

NEWS RELEASE



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY AND MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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SOME CONSERVANCY PARKLAND CLOSED BY RECENT STORMS

Los Angeles—The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy announced today that recent heavy rainstorms and the resulting swollen creeks, land erosion, and mudslides have necessitated the temporary closure of some Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority parks in the Southern California area.

“It is vital for everyone’s safety that the public respect park closure signs and barricades, and do not try to enter a closed park or trail.” said Walt Young, Chief Ranger of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. “Park rangers are patrolling the parks, but land erosion and mudslides can be extremely unpredictable and dangerous. This is not a situation to take any risks.”

In the Santa Monica Mountains, Franklin Canyon Park, and San Vicente Mountain Park, Temescal Canyon Park, and Red Rock Canyon Park will be closed for at least 24 hours. In addition, Wilson Canyon, in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains above Sylmar will also be closed for at least several days.

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Flooding of the Bosque Del Rio Hondo has necessitated the closure of Bosque del Natural Area in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

In the Santa Clarita Valley, Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon, Mentryville and Pico Canyon, and East Canyon in the Santa Clarita Woodlands Park will be closed until further notice. The combination of the rains and the devastation of extremely hot brush fires fifteen months ago have caused excessive mudflows and debris. Trails have been washed out and may not be safe for recreational use. In addition, Whitney Canyon Park is also closed at least through the weekend.

In the Simi Hills, the Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park at Joughin Ranch, which was also severely burned in the 2003 fires is also temporarily closed.

Parks will be closed until damage and safety can be fully assessed, and heavy equipment can be moved in to perform repairs. For more information, contact MRCA Ranger Services at (310) 858-7272.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and its Joint Powers partner, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority are dedicated to the preservation and creation of parkland within the Santa Monica Mountains, and the Rim of the Valley Corridor including the Santa Clarita, La Crescenta, Simi and Conejo Valleys.

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