

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### Sitton Peak

3,273'

Location: Santa Ana Mountains  
Maps: Cleveland National Forest  
Topo: Sitton Peak 7.5

**Primary Route:** 5 miles, 1,700' gain one way

#### Driving Instruction:

- Exit I-5 in San Juan Capistrano on Ortega Hwy 74. Drive east on Hwy. 74 for 19 miles to the Candy Store on the right side of the road.
- From Elsinore exit I-15 at Central and 74, turn right off the freeway, right on Collier, left on Riverside Drive – 74. At the T-intersection of Grand and Ortega Highway, turn right and drive 8.9 miles to the Candy Store on your left. Paved parking lot is on the right.

#### Hiking Instructions:

- Across the highway and 100 feet west of the Candy Store is the start of the Bear Canyon Trail.
- Take this trail, keep right at the signed junction with the Morgan Trail, and continue to the junction with the Verdugo Truck Trail, a dilapidated road.
- Turn right and proceed on the Truck Trail past Pigeon Springs to the Four Corner Crossing. Here the Sitton and Verdugo Truck Trails as well as the North Tenaja Trail and the Bear Canyon Trail come together. Take the Sitton Truck Trail to the right, north-west.
- The road climbs to a grassy flat area, where a use trail leads right to the so-called 'Boyscout Peak'. Stay on the road, which drops to a low saddle. The peak is climbed from this low saddle.
- Take the poor use trail to your right (north-west) up to the ridge. Continue (left) west on the ridge to the summit. The peak is the highest point on the ridge and is marked by a metal post.

On the return you might want to take the new Bear Canyon Loop Trail, built by Ken Croker, that parallels the Verdugo truck trail, starting from Four Corners to the Verdugo Truck Trail crossing. Then continue straight ahead downhill Bear Canyon Trail the way you came, back to the Candy Store.

#### Alternate Route:

Sitton Peak could also be reached by hiking the Sitton Truck Trail from the San Juan Rangers Station and returning to the Candy Store. It involves crossing the San Juan Creek, which can be difficult in high water. This route is closed to the public as of 2004.

#### Notes:

No reliable water on trail, except at Pigeon Springs after rain. Adventure Pass required.

Five trails meet at Four Corners: Verdugo Truck Trail, continuing to Oak Flat, Sitton Peak Truck Trail, Blue Water Trail to San Mateo Creek, and the new Bear Canyon Trail. The trails are marked thanks to the Warrior Society, a biker's group. None of these so-called truck trails are drivable.

Original: Jack Adsit 1993, rev. 2004