



# VOLUNTEER TODAY

Dedicate Yourself to Caring for the Land and Serving the People  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/volunteering/>



Los Angeles River Ranger District Volunteer Newsletter NOV/DEC 2004 Vol. 2 Issue 11

## GREETINGS

### VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE FOREST SERVICE

WOW!!!

Another holiday season is upon us and 2004 is rapidly coming to a closure. What a year!!!

This year, we've seen some impressive fire behavior on the Pine, Foothill and Crown Fires and wild wet weather in October. However, we've been lucky in escaping any significant resource damage on the LARRD.

Julie Smith has completed a Trail accomplishment and Volunteer Report for FY04, and it's amazing the miles of trail maintenance accomplished by you folks and the amount of contributed hours you provide to the Angeles National Forest. I want to THANK YOU for your dedication to Caring for the Land and Serving the People.

If you need any assistance in accomplishing your Program of Work, please let me know and I'll work with the Student Conservation Association in recruiting additional volunteers for your project.

Our last volunteer meeting is November 17, if you can't make it, please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and I hope to see you at the January 19 meeting.

If you've contributed 100 hrs of volunteer service from October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004, please notify Julie Smith at 818-899-1900 ext 237 for your free Adventure Pass.

The volunteer program is open to all individuals and/or groups that are interested in assisting the Angeles NF in accomplishing natural resource management objectives. If you're interested in assisting us in managing your National Forest or have questions about the Volunteer Program, please contact me at 818-899-1900 ext 229 or e-mail [hokamoto@fs.fed.us](mailto:hokamoto@fs.fed.us)

Again THANK YOU for your dedication to Caring for the Land and Serving the People.

/s/ Howard S. Okamoto

Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District

Recreation Officer



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# OCTOBER CALENDER

1. Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM

December meeting  
canceled

## VOLUNTEER GROUP MEETING

Meetings are held on the third  
Wednesday of each month at the  
Wildwood Volunteer House.

2. Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM

California Trail Users Coalition  
(CTUC) meeting

3550 Foothill Blvd, Glendale  
[www.ctuc.info](http://www.ctuc.info)

## Take Pride in America

This program is based on the idea  
that there are thousands of people  
who would like to help out and  
volunteer but need direction, coun-  
sel and instruction on how to pro-  
ceed.

Some of the projects planned  
include: building trails, cleaning up  
trash and litter, painting and restor-  
ing signs, weed removal, wildlife  
habitat restoration, safety patrol,  
erosion control, and shoreline clean  
up.

For more information, the Web  
address is [www.takepride.info](http://www.takepride.info) –  
home of volunteers on line.

Please send news or corrections  
to [guykuhn@earthlink.net](mailto:guykuhn@earthlink.net) or bring them  
to the Wildwood Volunteer House on  
September 15<sup>th</sup>. Send your E-mail  
address if you want an E-mail  
newsletter.

# VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Send news to

[GUYKUHN@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:GUYKUHN@EARTHLINK.NET)

## ANGELES MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL

[mmcguirepoolsa@cs.com](mailto:mmcguirepoolsa@cs.com)

Our mission is to provide educational and a  
responsible image to all trail users. To encourage rider's to  
obey forest regulations and working to preserve and  
protect trails. A.M.B.P is here to serve and inform the  
public.

Next outing will be November 27<sup>th</sup>  
(last Saturday of the month)

## ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION (ANFFLA)

<http://www.anffla.org>

<http://www.angeleslookouts.org>

George & Pam Morey 909-338-3923

Applicants from the community willing to  
volunteer as a Fire Lookout for the 2004 fire season  
can apply for training with ANFFLA.

## California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC)

To provide a forum for all trail users to discuss trail  
related issues, problems and alternative solutions; to assist in  
the planning, development, maintenance and patrolling of  
trails to enforce rules of the road; and to develop and main-  
tain programs designed to educate users on proper use of  
trails and trail etiquette.

Looking for interested hikers, mountain bikers and  
equestrians to be a part of this Coalition. If interested come  
to our next meeting or check out [www.ctuc.info](http://www.ctuc.info)

## Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA) <http://www.corbamt.com>

November 13 Valley Forge

Joint Sierra Club MBC REI, Arcadia

December 11 TBA

Corba is committed to gaining & maintaining  
mountain bike access to trails in Los Angeles and  
its surrounding areas though education, information and  
preservation.

# Join One Today

## VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

### Monrovia Canyon Park

[http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/city\\_hall/public\\_works/canyon\\_park/canyon\\_park.htm](http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/city_hall/public_works/canyon_park/canyon_park.htm)

#### JPL TRAILBUILDERS

Kathie Reilly 818-354-8321 (JPL)  
626-798-7256 (home)

Jack Russell 562-861-3187

<http://www.jplreclubs.caltech.edu/hiking/>

Next outing:  
November 13  
December 4

We are sad to report that one of our enthusiastic trail builders, Elmer Eddy, passed away after several severe strokes. We will miss his energy, and his special joy in digging up stumps. Well also miss Elmers lectures on healthy foods. We offer condolences to his wife Patty, our fellow trailbuilder, and his family.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING:

We will finish maintenance of the Mt Lowe West Trail, and probably do our annual maintenance of the Muir Peak Trail if the Mt Lowe fire road is clear. Otherwise we will find some trails that need repair from the rains.

#### HATHAWAY SCHOOL

· Hathaway School will sponsor a "Students Run LA" marathon training team in preparation for March 2005.

If interested in helping out with this event. Contact Kevin Sarkissian at [ksarkissian@hathawaychildren.org](mailto:ksarkissian@hathawaychildren.org)

#### *Angeles National Forest Trivia*

The Angeles National Forest receives more visitors annually than any other US National Forest.

Deborah Kure

Need volunteers and trail maintenance work on Ben Overturff and Waterfall Trails  
626-256-8282

#### Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)

The mission of PCTA is to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail so as to reflect its world-class significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure of hikers and equestrians.

<http://www.pcta.org>

Phone: (916) 349-210

#### SCENIC MT. LOWE RAILWAY

On July 4, 1893 was the opening day of Mt. Lowe Railroad. Los Angeles Times reported the grand opening on page 8 in the July 5, 1893 edition.

To learn what has happened to the railroad go to <http://www.mtlowe.net>

To help in preserving the historical railroad contact:

John Harrigan

626-968-5092

[jnsharrigan@earthlink.net](mailto:jnsharrigan@earthlink.net)

Brian Marcroft

562-868-8919

[emworks@pacbell.net](mailto:emworks@pacbell.net)

The Natural Trails and Waters Coalition works to protect and restore all public lands and waters from the damage caused by dirt bikes, jet skis and all other off-road vehicles.

Our website is designed to be a resource for the media, activists, and others wanting to know more about the impacts of off-road vehicles on natural resources, wildlife, and public health and safety.

<http://naturaltrails.org/>

# VOLUNTEER GROUP/EVENT NEWS

**SIERRA MADRE AREA SINGLES**  
(SMAS) <http://www.outdoorsclub.org/>

I'd love to see some new faces out there in Bear Canyon this coming winter season.

The following 7 dates are TENTATIVE at this time. **December 11th or 18, 2004**; January 8, February 12, March 19, April 16 (California Trails Day), May 14, & June 4th, (National Trails Day 2005).

From what I gather, there are some new trees down on the trail thru the canyon. Does anyone have any chain saws available??? 2 saws would be a GREAT help!!!! Let me know if you can help us in this matter.

I want to let Sharon know that we are eternally grateful for her allowing to use her chain saw last season. Sharon, THANK YOU once again from the tip of my toes to the top of my head.

**Hike to Henninger Flats**  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup> & Nov 24<sup>nd</sup>  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup> & Dec 22<sup>th</sup>

**Bear Canyon hike**  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup>

Richard Nyerges (626) 285-0962  
EMAIL: [nyerges@spcglobal.net](mailto:nyerges@spcglobal.net)

**MORE GOOD NEWS!!**

The Forest Service in 2008 will be rebuilding many sections of the Bear Canyon trail, putting it back up on the bench so travel through will be like it was 30 years ago.

## The Angeles Forest is open with No restrictions

Arcadia, CA - As a result of recent heavy rains, the Angeles National Forest has reduced the fire danger level from MODERATE to LOW. This decreases the fire restrictions that had prohibited campfires anywhere within the Forest since July 23, 2004. Restrictions on camp stoves in parts of San Gabriel and San Antonio Canyon were lifted on October 20.

Effective Saturday, October 30, 2004, the LOW fire danger level allows for the following:

- § Wood or charcoal fires at developed recreation sites.
- § Gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel camp stoves are allowed outside of developed sites, however, a California Campfire Permit is required.
- § Smoking is allowed only in enclosed vehicles and other designated areas.

Other restrictions still apply including:

- § No fireworks.
- § No shooting of tracer, armor piercing, or steel core ammunition.
- § Forest Service approved spark arrestors are required on off-highway vehicles, chainsaws, and other internal combustion engines.
- § Welding, grinding, cutting and use of explosives allowed only with permit.

## ANGLES FOREST IN THE NEWS

Article published Pasadena Star News : Wednesday, October 27, 2004 - 9:48:57 PM PST  
By Sonya Geis , Staff Writer

**ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST** — After years of discussion about cleaning out the tons of boulders filling Rubio Canyon, Mother Nature has apparently solved the problem herself.

Last week's heavy rains blasted out the debris generated in 1998 by a water pipeline replacement project gone awry. The storm dropped 10.5 inches of rain at the nearby home of Heinz Ellersieck. The downpour apparently turned the 80-foot rock pile into a giant dam that broke during the storm. Rushing water tossed thousands of granite rocks from the narrow gorge and distributed them across the canyon floor.

Five waterfalls and a portion of the historic Mount Lowe Railway that had been covered by the rock pile are now visible. A lower waterfall that was previously exposed is now buried in debris. Inside the canyon, an area 20 feet across and at least half a mile long has become a deep wash of bare stone, from pulverized sand to boulders the size of furniture. Uprooted trees, mangled pipes and scars on the canyon walls bear witness to the violence of the deluge.

'It must have been an amazing event when it happened,' said Paul Ayers, a Glendale lawyer who has spent years advocating for the rocks to be cleaned up. 'Happily, no one was there when it happened or we'd probably find them next spring.'

The rock pile was created by contractors working for the Rubio Canon Land and Water Co. The nonprofit water company provides drinking water to parts of Altadena. Between 10 percent and 15 percent of that water comes from the creek in Rubio Canyon, company officials said.

Workers stabilizing a water company pipeline blasted 35,000 cubic yards of rock from the canyon wall and left it in a pile on top of the waterfalls. The project cost \$485,000, financed principally by Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, and left an environmental mess.

Ever since, the contractors, Forest Service officials, the water company, FEMA officials and environmentalists have wrangled about how to clean up the mess. It has been the subject of public debate, lawsuits, studies and planning documents for six years. The proposal backed by the Forest Service called for a temporary road to be built. Using dynamite, helicopters and 7,000 truck trips, the rocks would be moved away.

Those plans were rendered suddenly obsolete by the rainstorm Oct. 20. Ellersieck, a retired Caltech professor whose land would have been crossed by the road, said he was very pleased the road would no longer be needed.

'If (the project) had been done this summer, we would have had a real environmental disaster with the road washing out' in the heavy rains, he said.

Ayers said he hopes the blowout of the rocks will result in public discussions about the use of the canyon. Ultimately, he said, he hopes the water company will be confined to taking water from a well at the mouth of the canyon instead of maintaining the network of pipes that collect water high up the mountain. Any plan to fix the pipes or remove rocks will be subject to guidelines in the National Environmental Policy Act, which calls for public input, said Don Cosby, district ranger for the Los Angeles River Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest.

Jan Fahey, president of the water company board, said she did not know yet what they will do with the pipes. 'The canyon is unstable and we want to protect it,' she said. 'We'll wait out (this week's) storm and take inventory of the situation.' Meanwhile, water company officials can take comfort in being able to say we told you so. They had appealed the Forest Service's plans for a road. Their alternative suggestion for cleanup: Let nature take its course.

**Los Angeles River Ranger District  
12371 North Little Tujunga Canyon Road  
San Fernando, CA 91342**

**Volunteer Today**

**Send this in Right Away to**

**Howard S. Okamoto—12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon Rd  
San Fernando, CA 91342**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone # (hm)** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interests**

**Indicate what you would like to do. Circle area or enter your interests.**

**Campground Host/ Visitor Information/ Fire Prevention/ Recreation Aid /**

**Forest Patrol /Resource Management / Computers/ Research-Librarian /**

**Office Clerical / Tour guide/ Fire Lookout/ Conservation Education**

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_