

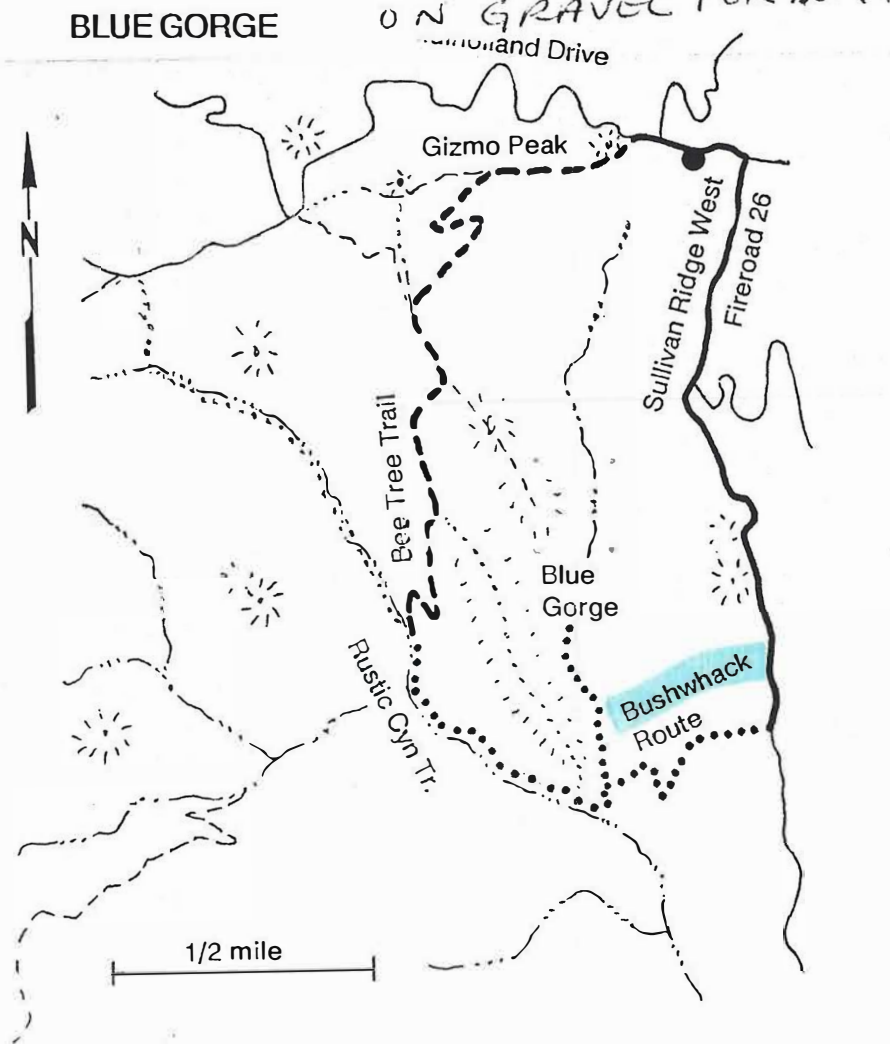
(405) SAN DIEGO FWY -
 TAKE MULHOLLAND
 1.8 M - MULHOLLAND
 THEN TURNS LEFT
 ON GRAVEL FOR 1.8 M.

OTP Hike #0092

HIKE 59

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

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

CARLIN'S HIKE

9/11/91

9:30 AM

WEAR LONG PANTS