

Ahmanson Ranch now called Upper Virgenes Canyon Open Space

April 11, 2007

9:30 AM,

Leader: Dick Battin

DIRECTIONS:

101 Freeway to Valley Circle/Mulholland exit.

Go North on Valley Circle.

Turn left on Victory Blvd. to end at Parking Area.

Cost: \$1:00 to park.

Restrooms are in parking lot.

Hikes:

There are many options as one shall see on the handed out map. The complete loop thru Lasky mesa and Las Virgenes canyon is 8.6 miles with a 2-mile add on if one prefers or by passing Lasky mesa would make a 7.7-mile hike. The shortest loop is 3.9 miles with add on options.

The ranch will be preserved as permanent open space. One main goal is protecting and restoring endangered species and wildlife and plant habitats.

UP IN THE AIR: More raptors of various kinds are found here than any other location in the country. Among the 15 species that nest and forage here are: Raptors: Cooper's hawk, Merlin, Northern harrier, Prairie falcon, Red-shouldered hawk, Sharp-shinned hawk, Red-tailed kite, Barn owl, Burrowing owl, Great horned owl, Western screech owl. Other birds: Loggerhead shrike, Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, Yellow-breasted chat, and Yellow warbler. Golden eagle: The ranch's grasslands are foraging areas for one of North America's largest birds of prey that nests in nearby Cheeseboro Canyon.

ON LAND: Wildlife uses the ranch to cross to and from the Santa Susana Mountains and the Los Padres and Angeles national forests. Key animals are Badger, Bobcat, California coast horned lizard, California red sided garter snake, Mountain lion, Pale big-eared bat, Pallid bat, Ringtail, Two-striped garter snake, Long-tailed Weasel, and Coyotes.

