

HIKE 54

CABALLERO CANYON
FIREROAD 29
from Tarzana (loop)

Maps: Canoga Park, topo
Topanga, topo
Distance: 5 miles roundtrip
Elevation: 850' gain and loss
Terrain: Fireroad, trail, steep
washed-out trail
Time: 2 hours
Trailhead: Reseda Blvd.

This hike will take you on a short loop up the middle of Caballero Canyon, then on Mulholland Drive, along a ridge overlooking the canyon, and then steeply down into the streambed.

Start the hike by going south on Reseda Blvd. in Tarzana to the end of the pavement, and park your car.

Go through the opening at the fireroad gate and follow the road as it parallels the stream. You are now on Fireroad 28, a 2 mile road that winds up the canyon, ending at Mulholland Drive. Every year the rains wash out about 1/2 mile of this road. The canyon bottom supports the growth of Sycamores and Mulefat, but the chaparral dominates the slopes. Caballero Creek runs full and strong after a rain, but being intermittent, dries up in the summer.

Upon reaching Mulholland Drive turn right, then cross the road picking up the Bent Arrow Trail a few feet to the south of the crest. Follow the trail right as it contours around on the south slope through a dense stand of chaparral, mostly Ceanothus. The trail returns to Mulholland Drive in about 1/3 mile, at which time follow the road as it gains several hundred feet in the next 1/2 mile. At this point Fireroad 29 goes right (north) from Mulholland Drive dropping down along the east Caballero ridge.

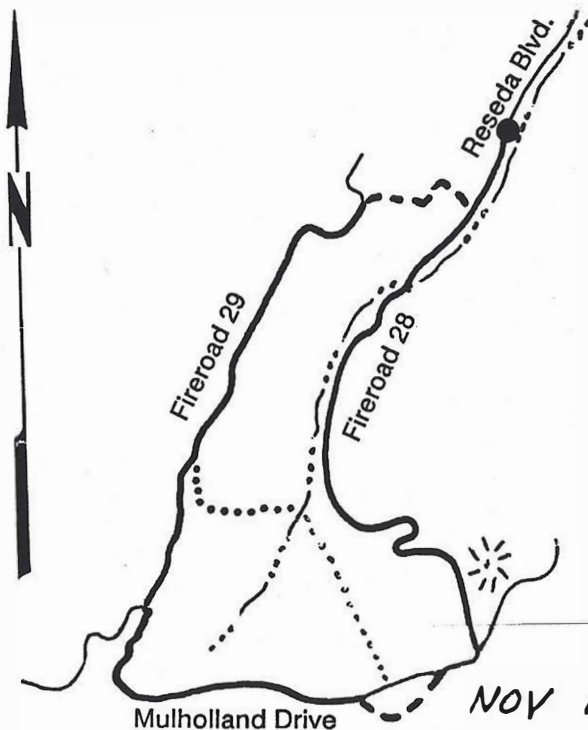
200 yards down the ridge, the road forks right and goes around the east side of the hill, then along a ridge for a ways before passing along the west side of another hill. On top of this hill is a Toyon tree that is one of my candidates for the largest of its kind in the Santa Monicas. Continue on down the road until almost

reaching the upper part of the golf driving range of the Braemar Country Club. This point is one mile from Mulholland Drive.

A trail on the right drops down into Caballero Canyon. This is steep, and rough in places; but within 10 minutes you will reach Fireroad 28. Turn left and return to the trailhead.

An alternate bushwhack trail comes down from Fireroad 29. 8 minutes after leaving Mulholland drive, just as the road passes the first hill on the left, look for the beginning of a trail on the right. The trail cuts aback sharply to the right on a relatively level bench. The route is indistinct for 200 feet then goes straight down to the left — and I do mean down. My guess is that this trail was made by coyotes travelling from the ridge to the stream below. The trail disappears at the bottom so you are on your own to do a few hundred feet to the road.

Caballero Canyon is in the path of subdivision. The wild state of the land may not last.



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9:30

GRANT TRETTEL