

655

April 2 -- Stunt Road to Topanga Overlook -- Dick Battin

9:30 AM

Directions: 101 Freeway to Valley Circle/Mulholland exit

Go south and continue past commercial area to traffic light, VALMAR

Turn right and continue past one stop sign, and right on MULHOLLAND Highway.

Go 3.6 miles, turn left on STUNT ROAD and go 1 mile, park heading in.

PRIMARY HIKE: 7.4 miles, 1335' elevation

This goes up Stunt High Trail, to Topanga Look Out, then back and thru Cold Canyon Preserve

Description:

Opposite the Calabasas Motorway (1225'), a trail drops down to stream level. This is the Stunt High/Cold Creek Trail. An "Andy Gump" provides the only restroom facilities. Continue straight along the trail. Just as you leave the riparian canopy and come out into the open, a large trail turns sharply to the left (1110') and works its way uphill. Take a moment to stop at the intersection and find the large grinding stone that was used by the Native Americans to grind acorns and chia. A short distance up the hill and amidst the rose patch the trail forks. The trail to the right leads to Stunt Ranch and is closed to the public. The Lower Stunt High Trail (also known as the Islay Trail) branches to the left and ends at the parking area for Stunt Ranch. We walk 50 yds. up Stunt Road to the Upper Stunt High Trail on our left, paddle 1.94, (1575'). We hike .9 mile up the trail to Stunt Road (1990'). The upper gate to the Cold Creek Canyon Preserve is .5 mile further up the road (2160') and we will pass it on our way to Topanga Look Out (2470'). .5 mile further we meet a road junction and a fire road on the left leads to the abandoned Topanga Lookout that was once used by the fire department to spot fires. The road outlines the top of the Cold Creek Watershed. The views are spectacular. A road circles around the lookout through a large patch of Matilija poppies and leads out to an area recently purchased by the Mountains Restoration Trust to protect the ridge and the Cold Creek Canyon Preserve. We return to the upper gate to the Cold Creek Canyon Preserve. The trail is 1.7 miles long and ends at a locked gate .2 mile from refreshments and will be unlocked for a hug or handshake as the case may be, otherwise it's back up the trail. The Preserve is private and we must observe their rules, which we always do anyway: Stay on the trail, enjoy but don't pick the flowers, keep hand and feet dry, use only the main trail. We

must stay away from the Boulder House at the filled in pond due to earthquake damage. A German gold miner who homesteaded and grew celery in the creek built this. The Murphy's later dammed the flow of water creating a pond. A few remnant celery plants remain. In parts bay laurels, ceanothus and red shanks have formed a canopy over the trail. We will challenge Dr. Gardner and others to identify the flora throughout the hike. Thanks to Vicky and Jim Carlin for helping scout the hike.

OPTION 1 HIKE: 5.7 miles, 1245' elevation (Not recommended)

This goes up a steep ridge to Topanga lookout, then down thru Cold Creek Canyon Preserve

Description:

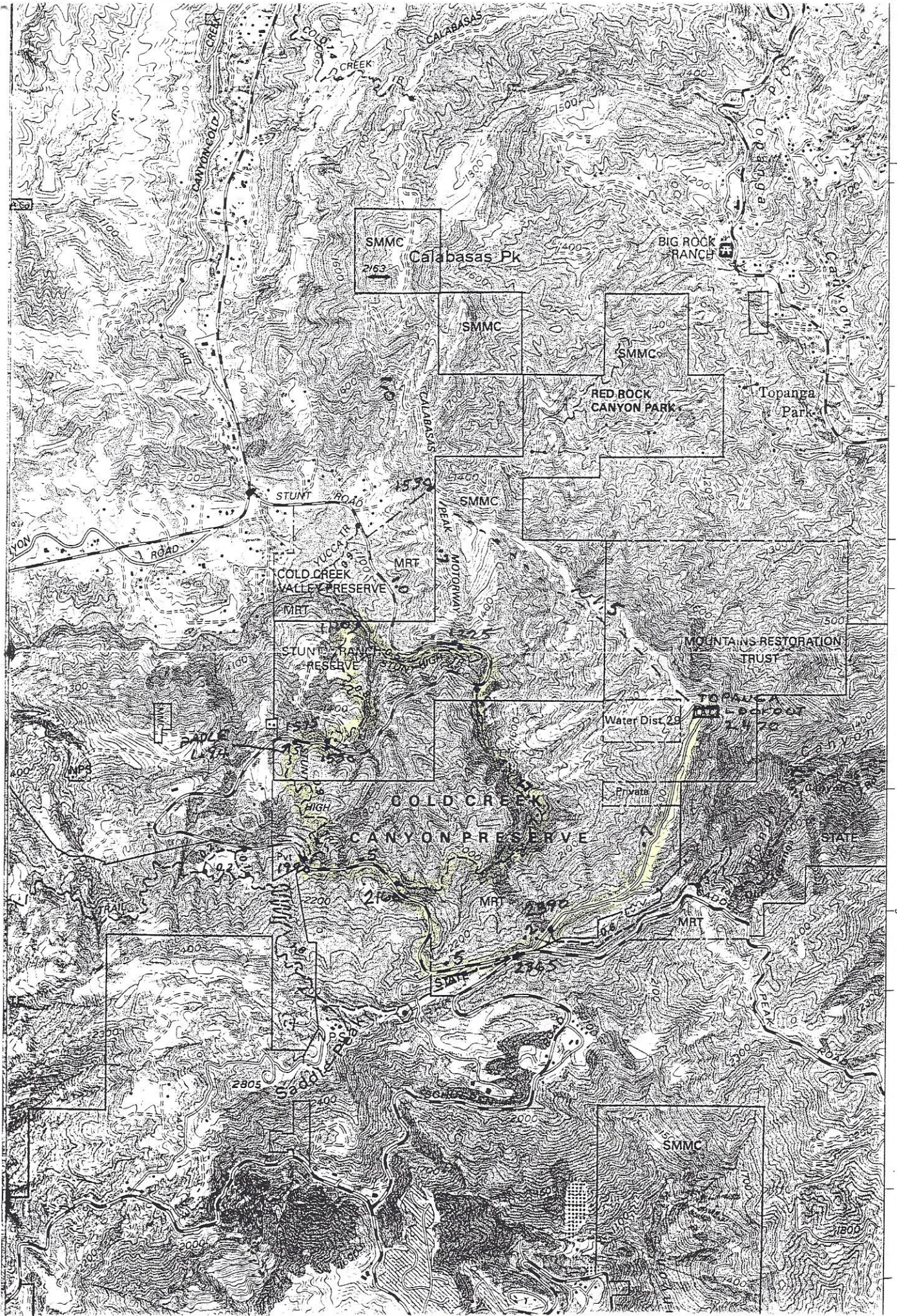
“The Calabasas Motorway is a rather steep, graded fire road. There are 3 destinations:

1. Red Rock Park turnoff to the right at .7 mile.
2. Calabasas Peak, 1.7 miles, (2163'). Continue straight on the motorway.
3. Topanga Lookout, 2.2 miles. 50 ft. short of the Red Rock turnoff, there is a trail that bears up to the right. However, for a fairly long stretch the trail degenerates into a rock scramble along the top of a hogback ridge. This route is not for the faint of heart. It is not an official trail but is a route that is used by thrill seekers. It does make it possible to do a loop of the watershed returning via the Topanga Motorway, and the Cold Creek Canyon Preserve”.

OPTION 2 HIKE: He–Man/She-Woman hike. 7.7 miles, 1845' elevation (Not recommended)

This goes up Calabasas Peak then down to follow OPTION 1 HIKE to Topanga Lookout.

NOTE: The Mountains Restoration Trust accepts donations and volunteers. Call 818-346-9675



SMMC
2163
Calabasas Pk

BIG ROCK RANCH

SMMC

SMMC

RED ROCK CANYON PARK

Topanga Park

STUNT ROAD
COLD CREEK VALLEY RESERVE
MRT

1570

SMMC

MOUNTAINS RESTORATION TRUST

STUNT RANCH RESERVE
MRT

Water Dist. 29

COLD CREEK CANYON PRESERVE

Private

STUNT ROAD
MRT

2190

MRT

2765

SMMC