



Los Padres National Forest Adventure Pass Update 2003

During the past year, Adventure Pass funds were used on many projects within Los Padres National Forest, including protecting the environment, maintaining trails, and cleaning the forest.

Trails

Maintenance – Revenue from the Adventure Pass funded trail crews and volunteers to clear brush from the overgrown Middle Sespe Trail and reopened the old access route between Lion and Beaver Campgrounds. On the Matilija Trail, downed trees were removed to continue use of this popular hiking route, the only route in the Matilija Wilderness.



Campgrounds, Picnic and Dispersed Areas

Maintenance – Field Rangers on the Santa Barbara Ranger District coordinated the cleanup of two shooting areas, with assistance from the Los Prietos Boys Camp. Youths, from the camp, contributed over 1000 hours of volunteer work and removed approximately 120 cubic yards of debris from the sites



- ✓ **Repairs** – Pass revenues repaired restrooms, painted tables and replaced vehicle barriers at campgrounds, picnic areas, and dispersed camping areas. On the Mt. Pinos Ranger District, vandalized signs and bulletin boards were repaired and 39 campsites in the Aliso, Reyes, Kings, and Chuchupate Campgrounds were rehabilitated with refurbished tables and metal fire rings.



Visitor Information

Increased Visitor Information Provided - The Pass provided weekend staffing at offices and visitor centers. Each of the five Field Rangers provided nearly 9,500 visitor contacts while out in the forest.



Brochures were developed or updated. Support was provided to the Outdoors Santa Barbara Visitor Center, providing information about Los Padres National Forest, Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. (*Stop by and visit us at the Santa Barbara Harbor.*)

Increased Education Programs – The Pass enabled a Field Ranger to create a Visitors Guide that included information on 11 trails on the Santa Barbara Ranger District. The guide is complete with over 250 photos of trailheads, trails, campgrounds,



OHV routes, shooting areas, and other points of interest. The Pass supported the “Fam Camp” program. This partnership with the California State Parks, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, the RMRC Campground Concessionaire, and local youth organizations has introduced families to Los Padres National Forest and the many other wonderful environmental education opportunities in our community. The Pass also supported wilderness education programs in local schools to teach “Leave No Trace” methods of visiting wildlands.

Visitor Safety Improved

- ✓ **Reduced Crime in the Forest** – The Pass funded an increase in ranger patrols. The greater presence of rangers in the forest has resulted in faster responses to problems such as graffiti and vandalism and has discouraged criminal activity in the forest. Each ranger acted on over 300 violations, such as dumping



trash, dangerous campfires during fire closures, and more serious crimes. Families have told us they are returning to the forest because they feel safer with increased ranger patrols and fewer problems.

Rangers to the Rescue –The Pass funds rangers who provide first aid as well as search and rescue services to injured or missing visitors. Last year each ranger averaged 119 such emergency assists.

Trash and Graffiti Removed

Increased Trash Removal – The Pass funded increased frequency of trash removal and litter collection in recreation facilities. On the Mt. Pinos Ranger District alone, more than 570 cubic yards of debris and trash was removed from several recreation sites.



Increased Graffiti Removal –The Pass funded sandblasting and/or treating thousands of square feet of graffiti that covered buildings, signs, rocks and trees along Forest roads, streamsidess and recreation areas.

A major removal project was conducted on the Ojai Ranger District where graffiti was removed alongside the popular Reyes Peak Road.



Protecting the Environment

Increased Resource Protection Provided - The Pass funds Rangers to provide information to visitors on how to avoid harming forest animals and plants, including many that are threatened or endangered with extinction. Rangers also complete maintenance, rehabilitation and resource protection projects. These additional efforts allow for continued public use of areas that might otherwise be closed to protect sensitive animals and plants.



Increased Fire Prevention in the Forest – The Pass funded increased Ranger Patrols. Patrol efforts accounted for the extinguishing of abandoned campfires and site restoration in dispersed or developed areas. The number of incidents on the forest resulting from illegal or abandoned campfires totaled 4310. *(Just think of the danger to our forest and nearby communities, fire suppression costs, and resource damage if even one of these fires had gone undetected!)*



Thanks for your help

For more information, visit your local Ranger Station or

Los Padres National Forest Headquarters, 6755 Hollister #150, Goleta, CA 93117

or call us at (805) 968-6640.

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