

OTP & OTHERS

SANTA ROSA PLATEAU

The hike for April 14, 1993 will be an excursion to the Santa Rosa Plateau Preserve. This land was originally a Mexican land grant. It is now owned By the Nature Conservancy and although it is not a public park, visitors are welcomed. We should see an excellent display of spring flowers in an area that is returning to its natural pre-grazed condition.

I will travel east on I91, Riverside Freeway, to Corona where I will turn south on I15. Past Lake Elsinore I will turn right, SSW, on Clinton Keith Road. The preserve is about 6.5 miles. Park on the shoulder of the road outside the locked gate.

We will convene at the trailhead at 9:15 AM and with a 15 minute grace period we will start the hike at 9:30 AM.

Trip data:

Distance:	6 miles, round trip
Elevation gain:	Just a little
Effort:	EASY
Leader:	Mike Gessner

Recommended Maps:

Riverside County:	Automobile Club
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PRESERVE RULES

*Visitors' vehicles are prohibited on the Preserve (except during scheduled events). Please park safely and do not block the gates (which provide emergency access to fire roads).

*All elements on the Preserve are protected, including rocks, mushrooms, plants, birds, insects and even rattlesnakes.

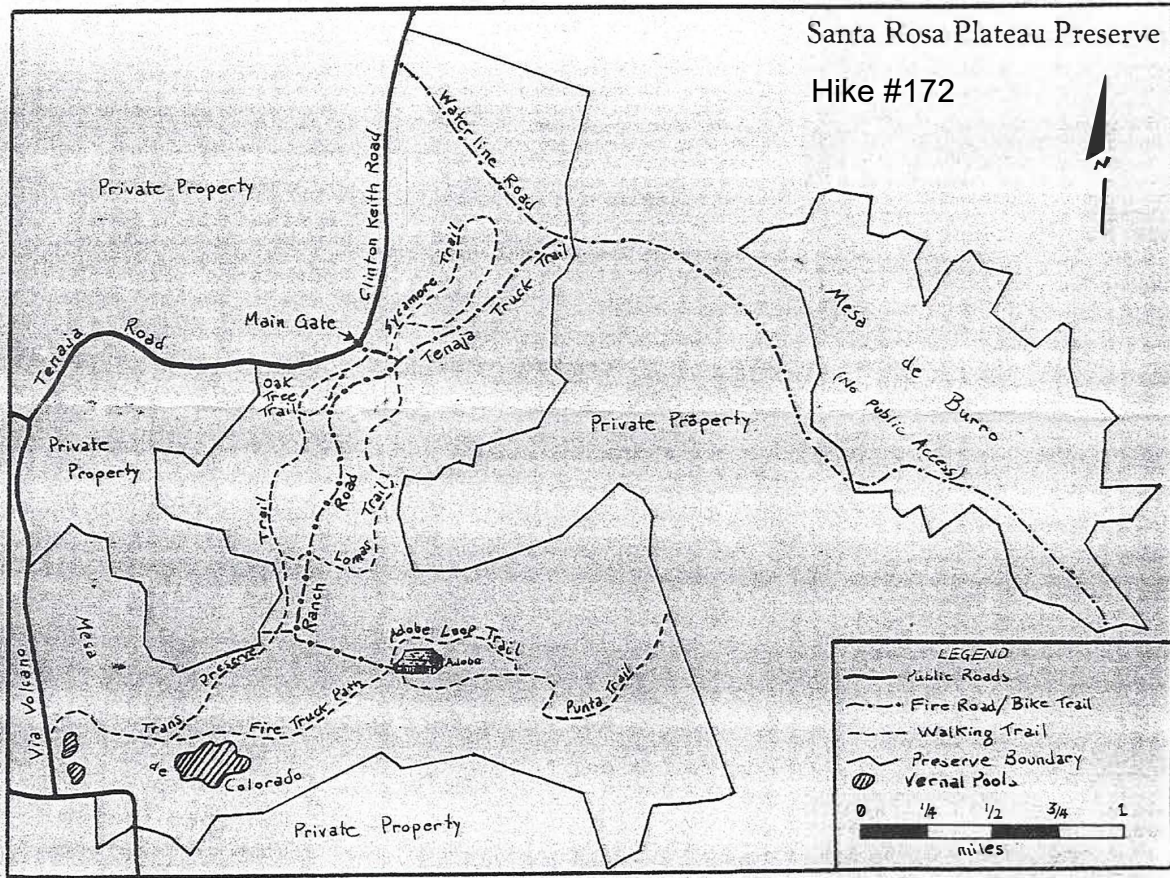
*Hunting, shooting, trapping, and firearms are prohibited.

*No smoking, fires, or camping. Please carry all trash out with you, including food scraps.

*Dogs and other pets, leashed or unleashed are not permitted on the Preserve.

*Bicycles are permitted on the Preserve on established vehicle roads only. Tire treads are destructive to our hiking trails; please park your bike and enjoy hiking trails on foot. The map clearly marks established roads; note there is no bike access to the mesas.

*Horseback riding is permitted only by specific permission of the manager. Since horse manure contains weed seeds which threaten our recovering native grassland habitat, horses must stay on established vehicle roads only (clearly marked on map). Riders are to use the equestrian gate and entrance path at the north end of the Preserve and must phone ahead to reserve a date. Please note there is no horseback access to the mesas.



THE SANTA ROSA PLATEAU PRESERVE

Originally part of a Mexican land grant rancho, the 3,100 acre Santa Rosa Plateau Preserve was purchased in 1984 by the California Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy is a national membership organization headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Founded in 1951, the Conservancy's sole mandate is the preservation of natural diversity through the protection of endangered species' habitats.

WHAT'S HERE?

Located at the southern end of the Santa Ana Mountains, the Santa Rosa Plateau's rolling topography ranges up to 2,000 feet in elevation. Several **BASALT-CAPPED MESAS** are scattered along the southern and eastern edges of the Plateau. On the level tops of these mesas are some of Southern California's last **VERNAL POOLS**, seasonal ponds which support wintering waterfowl, fairy shrimp, acres of colorful spring wildflowers and several species of endangered plant.

Creekbeds throughout the Preserve contain deep holes called **TENAJAS** which hold water throughout the rainless summer months, providing an important water source for wildlife. These **RIPARIAN ZONES** support such species as sycamore and willow trees, California tree frogs and Western Pond turtles.

OAK WOODLANDS support large numbers of birds species including Band-tailed Pigeons, Acorn Woodpeckers, Phainopeplas, and Red-shouldered Hawks. Both the Coast Live Oak and the rarer, threatened Engelmann Oak retain their green leaves throughout the year.

NATIVE PRAIRIE once covered much of California. Our approximately 1,500 acres of rolling grassland is gradually returning to its natural pre-grazed state. We have undertaken an intensive program of management for the recovery of the native grassland, including carefully conducted prescribed fires and the removal of non-native species, to encourage such native bunchgrass species as purple needle-grass and deer grass. Birds seen in this habitat include the Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Bluebird, American Kestrel, and Black-shouldered Kite.

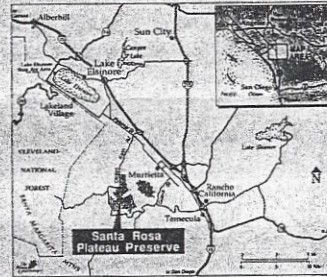
Patches of **CHAPARRAL** dominated by chamise, ceonothus, and scrub oak provide habitat for California thrashers, Wrentits and brush rabbits.

Other animals which make their home on the Preserve include Southern Pacific rattlesnakes, quail, deer, ground squirrels, coyotes, bobcats and mountain lions.



The Preserve is not a park. Visitors are welcome on the preserve; however, human use is restricted only to activities which are compatible with the complex natural communities. We ask that you respect our rules and minimize human impact by staying on the established trails.

Guided tours, led by trained docents, are available to schools and other groups by advance arrangement and cover portions of the Preserve not seen on the self-guided trails.



Contributions or inquiries
may be directed to:
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