

**61 Cloudburst Summit to Cooper Canyon, Cooper Canyon Trail Camp, Buckhorn Campground**

6 miles round trip; 1300' elevation loss, 800' gain

Classification: Moderate

Season: May-October

Topo map: Waterman Mountain

*Hike 5/Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>*

*@ Mile Marker 57.04*

**FEATURES**

Beautiful, woodsy Cooper Canyon, a major tributary of Little Rock Creek, has long been a favorite of hikers. Its little singing creek, shaded by beautiful stands of Jeffrey and sugar pine, cedar, alder and oak, was once a favorite Indian haunt. According to mountain historian Will Thrall, braves camped at Buckhorn, just over the ridge, and sent their squaws and papooses here while the men hunted and raised a ruckus. For many years the old Indian campsite in the upper canyon—now Cooper Canyon Trail Camp—was known as Squaw Camp. The canyon became the favorite hunting ground of Pasadena brothers Ike and Tom Cooper during the '90s, when deer and bear were plentiful. The Cooper brothers are long gone, but their exploits are eternalized by the canyon name.

This loop trip, requiring a car shuttle between Cloudburst Summit on the Angeles Crest Highway and Buckhorn Campground, takes you down through this richly forested recess where nature's stillness reigns supreme. To make the trip more leisurely and allow time to enjoy the beauty of this canyon country, stay overnight at Cooper Canyon Trail Camp.

**DESCRIPTION**

Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway to Cloudburst Summit, 33 miles from La Canada. Park in the clearing to the left (north) of the highway, where the fire road descends into Cooper Canyon, taking care not to block the dirt roadway. The trip will finish at Buckhorn Campground, 1½ miles east, just off the highway. Either have a car waiting there or plan to walk back up the highway to Cloudburst Summit.

Proceed past the locked gate and 1¾ miles down the fire road to Copper Canyon Trail Camp, on a forested

*11/8/95*

bench to your right. Tables, stoves and toilet make this a convenient overnight camp spot. Then take the broad trail (once a road) down Cooper Canyon 1¼ miles to its junction with the Burkhart Trail leading up to Buckhorn. Turn right and follow the latter 1¾ miles up to Buckhorn Campground hiker's parking area (see Trip 62).

On the Waterman Trail

Betty Dessert

