



## Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail

[Lake Sutherland to Pamo Valley]

**ACCESS:** From the intersection at 10th and Main Streets in Ramona, travel east on Hwy 78 for 6.4 miles; left at Sutherland Dam Road for 3 miles to the Lake Sutherland staging area. A forest service sign indicates the staging area. An Adventure Pass is required to park (see “Appendix A” for further details).

**LENGTH AND ELEVATION:** 5.7 miles one way; 1000’ to 2100’.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail (USYTT) is part of the Cleveland National Forest. 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.

From the Lake Sutherland staging area, start by turning left on Sutherland Dam Road. Approximately 3/4 mile from the staging area, Sutherland Dam Road intersects with Black Canyon Road. A right turn onto Black Canyon Road crosses a cement bridge that spans the Santa Ysabel Creek. Continue 1/4 mile to a large metal Forest Service gate on the left. Pass through the adjacent step-over gate onto the asphalt section of the historic Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail (ca. 1880). [Black Canyon Road continues to the right and goes to Mesa Grande Indian Reservation. However, it is *not* recommended for horses or bicycles due to the hazardous combination of vehicle activity and its narrow, winding route.]

The asphalt section of the USYTT leads to the now abandoned Black Canyon Campground. Just before entering the old campground, the trail veers to the left, crosses a creek via a cement spillway (which may be covered with seasonal water flow), and continues as a dirt surface to its destination in Pamo Valley. Where the trail skirts an old cattle guard, it is possible to take a short spur on the left to a scenic viewpoint. Further on, a shady oak grove provides a cool, scenic (undeveloped) area to break for rest or lunch. When the trail forks, the USYTT continues straight; and the Black Mountain Truck Trail on the right leads to the peak of Black Mountain. [See “Black Mountain Truck Trail.”] At the next fork, a short spur to the left yields a panoramic view of the north end of Pamo Valley. From this last fork, the USYTT veers to the right and winds down into Pamo Valley to its intersection with Pamo Road. [See “Pamo Road.”]

**RECOMMENDED USES:** This truck trail is excellent for all categories of non-motorized recreational use. Motorized vehicles may be encountered from the staging area until the gated entrance to the USYTT. Also, beyond the gate, the USYTT may be open to seasonal off-road vehicle activity (spring, summer, fall). *EQUESTRIAN*--approximately 300-400 yards of the trail is asphalt covered. Just beyond the asphalt is a spillway that crosses the creek and may be covered with seasonal water flow.

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