



Friends of the Desert Mountains

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MOST COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS MAP IN VALLEY'S HISTORY PREMIERES

Introduction is part of month-long 'Celebration of Trails' for Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Palm Desert, Calif., (June 12, 2008) – The most comprehensive trails map in the history of the Valley will premiere Thursday at the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center. The premiere will highlight a month-long 'Celebration of Trails' at the National Monument, including special educational hikes, nature walks and clean-up events, new interactive Google Earth exhibit and special offers from Friends of the Desert Mountains.

The new trails map recognizes the outstanding recreational, biological, cultural and geological values of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and in particular, its spectacular and diverse hiking trails. The map lists locations of more than 75 trails throughout the Monument, and offers trail ratings, hiking advice and safety reminders.

The first 50 maps purchased at the National Monument Visitor Center will be autographed by Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack. Bono Mack has been a leader of the bi-partisan effort that will congressionally recognize and unify important lands like the National Monument, through an expansive new network of protected areas called the National Landscape Conservation System.

Months in development, the new trails map is a collaboration between the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Bureau of Land Management, California State Parks, City of Palm Desert, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, Friends of the Desert Mountains, Palm Springs Life, Southern California Edison, Tahquitz Group of the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and the U.S. Forest Service.

On hand to celebrate the launch will be Buford Crites, Friends of the Desert Mountains Board Member; Jane Udall of the Desert Trails Hiking Club; Honorable Jean Benson, Palm Desert Mayor; Jim Foote, Manager, National Monument and Alice Bond of The Wilderness Society.

"We're proud to be a part of this historic occasion," said Friends of the Desert Mountains Board President, Ted Lennon. "The launch of the trails map is another significant addition to the richness of the National Monument, and supports the many programs and services brought to the community by the Friends of the Desert Mountains," he said.

The month-long 'Celebration of Trails' will continue until July 7th and includes:

- Autographed copies of the first 50 purchased map by Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack
- Register-to-win Friends of the Desert Mountains memberships, one of 25 commemorative Charlie Harper posters and other conservation-themed giveaways
- Thursday morning hikes from the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto National Monument Visitor Center – 6 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. every Thursday. (These hikes continue through Fall, 2008)

- Santa Rosa Mountain Clean-up Day – Sat., June 17; 7 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- Desert Survivor’s Nature Hike – Tues., June 17, 7 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- This Mountain Rocks! Nature & Geology Hike – Sat., June 21, 7 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- Santa Rosa Mountain Yellow Post Clean-up Day – Sat., June 21, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Hiking 101: Tips for the Trail – Thurs., June 26, 10 a.m. – 113:0 a.m.
- Is Anybody Home? Nature Hike – Sat., June 28, 7 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Visitor Center is located at 51-500 Highway 74, in Palm Desert. For more information, call the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984.

About Friends of the Desert Mountains

Friends of the Desert Mountains is a nonprofit organization formed in 1987 by concerned citizens of the community. The organization’s mission is to acquire and preserve land in the Coachella Valley and surrounding mountains, and to support education, conservation, and research in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument located in the area.

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