

Altadena Fire Roads and El Prieto Canyon Ron Obert Jan 3, 2007

Overview: The hike is a total of 6.2 miles on fire roads and a final leg up El Prieto Canyon. It is totally within the Angeles National Forest just North of Altadena. A map (which will be provided), and **following directions** are **essential**. Shorter and longer variations are available.

Trailhead: Exit the 210 freeway on Lincoln Ave. in North/West Pasadena. Proceed North on Lincoln and notice the Altadena Community Garden and Loma Alta Park at about 1.8 miles from the freeway. Continue up Lincoln another block and turn left on Canyon Crest Road. Follow the (very) curvy Canyon Crest Road to its junction with Rising Hill Road (just before CC dead ends). Proceed up Rising Hill. It will turn to dirt above address 4630. Continue another .25 miles, under and past the power lines, to the parking and trailhead. There are **no restrooms at the trailhead**.

Hike: The hike begins at the yellow gate (1920'), and proceeds up the fire road .25 miles to a junction with the road, that comes up from Millard Camp. Go left (not toward Millard), and the road reaches into El Prieto canyon and crosses the small stream. About 150 yards past the stream note, but do not take, the signed El Prieto Trail that drops into the canyon.

Continue up the road to the major junction with a road/trail that leads north to Oakwilde (2380'). Stay left at the junction and follow the road (2N66) down for 3.1 miles until it drops into El Prieto Canyon (1280'). An obvious sign then directs us 2 miles up the canyon, toward the upper junction with the fire road. There are numerous side trails in the canyon, **always stay on the best path near the stream**. After about 1.4 miles of climbing up the canyon you will be on a stretch that is away from the stream. A sharp bend to the left, just below a stand of cactus will be encountered. The bend is also a junction with an upward leading trail and it's all guarded by an oak with a **yellow ribbon** around it. Yes, I've "**tie(d) a yellow ribbon around the old oak tree.**" Take the upward trail a couple of hundred yards back to the cars.

Variations: A shorter hike with a bit of a loop may be obtained by starting as above and turning back at any time. The mini-loop feature is obtained if one drops into El Prieto Canyon at the sign above the stream crossing. Look for the **yellow ribboned oak** to find the trail back to the cars.

Tigers may add another mile and a couple of hundred feet by ignoring the oak and continuing up the canyon trail until the upper fire road is reached. Then come back down the road to the cars.

Party: The party is at Loma Alta Park; about 1.9 miles back down the hill. **Enter the park from the South on Palm Street.**

To Oakwilde



Trail into El Prieto Canyon & 2 mile sign

Trail into El Prieto Canyon

Old Oak, up to trailhead

Trailhead

Party here, enter on Palm St.

Altadena Fire Roads and El Prieto Canyon
January 3, 2007, Ron Obert leader
6.2 mile counter clockwise loop
Exit 210 freeway at Lincoln, north on Lincoln
To Canyon Crest Rd., north on Canyon Crest to Rising Hill Rd., north on Rising Hill
To trailhead (last .25 mile on dirt).
Trailhead: 118 9' 26.0" W, 34 13' 9.5" N

To 210 Freeway

