

Sunrise Meadow Ridge Trail

The Trail: The trail has five trailheads. The southernmost is located on Peregrine Cir. The next two northeastern trailheads are located on Smoke Tree Avenue. A trail junction extends down into Palo Comado Canyon from the south Smoke Tree Avenue trailhead to the east. That trail is within the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area. Moving north, the next trailhead is located off Sunnycrest Dr., and the northern most trailhead is off of Doubletree Road. That Doubletree Road trailhead extends to a sandal in the ridge to the east, at which point it joins with the north-south segment of the trail. That trail segment can be taken down into Palo Comado Canyon, which is also within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The trail includes some steep ups and downs.

Geology: The underlying bedrock is part of the Monterey Formation, also referred to as the Modelo Formation. It consists of white weathering, thin bedded, platy, siliceous shale to soft punky shale - devoid of sandstone. It is of late Miocene age, i.e., 9.5 to 5.3 million years and is of marine origin.

Plant Life: My plant survey was conducted on May 28, 2020. The entire landscape had experienced the catastrophic Woolsey Fire in 2018. The soils are very thin, so most of the landscape was dominated by ruderal grassland, with herbaceous species and a smattering of perennial species that are making a comeback by either the sprouting of seeds or root-crown regrowth. The most dominant plants are wild oats, hare barley (at least along the trail), bur clover, cliff aster, ripgut brome, slender tarweed, and black and Mediterranean mustards. Other species noted are valley oak, sow thistle, California pepper (near the trailhead), chaparral yucca, spring vetch, yellow star thistle, gourd (only one plant), arroyo willow, bindweed, narrow-leaved milkweed, strigose lotus, arroyo lupine, red-stem filagree, sawtooth golden bush, laurel sumac, bush mallow, wand buckwheat, California sagebrush, horehound, and California everlasting.

Animal Life: Animals that may be seen, or the tracks thereof, along the trail include: birds, such as red-tail and red-shouldered hawks, American kestrel, great horned and barn owls, California quail, mourning dove, common crow and raven, California towhee, white-crowned and English sparrows; reptiles, such as southern Pacific rattlesnake, San Diego gopher snake, California King snake, and Great Basin fence lizard; and mammals, such as brush and desert cottontail rabbits, Botta's pocket gopher, agile kangaroo rat, deer mice, various bats, coyotes, gray fox, California ground squirrel, striped skunk, mountain lion and bobcat.

While mountain lions are present in the hills around Simi Valley, encounters are unlikely, but you should always be alert. It is best that you do not hike alone, and that you keep small children close at hand. Rattlesnakes may be encountered — Stay on the trail and avoid them when they are encountered — Be observant and never try to handle them. Do not handle any wildlife, including bats, even if they appear to be injured or sick. Remember, you are visitors to their homes.

**Mike Kuhn,
Executive Chair,
Rancho Simi Trail Blazers**

*Please see **Trail Safety Tips** at this trail's main page for more info.*

