

Chantry Flats Hike

Leader: Bill Thurmond
 Date: Wednesday, 08/23/06
 Time: 0930 Hrs.

Tom Kiyohara and Bill Thurmond pre-hiked the Hoegee Camp loop, and reports that the trail is in good condition and well shaded; so, the Spruce Grove loop is assumed to be the same. Sturtevant falls had plenty of water; those who have not seen the falls should take the short hike up to take a look and return to the Hoegee loop or continue on the Gabrielino Trail to Spruce Grove.

Directions to Trailhead: Take the 210 Freeway east to the Santa Anita Avenue off-ramp and drive north to Chantry Flats, about 5 miles. Don't forget the Parking Pass!

Loop #1: Chantry Flat to Spruce Grove Trail Camp via Sturtevant Falls and return via Mt. Zion and Hoegees Trail Camp

The Hike: We take the fire road 2N40, also called the Gabrielino Recreation Trail, to Roberts Camp at the canyon bottom, (0.6 m) cross the Winter Creek bridge and up the Big Santa Anita Canyon to a cluster of cabins, once the site of Fern Lodge, (1.4 m). Just beyond, the trail forks three ways: straight ahead to Sturtevant Falls - a dead end trail 0.5 miles roundtrip and 60' for those who want to do it - or two trails to the left which join again after a mile. The middle one - left and then sharp right up the slope to climb above the falls and through the middle section of the canyon is more beautiful. We drop back to the alder- and spruce-shaded stream to the Cascade Picnic Area, (2.8 m) and then continue up the trail as it climbs the east slope, then drops to ford the creek and ascends to Spruce Grove Trail Camp, (3.5 m). We continue on the Gabrielino trail to the Sturtevant or Wilson trail, which goes to the left, and take it to the Zion trail, again to the left, (4.0 m). Continuing on the Zion Trail we come to the Mt. Zion junction, (5.2 m), since the side trip to the top of Mt. Zion is only 0.2 miles and 50' elevation, I suggest we take it and have lunch there. At 6.7 miles we get to the Lower Winter Creek trail and turn right to the Upper Winter Creek trail. Shortly thereafter is the Manzanita Trail, which goes to the right. Stay to the left on the Upper Winter Creek trail which we take by the Hoegees Trail Camp (7.1 m), and all the way back to the Chantry Flat Trailhead.

Total miles: 9.5. Total elevation gain and loss is about 2000 feet.

Loop #2: Alternate is the Hoegees loop

Alternate Hike: We start out together down to Roberts Camp. There you turn left on Lower Winter Creek trail to Hoegee's Camp. We can have lunch at Hoegee's and after lunch continue through Hoegee's Camp to the Zion trail junction, (2.3 m). Turn left at Upper Winter Creek trail junction and continue back to Chantry Flat the same way as shown above.

Total miles: 5.1. Total elevation gain and loss: 1080 feet