

## USE AT YOUR OWN RISK

### Wilson Peak

4,573'

Location: San Diego County, Anza Borrego State Park

Maps:

Topo: Tubb Canyon 7.5 UTM 529709

**Primary Route:** 5.5 mi, 900'/700' gain one way from junction with Jasper Rd  
4.5 mi, 900'/700' gain one way from signed trailhead

#### Driving Route 1:

Take I-15 and exit in Temecula on Hwy. 79 South (NOT the first 79 exit north). Stay on Hwy. 79 at Aguanga junction and continue another 20 miles to Warner Springs. After another 3.3 miles turn left (east) on S2, leading to Anza Borrego State Park. After 4.7 miles, at a Y-crossing, turn left on S22 (Borrego Springs road). Drive about 5 miles to the hamlet of Ranchita. Continue another 0.45 mile to Old Wilson Road, just west of a low ridge. Turn right on this dirt road and set your odometer.

- At 0.5 mile, an unsigned junction just before the top of a rise. Turn left, then quickly right, and follow this dirt road
- At 0.8 mile, the road is too poor for 2WD cars. Park here. The road from here is passable only for hard core 4WD SUVs or trucks.
- At 1.1 mile, signed junction of Country Road (4WDs may be able to drive north to S22) and Jasper Road. Park here. Further travel is only possible with ORVs.

#### Alternate Route

Drive through Ranchita, entering Anza Borrego State Park, and continue to milepost 10.4 where an inconspicuous dirt road leads right (southwest). Take this narrow very poor dirt road past several spurs left and right for 3 mi to a wide spot and the (signed) Wilson Trail. 4WD/high clearance vehicle required. Note: The road continues west at the trailhead, following driving route 1 (Jasper Road).

Note: It is probable that this road is no longer passable after the very wet 2004/5 winter. It is 900' gain hiking this road to the trailhead.

#### Hiking Instructions:

From the 4WD parking spot, hike east along the road for about 1 mile, going left at a signed junction to the signed trailhead. Pass through the narrow gate.

The trail leads south-east and is easy to follow. It is actually an old road. It leads through desert flora with interesting rock formations on both sides. The trail goes initially south, then turns generally east, passing over a saddle at 4440+ (at about 3 miles from the trailhead). The trail finds a wide spot with a signless signpost, then becomes narrower and steeper. Continue from this point about 1\4 mile to a level area in a saddle at 4480', just before the top of the saddle where you may find a duck. Turn right (southwest) and follow a ducked use trail through rocks and brush, then going east a short distance to the summit. Alternately follow the trail as it passes on the West side of Wilson Peak, and then turns East. At a level area a ducked use trail leads South then SE through rocks and brush to the summit. The summit has a USGS marker. This peak is also on the San Diego Peaks List.

**Desert Flora:** in California Juniper area. Buckhorn Cholla throughout; some fine examples of Desert Apricot at the western end of the trail. Other plants are scrub oak, Mojave Yucca, Parry's Nolina, and Cheesebush. There are a few pinyon pines near the summit.

**Notes:** No water on trail.

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This peak, the high point of Pinyon Ridge, is named after a local rancher. The views to the Santa Rosa, Laguna, and Cuyamaca Mountains are outstanding. If you follow the main trail (it gets lost in the desert) you can walk to the rim and have even better views to Borrego Springs and the Salton Sea.

**References:** John McKinney, LA Times November 98  
Jerry Schad, "Afoot and Afield in San Diego County"

Write-up: Gabriele Rau, Mark Hodgson 2000, Revised 3/06 by George Wysup