For your safety and the preservation of sensitive habitat...
- Please stay on designated trails and obey posted information.
- Dogs are allowed on leash.
- Open fires and smoking are prohibited.
- Overnight camping is prohibited and overnight parking is not permitted in staging areas.
- Possession of firearms or other weapons is prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed on trails.
- Please help protect the special nature of the river valley… the collection of plant, animal or cultural specimens is strictly prohibited.

There are no facilities on the trails. Please remember to bring along enough water. The Preserve is open (weather permitting) from 8:00 a.m. to sunset daily.

The Coast to Crest Trail is open to hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. The Five Oaks Trail is open to hikers only.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: San Dieguito River Park trails and activities are limited to public lands and private lands whose owners have given written consent. Inclusion in the Park’s Focused Planning Area in no way affects the property rights of the owner. Private property may not be entered without the owner’s permission. Trespassers may be subject to prosecution.

Established in 1989, the 92,000-acre San Dieguito River Park provides nature enthusiasts with striking examples of San Diego County’s natural landscape from the Pacific Coast to the Pacific Crest. Learn more at www.sdrp.org.

Enjoy your visit!

About the Trail

The Volcan Mountain ridge—rising over a mile on the Pacific Crest—is iconic as both the location of the headwaters of the San Dieguito River and as the highest point in the San Dieguito River Park. Ironside Spring on this ridge feeds Santa Ysabel Creek, which meets Santa Maria Creek in San Pasqual Valley 25 miles further west to become the San Dieguito River. The eastern slopes of the mountain fall rapidly to the expanse of the Anza-Borrego Desert in the valley floor below. Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve is home to mixed conifer, oak and cedar forest, native grassland and seasonal ponds. The woodland transitions to desert chaparral on the rugged, drier, east side of the ridge. This extensive montane ecosystem supports many sensitive plant and animal species. Two trails take visitors to the summit of Volcan Mountain, with sweeping views of Earthquake Valley and the Salton Sea. A clear day may even reveal the ocean beyond the rolling expanse of Santa Ysabel Valley. The Five Oaks Trail is a beautiful retreat from the main route, with examples of each of the oak species that give the trail its name. The striking entry monument was designed by architect James Hubbell and constructed by dedicated volunteers. Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve is accessible from Farmer Road north of Julian. Parking is available on Farmer Road.

The main trail is a segment of the San Dieguito River Park’s Coast to Crest Trail, stretching 70 miles from the Coast in Del Mar to the Pacific Crest. The Volcan Mountain Foundation seeks to protect the unique character, natural and cultural resources of Volcan Mountain through land acquisition and respectful stewardship. To learn more, visit www.volcanmt.org.

The Preserve is managed by the County of San Diego Parks & Recreation Department. For more information, contact ranger staff at (760) 765-4098. For maps and information about all the trails in the San Dieguito River Park, visit www.sdrp.org.