

# SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT



## SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT VISITOR CENTER

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Palm Desert, CA 92260  
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[www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings](http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings)



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## SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains rise abruptly from below sea level in the Colorado Desert to the snow-capped San Jacinto Peak at 10,834 feet.

Within this dramatic and varied landscape are magnificent palm oases, abundant wildlife, rich cultural resources, and diverse recreational opportunities.

This is the first National Monument designated by the U.S. Congress to be managed jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

U.S. Congresswoman Mary Bono (R) introduced the Monument legislation into Congress on February 16, 2000 and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D) introduced a companion bill into the Senate on July 26, 2000. Through bipartisan efforts, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument was created when President William Clinton signed the act into law on October 24, 2000.

Community-Based Management is the model used for conserving the valuable resources found in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. Management will be a joint effort between the BLM and the Forest Service in cooperation with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, state agencies, and local governments.

### MANAGEMENT GOALS

- Preserve biological and geological resources, including the endangered Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep, springs, palm oases, as well as other native species, formations, and natural communities.
- Preserve the ancient cultural resources.
- Protect the scenic backdrop of the Coachella Valley communities including scenic corridors and visitor gateways.
- Provide recreational opportunities and visitor services so people can experience and enjoy the biological resources and scenic value of the monument.
- Support the above goals through partnerships and cooperative management.

### WHO ARE THE MONUMENT PARTNERS?

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	86,400 acres
FOREST SERVICE	64,400 acres
AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS	23,000 acres
CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCIES (& other local governments)	43,000 acres
PRIVATE LAND	55,200 acres

## MONUMENT WILDLIFE

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains provide habitat for a suite of federally listed threatened and endangered species, magnificent fan palm oases, and more than 500 species of plants.

The Monument and the surrounding areas provide important habitat for the **Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep** (*Ovis canadensis*),



federally listed as endangered in 1998. In many ways, the majestic and elusive bighorn sheep has become the symbol for the area.

The **Southern Yellow Bat** (*Lasiurus ega* or *xanthinus*) is an inhabitant of native fan palm oases. This bat has yellowish brown fur and hunts for flying insects at night. It is a California state species of concern.

The **Desert Tortoise** (*Gopherus* or *Xerobates agassizii*) is California's official reptile. The populations living north and west of the Colorado River were listed as threatened in April of 1990.

The **Desert Slender Salamander** (*Batrachoseps aridus*) only lives in one or two steep-walled desert canyons in the Santa Rosa Mountains. The Desert Slender Salamander is a federally listed endemic species.

The **Least Bell's Vireo** (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) is a small grey, migratory songbird which inhabits dense thickets of willow and cottonwood trees near rivers and streams. It is on both the federal and state endangered species list. Once considered to be among the most abundant species of birds in the state of California, these vireos are now rare.

## THE FIRST PEOPLE

The San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains were hunting and gathering areas for Native Americans for thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived. The Cahuilla lived in the desert areas in and around the San Jacintos and Santa Rosas. Today, the Cahuilla people live near Anza, Banning, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Thermal, and Hemet.

The varied topography rising up from the valley floor allowed easy access to a wide variety of resources. Nearly 80% of the necessary food species could be gathered within 5 miles of each Cahuilla village. Villages were typically located in the Upper Sonoran Life Zone, providing access to the resources of both the Lower Sonoran and Transitional Life Zones. The majority of plant and animal species integral to the Cahuilla way of life were located in these three lower altitude zones. The higher elevations, with their pine forests, were traditional Cahuilla hunting grounds.

Much of the evidence of past Cahuilla camps and settlements is now gone. Visitors do occasionally find pieces of pottery or arrowheads.



All artifacts are protected and should remain where they are found. Laws protect these artifacts from removal. Stiff penalties are imposed for removing such items or damaging archeological artifacts on sites. Be sure to contact Monument Rangers at the Visitor Center if you find something you suspect belonged to Native Americans.

## RECREATION

### WHERE TO GO

The San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains are best known for their spectacular landscapes. The barrel cactus of the desert and the palms of the canyon springs are not far from the subalpine forests of pine and fir. Sightseers have many views of broad plateaus and rolling hills as well as rock-ribbed peaks.

A mixture of private, county, city, state, federal, and tribal facilities provide services for visitors throughout the year.

SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS  
NATIONAL MONUMENT VISITOR CENTER • 760/862.9984

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center is on Highway 74 just south of Palm Desert. This facility has exhibits on desert wildlife and cultural history.

IDYLLWYLD RANGER STATION • 909/659.2117  
TDD PHONE • 909/659.5748

The Idyllwild Ranger Station, in downtown Idyllwild at Pinecrest Avenue and Highway 243, sells books and maps. The Station also issues Wilderness permits for the Forest Service Wilderness areas.

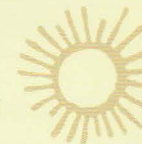
TAHQUITZ CANYON VISITOR CENTER • 760/416.7044

The Tahquitz Visitor Center is located at the entrance to Tahquitz Canyon—just west of Palm Canyon Drive in downtown Palm Springs. The visitor center offers both educational and cultural exhibits. The Center has artifacts on display, an observation deck, guided hikes, and a theater room for a video which narrates the legend of Tahquitz Canyon.

CALIFORNIA DEPT OF FISH & GAME • 909/597.9823

SAN JACINTO CALIFORNIA STATE PARK  
VISITOR CENTER • 909/659.2607

PALM SPRINGS AERIAL TRAM • 760/325.1391



### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Always check with Monument staff or volunteers before entering into an area if there is any question as to whether or not the area is open to the public.
- Roads in this area vary depending on where you are traveling. Highway 74 is steep and winding. If you have a large trailer or motor home, please check road conditions before you go, especially during winter months when higher elevations receive snow. Unpaved roads are normally accessible to passenger cars. Unimproved roads should only be attempted with a high clearance vehicle.
- Signs are limited so please carry a detailed map.
- Special Recreation Permits are required for all commercial outfitters and organized groups such as scouts and school groups. An Adventure Pass is required to recreate within the San Bernardino National Forest.
- Group size can vary depending on which campsite you visit. The Monument offers a diverse range of camping opportunities from family, group, dispersed and wilderness settings. Most campgrounds open in May and close in October.

For current recreation information please contact the National Monument Visitor Center at 760/862.9984.



**GETTING TO THE MONUMENT**

Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument is located about 100 miles east of downtown Los Angeles via Interstate 10.



**HOURS & FACILITIES**

You may visit the National Monument year-round. Each season exerts its unique character on the area.

The Monument Visitor Center is open daily, except for Christmas and New Years Day, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Detailed information on weather, road conditions, backcountry use, campgrounds, and regulations may be obtained at the Visitor Center. Check for posted activity and interpretive walk schedules.

Always bring your own food and water when traveling in the area.

**REGULATIONS**

Please help us preserve and protect the National Monument. So that future generations may enjoy it too, we ask that you follow these regulations: Motorized vehicles must stay on established roads. OFF-ROAD DRIVING IS PROHIBITED

- Camping is permitted only in designated areas or with backcountry registration on National Forest land.
- Wildlife, plants, and natural, cultural, and archeological features are protected by federal laws, with fines and possible imprisonment for violations. Do not disturb, mutilate, deface, or remove natural or cultural objects.
- Firearms and explosives are prohibited.
- Firearms are permitted where and when hunting is allowed within the National Monument.

Please contact the National Monument Visitor Center at 760/862.9984 regarding pet regulations.

**FOR YOUR SAFETY**

- Always carry enough water, at least one gallon per person per day. Increase the amount to two gallons per day when it is hot or you are performing strenuous activity.
- Always inform someone of your plans before you go. Give them your route and your expected time of return.
- Watch where you put your hands and feet, especially in the summer when snakes are active.
- IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

