

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS


A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

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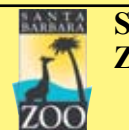
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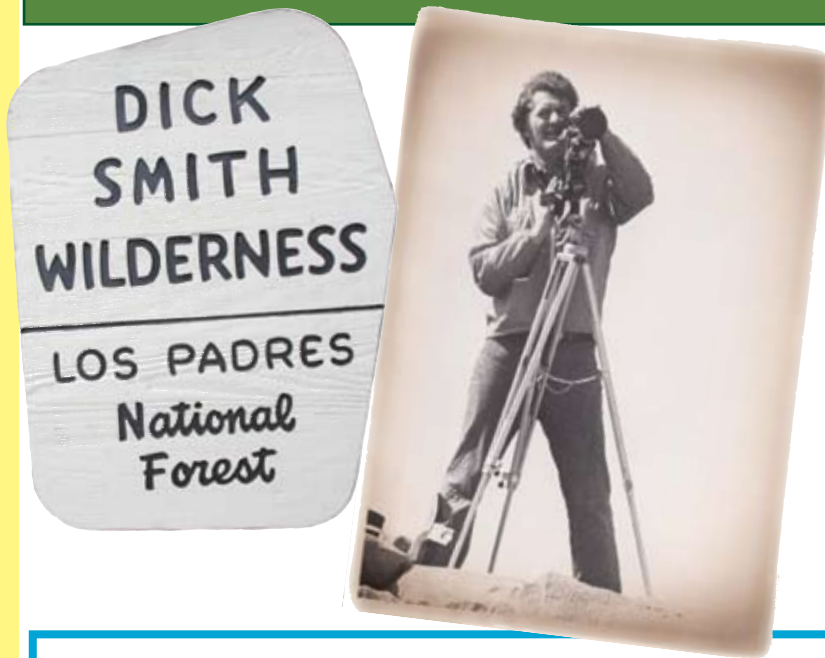
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 USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest
805-968-6640 www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres

 South Coast Railroad Museum
805-964-3540; www.goletadepot.org

This Month's Theme: Wondering About Wilderness?



Within a wilderness, nature rules! Wild lands are an important part of America's past, present, and future. In 1964, America's leaders recognized this by passing a law called the Wilderness Act. This law identified areas of Federal land to be protected as much as possible from human activities. It also allowed Congress to name areas of wild land as wilderness. Wilderness must be kept in a completely natural state without roads, houses, lodges, restaurants, cars, or mountain bikes. Our National Wilderness Preservation system includes 106,498,016 acres. This is actually only 4.7 percent of the land in the United States! Wilderness is found in all but six States and almost 54 percent of this area is in Alaska. The smallest wilderness is a 5-acre area in Florida. In the Los Padres National Forest, the ten wilderness areas are: Ventana, Silver Peak, Santa Lucia, Garcia, Machesna, San Rafael, Dick Smith, Matilija, Sespe, and Chumash.

To learn more about wilderness, please visit: www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation or www.wilderness.net.

Who was Dick Smith?

There are only three Californians after whom wilderness areas have been named. They are Ansel Adams, John Muir, and Dick Smith, who lived in Santa Barbara. Smith was a man with many talents and interests. Can you guess which of the following is true about Smith and which is false? (Answers are at the bottom.)

1. He was a photographer, writer, and environmentalist. T or F
2. He hitched dogs up to a small wagon to carry his cameras up the mountain trails. T or F
3. He was a self-taught expert on the California Condor. T or F
4. He had mountain goats as pets. T or F
5. His children say they had a chicken that laid an egg in a frying pan every morning. T or F
6. He taught his horse to jump up into the back of his pickup. T or F
7. He hiked all over the backcountry and discovered many rock painting sites. T or F
8. He had a glass eye. T or F
9. He helped with the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. The San Rafael Wilderness was the first area preserved under this act. T or F
10. Llamas carried his gear on the trails he walked. T or F

Answers: 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-T, 8-F, 9-T, 10-F

Dick Smith was a man who opened many eyes to the beauty and value of the San Rafael Range of the Los Padres National Forest. To learn more about Smith (who died in 1977), and his contributions to our county, visit the Wildling Art Museum through January 7 to see the exhibit "Dick Smith and His Back Country Wilderness." Here you will see some of his photographs, artwork, sculptures, journals, and sketches.

Now! Take a Walk on the Wild Side.

There are many opportunities for day hikes and backpacking in the wilderness areas of Los Padres National Forest. For a first time wilderness experience, a great one-day or overnight trip is on the Manzana Trail along Manzana Creek. This hike offers picturesque views, fishing, spectacular pools of water, waterfalls, and spring wildflowers.



For more information regarding hikes in the Los Padres National Forest, please visit: www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres or phone (805) 968-6640.

Things to Bring on a Hike

- ✓ A friend! Never hike alone.
- ✓ Backpack with lots of water, snacks, flashlight, and first aid kit
- ✓ Hiking trail map
- ✓ Sturdy shoes or hiking boots, extra clothing/windbreaker
- ✓ Hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses - it can get hot out there!
- ✓ Walking stick
- ✓ Binoculars (optional)
- ✓ Let others know where you'll be and when you plan to return.
- ✓ Be Prepared and Be Safe!



Wilderness Know-How

What keeps the wilderness wild? Circle the things that are not allowed in the wilderness.



Answers: Bicycle, car, camper, motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), trash



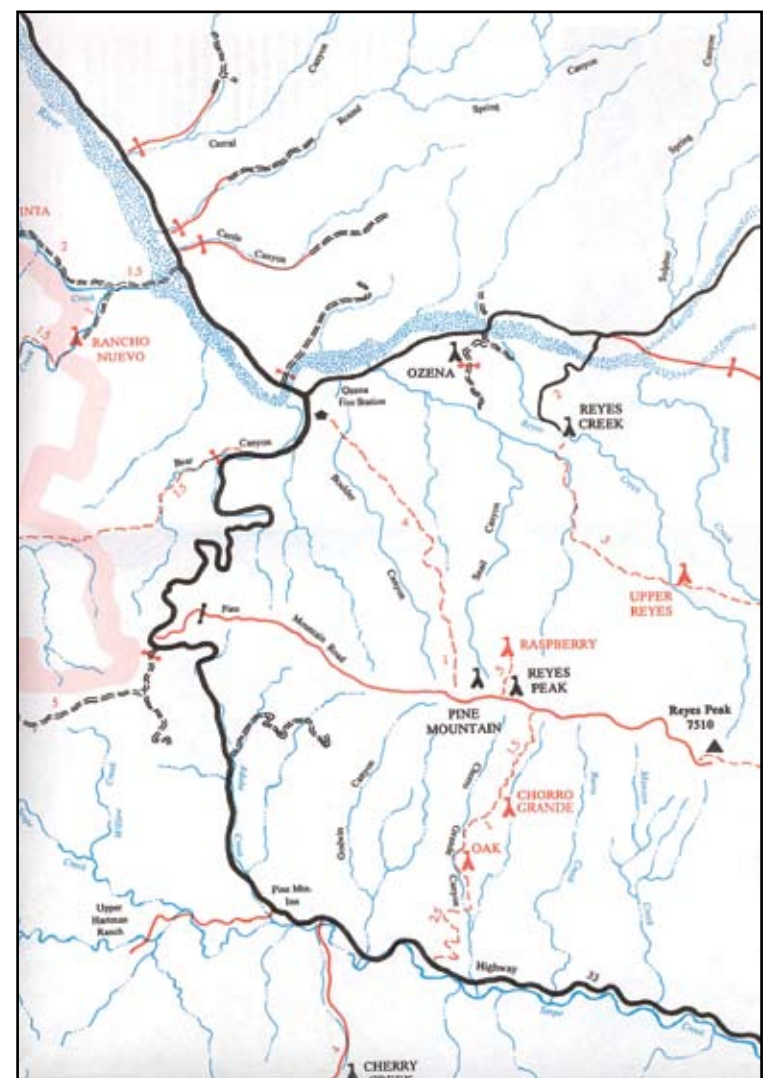
San Rafael Wilderness

Photo courtesy of US Forest Service.

How do you read a map? Test your map skills.

Use the Map Legend below to answer the following:

- Can you circle all of the primitive campsites?
- What is the name of the fire station?
- What is the elevation of Reyes Peak?
- How many locked gates can you find?
- How many miles is it to OAK trail camp?
- Can you find Snail Canyon and Burro Creek?
- Can you find the primitive campsite named after a berry?



ROAD AND TRAIL CLASSIFICATION					
	Maintained Trail		Highway		Primitive Camp
	Unmaintained Trail		Secondary Road		Campground
	Streams		Improved Road		Day Use Area
			Unimproved Dirt Road		Locked Gate

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