



Friends of the  
Desert Mountains

## PRESS RELEASE

45480 Portola Avenue, P.O. Box 1281  
Palm Desert, CA 92261  
760 568-9918 fax: 760 568-9908  
[www.desertmountains.org](http://www.desertmountains.org)

Friends of the Desert Mountains  
Scott Segal [ssegal@desertmountains.org](mailto:ssegal@desertmountains.org)  
760-862-9084

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### **Long Awaited Naturalist's Field Guide Now Available** Locally Produced Pocket Naturalist® Series Field Guide Highlights Flora & Fauna of the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

PALM DESERT, CA – Thanks to a generous grant from Southern California Edison, a new laminated, fold-up **Field Guide to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument** has just been released and is now available for purchase at the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, in Palm Desert. This guide, which retails for \$5.95, is the first in a series of informative natural history guides that will be produced through the SCE grant. A team of local naturalists and Friends of the Desert Mountains volunteers (Kurt Leuschner, Sue Adams, Tracy Albrecht, and Mark Fisher) donated their time and expertise to complete this project.

This informative guide showcases ten of the plant and animal communities found within the Monument. Fifteen signature species from each community are featured. The ability to experience all ten of these communities in a single day is one of the special features of the Monument. Local residents, visitors, docents, naturalists, and hikers in the Coachella Valley will want to pick up a copy. For more information stop by or call the National Monument Visitor Center (760-862-9984).

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#### **About Friends of the Desert Mountains**

Friends of the Desert Mountains is a Palm Desert-based non profit organization dedicated to protecting the magnificent mountains, scenic vistas, recreation trails and natural open spaces that make up the Coachella Valley. The mission of the organization is to secure, acquire and preserve lands in the Coachella Valley and the surrounding mountains, and to support education, conservation and research in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. To date, Friends of the Desert Mountains has acquired more than 30,000 acres of land throughout the Coachella Valley.

Let's be Friends.