, from the junction of CA 166 and CA 33 east of Cuyama, follow CA 166 westward approximately 12.5 miles to the turnoff for Aliso Canyon Road. Turn left (south) here and follow the signage approximately 6 miles to the campground.

Angostura Pass (3,370', N34° 29.775' W119° 41.950')

From the junction of US 101 and CA 154 in Santa Barbara, follow CA 154 (also San Marcos Pass Road) north 7.8 miles to East Camino Cielo Road (also Forest Service Road 5N12). Turn right (east) here and continue along East Camino Cielo 10.4 miles to the Angostura Pass parking area (on the left/north side). Be sure not to block the gate.

Alternatively, from the junction of CA 192 and Mountain Drive in Santa Barbara, follow Mountain Drive north 0.2 mile to the junction with Gibraltar Road. Turn left (north) at this dogleg and continue along Gibraltar Road 7.3 miles (this is a slow and winding route) to its intersection with East Camino Cielo Road (also FS 5N12). Stay straight (west) here and continue another 0.6 mile to the Angostura Pass parking area (on the right/north side). Be sure not to block the gate. There are no facilities here.

Arroyo Burro Turnout (1,075', N34° 32.670' W119° 46.321')

This parking area is 6 miles from the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**, just past the split with Buckhorn Road. There is room enough for a few vehicles on the left (north) side of the road, but little more (parking is not allowed along the road for a few miles eastward due to frequent rockfall). There are no facilities here.

Baron Ranch Trailhead (100', N34° 28.255' W120° 06.895')

From Santa Barbara, follow US 101 north along the coast approximately 26 miles to Arroyo Quemada Lane—this is not a freeway exit, so exercise caution. Turn right (north) and then a quick left (west) onto Calle Real. Follow Calle Real 0.7 miles to the northwest to the Baron Ranch gate and park. There are no facilities here.

Big Caliente Day-Use Area (1,875', N34° 32.357' W119° 33.876')

This small day-use area, 11.2 miles from **Romero Saddle (3,060', N34° 28.573' W119° 35.723')** along the graded dirt Romero-Camuesa Road and along the Pendola–Agua Caliente Road (Forest Service Road 5N16), features one space with a table and vault toilet. Its main attractions are the hot springs, one just off the road and another set just up the trail.

Blue Canyon Pass (2,125', N34° 29.200' W119° 33.572')

The Upper Blue Canyon Trailhead, 3.8 miles from **Romero Saddle (3,060', N34° 28.573' W119° 35.723')** along the graded dirt Romero-Camuesa Road, is located just west of Blue Canyon Pass and is easy to miss coming from the saddle. There are no facilities here.

Boulder Canyon Trailhead/Pine Mountain Campground (6,650', N34° 38.360' W119° 19.607')

Located directly across from the entrance to Pine Mountain Campground, the trailhead is 4.8 miles up Pine Mountain Road from CA 33. Hikers typically park in the campground. From Pine Mountain Summit on CA 33, drive 4.8 miles to the Pine Mountain Campground. A small parking area ideal for day use is immediately to the left (east) of the camp entrance; a restroom is available here.

Note: Pine Mountain Campground is currently managed by a concessionaire, and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park here. This road is closed in winter.

Buck Creek Trailhead (6,500', N34° 38.300' W118° 55.195')

From I-5 (Golden State Freeway) south of the CA 138 junction, take Exit 195 for Smokey Bear Road and head west to the junction with the old US 99. Make the quick dogleg to the left (south), and then make a quick right onto the graded dirt road heading into the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area.

Note: This is a fairly long (20-plus-mile) drive along a largely unpaved route. This road is usually accessible to two-wheel-drive passenger vehicles, but a higher-clearance vehicle would be better suited. Four-wheel drive isn't necessary except in the most extreme conditions, in which case either California State Parks or the USFS will likely have closed the roads or have cautions posted. Call the Mount Pinos Ranger District at 661-245-3731 to check road conditions during or immediately after any measurable precipitation.

At 1.2 miles is a California State Parks kiosk; inform the ranger you are heading for the forestlands beyond. From the kiosk, continue along Hungry Valley Road 3.9 miles to the intersection with Gold Hill Road (Forest Service Road 8N01). Follow this road (paved for quite a

stretch) another 12.5 miles (passing the turnoffs for Kings and Gold Hill Camps and crossing Piru Creek once) toward the Big Spring junction. Follow the signage to continue south from this junction another 4 miles along FS 7N01 to the **Little Mutau Trailhead (6,750', N34° 38.623' W118° 57.543')**. There is a vault toilet but no water or other facilities here.

It is another 3 miles east along the road to the Buck Creek Trailhead. There are no facilities here.

Buena Vista Trailhead (665', N34° 26.925' W119° 36.655')

From US 101 in Montecito, take Exit 93 (San Ysidro Road) and drive north along San Ysidro Road approximately 1 mile to East Valley Road/CA 192. Turn right (east) here and continue 0.9 mile to Park Lane (the turnoff to Park Lane is easy to miss; it's just as the road begins to rise after passing the Knowlwood Tennis Club). Turn left (north) onto Park Lane and proceed 0.4 mile until the split; stay right at the split and continue another 0.6 mile northeast to a small parking area on the left (north) side of the road. The trailhead is at the east end of the parking area; there are no facilities here.

Cachuma Saddle (3,050', N34° 43.613' W119° 55.191')

From the intersection of Armour Ranch Road and CA 154 (San Marcos Pass Road) just west of Lake Cachuma, head north along Armour Ranch Road approximately 1.25 miles to the intersection with Happy Canyon Road. Turn right (east) onto Happy Canyon Road (which will become Forest Service Road 7N07 upon entering the forest) and follow this approximately 13.75 miles to Cachuma Saddle, just inside the Santa Lucia Ranger District boundary. Parts of this road are dirt and can prove rather mucky when wet. Four-wheel drive isn't typically necessary, but high clearance helps.

The Cachuma Saddle Guard Station once stood on the west of the road here. Parking is available on either side of FS 7N07, but there is also a **flat (3,070', N34° 43.598' W119° 55.122')** up the McKinley Fire Road (FS 8N08) just short of the gate.

Camp Three Falls (5,450', N34° 44.887' W119° 08.036')

From Lockwood Valley Road in Lockwood Valley, follow Boy Scout Camp Road westward 2.8 miles to the camp gate. Operated by the Ventura County Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Three Falls is named for the falls in the three branches of Lockwood Canyon to the north (one of which you'll pass along the North Fork Trail). While non-Scouts are not allowed to park on the grounds proper, one can park outside the camp gates and then walk along the main entrance road. Even if the gate is open, do not drive into the camp.

Camuesa Connector Trailhead (1,100', N34° 32.174' W119° 44.094')

This easy-to-miss trailhead, 8.3 miles from the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**, provides access to the Camuesa Connector trail (27W22; see *Route 14*). Parking is available along the shoulder farther up and down the road; there are no facilities here.

Cannon Creek/Ortega Trailhead (2,240', N34° 30.881' W119° 17.027')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, follow CA 33 approximately 9.5 miles (passing Wheeler Gorge Campground and the visitor center) to a group of turnouts just past Holiday Group Campground. The trailhead here is just across from mile marker 20.80.

Cedar Creek Trailhead (4,850', N34° 38.056' W119° 06.760')

From the junction of Lockwood Valley Road and Grade Valley Road (Forest Service Road 7N03) in Lockwood Valley, bear south onto Grade Valley Road toward Mutau Flat. Continue along this road (which turns to dirt after 2 miles) for 7 miles to a crossing of Piru Creek; even in drier seasons the water here can be deep enough to prevent crossing, especially for passenger cars (there is a small parking area just before the crossing if this is the case). If passable, continue across Piru Creek and stay right (west) at the fork just beyond. Continue another mile to a small parking area on the left (south) side of the road. The trailhead is 100 feet back along the road, creekside. There are no facilities here. *Note:* Grade Valley Road is seasonal (closed in winter).

Cerro Noroeste/West Tumamait Trailhead (8,100', N34° 49.709' W119° 12.114')

From Pine Mountain Club, head west along Mil Potrero Highway approximately 3 miles to the junction with Cerro Noroeste Road/FS 9N25 (the Apache Saddle Fire Station is easily identifiable here). Turn left (south) at the junction and follow Cerro Noroeste Road another 6.9 miles up the mountain slope to a small turnoff on the right (east) side of the road. (Parking is available along the roadside, but be careful to park completely off the pavement, as the road is a bit narrow here.)

Cherry Creek Turnoff (4,110', N34° 36.376' W119° 21.413')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive 27 miles north along CA 33 to the turnoff for Cherry Creek Road. This is the winter parking area for the Cherry Creek area—during the winter or after heavy rains, the road gate will be closed. Park beside the highway.

Cold Spring Canyon Trailhead (780', N34° 27.354' W119° 39.191')

From US 101 in Montecito, take Exit 94A (Olive Mill Road) and drive north along Olive Mill Road (turning into Hot Springs Road) approximately 3 miles to East Mountain Drive. Turn left (west) on East Mountain Drive and continue 1.1 miles to the trailhead. Parking is available on the side of the road on both sides of the water crossing, as well as in an overflow area just east of the main parking areas. There is signage on both sides of the creek; the easiest route to follow is that on the east side of the creek. There are no facilities here.

Cold Spring Saddle Trailhead/Parking Area (3,400', N34° 29.046' W 119° 38.338')

From the junction of US 101 and CA 154 in Santa Barbara, follow CA 154 (also San Marcos Pass Road) north 7.8 miles to East Camino Cielo Road (also Forest Service Road 5N12). Turn right (east) here and continue along East Camino Cielo 14.7 miles to the Cold Spring

Saddle parking area. The trail to access Forbush and Blue Canyons begins on the north side of the road. There are no facilities here.

Alternatively, from the junction of CA 192 and Mountain Drive in Santa Barbara, follow Mountain Drive north 0.2 mile to the junction with Gibraltar Road. Turn left (north) at this dogleg and continue along Gibraltar Road 7.3 miles (this is a slow and winding route) to its intersection with East Camino Cielo Road (also FS 5N12). Turn right (east) here and continue along East Camino Cielo for 3.6 miles to the Cold Spring Saddle parking area.

Cozy Dell Trailhead (880', N34° 28.704' W119° 17.459')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 approximately 3.3 miles to a parking area on the west side of the road. There are no facilities here. The trail is across the road.

Deal Connector Trailhead (4,280', N34° 40.015' W119° 22.331')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 (beyond Pine Mountain Summit) approximately 34 miles to a small and easy-to-miss dirt turnoff on the left (west) side of the road just past mile marker 45.27—exercise caution crossing the road to access the turnoff. The dirt road drops into an old parking area, now the trailhead for the Deal Connector Trail (24W10). There are no facilities here.

Deal Trailhead (Bear Canyon) (3,680', N34° 40.700' W119° 21.928')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 (beyond Pine Mountain Summit) approximately 37.7 miles to an easy-to-miss roadside parking area on the left (north) side of the highway. There are no facilities here.

Dough Flat Trailhead (2,840', N34° 31.333' W118° 53.744')

From Fillmore, follow Goodenough Road to its northern end, and then follow Forest Service Road 6N16 approximately 10 miles to the Dough Flat Trailhead and parking area. The road is rough in places, intermittently paved the first 3 miles to Oak Flat and graded dirt the remaining 7 miles. The parking area has restrooms and informational signs. An Adventure Pass is *not* required to park here.

Dry Canyon Trailhead (4,630', N34° 44.953' W119° 29.855')

Located 5.8 miles along Dry Canyon Road (8N19) from Santa Barbara Canyon Road, this trailhead is the upper trailhead of the Tinta Trail. It's a rather steep 2.2 miles up the dirt road to Cuyama Peak. There are no facilities here.

First Crossing (990', N34° 32.761' W119° 46.792')

From the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**, continue along Paradise Road 5.5 miles to the signed parking lot for the First Crossing day-use area. Though not typically used as a trailhead, this day-use area is often the end of the

road whenever the river level or road conditions beyond are impassable (usually after the winter storms). The space has ample parking, barbecue grills, restrooms, and potable water.

Note: First Crossing is currently managed by a concessionaire, and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park here.

Fishbowls Trailhead (4,880', N34° 39.280' W119° 06.512')

From the junction of Lockwood Valley Road and Grade Valley Road (Forest Service Road 7N03) in Lockwood Valley, bear south onto Grade Valley Road toward Mutau Flat. Continue along this road (which turns to dirt after 2 miles) for 5.7 miles. Fishbowls Trailhead (the old Grade Valley Campground) is on your right. There are restrooms, but no water is available. An Adventure Pass is *not* required to park here. *Note:* Grade Valley Road is closed in winter.

Frenchman's Flat Trailhead/Parking Area (2,050', N34° 36.974' W118° 44.607')

From I-5 (Golden State Freeway) in Castaic, take Exit 183 for the Templin Highway (Forest Service Road 6N32). Head west from the off-ramp to the old Golden State Highway (formerly US 99) and continue north approximately 5.1 miles to the parking area. There are restrooms a short distance up the old road from here and trash receptacles near the gate, but no facilities.

Note: A USFS Adventure Pass, federal Interagency Pass, or equivalent permit is required to park at this trailhead.

Gaviota Peak Trailhead (350', N34° 30.284' W120° 13.564')

From Santa Barbara, follow US 101 north along the coast approximately 34 miles to the split for CA 1 (Exit 98A; Vandenberg AFB/Solvang). Turn right (east) at the stop sign and immediately right again onto the frontage road. Proceed 0.3 mile south along this frontage road to the small Gaviota State Park parking area. The route begins in the southeast corner of the parking area. As of this writing, California State Parks system charges \$2 for parking (or possession of a valid and applicable California State Parks parking pass); make your payment using the envelopes provided. There are no facilities here. Dogs are not allowed on the trail (state parks regulation).

Gridley Trailhead (1,160', N34° 28.142' W119° 13.427')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive east along CA 150 (Ojai Avenue) through Ojai for 2 miles to Gridley Road. Turn left (north) on Gridley Road and continue 1.5 miles to what is effectively the end of the road. You may park your vehicle in this cul-de-sac or any available space back along the road, but do not block the private road at the road's end.

Horn Canyon Trailhead (1,330', N34° 27.704' W119° 11.000')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive east along CA 150 (Ojai Avenue) through Ojai for 3.4 miles and make a slight left (east by northeast) onto Reeves Road (at Boccali's restaurant, at the base of Dennison Grade). Follow Reeves Road 1.1 miles and turn left (north) at McAndrew Road. Continue north along McAndrew Road another 0.9 mile to the trailhead, which is on your right (east) just as you cross the bridge over Thatcher Creek. There is ample shoulder parking on either side of the road, but there are no facilities here.

Hot Springs/Saddle Rock Trailhead

(600', N34° 26.951' W119° 38.752')

From US 101 in Montecito, take Exit 94A (Olive Mill Road) and drive north along Olive Mill Road (turning into Hot Springs Road) approximately 3 miles to East Mountain Drive. Turn left (west) on East Mountain Drive and continue 0.2 mile to the Saddle Rock parking area on the right (north) side of the road. The trailhead is on the east end of the parking area; there are no facilities here. Bear in mind that parking capacity is limited, so on weekends the lot is typically full. There is some additional street parking available in and about the adjacent neighborhood—please be considerate of the residents therein.

Howard Creek Trailhead (3,480', N34° 32.066' W119° 13.872')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 approximately 14.5 miles to Forest Service Road 6N31 (Rose Valley Road). Turn right (south) onto this road and continue east 0.5 mile to the turnoff for a gated service road on your right (south); park on either side of the service road here. There are no facilities here, but restrooms are available farther down the road at the Rose-Lion Trailhead, Rose Valley Campground, Middle Lion Campground, and the Piedra Blanca Trailhead.

Jesusita/Cater Treatment Plant Trailhead

(530', N34° 27.265' W119° 43.725')

From US 101 in Santa Barbara, take the Las Positas Road exit (Exit 100). If coming from the southeast, follow Calle Real for 0.33 mile before reaching Las Positas Road. Follow Las Positas (which becomes San Roque Road along the way) north 1.4 miles to the intersection with Foothill Road (CA 192). Cross Foothill Road and continue along San Roque Road another 0.5 mile (just past the Cater Water Treatment Plant) to a small parking area. Parking is available on either side of the road; the trail begins at the north end of the left (eastern) parking area. There are no facilities here.

Johnston Ridge Trailhead (4,900', N34° 38.591' W119° 03.334')

From the junction of Lockwood Valley Road and Grade Valley Road (Forest Service Road 7N03) in Lockwood Valley, bear south onto Grade Valley Road toward Mutau Flat. Continue along this road (which turns to dirt quickly) 11.1 miles (three creek crossings, sometimes impassable) to the turnoff to the Johnston Ridge Trailhead. There are restrooms but no other facilities here. Many of the parking spots have hitching posts. An Adventure Pass is *not* required to park here. *Note:* Grade Valley Road is seasonal (closed in winter).

Juan Fernandez Boat Launch, Lake Piru

(1,100', N34° 29.222' W118° 45.656')

From CA 126 in Piru, take the Main Street exit and head north through Piru (at the north end of town as the road begins to head east, it becomes Piru Canyon Road) for 7 miles to the tollbooth. As of this writing, there is a \$12 day-use fee to park or pass through the area—though within the national forest, the Lake Piru Recreational Area is under the jurisdiction

of the United Water Conservation District, so neither a USFS Adventure Pass nor a federal Interagency Pass will suffice. There are restrooms, a snack bar, a bait shop, and a market here.

Continue along the road another 2.3 miles to the Juan Fernandez Boat Launch, which has in recent years effectively become the trailhead for hikes into the forest beginning along Piru Creek. *Note:* During winter, the stretch of road leading from the Reasoner Creek parking area to the Fernandez Boat Launch is often closed; phone 805-521-1500 to confirm. When the road is closed, expect an additional 1.5-mile walk each way.

Juncal (1,800', N34° 29.224' W119° 32.412')

This roadhead/trailhead, 5.6 miles from **Romero Saddle (3,060', N34° 28.573' W119° 35.723')** along the graded dirt Romero-Camuesa Road, is near the site of the former Juncal Campground. Parking can be tricky, as you must stay off the roadway. The best spot is often another 0.3 mile down the road to a small turnoff (N34° 29.399' W119° 32.654'). There are no facilities here.

Knapp's Castle/Upper Snyder Trailhead (2,960', N34° 31.114' W119° 47.601')

From the junction of US 101 and CA 154 in Santa Barbara, follow CA 154 (also San Marcos Pass Road) north 7.8 miles to East Camino Cielo Road (also Forest Service Road 5N12). Turn right (east) here and continue along East Camino Cielo 3 miles to a small parking area on the left (north) side of the road. There is also space along the road in both directions. There are no facilities here.

Little Caliente Spring (1,650', N34° 32.417' W119° 37.228')

Past **Mono Campground (N34° 31.687' W119° 37.666')** and then along a short spur road (5N33)—14.4 miles from **Romero Saddle (3,060', N34° 28.573' W119° 35.723')** along the graded dirt Romero-Camuesa Road—this unofficial trailhead (and former campground) has no facilities but room enough for a few vehicles.

Little Mutau Trailhead (6,750', N34° 38.623' W118° 57.543')

From I-5 (Golden State Freeway) south of the CA 138 junction, take Exit 195 for Smokey Bear Road and head west to the junction with old US 99. Make the quick dogleg to the left (south), and then make a quick right onto the graded dirt road heading into the Hungry Valley State Vehicular Recreation Area.

Note: This is a fairly long (20-plus-mile) drive along a largely unpaved route. This road is usually accessible to two-wheel drive passenger vehicles, but a higher-clearance vehicle would be better suited. Four-wheel drive isn't necessary except in the most extreme conditions, in which case either California State Parks or the USFS will likely have closed the roads or have cautions posted. Call the Mount Pinos Ranger District at 661-245-3731 to check road conditions during or immediately after any measurable precipitation.

At 1.2 miles is a California State Parks kiosk; inform the ranger you are heading for the forestlands beyond. From the kiosk, continue along Hungry Valley Road 3.9 miles to the

intersection with Gold Hill Road (Forest Service Road 8N01). Follow this road (paved for quite a stretch) another 12.5 miles (passing the turnoff for Kings Campground and crossing Piru Creek once) toward the Big Spring junction. Follow the signage to continue south from this junction another 4 miles along FS 7N01 to the Little Mutau Trailhead. There is a vault toilet but no water or other facilities here.

Lizard's Mouth Parking Area (2,850', N34° 30.102' W119° 51.837')

From the junction of US 101 and CA 154 in Santa Barbara, follow CA 154 (San Marcos Pass Road) northward approximately 7.1 miles to West Camino Cielo Road (the turnoff is also marked Kinevan Road). Turn left (west) here and continue along West Camino Cielo approximately 3.5 miles to a small parking area. Additional parking can be found up and down the route on either side, as necessary. If you reach the Winchester Gun Club shooting range, you've missed the parking area by approximately 100 yards. There are no facilities here.

Los Alamos Trailhead (2,980', N34° 42.329' W118° 49.241')

From I-5 (Golden State Freeway) south of the CA 138 junction, take Exit 195 for Smokey Bear Road and proceed south along Pyramid Lake Road 1.5 miles to the turnoff for Hard Luck Road. Turn right (west) here and follow Hard Luck Road 2.7 miles—passing the Los Alamos Campgrounds—to the small parking area at the junction with the fire station spur road. There are no facilities here; the nearest restrooms and potable water can be found at Los Alamos Campgrounds 0.5 mile back along the road. *Note:* Most maps (those printed before 2010) show Hardluck car campground as the start for this area; this is no longer the case.

Lower Chorro Grande Trailhead (4,085', N34° 35.944' W119° 20.134')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 in Ojai, drive 25.5 miles north along CA 33 to a large dirt parking area on the left (south) side of the highway. Signage on both sides of the highway indicates that the trail's start is directly across the road. There are no facilities here.

Lower Oso (990', N34° 32.725' W119° 46.482')

Just across the river from First Crossing (5.7 miles from the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**), this campground-turned-day-use area is an option for those seeking to hike the Arroyo Burro route from the northernmost end (see *Route 13*). It features restrooms, water, and 23 day-use sites.

Note: Lower Oso is currently managed by a concessionaire, and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park here.

Matias Connector Trailhead (1,100', N34° 32.174' W119° 44.094')

This trailhead, 9 miles from the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**, provides access to the Matias Connector (27W25; see *Route 15*). One or two vehicles can fit here, but be sure to not block the gate. Otherwise, parking is available along the shoulder farther up and down the road. There are no facilities here.

Matilija Canyon Trailhead (1,560', N34° 30.301' W119° 22.475')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive 5 miles north along CA 33 to Matilija Canyon Road on the left (west). The road passes through a community of small cabins and houses, and while suitable for passenger cars, it's narrow at places and often has rockfall and other debris. Drive 4.8 miles west along Matilija Canyon Road to the dirt parking area on the left (south) side of the road.

This parking area tends to be flooded after rains, so you'll often find yourself needing to park along its edges or along the road shoulder.

McPherson Corral (5,050', N34° 52.727' W119° 48.383')

From CA 166, approximately 39 miles east of Santa Maria (or 13 miles west of New Cuyama), follow Cottonwood Canyon Road southward approximately 4.4 miles to Foothill Road. Head right (west) here and stay left as the road becomes Bates Canyon Road (Forest Service Road 11N01) and heads southward toward the Sierra Madre ridge, passing Bates Canyon Campground at about 6.6 miles. The road meets Sierra Madre Road (FS 32S13) 12.5 miles from CA 166. From this junction, continue left (east) 8.5 miles along Sierra Madre Road (FS 32S13) to the corral. Passenger cars are not recommended.

Note: When Bates Canyon Road is closed (seasonally, or due to fires or storm damage), reaching the McPherson Corral is a slow and often rough 32 miles starting from CA 166 approximately 26 miles east of Santa Maria.

McGill Trailhead (6,150', N34° 50.014' W119° 05.189')

From the Frazier Mountain Park Road exit (Exit 205) on I-5 in Frazier Park, head west along Frazier Mountain Park Road (after you pass through Frazier Park it will become Cuddy Valley Road) for 12.2 miles to the Y with Mil Potrero Highway at the base of Mount Pinos. Go left (south) at the Y and continue 0.6 mile to the roadside parking space.

Meadow View Lane Trailhead (30', N34° 24.412' W119° 31.051')

From the US 101 northbound, take Exit 86 (Casitas Pass Road). Drive north along Casitas Pass Road 0.8 mile to Foothill Road (CA 192), and proceed left (west) 0.6 mile to Linden Avenue. At Linden, turn left (south) and continue 0.2 mile to Meadow View Lane, on your right (west). The trailhead is at the end of the street.

From the US 101 southbound, take Exit 87A (Reynolds Avenue). Follow Reynolds Avenue southward to Carpinteria Avenue, and head right (east) 0.5 mile to Linden Avenue. Turn left (northeast) onto Linden and continue 0.6 mile. Meadow View Lane is on your left (west). The trailhead is at the end of the street.

Middle Lion Campground (3,160', N34° 32.962' W119° 09.979')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 approximately 14.5 miles to Forest Service Road 6N31 (Sespe River Road) in Rose Valley. Turn right (south) onto this road and continue east 4.7 miles to a road indicating Middle Lion

Campground. Turn right (south) here and continue 0.8 mile southward to Middle Lion Campground. There is no water here, but there are restrooms.

Note: Middle Lion Campground is currently managed by a concessionaire, and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park here. If you want to avoid paying the fee, there is room to park a few vehicles on the west side of the road just outside of camp.

Middle Sespe Trailhead (3,300', N34° 33.274' W119° 14.708')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 approximately 16.7 miles (passing the Rose Valley turnoff) to the old Beaver Campground turnoff. The turnoff is now blocked by fill, so you must park alongside the highway. There are no facilities here, nor is a USFS Adventure Pass necessary to park here.

Mono Campground (1,450', N34° 31.686' W119° 37.669')

Just 13 miles from **Romero Saddle (3,060', N34° 28.573' W119° 35.723')** along the graded dirt Romero-Camuesa Road, this small turnout for the adjacent walk-in campground has no facilities, but it does have room enough for a few vehicles.

Mono Creek Gate (1,520', N34° 32.120' W119° 37.763')

This gate, 13.7 miles from **Romero Saddle (3,060', N34° 28.573' W119° 35.723')** along the graded dirt Romero-Camuesa Road, marks the farthest the public can currently drive an auto along the Romero-Camuesa (in decades past one could drive all the way into the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area via this route). Just east of the road's crossing of Mono Creek, this small roadside parking area is the staging ground for trips into the lower Dick Smith Wilderness, lower Indian Creek (see *Route 40*), and the "closed" portions of the Romero-Camuesa Road.

Mount Pinos/Chula Vista/East Tumamait Trailhead (8,340', N34° 48.777' W119° 07.618')

From Frazier Park: From the Frazier Mountain Park Road exit (Exit 205) on I-5 in Frazier Park, head west along Frazier Mountain Park Road (after you pass through Frazier Park it will become Cuddy Valley Road) for 12.2 miles to the Y with Mil Potrero Highway at the base of Mount Pinos. Go left at the Y and continue up the Mount Pinos Highway (FS 9N24) another 8.5 miles to the Chula Vista parking area.

From Ojai: From the junction of CA 33 and Lockwood Valley Road, head east on Lockwood Valley Road 26.8 miles to the junction with Frazier Mountain Park Road. Turn left (northwest) and continue along Frazier Mountain Park Road (after you pass through Frazier Park it will become Cuddy Valley Road) for 5.1 miles to the Y with Mil Potrero Highway at the base of Mount Pinos. Go left at the Y and continue up the Mount Pinos Highway (FS 9N24) another 8.5 miles to the Chula Vista parking area.

There are often portable toilets but no other facilities here; better vault toilets are available at the Chula Vista walk-in campground a few hundred yards to the east.

The lodgelike building at the north end of the Chula Vista parking lot is staffed during the ski season by volunteers of the Mount Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol (nordicbase.org). Updates on conditions, maps, and general information are typically available there.

Note: A USFS Adventure Pass, federal Interagency Pass, or equivalent permit is required to park a vehicle anywhere along the Mount Pinos Highway or atop the parking area during winter.

Nettle Spring Trailhead (4,420', N34° 48.032' W119° 17.707')

This trailhead is less than 0.25 mile down the road from the former Nettle Spring Campground. From CA 33 in the Cuyama Valley, head northeast along Apache Canyon Road (Forest Service Road 8N06) 8.3 miles along a well-graded dirt road to the turnoff for Nettle Spring Campground. Four-wheel drive typically isn't necessary (though do mind the creek crossings), but a higher-clearance vehicle is recommended. There are no facilities at the site.

Ortega Hill (4,980', N34° 34.309' W119° 21.554')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive 27 miles north along CA 33 to the turnoff for Cherry Creek Road. Turn left (south) onto the dirt road and follow it 2.75 miles to Ortega Hill. There are no facilities at this trailhead, and it's closed in winter.

Oso Trailhead (735', N34° 27.517' W119° 17.429')

From the intersection of Fairview Road and CA 33 in Ojai, follow Fairview Road westward approximately 0.3 mile to a dogleg at Rice Road. Proceed straight/right (north) here for 0.2 mile to the intersection with Meyer Road. Turn left (west) at Meyer and proceed another 0.3 mile (staying straight and passing through the gate at the Oso Road intersection) to the dirt parking area. This parking area is managed by the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy.

Note: At the time of this writing, the gate leading to the Oso Trailhead (at the Meyer–Oso intersection) is open 8 a.m.–7:30 p.m. during summer (April–October) and 8 a.m.–5 p.m. during the off-season (November–March). Plan accordingly.

Ozena Trailhead (3,570', N34° 40.990' W119° 21.278')

From Pine Mountain Summit, 31.5 miles north of Ojai, continue 5.6 miles north along CA 33 to the USFS Ozena Fire Station. There are no facilities here.

Piedra Blanca Trailhead (3,040', N34° 33.630' W119° 09.934')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 approximately 14.5 miles to Forest Service Road 6N31 (Sespe River Road) in Rose Valley. Proceed 5.6 miles along this road to the parking area at the Piedra Blanca Trailhead (site of the old Lion car camp and formerly a Civilian Conservation Corps work camp). The trail is on the northeast edge of the parking area's second loop. There are restrooms here, but no water is available.

Note: A USFS Adventure Pass, federal Interagency Pass, or equivalent permit is required to park a vehicle at this trailhead.

Pine Mountain Summit/Potrero Seco Turnout (5,140', N34° 38.925' W119° 23.118')

From the Y in Ojai, drive 31.4 miles north along CA 33 to Pine Mountain Summit—the parking area is on the west side of the road. There is a gate to a dirt service road (Potrero Seco Road/Forest Service Road 6N03) that has been closed to public access for some time—be sure to not block the gate, as it's still in use by private-land holders and rangers. There are no facilities here.

Potrero John Trailhead (3,660', N34° 35.102' W119° 16.122')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 approximately 21 miles to a small parking area on the right (north) side of the highway, just past the bridge over Potrero John Creek. The parking space has room enough for two vehicles; there are other spots along the south side of the road farther along, and a much larger space is on the Sespe side of the highway south of the Potrero John Trailhead.

Rancho Nuevo Trailhead (3,520', N34° 41.717' W119° 23.874')

Note: Four-wheel drive is recommended. From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 (beyond Pine Mountain Summit) 40.7 miles to Forest Service Road 7N04A. Turn left (west) and proceed along the dirt road across the Cuyama River (which is impassable during and immediately after rains) and along the Rancho Nuevo watershed for 0.8 mile. Bear left (southwest) at the junction with Tinta Creek Road and continue another 0.7 mile (crossing the creek twice) to Rancho Nuevo Campground (which is effectively a turn-around with two campfire rings). There are no facilities here.

Raspberry Spring Trailhead (7,030', N34° 38.305' W119° 18.971')

Located on the north side of Pine Mountain Road, the trailhead is just before one enters Reyes Peak Campground (5.7 miles from Pine Mountain Summit along CA 33); the campground's restroom is just up the road.

Note: Reyes Peak Campground is currently managed by a concessionaire, and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park here. Park outside the campground proper to avoid this fee—typically right at the trailhead is acceptable.

Rattlesnake Canyon Trailhead (910', N34° 27.456' W119° 41.544')

From the intersection of Mission Canyon Road and Foothill Road (CA 192) in Santa Barbara, follow Foothill Road (here both roads follow the same path) 0.2 mile east to the stop sign and intersection where Mission Canyon Road splits away again to head north. Turn left (north) and follow Mission Canyon Road 0.3 mile to the intersection with Las Canoas Road, making a sharp right (southeast) onto Las Canoas. Follow Las Canoas east 1.2 miles to the small parking area on the left (north) side of the road, just past a large boulder beside the road and just before the stone bridge begins. There is room enough for two cars here; if those spots are already taken, there are numerous spots both back along the road and farther past the bridge where one may park. There is a large wooden sign at the trailhead here marking the Skofield Park Rattlesnake Canyon Wilderness Area. There are no facilities here.

Red Rock Trailhead (1,130', N34° 32.069' W119° 42.767')

This parking area, 10.4 miles from the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**, rather confusingly shares its name with the day-use area farther back along the road (site of a former car campground) and is named after the formations upstream. This trailhead provides foot, mountain bike, and equestrian access to the Gibraltar Reservoir area. There are toilets and trash receptacles here. From here one can access the Red Rock formation along the Santa Ynez as well as the Gibraltar Reservoir area (see *Route 16*).

Note: The Red Rock Trailhead is currently managed by a concessionaire, and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park here.

Reyes Creek Trailhead (4,000', N34° 40.668' W119° 18.545')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 (beyond Pine Mountain Summit) approximately 37 miles to Lockwood Valley Road. Proceed 3.5 miles east along Lockwood Valley Road to Forest Service Road 7N11 and turn right (south). Almost immediately the road crosses the Cuyama River; exercise caution (the road is not passable after heavy rain). Travel 1.75 miles through Camp Scheideck and into Reyes Creek Campground. Stay right and follow signage to the trailhead parking area. There is a restroom but no water. No passes are required to park here.

Reyes Peak Trailhead (6,980', N34° 38.088' W119° 17.570')

This trailhead is located at the end of Pine Mountain Road (7.1 miles from CA 33) in a small turnaround lot. There is a restroom but no water. No passes are required to park here, but this road is closed in winter.

Romero Canyon Trailhead (985', N34° 27.179' W119° 35.438')

From Carpinteria and points south: From US 101 North in Carpinteria, take Exit 88 (Padaro Lane) and turn right at the end of the ramp toward Via Real. Turn left at Via Real and continue 0.6 mile to Nidever Road. Turn right (north) onto Nidever Road (it becomes Foothill Road and CA 192 after 0.1 mile) and travel 2.1 miles until your route bends into Toro Canyon Road at a stop sign. Turn right and continue along Toro Canyon (which likewise becomes CA 192) for 1.1 miles until you reach Ladera Lane. Turn right (north) onto Ladera Lane and drive 1 mile north to Bella Vista Drive. Turn left (west) here and continue another 0.7 mile to the parking area and trailhead on your right (just before the water crossing where Romero Creek pours across the road).

From Santa Barbara and points north: From US 101 South in Montecito, take Exit 92 (Sheffield Road). This is a left-hand exit, so note you'll need to be in the left (passing) lane. Turn left off the exit toward Jameson Lane, and then turn right onto Jameson, following signage for Sheffield Road (stay left at the split with Sheffield and Ortega Hill Road). Continue northeast along Sheffield Drive 1.3 miles until you reach East Valley Road (CA 192). Turn left here and make an almost immediate right (north) onto Romero Canyon Road. Follow Romero Canyon

Road 1.5 miles (staying right at the split with Lilac Way at 0.4 mile) until you reach Bella Vista Drive. Turn right onto Bella Vista and continue 0.3 mile to the parking area and trailhead on your left (just after the water crossing where Romero Creek pours across the road).

There is room enough in the parking area for three or four vehicles, but typically you'll need to find roadside parking somewhere along Bella Vista Drive. There are no facilities here.

Romero Saddle (3,015', N34° 28.549' W119° 35.755')

From the junction of US 101 and CA 154 in Santa Barbara, follow CA 154 (also San Marcos Pass Road) north 7.8 miles to East Camino Cielo Road (also Forest Service Road 5N12). Turn right (east) here and continue along East Camino Cielo 17.8 miles to Romero Saddle.

Alternatively, from the junction of CA 192 and Mountain Drive in Santa Barbara, follow Mountain Drive north 0.2 mile to the junction with Gibraltar Road. Turn left (north) at this dogleg and continue along Gibraltar Road 7.3 miles (this is a slow and winding route) to its intersection with East Camino Cielo Road (also FS 5N12). Turn right (east) here and continue along East Camino Cielo 6.7 miles to Romero Saddle.

Rose-Lion Connector Trailhead/Upper Rose Valley Lake Day-Use Area (3,400', N34° 32.028' W119° 10.933')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 approximately 14.5 miles to Forest Service Road 6N31 (Rose Valley Road). Turn right (south) onto this road and continue east 3.1 miles to the intersection with Rose Valley Lake Road. Turn right (north) here and continue 0.5 mile northward to the shoulder just south of the road sign for Rose Valley Campground. There are restrooms here (on the west side of the road) and in the campground ahead, but no water. No permits are required.

Note: Do not park in Rose Valley Campground, as was once recommended; the campground is currently managed by a concessionaire and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park there.

San Ysidro Canyon Trailhead (420', N34° 26.759' W119° 37.325')

From US 101 in Montecito, take Exit 93 (San Ysidro Road) and drive north along San Ysidro Road approximately 1 mile to East Valley Road/CA 192. Turn right (east) here and continue 0.9 mile to Park Lane (the turnoff to Park Lane is easy to miss; it's just as the road begins to rise after passing the Knowlwood Tennis Club and crossing San Ysidro Creek). Turn left (north) on Park Lane and proceed 0.4 mile until the split; stay left and continue another 0.5 mile to the parking area; parking is available on either side of the road. The trailhead is at the end of the parking area, on the north side of the road. There are no facilities here.

Note: Several online mapping sites indicate that two segments of East Mountain Drive on either side of San Ysidro Ranch connect—this is not the case in a practical sense. San Ysidro Ranch is a privately held resort property, and motor traffic is not allowed to use the private road to connect the roads, so please bear this in mind if planning a shuttle between any trailheads in the Montecito frontcountry.

Santa Barbara Canyon (3,350', N34° 46.497' W119° 34.446')

From CA 33 in the Cuyama Valley, head west along Foothill Road just south of the Santa Barbara–San Luis Obispo county line for 2.1 miles—crossing the Cuyama River en route—to Santa Barbara Canyon Road. Turn left (south) here and follow Santa Barbara Canyon Road/Forest Service Road 9N11 (which turns to dirt near the ranches) approximately 11.6 miles (keep right at the split with Dry Canyon Road), passing through Cox Flat to reach a small parking area on your right (west) marked by an old juniper. (If you find yourself in Alamo Canyon at the gated start of the Big Pine service road and all its fetid cattle mess, you've gone too far.) There are no facilities here.

If coming from Santa Maria or points north—or if the Cuyama presents too great an obstacle for your vehicle, either due to your vehicle's clearance or capabilities or due to the river's level—you can also access Santa Barbara Canyon through a series of surface roads from the town of Cuyama along CA 166 (thereby utilizing the state highway to cross the river). From CA 166 just east of Cuyama, follow Kirschenmann Road southward approximately 2.4 miles to Foothill Road. Turn left (east) onto Foothill Road and follow it 3 miles to Santa Barbara Canyon Road, turning right (south) here. It's then 12.5 miles along Santa Barbara Canyon Road/FS 9N11 to the destination described above.

Santa Paula Canyon (Thomas Aquinas College/Ferndale) (975', N34° 25.653' W119° 05.482')

From Ojai, take CA 150 (North Ojai Road) eastward 11.9 miles (over Dennison Grade) to the parking area just west of the Thomas Aquinas College entrance. From CA 126 in Santa Paula, take Exit 12 (10th Street/CA 150) and follow CA 150 approximately 5.9 miles to the trailhead. There are no facilities here.

Shelf Road Trailhead at Gridley Road (980', N34° 27.914' W119° 13.624')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive east along CA 150 (Ojai Avenue) through Ojai for 2 miles to Gridley Road. Turn left (north) on Gridley Road and continue 0.8 mile to the parking area on the west side of the road. There are no facilities here.

Shelf Road Trailhead at Signal Street (960', N34° 27.736' W119° 14.751')

From the intersection of Ojai Avenue and Signal Street in Ojai, follow North Signal Street northward 1 mile to the end of the road. There is parking on either side of the street, but be sure not to block the gate or residential driveways. There are no facilities here.

Sisar Canyon (1,570', N34° 26.200' W119° 08.237')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive east along CA 150 (Ojai Avenue) 8.9 miles (over Dennison Grade) to the turnoff for Sisar Road on your left (north). Alternately, from CA 126 in Santa Paula, take Exit 12 (10th Street/CA 150) and follow CA 150 approximately 8.9 miles to the turnoff for Sisar Road on your right (north). Park in one of the spaces to your immediate right on the east side of the road. There are no facilities here.

Note: This parking area is a fairly recent development—previously (pre–March 2017) one could park farther up the road beyond the residences, but after years of vandalism and general discourtesy, there is no longer access there. *Bear in mind that Sisar Road is a private road.*

Snyder Trailhead (1,050', N34° 32.494' W119° 47.684')

From the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**, continue along Paradise Road 4.1 miles to a small parking area along a wire fence on the right (south) side of the road. There are no facilities here, but facilities are available at some of the nearby USFS campgrounds (e.g., Paradise or Los Prietos).

Stewart Canyon Debris Basin (960', N34° 27.626' W119° 14.992')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive east along CA 150 (Ojai Avenue) through Ojai for 1 mile to North Signal Street. Turn left (north) onto Signal Street and continue 0.9 mile (making a left turn to stay on Signal at the dogleg with Grand Avenue at 0.4 mile) to the Spelway Dam/Stewart Canyon Debris Basin road on your left (a USFS sign here indicates the way). Turn left (west) and continue 0.2 mile to the turnoff on your left for the Pratt Trailhead and parking area.

Tequepis Trailhead (1,180', N34° 33.151' W119° 57.406')

From Santa Barbara, follow CA 154 (San Marcos Pass Road) toward Lake Cachuma. At the junction with **Forest Service Road 6N04 (780', N34° 34.069' W119° 57.092')**, turn left (south) and continue along the leftmost of the two forks. Numerous NO TRESPASSING and PRIVATE PROPERTY signs dot the route, but the road proper is publicly accessible. Follow this rough asphalt-and-dirt road 1.2 miles to a small parking area outside the gates of Circle V Ranch Camp, operated by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. There are no facilities at this trailhead. (Though some brazen hikers do use the camp's restrooms, please be considerate and simply hike on through.) Please keep your dogs on-leash through this portion of the hike.

Thorn Point Trailhead (Thorn Meadows Campground) (5,000', N34° 37.614' W119° 06.856')

From the junction of Lockwood Valley Road and Grade Valley Road (Forest Service Road 7N03) in Lockwood Valley, bear south onto Grade Valley Road toward Mutau Flat. Continue along this road (which turns to dirt quickly) for 5.7 miles. The Fishbowls Trailhead (the old Grade Valley Campground) is on your right; there are restrooms but no water or other facilities here. Continue south along Mutau Flat Road. After another 1.25 miles the road crosses Piru Creek; even in drier seasons the water here can be deep enough to prevent crossing, especially for passenger cars (there is a small parking area just before the crossing if this is the case). If passable, continue across Piru Creek and stay right (west) at the fork just beyond onto Thorn Meadows Spur Road (FS 7N03C).

Travel along the spur road 1.5 miles to reach Thorn Meadows Campground—Thorn Point Trailhead is at the northeast corner of camp. There are no facilities here, but there is

an outhouse, and three campsites with tables and stoves—each under a large incense cedar, ponderosa pine, or inland oak, respectively—are available for day and overnight use. No permit is required to park or camp here.

On busy weekends, if not camping at Thorn Meadows, it's probably more appropriate to park at the old Thorn Meadows Guard Station about 200 feet down the road.

Toad Springs Trailhead (5,530', N34° 51.469' W119° 13.989')

From Pine Mountain Club, head west along the Mil Potrero Highway for approximately 3.8 miles to the turnoff on your left (south) for Quatal Canyon Road, a graded dirt road. Follow Quatal Canyon Road 0.6 mile (passing Toad Springs Campground) to the trailhead. The parking spot just off the road—with room enough for two or three vehicles—is down a steep embankment and not recommended for passenger vehicles. Parking at the campground is a viable (and often preferred) alternative but adds 0.4 mile to the hike distance.

Alternatively, from CA 33 in the Cuyama Valley, head east along Quatal Canyon Road 14 miles to the trailhead. Quatal Canyon is a dirt road and can be a bit rough in spots—four-wheel drive is seldom necessary, but it is not suitable for low-clearance vehicles after significant storms.

Topatopa Bluff Trailhead (5,300', N34° 30.001' W119° 06.901')

Note: Access to this trailhead requires a permit from the Ojai Ranger District; visit the office or call 805-646-4348 for details.

From Rose Valley Campground, pass through the locked gate and follow the four-wheel-drive road 1.3 miles up to its junction with Nordhoff Ridge Road. Turn left (east) here and continue 8.1 miles along the ridge road (passing Elder Camp) to a small parking area just down from the road gate and wilderness boundary.

Tunnel Trailhead (980', N34° 27.851' W119° 42.747')

From US 101 in Santa Barbara, take the Mission Street exit (Exit 99) and follow Mission Street northeast for approximately 1 mile to Laguna Street. Turn left (northwest) here and follow Laguna three blocks to the Mission Santa Barbara grounds. Turn right at the four-way stop to follow East Los Olivos Street (which becomes Mission Canyon Road) 0.7 mile to Foothill Road. Turn right (east) here and follow Foothill Road 0.25 mile to a three-way stop in front of the fire station. Turn left (north) here and follow Mission Canyon Road approximately 0.3 mile. At the Y with Tunnel Road, stay left (onto Tunnel Road). Follow Tunnel Road into a winding residential area for another mile to the parking area. Please make sure that your vehicle is within the white lines as stated on the various signs—local law enforcement has been known to ticket errant vehicles. There are no facilities here.

Upper Chorro Grande Trailhead (7,160', N34° 38.156' W119° 18.550')

This trailhead is located on the south side of the road just beyond the last site of Reyes Peak Campground (6.1 miles from Pine Mountain Summit along CA 33). There is only room for two vehicles here, but some parking can be found along the road as needed. No passes are required to park here, and there are no facilities.

Upper Oso Trailhead (1,200', N34° 33.448' W119° 46.271')

From the intersection of **Paradise Road and CA 154 (1,200', N34° 32.015' W119° 51.457')**, continue along Paradise Road 5.7 miles to the split with Buckhorn Road. Follow Buckhorn Road another 1.3 miles to the Upper Oso Campground; the trailhead is on the north end of the pavement. There are restrooms and water here.

Note: The Upper Oso Trailhead is currently managed by a concessionaire, and there is a \$10-per-day fee to park here.

Upper San Ysidro Trailhead (3,455', N34° 29.006' W119° 38.109')

From the junction of US 101 and CA 154 in Santa Barbara, follow CA 154 (also San Marcos Pass Road) north 7.8 miles to East Camino Cielo Road (also Forest Service Road 5N12). Turn right (east) here and continue along East Camino Cielo 14.9 miles to the Upper San Ysidro Trailhead (just past Cold Spring Saddle).

Alternatively, from the junction of CA 192 and Mountain Drive in Santa Barbara, follow Mountain Drive north 0.2 mile to the junction with Gibraltar Road. Turn left (north) at this dogleg and continue along Gibraltar Road 7.3 miles (this is a slow and winding route) to its intersection with East Camino Cielo Road (also FS 5N12). Turn right (east) here and continue along East Camino Cielo 3.8 miles to the Upper San Ysidro Trailhead (just past Cold Spring Saddle).

Wheeler Gorge Nature Trail Turnoff (1,940', N34° 31.099' W119° 16.262')

From the junction of CA 33 and CA 150 (the Y) in Ojai, drive north along CA 33 8.5 miles to a small parking area north of the USFS fire station and just before the North Fork Matilija Creek bridge (there is also space to park just up the road, on the other side of the bridge). The parking space is on the left (west) side of the highway; exercise caution crossing the highway and please be sure not to block the gate. There are no facilities here, but restrooms are located at the Wheeler Gorge Campground just down the road on the west side of the highway.



Montecito Hot Springs ruins (*Route 27, page 133*) photo by Grace Carey

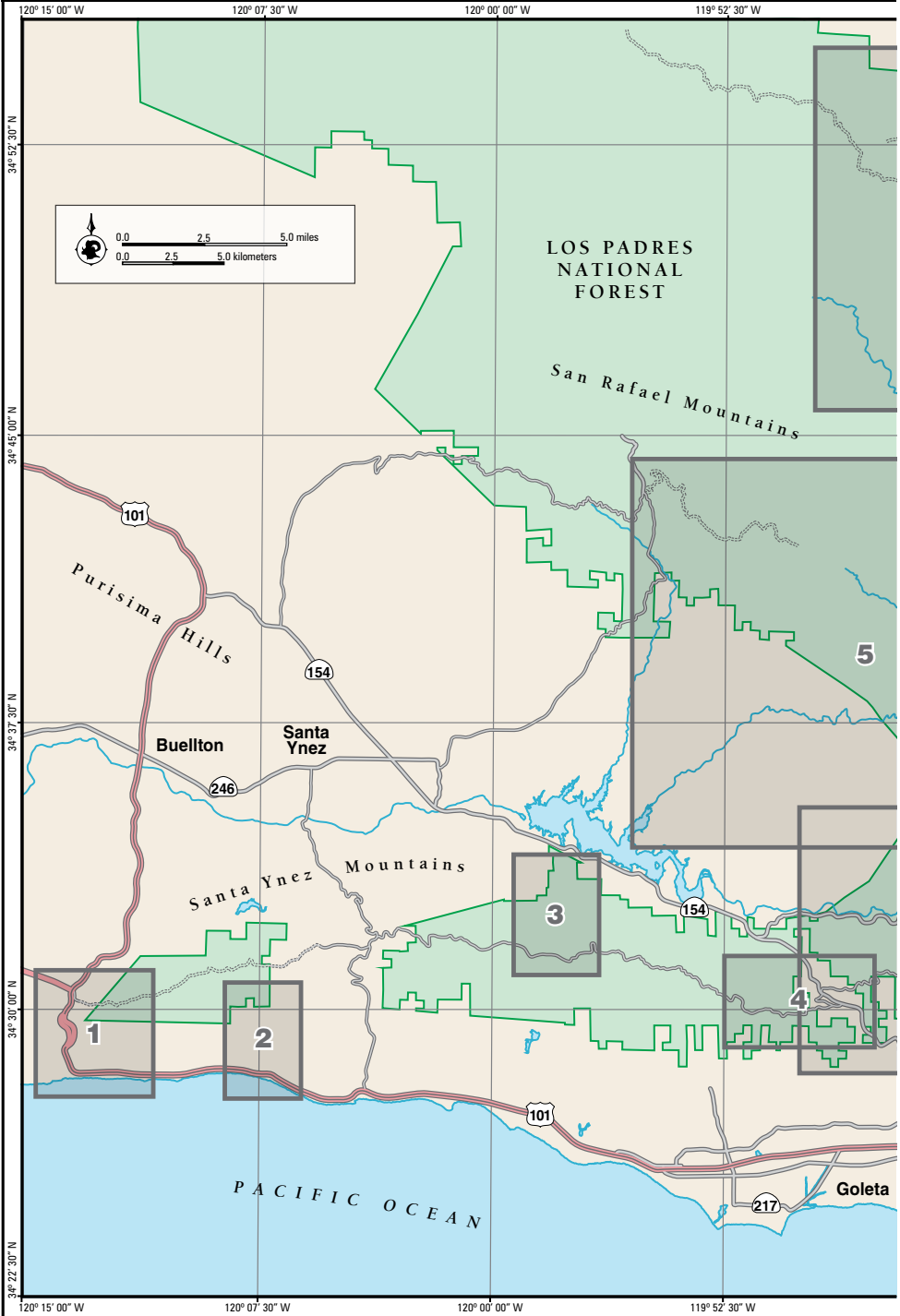
PART ONE

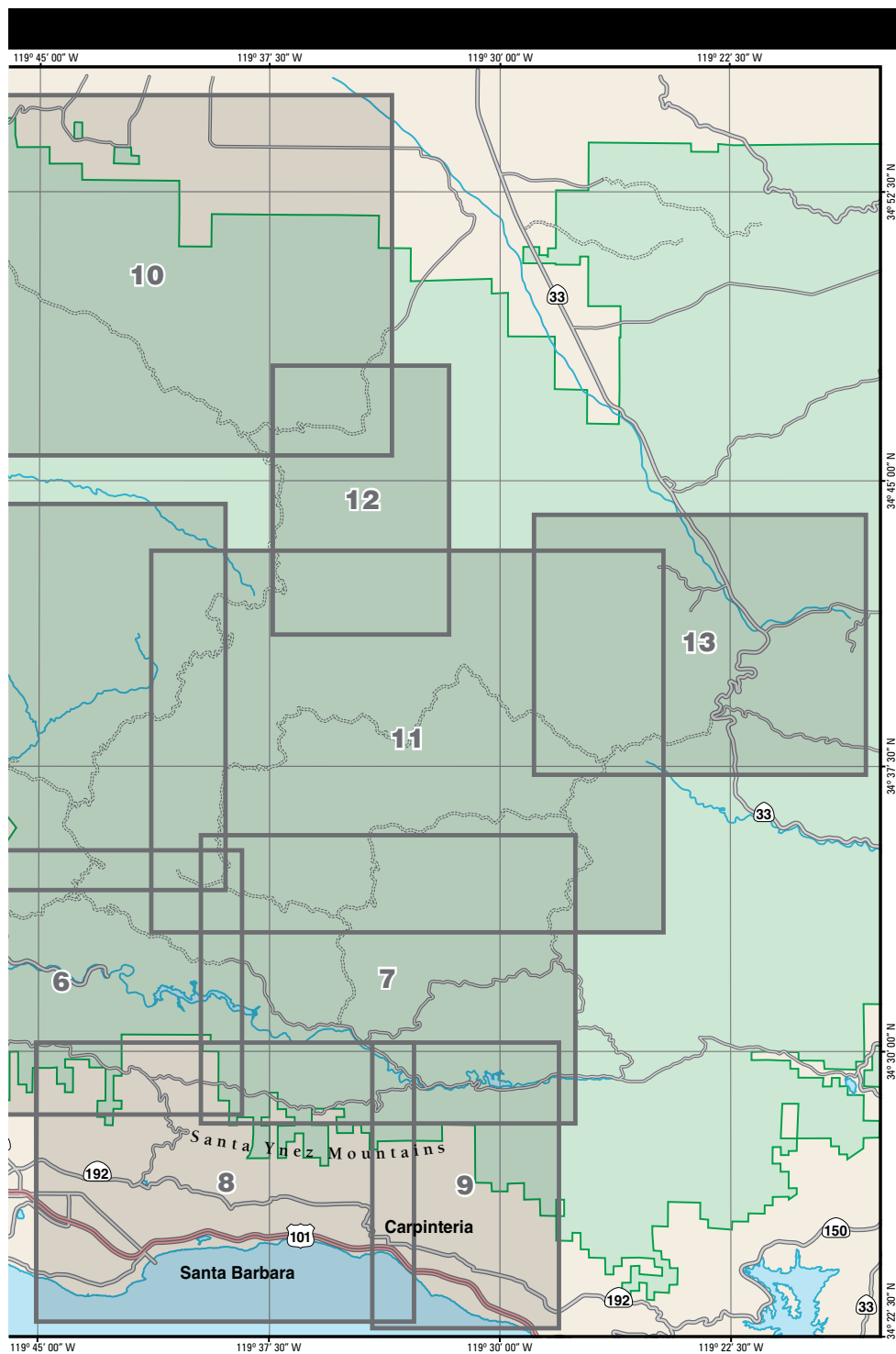


Santa Barbara and Western Mount Pinos Ranger Districts



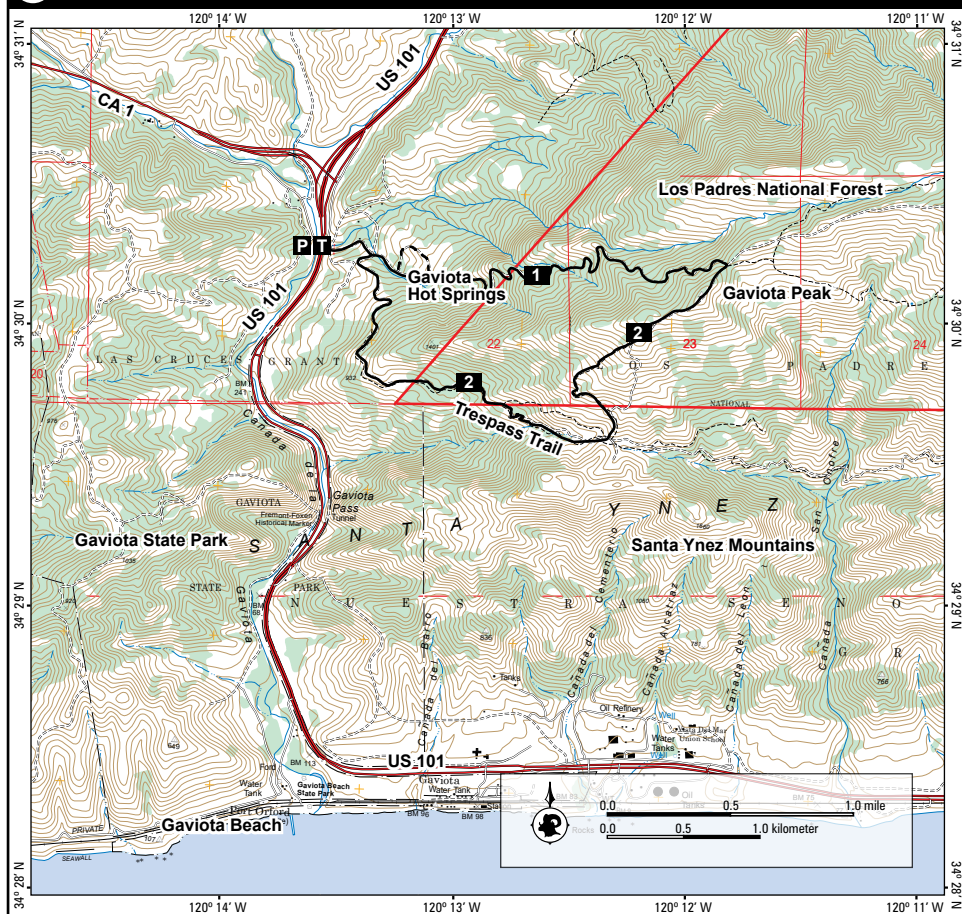
Santa Barbara and Western Mount Pinos Ranger Districts





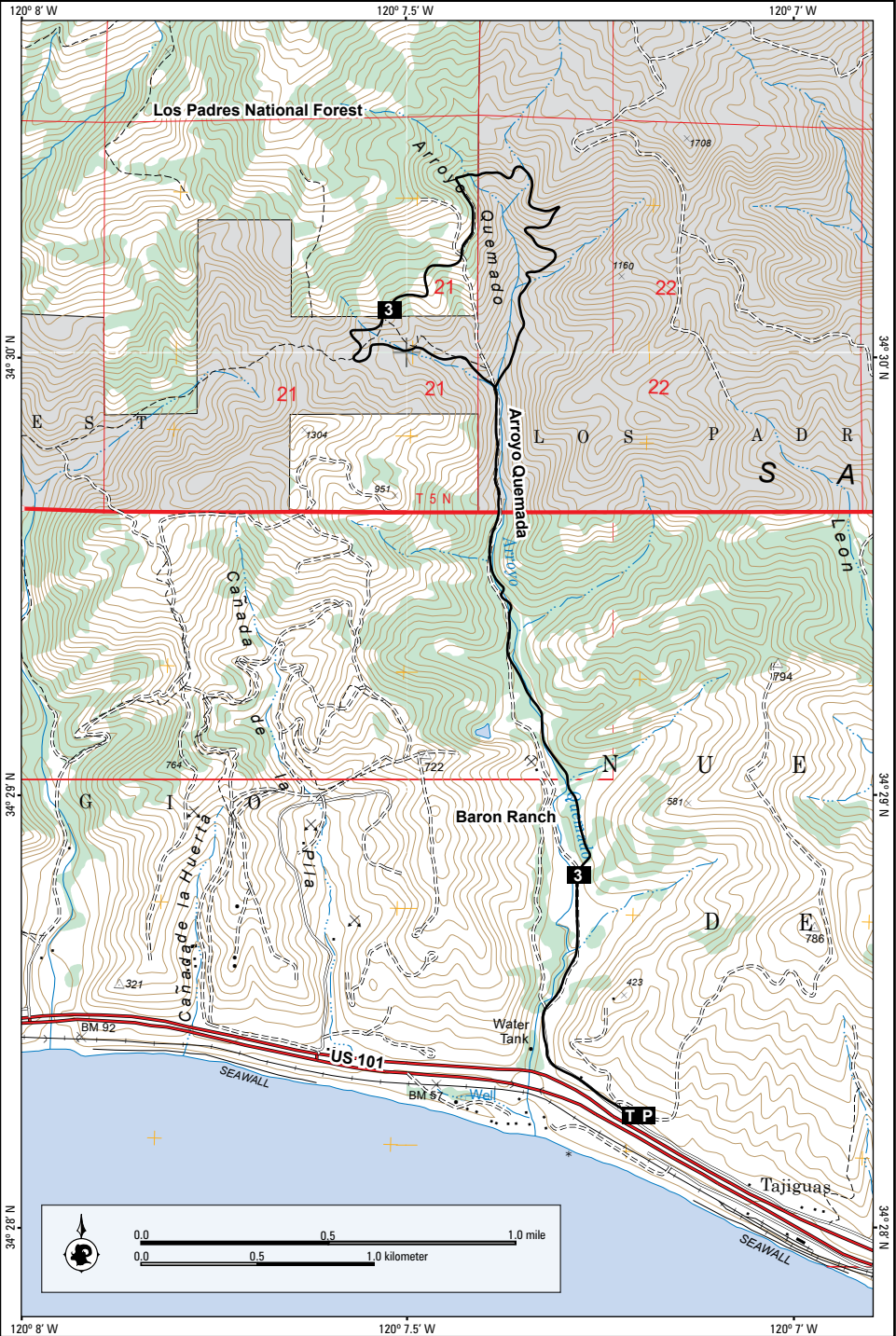


Map 1: Gaviota Peak and Trespass Trail

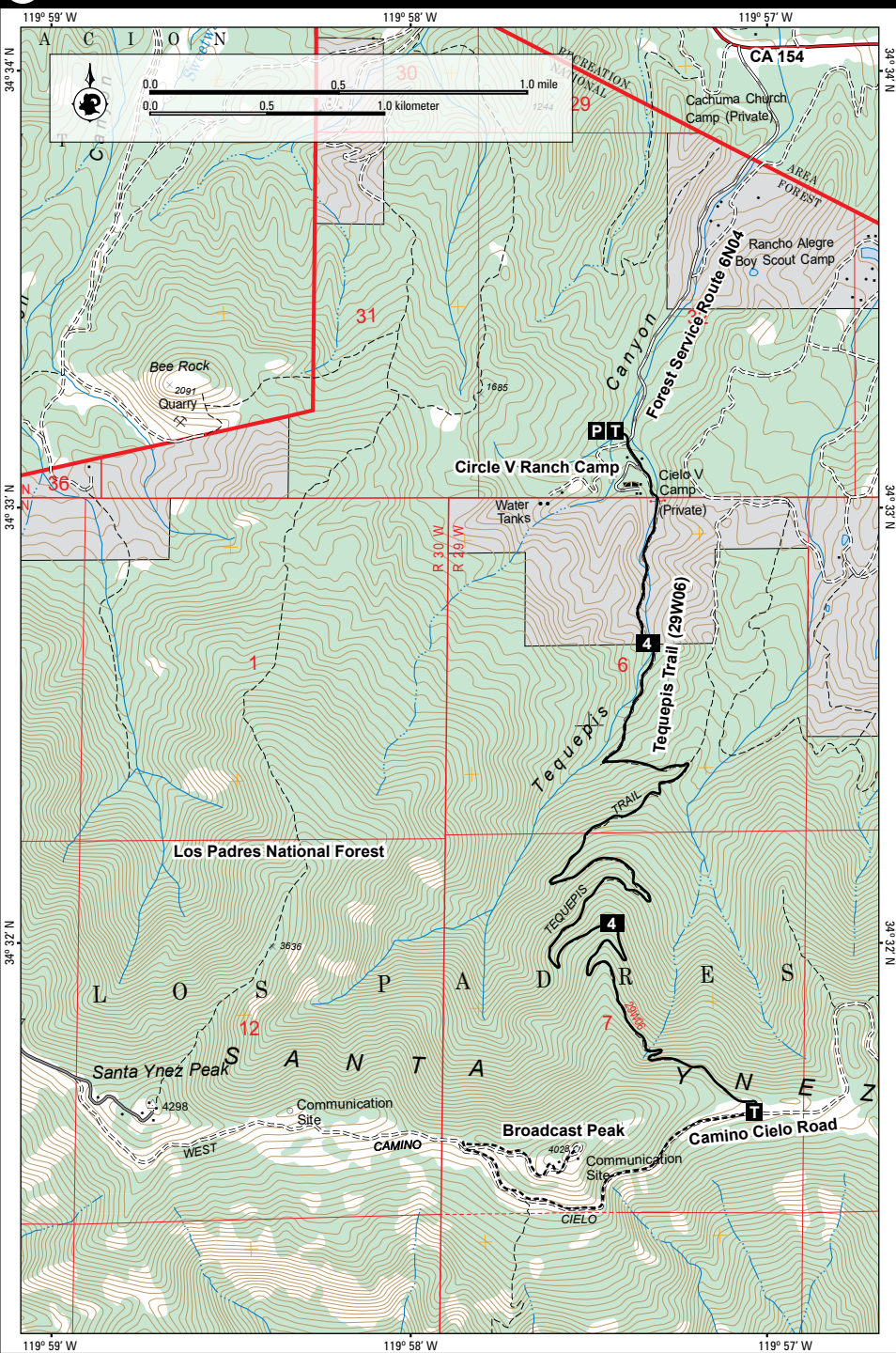


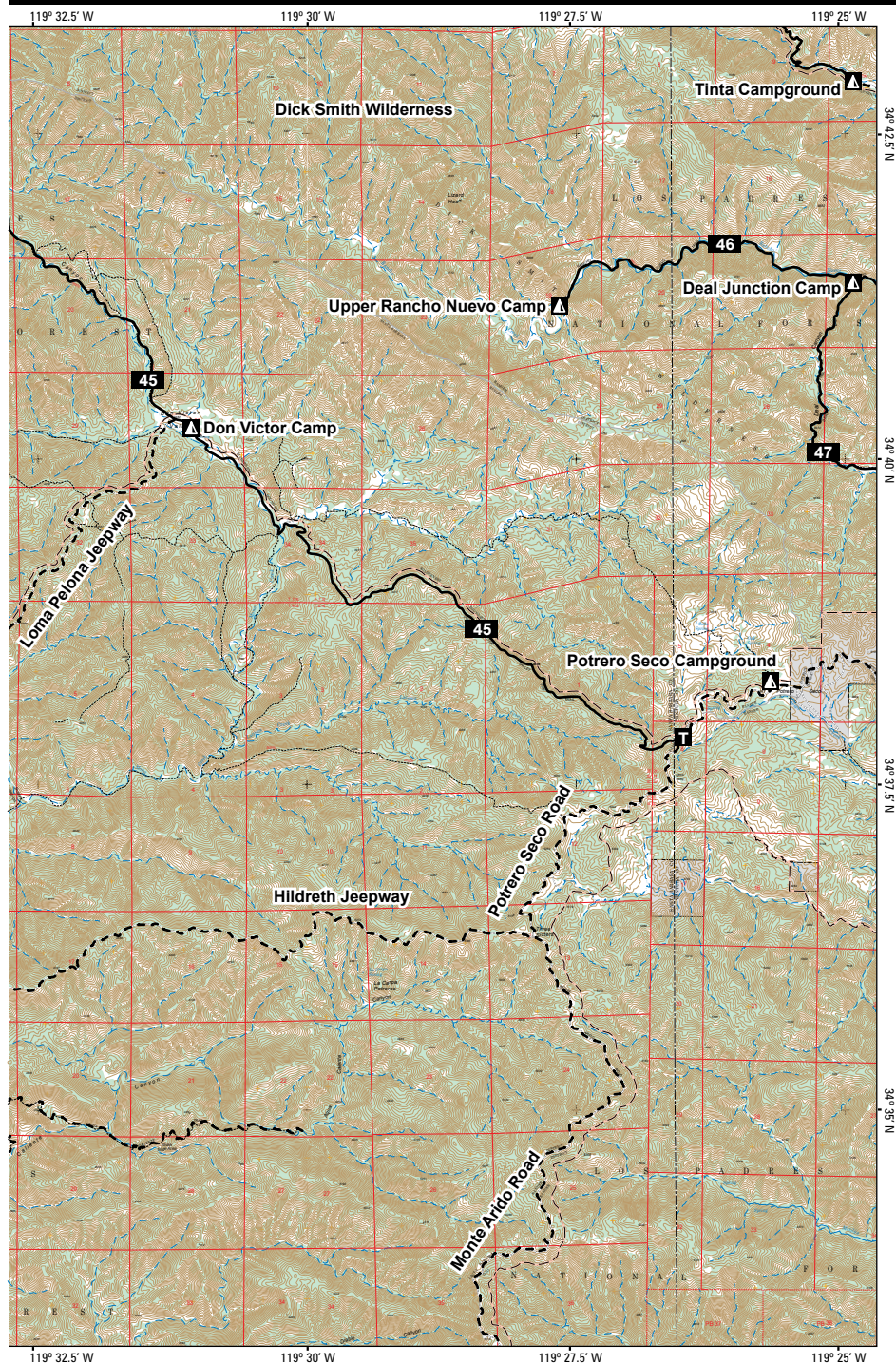
Trespass Trail (Route 2, page 75)



**Map 2: Baron Ranch Trail**

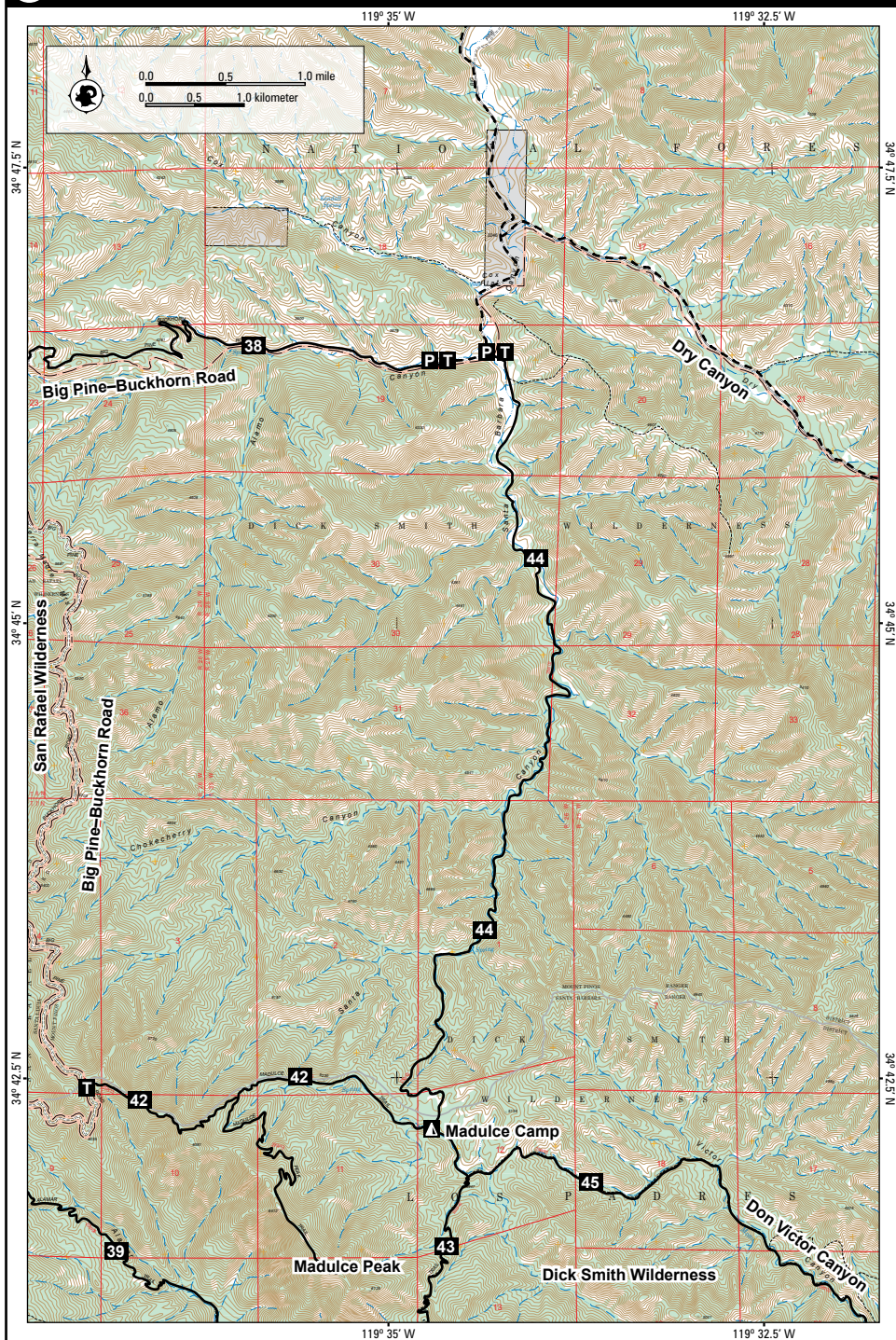
Map 3: Tequepis Trail and Broadcast Peak







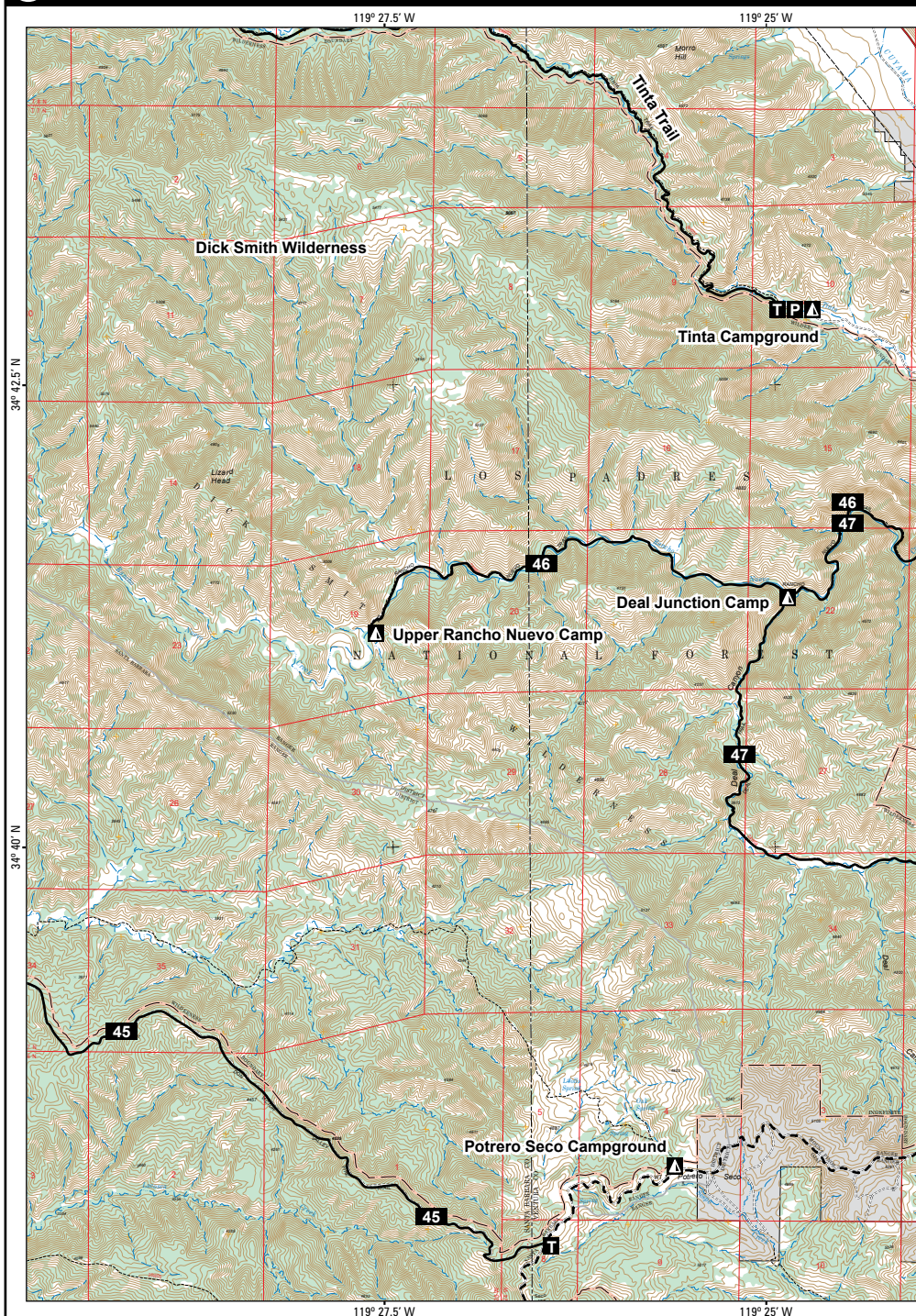
Map 12: Santa Barbara Canyon and Madulce Peak

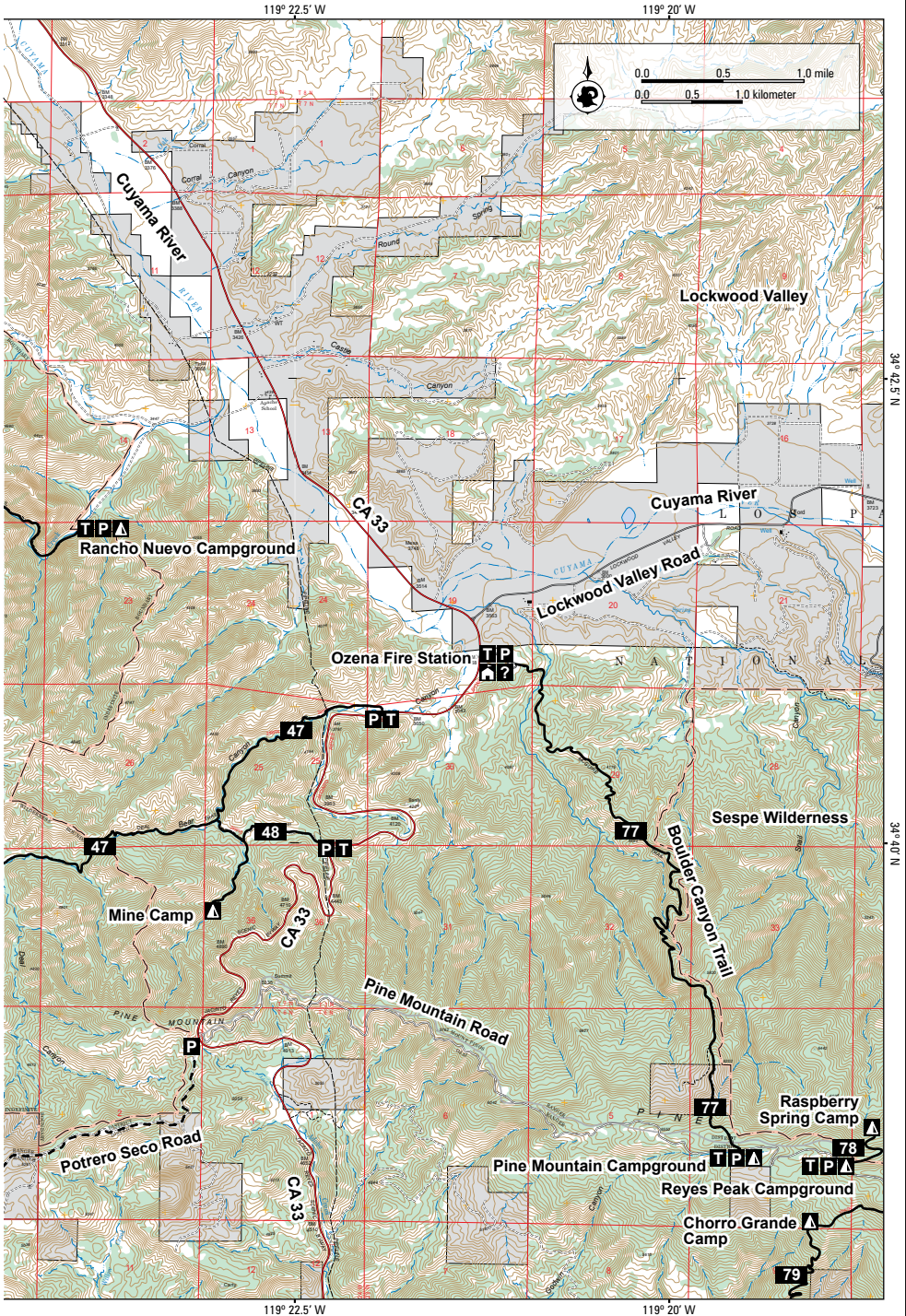


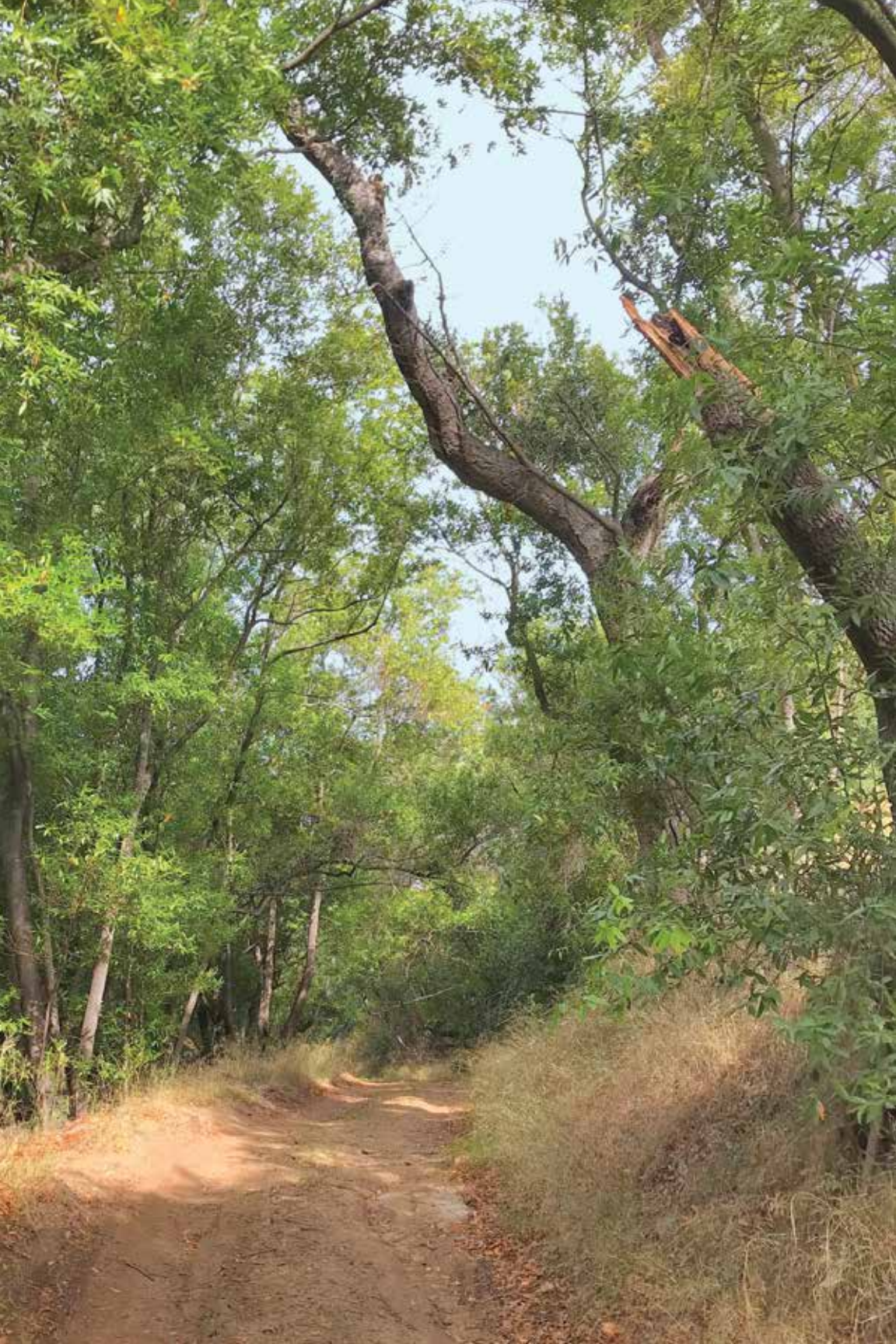


Madulce Cabin site (*Route 44, page 172*) photo by Bryan Conant

Map 13: Eastern Dick Smith Wilderness







CHAPTER ONE

Western Santa Ynez Mountains

This chapter details routes in the western Santa Ynez Mountains portion of the forest.

REPRESENTING THE WESTERNMOST EDGE of the southern Los Padres, the western Santa Ynez Mountains are a rugged and largely undeveloped stretch of forest. Hemmed by the Gaviota Pass (US 101) on the west and San Marcos Pass (CA 154) on the east, the area (like the rest of the range) consists almost exclusively of Miocene-era sedimentary geology, and the resultant boulder and rock formations are extremely popular with sport climbers.

See the individual entries for trailhead specifics.

ROUTE 1 GAVIOTA PEAK via Gaviota Hot Springs

LENGTH AND TYPE: 6.1-mile out-and-back or 6.6-mile loop via Trespass Trail

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

TRAIL CONDITION: Clear

MAP(S): USGS *Solvang*

CAMP(S): —

HIGHLIGHTS: Hot springs; expansive ocean views from Gaviota Peak



TO REACH THE TRAILHEAD(S): Use the Gaviota Peak Trailhead for this hike (see Trailhead Index, page 30). The route begins in the southeast corner of the parking lot.

TRIP SUMMARY: From the Gaviota State Park trailhead, this hike follows a very clear route by way of the old Gaviota Peak Fire Road (with a side trip to Gaviota Hot Springs) into the national forest to Gaviota Peak (2,458').

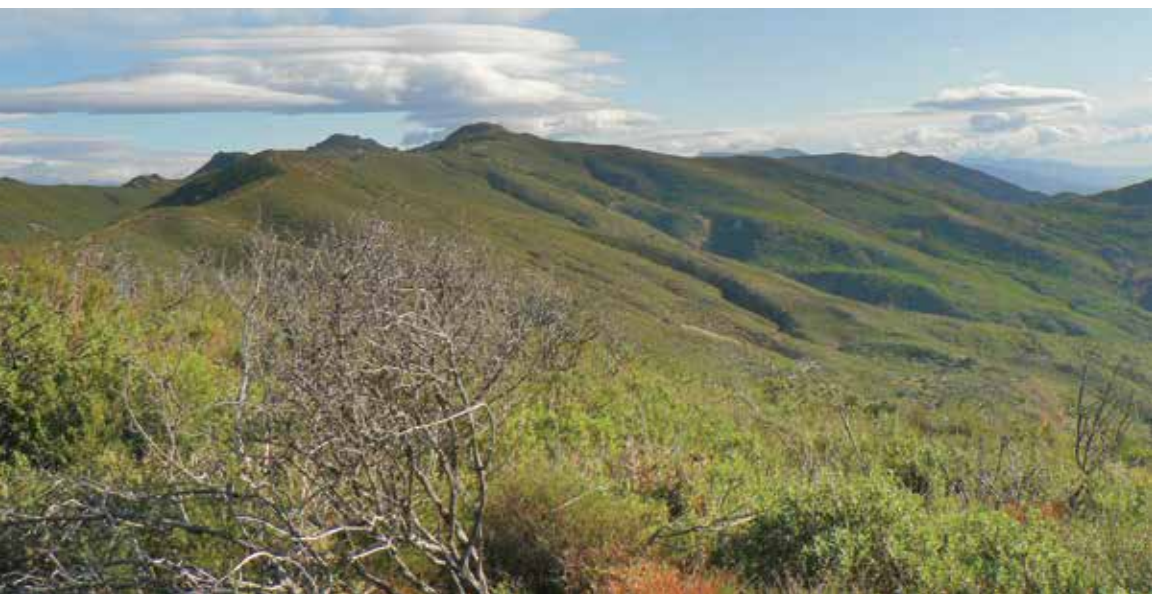
Trip Description

This hike begins on California State Park property. No dogs allowed.

From the **parking area (350', N34° 30.284' W120° 13.564')**, head east along the service road. The track here is composed largely of road base. You'll note various nonnative plants (in addition to the ubiquitous fennel) alongside your route, among them peppertree and eucalyptus. Massive sycamores, live oaks, and the occasional valley oak—many skirted with poison oak—line your early progress along the southern bank of Hot Springs Creek to the **junction (0.3 mile, 460', N34° 30.249' W120° 13.354')** with the Trespass Trail (see *Route 2* for the entry detailing the Trespass Trail).

Continue left (east) here until you cross the culvert over Hot Springs Creek and reach the Hot Springs **spur trail** on your right (**0.6 mile, 600', N34° 30.172' W120° 13.184'**). Follow this trail, which at times can be overgrown with various grasses, blackberries, and poison

Views from Gaviota Peak



APPENDIX



Getting in Touch

Los Padres National Forest

fs.usda.gov/lpnf

Santa Barbara Ranger District

3505 Paradise Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
805-967-3481

Mount Pinos Ranger District

34580 Lockwood Valley Rd.
Frazier Park, CA 93225; 661-245-3731

Ojai Ranger District

1190 E. Ojai Ave.
Ojai, CA 93023; 805-646-4348

Hike Los Padres

hikelospadres.com

Run by a crack team of Los Padres—savvy adventurers in cooperation with the non-profit Los Padres Forest Association, this website relies on hikers' reports and imagery from the field to update fellow users on water, trail, and camp conditions. Contributions of intel are encouraged.



Sunset climb along Horn Canyon (*Route 65, page 235*) photo by Grace Carey

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CRAIG R. CAREY grew up hiking and backpacking in the southern Los Padres. Visit craigcarey.net for trip reports and idle musings.

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