

LUKENS VIA FIRE ROAD

TRAILS OF THE ANGELES

TRIP: Angeles Crest Highway via Mt. Lukens Fire Road to Mt. Lukens

14 10 miles round trip; 2100' elevation gain

Classification: Moderate

Season: November-May (fire closure 7/1 to winter rain)

Topo map: *Condor Peak*

FEATURES

This is the way to climb 5074' Mt. Lukens with the least elevation gain, but it is a long walk on a fire road all the way. There is very little shade enroute, so do it on a cool winter or spring day. If the atmosphere is clear – occasionally it is – you enjoy far-reaching views of the south slope of the mountains, the La Crescenta Valley backdropped by the brown Verdugo Hills, and on across the sprawling Los Angeles Basin to the ocean. (See trip 11 for more on Mt. Lukens.)

DESCRIPTION

Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles from La Canada to the unmarked beginning of the fire road on the left (west) side of the highway, 300 yards past the marked Dark Canyon Trailhead. Park in the adjacent clearing but don't block the fire road.

Proceed past the locked gate up the fire road. In a half mile you intersect another fire road coming up from Clear Creek; go left. In another mile you reach the junction of the road going down to Grizzly Flat (see trip 13), again go left and continue up through occasional clusters of big-cone spruce to the southeast ridge of Mt. Lukens, another $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Here you intersect the fire road coming up from Angeles Crest Ranger Station. Go right and follow the ridgetop fire road to the bare summit, 5 miles from the start.

Return the same way. Or you can descend the Stone Canyon Trail into Big Tujunga (see trip 11); this requires a car shuttle.

3-2-94

OTP Hike #217

9:30

TOM FRYE

