

OTPH Hike #0181 June 16, 9:30 am

HIKE 45

Brigitte

EAGLE SPRING LOOP
Musch Ranch Trail
from Trippet Ranch

Maps: Topanga, topo
Topanga State Park

Distance: 7 miles roundtrip

Elevation: 900' gain and loss

Terrain: Combination fireroad and trail

Time: 2-3/4 hours

Trailhead: Trippet Ranch

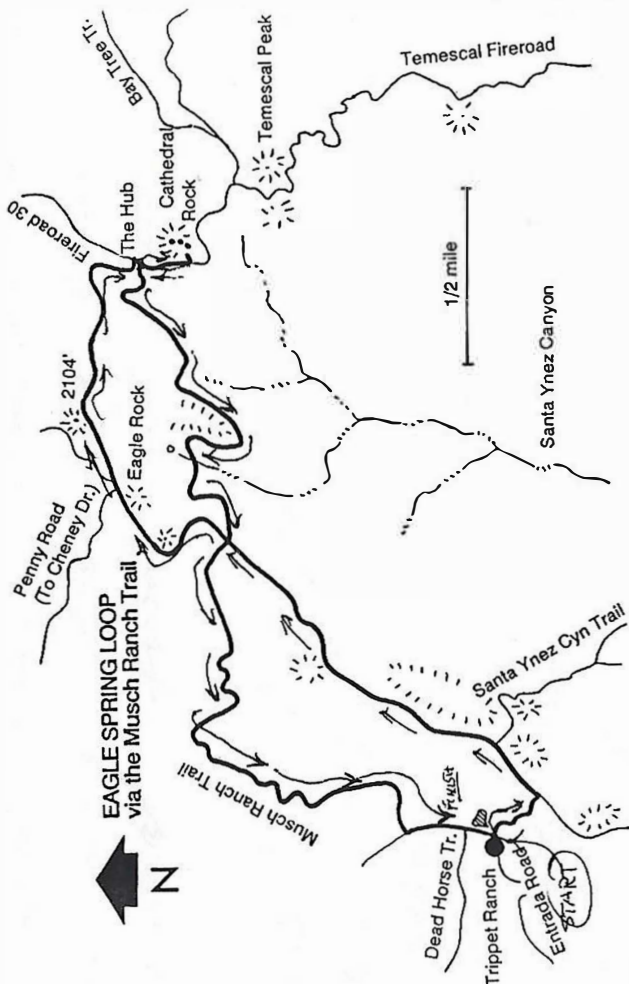
Take Topanga Canyon Blvd.,

On Highway 27 just north of the town of Topanga, turn east on Entrada Road. Once on Entrada Rd, turn left at every street intersection, 1.1 miles to the entrance of Topanga State Park.

Take the trail up the hill from the parking lot. This intersects with a fireroad. A sign reads: "Eagle Spring 1.6 mi., Mulholland 4.6, Will Rogers State Historic Park 9.2." Turn left at this intersection and walk up a gentle grade, initially in the shade of Coast Live Oak trees - later along an open ridge. (You will pass the trail on the right leading to Santa Ynez Canyon.) Continue on the road for about 1 mile to a fork, Eagle Junction; go left and continue uphill, noting the view of Eagle Rock ahead. Later, from the backside of Eagle Rock, it is possible to take a short side trip, climbing to the top.

Continue east on the road, passing Penny Road entering from the left, until reaching an intersection with three roads, called "The Hub." Just before reaching this junction there is a high point on the left. If you were to walk to the top you would be at the apex of three watersheds. To the south is Santa Ynez Canyon with its intermittent stream draining into the ocean near Sunset Blvd. To the east is Rustic Canyon with its drainage outlet near Chautauqua Blvd. To the north is Garapito Canyon which joins with Topanga Canyon and the drainage is then south to the ocean, just west of where Hwy 27 meets the Coast Highway.

At "The Hub" are three other roads. First is Fireroad 30 on the left which goes 2 miles north to Mulholland Dr. The next road which appears to be a continuation of Fireroad 30, is named



Temescal Fireroad at this point and goes south along the north-south ridge, separating Santa Ynez and Upper Rustic Canyons. The third road which goes to Eagle Spring, we'll take later.

This hike goes south on Temescal Fireroad about 1/2 mile to the intersection with Rogers Road on the left. Continue a short distance south of this intersection, leave the road and climb Temescal Peak, the highest point in the Park, 2126'.

Return to "The Hub" the same way you came. A nice lunch stop is at Cathedral Rock to the east of the road a few hundred yards before getting back to the junction and the road to Eagle Spring. Climb into Cathedral rock - there is room for 25 people - or maybe 50 good friends. At "The Hub" turn left to go to Eagle Spring. Three large wooden tanks store water from the year-round spring. (Second edition note: one tank has fallen apart and has been removed.) (Fourth edition note: the second tank has fallen apart and has been removed.) A short walk up the stream locates the spring, protected by abundant stands of Poison Oak.

Continue west on the road until coming to Eagle Junction. Cross the road to the west side where you will find the trail that goes down the slope through an area that burned in the November 1977 fire. This is the Musch Ranch Trail, so named because of the ranch at the base of the hill. Continue south on the trail heading down through the chaparral. The chaparral quickly gives way to quiet oak glens, moss covered rocks, and a stream that flows after each rain. Signs indicate the trail location in places. Cross a little meadow, pass the pond, and you have arrived at the parking lot.