

Santa Monica Mountains

National Recreation Area
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



Cheeseboro Canyon Site



A CANYON OF CONTRASTS

As the s'low* flies over the canyon he remembers past seasons: green slopes covered with wildflowers in the Spring; the smell of sage in the Summer; the rustle of ground squirrels hiding acorns in the Fall; the bright red of toyon berries in Winter...

*Chumash for eagle.

From the mouth of Cheeseboro Canyon, trails lead through open grasslands dotted with mature valley oaks. Coast live oaks and sycamores line the canyon floor. The main trail follows an old road that crisscrosses the stream bed. Farther up the four mile canyon the headwall comes into view. Here chaparral thrives in the dry, rocky soil.

Outcrops of sedimentary rock above the canyon floor are home to a variety of owls, hawks and other raptors. These birds of prey indicate a large population of small mammals on which they feed. The open grasslands and oak woodlands are prime territory for aerial hunters.

A CANYON IN TRANSITION

For over 150 years Cheeseboro Canyon was heavily grazed by cattle. Those cattle caused many of the native plants and animals to be displaced by non-native species.

The cattle were removed when the canyon became public parkland. Since their removal, some native plants and animals have reappeared naturally. Others need our intervention.

The National Park Service assists this 'natural recolonization' by using active resource management techniques, such as prescribed burning, seeding, and habitat restoration.

Valley oaks are a good example. The oaks in the canyon today are descendants of pre-19th century trees. Young oaks growing now will help insure that the species will continue in the canyon.

A multitude of plants and animals make Cheeseboro Canyon their home and may use this area as a major pathway between the Santa Susana Mountains to the north, and the main body of the Santa Monica Mountains to the south.

Natural drainage patterns connect Cheeseboro Canyon and adjoining Palo Comado and Las Virgenes canyons to the main body of the Santa Monica Mountains. Some wildlife experts point to this drainage as a realistic corridor for dispersal of plants and animals. The wildlife corridor, which bridges islands of open habitat, insures a more natural diversity of plant and animal species in the main body of the Santa Monica Mountains.

CANYON TRAILS

Modello Trail: (0.75 miles, moderate) The trail meanders from the parking lot through grasslands to a lone Coast live oak on the ridge. Watch for raptors and coyotes in this area. The trail then drops to the canyon floor and the main trail. A spur trail continues along the west ridge northward for about one mile, then reconnects with the canyon floor.

Cheeseboro Canyon Trail: (1.2 miles, easy) / **Sulfur Springs Trail:** (1.6 miles, easy) Follow the old road along the stream bed through the grassland to valley oak savannah and live oak riparian zone. As you near the spring, smell the 'rotten egg' odor of sulfur.

Canyon Overlook Trail: (0.7 miles, moderately strenuous) At the south end of Cheeseboro Canyon a trail splits to the right of the main trail and climbs to a knoll above the Lost Hills landfill. Looking back the way you came, you can see the entire Cheeseboro Canyon, from the headwall to the mouth, chaparral to oak grassland.

Sheep Corral Trail: (1.8 miles, moderate) Past Sulfur Springs the canyon narrows, the road becomes a narrow trail and you are surrounded by chaparral shrubs. At the old sheep corral you can climb down into the creekbed for a picnic or watch the skies for golden eagles.

Baleen Wall Trail: (3 miles, strenuous) Named for the rock outcrop that resembles baleen in a whale's mouth, this trail climbs gradually to the east ridge of the canyon. The trail follows a road past a large water tank and ends near a gate on the ridge. From the gate, you can walk west to the top of the Baleen Wall. Hikers and equestrians may use a narrow spur trail south of the gate to return to the canyon floor. Bicycle riders must return the way they came.

CHEESEBORO CANYON TRAILS

Whether you walk, bicycle or ride horseback, Cheeseboro Canyon offers a variety of adventures. Most trails are old ranch access roads. Mileages are one-way. NOTE: Some trails are closed to mountain bicycles. Check the map and trail description BEFORE you begin.

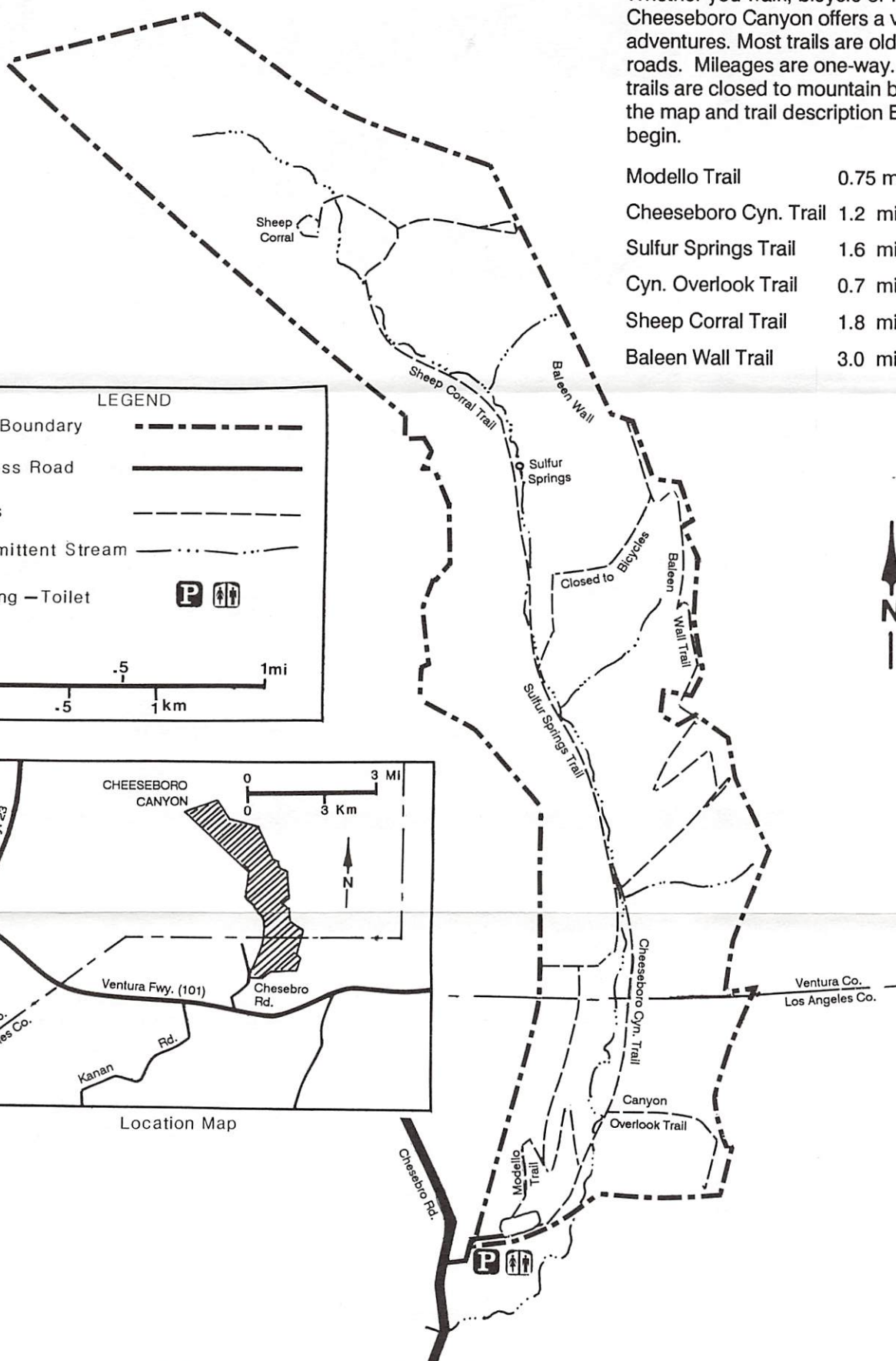
Modello Trail	0.75 miles	moderate
Cheeseboro Cyn. Trail	1.2 miles	easy
Sulfur Springs Trail	1.6 miles	easy
Cyn. Overlook Trail	0.7 miles	moderate
Sheep Corral Trail	1.8 miles	moderate
Baleen Wall Trail	3.0 miles	strenuous

LEGEND

- Park Boundary
- Access Road
- Trails
- Intermittent Stream
- Parking — Toilet

Location Map

Scale: 0 to 3 Miles / 0 to 3 Kilometers



FOR YOUR SAFETY

- Smoking on trails is prohibited during periods of high, very high, and extreme fire danger.
- Building fires is not allowed.
- Leave plants and animals where you find them; this is their home.
- Watch for and avoid rattlesnakes and poison oak.
- Share the trails courteously: walk horses and slow bikes.
- Ride horses, hike and bike only on designated trails. Watch for your international sign symbol and respect area closures where posted.
- Please respect the private property of our neighbors.
- Keep pets leashed at all times.
- Spring and Fall are seasons for ticks. Wear light colored clothing and check carefully for these tiny creatures.
- No drinking water is available.
- A chemical toilet is located near the parking area.
- Park hours are from sunrise to sunset.

IN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

For additional information: contact the National Park Service at (818) 597-9192.

