

## Alder Creek Hike, March 1, 1995, 9:30 am

Alder Creek Trailhead is in the San Gabriels on "Upper Big Tujunga Road". We will hike the Alder Creek Trail in its entirety from start of trail at the road to Stratton Station.

### Getting There

- To La Canada • 210 Freeway • Highway 2
  - At Clear Creek, turn left onto the N3-Angeles Forest Hwy. • **Stay on Angeles Forest Hwy** past the junction with Big Tujunga Rd. • At **Upper Big Tujunga Rd.**, turn right. Look for Alder Creek sign on left, parking to the right.
- ALTERNATE* Near Clear Creek Station, continue to the right on Hwy 2 (Angeles Crest Hgw.); you will pass Red Box etc. At junction at **Upper Big Tujunga Road**, turn left. Look for Alder Creek sign on the right, parking to the left.

### The Hike

There is one stream crossing of Alder Creek right at the start. On Jan 26, it was not passable. If it is not passable we will begin hike on the power-tower road above the culvert and join the trail further on.

From the power-tower road, we will take the first spur road to the right down to a cluster of 3 towers. We will join the trail here. It is unmarked but easily found. Also, you can see stretches of the trail from the power-tower roads.

The trail is smooth, good condition, gradual incline, and on Jan 26 occasionally near running water. No boulder/stream hopping. There are no intersecting trails. At the start of the trail, we have views over wide area with surrounding peaks. We will pass near a couple of small stands of non-native pines we think called "Big Cone Pines".

As we made one sharp turn onto one side of a small canyon, a OWL flew down from the tree/rock at the elbow. Saw a HUMMINGBIRD at the top of a yucca bloom and spotted a MOCKINGBIRD with throat straightup in song. But that's was about it for wildlife.

As we walked we mused awhile about mountain lions: Don't run, don't bend down, a wildcat attacks by leaping and knocking down

prey from over 15 feet. Maybe wave stick and yell? Somehow the discussion didn't seem relevant to our vocal OTP crowd.

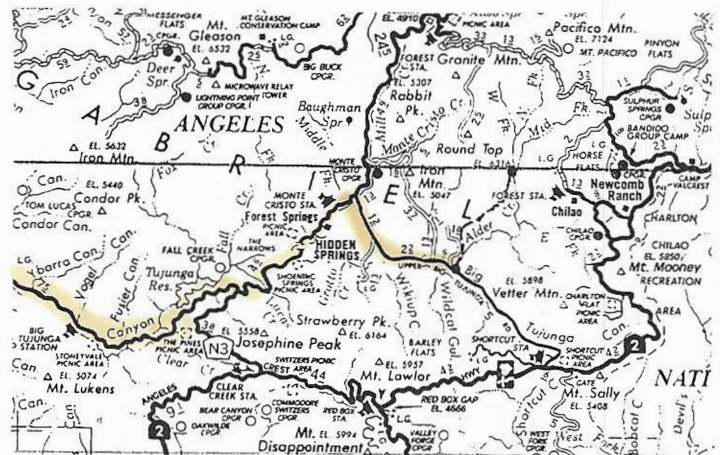
The trail gains about 1000 ft in the first 3 miles, then levels out for awhile and then goes down about 400 ft in the last mile before the turnaround. From highest point the trail turns into a canyon and winds around and down with views of Messenger Flats (on Jan 26 with snow), Alder Creek and structures of two private ranches.

We will stop for lunch about 10 minutes after the turnaroundpoint, which is Stratton Station-- which has structures, fruit trees and other plantings, chicken coop, a windsock with no landing space, and lots of Private Property Beware signs. The Tujunga Ranger Station said that the adjacent road is a Forest Service Road, so we're all right being there, I think.

Local color: Lecho's history with the "50 year flood" culvert and the Upper Big Tujunga Road, which was built mostly by prison labor.

Approx 9 miles round trip, out & back. If it's sunny, you may want to bring hat as a good portion of trail is unshaded. Scouted by Sally & Jim Spotts, Lecho Torres and Lecho's son in law Rick on Jan 26.

### Sally Spotts' Hike



Highway 2