

**US Forest Service**  
**San Bernardino National Forest**  
**Front Country Ranger District**  
**1209 Lytle Creek Road Lytle Creek, CA 92358**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**      FS Media Contact: Kathie Meyer (909) 382-2874

**Volunteers Needed for Bighorn Sheep Survey**

**Lytle Creek, California - January 26, 2010** - Volunteers are needed on March 13 and 14, 2010 (Saturday evening and all day Sunday) to assist in an annual bighorn sheep survey in the San Gabriel Mountains.

The California Department of Fish and Game, US Forest Service, and the Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep have conducted surveys for bighorn sheep in the San Gabriel range annually since 1979. The mountain range once held an estimated 740 bighorn sheep, which made the San Gabriel population the largest population of desert bighorn sheep in California. The bighorn population declined over 80% through the 1980's but appears to be on the increase with recent estimates yielding approximately 350 animals.

No survey experience is necessary to participate but volunteers must attend a mandatory orientation on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at Day Creek Intermediate School in Rancho Cucamonga.

Volunteers will hike to designated observation sites in the San Gabriel Mountains early Sunday morning to count and record bighorn sheep. Volunteer groups will be led by a representative from either the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, California Department of Fish and Game, or the Forest Service. Participants must be at least 16 years old and capable of hiking one mile in rugged terrain, although some survey routes are longer. In general, hikes will not be along trails and accessing survey points will involve scrambling over boulders, climbing up steep slopes, and/or bush-whacking through chaparral.

Observers should bring binoculars or spotting scopes as well as FRS/GMRS radios (if they have them) in addition to hiking gear. Mountain weather can be unpredictable and participants should be prepared to spend several hours hiking and additional time making observations in cold and windy weather. Volunteers will need to start hiking early Sunday morning. For those who wish to camp, complimentary campsites will be available to volunteers on a first-come-first served basis at the Applewhite Campground in Lytle Creek on the night of March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Please call the Lytle Creek Ranger Station at (909) 382-2875 by March 5<sup>th</sup>, to sign up and receive a volunteer packet.

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