



Black Mountain Truck Trail

[off of Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail]

ACCESS: *From Pamo Road:* From Hwy 67 (Main Street) in Ramona, west on Hwy 78 (10th Street), right on Haverford Road, and left on Pamo Road. Continue approximately 5.5 miles to the Pamo Road entrance to the Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail. The Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail provides access to the Black Mountain Truck Trail--1.4 miles from Pamo Road. Currently, trail users must park along the side of Pamo Road until the planned staging area is approved and constructed. An Adventure Pass is required to park (see “Appendix A” for further details).

From Sutherland Dam Road: [See “Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail.”]

LENGTH AND ELEVATION: 5.6 miles; 1660’ to 4050’.

DESCRIPTION: Black Mountain Truck Trail is located within the Cleveland National Forest off of the Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail. The trails in this area will provide one of the links in the San Dieguito River Park’s “Coast-to-Crest” trail system, which is still in the early stages.

On the ascent to the peak of Black Mountain, several unnamed trail spurs beckon the curious and adventurous trail user. For thirsty livestock, a spring-fed source of water is located adjacent to the main trail. Humans, however, should plan to pack in their drinking water, since no potable source is available. This recommendation is particularly wise during the summer months when temperatures soar. Vegetation is mostly chaparral, with occasional stands of Engelmann and Live Oak trees. Hence, there is little to no respite from the summer sun on the trail itself.

Near the peak of the mountain is a stand of non-native pine trees known as a “Penny Pines” project. This project got its name when local school children saved their pennies in order to fund the planting of pine tree stands on local mountain tops and ridges.

At the peak, visitors are rewarded with a breathtaking panoramic view of the surrounding area. And on a clear day, even the Pacific Ocean is visible.

RECOMMENDED USES: This truck trail is excellent for all categories of nonmotorized recreational use. There are isolated patches of rocky surface and some minor erosion but nothing that would hinder passage. Users should be aware that because this is a truck trail, motorized vehicles may be encountered.

