

OTP Hike #0030

SPECIAL OTP HIKE

11 July

~~20 June~~ 1990

9:30 AM

HEAD WATERS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER

BACKGROUND:

The number of San Fernando Valley creeks and canyon drainages that serve as the origin of the LA river probably number up towards a 100 or so. The LA river drains the Santa Susanna mountains, the Simi Hills, and the north slope of the Santa Monicas. The Big and Little Tujunga rivers drain the San Gabriel mountains (which form the eastern boundary of the SF Valley, and via flood control channels, these also drain into the LA river before it goes around the Verdugo hills and enters the LA basin along Riverside Drive near Griffith Park.

THE HIKE:

Today we are going to explore Brown's creek which, amazingly enough, drains Brown's canyon. We will walk a paved road up to a CCC camp located on the peak of Lookout Mountain, which is a part of the Santa Susanna range. There is also a Pacific Telephone relay station there. The mountain top used to be the site of a NIKE battery during the 60's, and you could see those missiles sitting up at various elevations from time to time (probably because they couldn't get the the launchers to go up or down).

The hike will be hot and dusty with little shade. Suggest skin covering clothes or else sun block lotion. My estimate of elevation change is 400 feet each way. Do not skimp on water!

THE DRIVE:

Take Simi freeway, exiting Desoto Ave. At the off-ramp stop sign, look for a parking spot along fence directly in front of you, or against hillside barricade to your right. If we walk from there to the top, we'll walk 8 miles round trip. If we car pool to a ranch mid way, we can cut our hike in half.

THE AFTERMATH:

Following the hike, we will gather at Dick Rauhut's house. Please bring your own lunch, swim suit, and a beverage to drink/share. I'll deliver a copy of this to Dick, and hopefully he'll have water in his pool by the time we get there (just trying to aggravate Dicky).