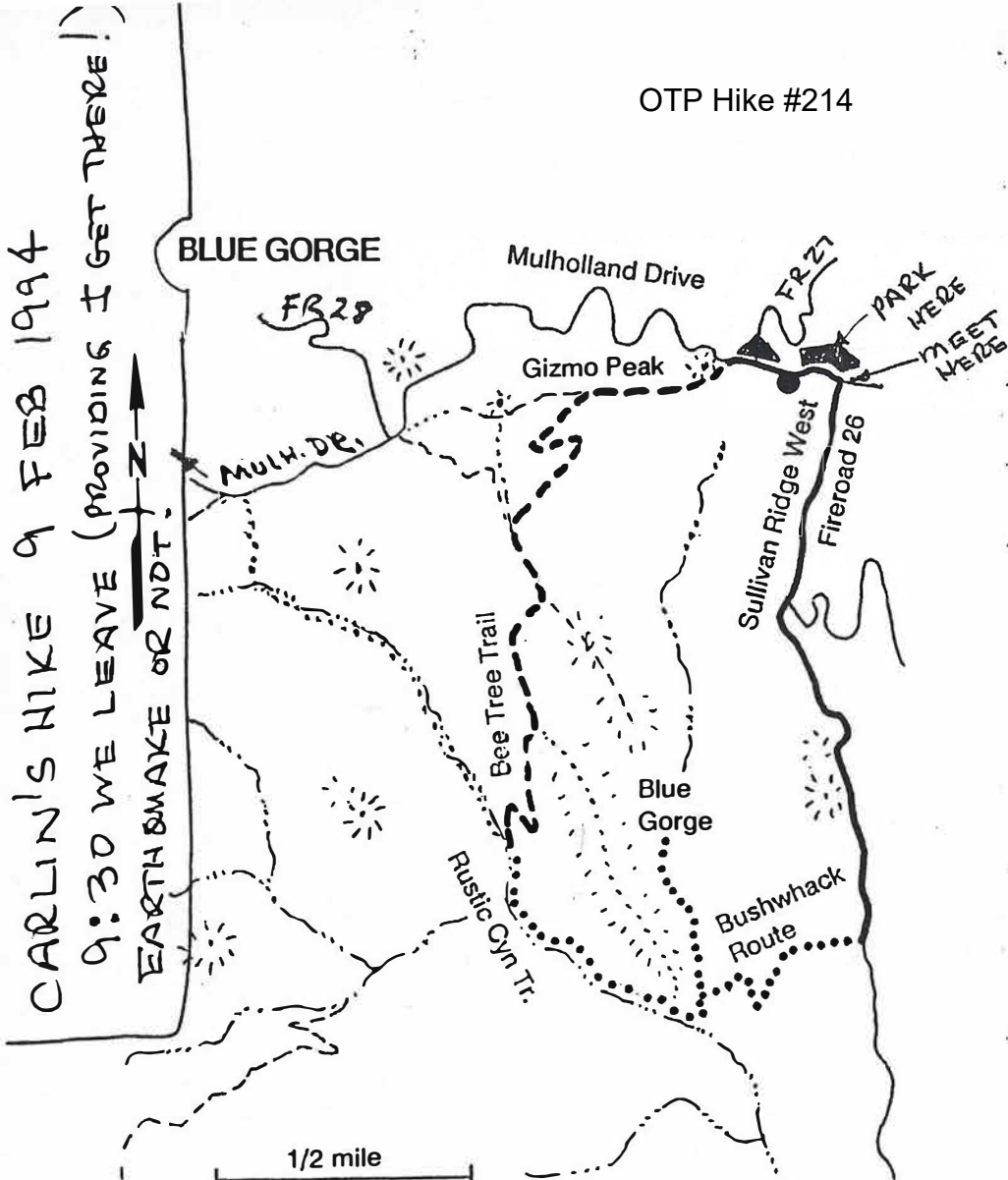


OTP Hike #214

# HIKE 59

BLUE GORGE  
UPPER RUSTIC CANYON  
from Sullivan Ridge West  
(loop)



CARLIN'S HIKE 9 FEB 1994  
9:30 WE LEAVE (PROVIDING I GET THERE!)  
EARTHQUAKE OR NOT?

Maps: Canoga Park, topo  
Topanga, topo  
Distance: 5 miles  
Elevation: 1250' gain and loss  
Terrain: Fireroad, bushwhack,  
class 2 rock, streambed,  
trail  
Time: 3 hours 15 minutes  
Trailhead: Mulholland Drive

This hike presents several challenges: finding the route requires very close observation; the bushwhack down a wild ridge is unnerving; and there is enough Poison Oak to keep you scratching for a week. But Blue Gorge is such a surprise that it could be worth it. The best time for this outing is in the spring, or after a good rain.

This is a loop trip starting at Mulholland Drive just 3.6 miles from the San Diego Freeway overpass. Park along Mulholland somewhere between Fireroad 26 – the start of the hike – and Fireroad 27A – the end of the hike.

Walk around the fireroad gate, at Fireroad 26, south onto Sullivan Ridge west. After 25 minutes of walking, look for a pipeline marker on the right. You will get a good view of the ocean from here. Most of the hike to this point has been on the ridge; the road goes on the east side of a small peak, then around on the west side of the next small peak. Look for the pipeline sign and a ridge dropping down to the west. Follow down the ridge to the west through Deerweed, Buckwheat, and Laurel Sumac. In ten minutes – about a third of the way to the canyon – there is another pipeline sign; the ridge turns 45° left at this point and the route becomes steeper as you go through a plant area of Lupines and Brown Sugar plant. In six or seven minutes the route comes to the end of the clear area and levels off a bit. Turn right and contour north along what could almost be called a trail for seven or eight minutes until reaching some old high chaparral, mostly Sumac, that

Exit Mulholland Dr from 405, turn LT to bridge & turn LT again, crossing bridge over 405. Continue <sup>WEST</sup> on Mulholland (paved) until sign indicates LT turn (beginning of dirt road) **MILE 2.3**. Continue west until locked gate on **LT**: Has "26" in black ltrs on vertical post, "Sullivan" in white ltrs on horiz member of gate **MILE 4.1**. Continue on West to wide parking area on RT – park **MILE 4.3**. Walk back (East) to FR:26 gate.