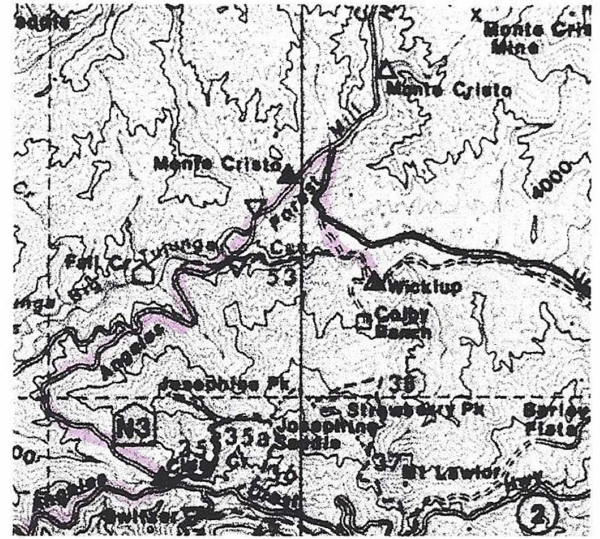


# Strawberry Potrero OTP Hike September 2, 1998, 9:30 AM


Ron Forbess' Hike

## Trailhead Directions

Meet at the site of the old Wickiup Campground in Upper Big Tujunga Canyon. To get there from the 210 Freeway drive up the Angeles Crest Highway to Clear Creek Junction, then left on the Angeles Forest Highway to the junction of the Upper Big Tujunga Road, mileage paddle 16.56. Go right on Upper Big Tujunga Road to mileage paddle 1.28 and turn right (the sign says Methodist Camp Colby). Drive down this narrow winding paved road .8 mile to a large paved parking lot on the left just after crossing a steel truss bridge over the creek. Note: the total distance from the Freeway is about 20 miles. The Valley gang could come up Big Tujunga Canyon Road from Sunland to the Angeles Forest Highway. There is a Portable Toilet at the parking lot which is "paid for by our Adventure Pass".



## Summary

This hike uses the "new" bypass trail to allow hikers to get all the way to the bank of Big Tujunga Canyon's creek from Strawberry Potrero (potrero means pasture in Spanish). Formerly, the trail coming down ended at the private Colby Methodist Camp. The hike is 3.75 miles each way for a total of 7.5 miles. It's 1600 feet up to Strawberry Potrero and when we come down, there is a 60 foot up hill near the end for a total gain of 1660 feet. There is only a smattering of poison oak, which is easily avoided, however, in several places the trail is overgrown with scratchy brush, so I recommend wearing **long pants**. I'm going to bring a couple of hand pruners and a larger lopper to give the tigers in front something useful to do while the rest are hiking at a leisurely pace. There is shade on parts of the hike and the view is terrific on the other parts. As we have seen on many of our recent hikes, the annoying flying insects  are prevalent in a few places, so squirt on some **bug repellent**.

## The Hike

We start our hike at the east end of the paved parking lot. The trail follows the creek for about 100 yards then heads South up and over a ridge and back down to the stream. After that initial up and down we head steadily up on a well graded trail with some short and long switchbacks. In a few places the trail is a little thin due to washouts, but quite passable. After 2 miles we reach a 120 yard stretch of steep uphill on a fire break, this is the only part of the trail that I found could be improved upon by somehow putting in a few switchbacks. At about 2.5 miles we come around a ridge and suddenly have an outstanding view of the North Face of Strawberry Peak. I couldn't help stopping and admiring the view, which is awesome. Continuing, we pass the unmarked trail down to the Methodist camp and finally arrive at the junction to Strawberry Potrero. We then contour west on a good trail along the base of the talus slope below Strawberry Peak through the lower and middle meadows until we reach our destination, Strawberry Potrero, at 3.75 miles, where we will have lunch. Coming back will be simpler if our tigers have done their job clearing some of the overgrown brush.

