



Friends of the  
Desert Mountains

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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **PALMS TO PINES BIRDING AND NATURE TRAIL SCENIC LOOP BUS TOUR Saturday, November 7, 2009; 9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

PALM DESERT, CA, (October 23, 2009) – This exciting “naturalist’s excursion by luxury coach,” presented by Friends of the Desert Mountains in support of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2009; 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring their binoculars and field guide and join local naturalist and expert ornithologist, Kurt Leuschner, on a birding adventure through the biotic communities of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

Stops will include various scenic locations along the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway, including Lake Hemet, Hurkey Creek, Idyllwild Nature Center and Lake Fulmor. The trip includes use of a spotting scope and opportunities to view pinyon jay, bald eagle, Scott’s oriole, California thrasher, whiteheaded woodpecker and other species featured in the *Palms to Pines Birding and Nature Trail* guide. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Group meets at the National Monument Visitor Center in Palm Desert by 8:45 a.m.

In light of the economy, ticket prices are discounted this year as follows: \$40 for the general public; \$25 for students with Student ID. All proceeds will go to fund Friends of the Desert Mountains’ activities and additional National Monument programs. Call 760-862-9984 between 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for more information or to reserve seating.

#### **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 helped preserve more than 37,000 acres of land throughout the Coachella Valley.

Let’s be Friends.