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Smith Saddle/Mountain

Date: 12/12/12

Leader: Mickey Costello

Driving directions:

Drive 17 miles up Highway 39 from Azusa to the trailhead. At the trailhead there is a large parking lot on the left (west) side of the road, a vault toilet and a sign marking the start of the Bear Creek Trail.

The hikes:

The standard hike is 3 miles each way up to Smith Saddle and back. This trail was recently maintained and re-opened after a long closure. Elevation gain is about 1100 ft. If you want a longer hike, you could turn south at the saddle and climb 800 ft up the steep ridge to Smith Mountain.

The Bear Creek Trail continues past the saddle and down to Bear Creek. It is reported that this portion of the trail has not been maintained and can be hard to find and blocked by fallen trees. I haven't been down there.

Refreshments at the trailhead parking lot.