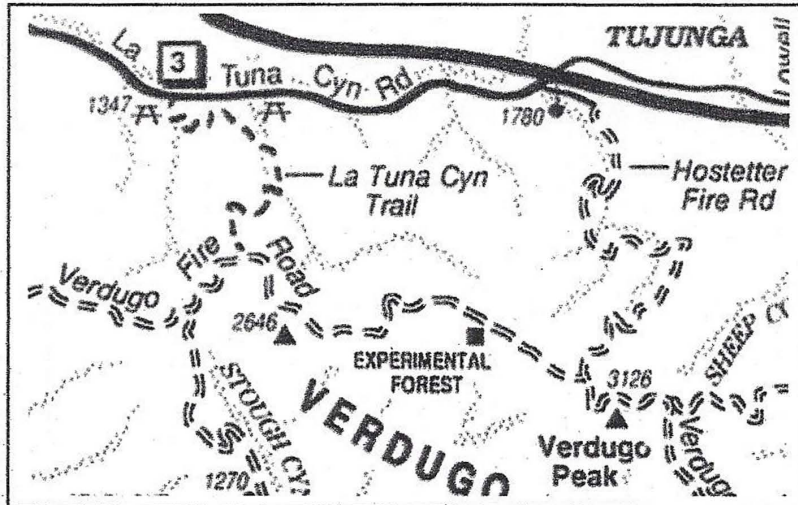


North End Verdugo Traverse

November 19, 2003, 9:30 AM

Ron Forbess' Hike



Trailhead Directions

The starting point is located at a picnic area on the left (South) side of La Tuna Canyon Road 1.4 miles west of the La Tuna Canyon road off ramp of the Foothill Freeway. Don't confuse this picnic spot with a similar one 0.3 mile east. Be aware that there are no restroom facilities at the trailhead.

The Hike

We did this hike 3 years ago, so it is time to do it again. There are two possible variations. The long loop is 9.3 miles and about 1900 feet elevation gain, unless you add 0.7 miles and 150 feet to do Verdugo Peak. The other variation is to hike to a saddle along the fire road with a great view at 3.1 miles and return for a total 6.2 miles and 1670 feet gain. By adding 0.35 mile each way and 150 feet gain there is a better view on a 2646-foot knoll along the side of the road. Of course there are many good turn around spots.

We start by following the La Tuna Canyon Trail up along a small canyon. The trail switchbacks up above La Tuna Canyon Road and then crosses the dry stream at least three times. This part of the trail is well shaded for the most part. At 1.75 miles we join an old jeep road where there is an old truck in the streambed below the trail. We gain almost 600 feet in 0.6 mile on the steepest part of the trail before finally reaching Verdugo Fire Road. From there we turn left and continue to the great view spot along the road. For those continuing past that spot we will go to a lunch spot under a tree with benches 1.4 miles farther along the road at the Plantation Lateral. After lunch we continue along Verdugo Fire Road and turn down Hostetter Fire Road. After 3.3 miles of downhill hiking on the fire road we reach La Tuna Canyon Road. From there it is 1.1 miles back along the road to the trailhead.

Cookies (from the kitchen of Patricia and tested by Ron) will be supplied at an appropriate break on the trail, most likely where the trail meets the old jeep road. Refreshments will be provided at the conclusion.