

Hike #461

IRENE

Mt. McKinley from Big Tujunga Road via Gold Creek Canyon Road

April 7 Irene

Round trip: 8 1/2 - 9 miles

Elevation gain: 3,200'

Time - 5 hours.

Degree of difficulty: Moderate

Reward: 360 degree view- Iron #2, Condor, Strawberry, Wilson Observatory, Lukens & part of the

San Fernando Valley

Driving Directions: From #210 Freeway West take Sunland exit, (from #210 East take Foothill Blvd.), turn right on Sunland which meets Foothill at the first light. Turn on Oro Vista (third light) which turns right into Big Tujunga Canyon Road. Drive 5 miles to Gold Creek Canyon Road to your left after a bridge. As there are no posted signs, you may park 8 - 10 cars off of Big Tujunga Road on either side seconds before the "Delta Flat 500 yards" signpost. Others may drive up to park on every bend on the dirt road.

The Hike: Hike up 100 meters from Big Tujunga Canyon Road to 3N29 which begins at a locked gate. Continue on this good dirt road negotiating numerous switchbacks to the first water tank for a cookie break. Continue to the second water tank at Gold Canyon Saddle.

Leave Gold Creek Canyon Road turning right onto an old road now reduced to a trail. (Time has not been kind to this road) to Gold Creek Saddle (4,200 ft.). Stay on this trail to the west of Yerba Buena Ridge for 3/4 mile till you reach the next saddle (4,620').

Leave the trail. Veer right on a faint trail on as easy ascent to the summit of Mt. McKinley. (4,926'). It's lunch time.

Descend down Yerba Buena Ridge (rugged at times) keeping to your right to avoid 4 bumps or retrace your earlier steps back to Gold Creek Saddle. The rest is plain sailing.

Notes: 1. Light rain or snow does not cancel this hike.

2. A very unlikely freak blizzard may force a retreat from any point after the second saddle.

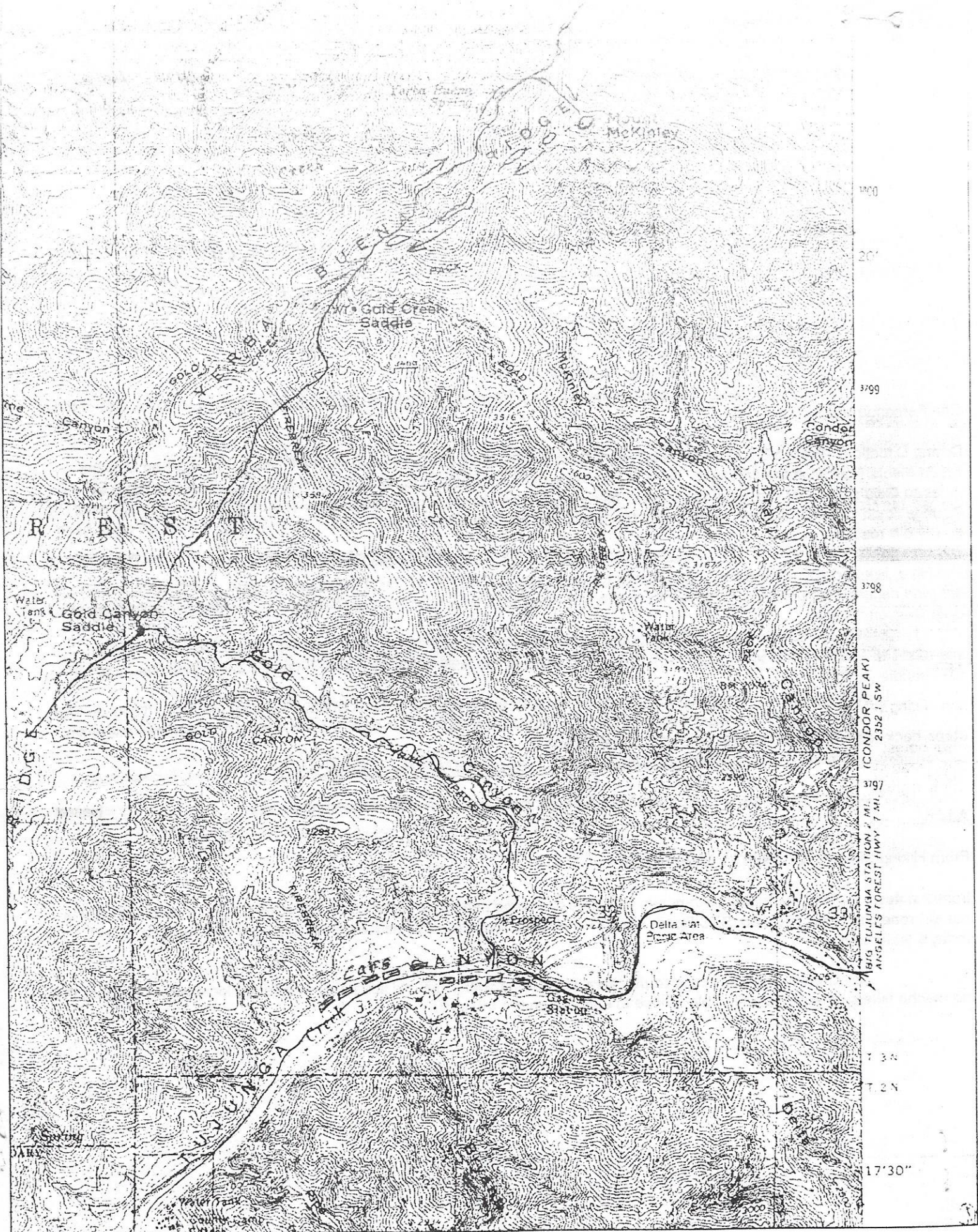
Hazrat

Adam

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Irene's notes: 1. Those wanting a strenuous hike from the same parking area may take Trail Canyon Road which intersects our dirt road just a few 100' from BTC Road. After 13 - 14 miles round trip this hike ascends Condor Peak, but this is not today's featured hike.

2. On two of my four trips to this area we saw not over a day old lion prints in different locations. I suggest that no macho hikers or laggards walk solo. I hope to see you on the mountain!



1900
2000
3799
3798
3197
3196
17'30"

(CONDOR PEAK)
2352' SW
BIG TUJUNGA STATION 7 MI.
ANGELES FOREST HWY 7 MI.