

# WHY DO I NEED A WILDERNESS VISITOR PERMIT?

## PERMITS

Wilderness Visitor Permits are required for day and overnight use. The only trail limited for day use is the Devil's Slide Trail. Overnight camping areas have capacity limits and when reached, the Wilderness is considered full for camping. Fires are not allowed in the Wilderness. There is no charge for Wilderness Visitors Permits.

## PERMIT SYSTEM

The permit system is a management tool used by the San Bernardino National Forest to help protect the San Jacinto Wilderness. One of the things it does is allow us to manage the number of visitors that the wilderness is able to sustain. This number is called the "carrying capacity." It is based on two elements: (1) the sociological carrying capacity, which indicates the maximum number of people a visitor can meet and see without feeling crowded; and (2) the environmental carrying capacity, which indicates the maximum number of visitors the area can accommodate without being degraded in either its physical (water, soil, air) or biotic (wildlife, flora) components.

## SOLITUDE

While the Wilderness Act of 1964 provided for the public enjoyment of wilderness areas, it also stipulated that a Wilderness has outstanding "opportunities for solitude." Obviously, visitors cannot have an opportunity for solitude when trails are congested with hikers or when camps are crowded with tents. Dogs must be on a leash no more than 6 feet long.

## INFORMATION

The permit system provides us with valuable information, such as what parts of the Wilderness are being used, when use occurs, average group size and methods of travel.

## SAFETY

Permits can help to locate a Wilderness visitor if reported missing or in case of fire evacuation.

WILDERNESS ESSENTIALS include:

Map, compass, extra clothing, extra food and water, first-aid kit, headlamp or flashlight (with extra batteries), matches, fire starter, knife, sunglasses, sunscreen, water filter and whistle. All should be protected from excess moisture.

## HOW CAN I MAKE SURE I GET TO VISIT THE PART OF THE WILDERNESS I PREFER?

You can improve your chances by submitting a Wilderness Visitor's Permit Application and requesting a Wilderness Visitor's Permit in advance of your trip.

## HOW DO I MAKE RESERVATIONS TO CAMP?

Please use the Wilderness Visitor's Permit Application on the reverse side of this handout.

## RECREATION PASSES

All vehicles parked on the San Bernardino National Forest land are required to display one of the following:

**Adventure Pass** (can be used in Cleveland; Angeles and Los Padres National Forests), **Golden Eagle Passport**, **National Parks Pass (with hologram)**, **Golden Age Passport** (must be at least 62 year of age), **Golden Access Passport** (physically disabled).

Pass or Passport must be hung from rearview mirror or placed on the dashboard where effective date can be seen.

Adventure passes are available at Forest Service offices and many vendors. Contact Forest Service office for the vendor nearest you or for information regarding Golden Passports. There is a charge for recreation passes.