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Gold Creek To: Oak Spring / Yerba Buena Ridge / Fascination Spring

1/9/02, Ron Obert leader

A good winter hike; low, shaded only in the deep canyons, and only one stream crossing. My search of the records indicate that it has been "done" only by Tom Frye a decade ago (January of 92). This is "Trails of the Angeles" hike number 7. Averaging some conflicting data leads me to conclude:

Trail head to Yerba Buena Ridge (RT)	5.5 miles, 1100 ft
Trail head to Fascination Spring (RT)	7.5 miles, 2000 ft

Trail Head:

Turn off of the 210 Freeway at Osborn Street, which soon becomes Little Tujunga Canyon Road. Four miles from the Freeway, Gold Creek Road angles off to the right (East). The well-marked trailhead is 0.7 miles up Gold Creek Road. As always we hike at 9:30.

Hike:

The trail climbs the ridge south of Gold Creek, which is appropriately named for the 79th element that caused quite a stir in these parts, in the 19th century. In the 20th century the "legions" of Cecil B. De Mille regularly trampled the flora and scared the fauna. The first mile (+) is all up and offers views of the Hathaway School (go Hawks), across the canyon, and the Mendenhall ridge behind it. Oak Spring is reached at 1.5 miles - a good place for cookies.

Cross the steam and continue south, generally upward for another mile (+) to Yerba Buena Ridge and road. The signed trail to Fascination Spring is about 100 yards down the road and the grassy knoll (no, not that one) is another 100 yards. The knoll is a good destination and offers views of:

- The San Fernando Valley and your house, (if you are a valleyite)
- The north end of the Verdugo Range
- Hansen Dam (built in the late 30s)
- The Budweiser factory

For those continuing to Fascination Spring, the trail steeply drops 900 feet in about a mile. Stay left at the signed junction at .75 mile and another .25 mile brings you to the spring. (The "spring" is actually a small stream that crosses the trail 150 yards past a very obvious lone sycamore that is on the trail.)

Return the way you came.