

Big Sycamore Canyon

November 5, 2014

Leader: Ron Obert

Overview: Big Sycamore Canyon begins at Sycamore Cove on the beach west of Malibu. The canyon is broad, has a minimum of elevation gain, and offers many possible routes for the hiker. As many will remember, the Springs fire of May 2013 ripped through the canyon and much of the adjacent ridges. I've recently scouted the canyon and find it interesting and worthy of hiking. Most of the major trees in the canyon have survived and although hurt, they still supply shade. The campground and restrooms are intact, and there are several picnic tables within the canyon.

Directions to the Trailhead: The trailhead is at Sycamore Cove on the Pacific Coast Highway, approximately 20 miles west of Malibu Canyon Rd. (also 5 miles west of the intersection of Mulholland Highway and PCH). There is a \$12 parking fee (\$11 for seniors). A copy of a good Harrison map will be supplied on hike day.

The Hike: The hike is up and back the canyon along a dirt road, for as far as one desires. At 3.1 miles in, there is a road junction and bearing left on the Wood Canyon Fire Road to Deer Camp Junction is recommended, for the basic 7.6 mile round trip hike. The elevation gain for this basic hike is only 250 feet.

Tigers may venture either west or east of the canyon. Going west from Deer Creek Junction allows one to hike the ridge between Sycamore and La Jolla canyons, and although there are sub-options, returning via this ridge will result in a 9.6 mile hike. Another option would be to take the Serrano Canyon Trail east at a point 1.1 miles in from the trailhead. One could enter the interesting Serrano Valley and make a small loop and then return for a 6.5 mile hike. Or, Tigers could continue through Serrano Valley to the Old Boney Trail, and drop back down into Sycamore Canyon and return for a 9.5 mile hike.

Party: At the trailhead.

[Google Earth photo - Sycamore Canyon](#)

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