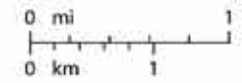


LEGEND

- Silver Peak Wilderness
 - Los Padres National Forest
 - California State Park
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - University of California Reserve
 - Fort Hunter Liggett
 - Botanical Area
 - Special Interest Area
 - Research Natural Area
 - Wild and Scenic River
 - Camp
 - Permanent Gate
 - Seasonal Gate
 - Peak *elev in ft*
 - Spot Elevation
 - 6E06 USFS Trail No.
 - Water Body
 - Creek
 - River
 - Highway
 - Primary Road
 - Secondary Road
 - Trail
- Contours (100 ft interval)
-



Sources: Jack Glendening, USGS, CalAtlas, Monterey County, US Forest Service
 Scale: 1:60,000 - 1 in = 5,000 ft - Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 10 North

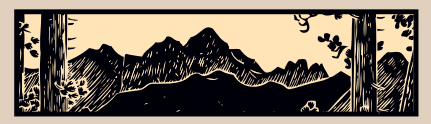
Map design by Aaron Cole
 Center for Integrated Spatial Research
 University of California, Santa Cruz

This map is produced as a public service by the **VENTANA WILDERNESS ALLIANCE**.

Visit ventanawild.org or scan the QR code for trail conditions reports and more. This map is not intended for route finding or travel. VWA assumes no liability for the usage of this map.



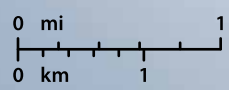
ENJOY and PROTECT The SILVER PEAK WILDERNESS



Ventana Wilderness Alliance



This map is produced by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, which is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Welcome to the Silver Peak Wilderness

Big Sur, where California's Santa Lucia Range juts skyward from the Pacific Ocean, is a meeting place of stunning contrasts. North meets south, redwood forests meet sage scrub, and the mountains meet the sea. Thanks to conservation efforts, over 313,000 acres of this magnificent landscape are set aside as the **Monterey Ranger District of Los Padres National Forest**, an area so spectacular that more than 80% of it has been permanently protected as Wilderness. Much of the District remains remote and inaccessible even today, but along Big Sur's south coast, four trailheads depart directly from California Highway One, offering a unique opportunity for visitors, whether rich or poor, to experience a rare coastal vestige known as the **Silver Peak Wilderness**.

A Bounty of Cultural and Natural History

The Silver Peak Wilderness protects 31,555 acres of pristine wildlands harboring outstanding coastal views, biological rarities and cultural resources lending a glimpse into California's past. Within its nearly 3,500 feet of vertical relief and three designated botanical areas, one can experience seven species of conifers, including the southernmost and easternmost stands of coast redwood, relictual groves of Santa Lucia fir and serpentine-dependent Sargent cypresses. Scientists, students, dedicated naturalists and casual hikers alike have much to learn by wandering these sinuous trails and admiring the grand coastal vistas, which many consider the finest in Big Sur.



Yours to Enjoy, Yours to Protect

The Silver Peak Wilderness offers a rare combination of primitive recreation, high-value conservation and fee-free trailhead access to visitors and residents of the California coast. The Silver Peak's Cruikshank, Buckeye and Salmon Creek Trails serve as excellent alternatives to the often congested State Parks and heavily impacted Big Sur River corridor to the north. But increasing human visitation is having a profound impact on this special place. With limited US Forest Service budgets to manage recreational use of the Silver Peak, it is up to all of us to enjoy these public lands responsibly.

Learn more at ventanawild.org

The 2016 Soberanes Fire in northern Big Sur was caused by an illegal abandoned campfire. It is a grim reminder of how inappropriate behavior can lead to the loss of human life and property as well as landscape-level destruction of natural and cultural resources. It was the most expensive wildfire suppression effort in US history!

That's why the Ventana Wilderness Alliance, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, partners with the US Forest Service to educate visitors about the Big Sur backcountry and how to enjoy it responsibly. Thank you for reading this brochure in its entirety. Your commitment to Leave No Trace ethics is essential if we are to preserve this spectacular wildland for future generations to enjoy.

Learn and Practice the Leave No Trace Seven Principles:



1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

- "Know Before You Go." Check with the US Forest Service at www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf/ or call **831-385-5434** for current fire restrictions in the Silver Peak Wilderness

and to obtain a **Campfire Permit**, which is required for both fires AND stoves.

- There is no reservation or permitting system for **camping** in the Silver Peak Wilderness. Sites are available on a first come, first served basis.
- Cell phone service is virtually nonexistent in Big Sur. Do not count on it for information. Know before you go!
- Check the **Trail Conditions for the Silver Peak Wilderness** at ventanawild.org. Post a trail report upon your return.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Keep your group size to four people or fewer if possible.
- Bring food you can cook with a stove (not a fire).
- Bring bags to pack out trash and dedicated bags to pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- Use GPS technology or a map and compass to eliminate the use of rock cairns or flagging on difficult trails.



2. Minimize Campfire Impacts

- During Fire Restrictions (usually from May through November) campfires and smoking are not permitted ANYWHERE in the wilderness, and during extreme conditions

even stoves are not permitted. (See "Plan Ahead" section on obtaining a Campfire Permit.)

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and a lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings. Do not build up fire rings or create new ones.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand to scatter the ashes that are cold to the touch.



3. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel or dry grasses. Protect riparian areas by camping as far as possible from streams. Good campsites are found, not made. **Do not alter campsites or make new ones.**
- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
 - Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
 - Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of auxiliary campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.



4. Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not approach, follow or handle wildlife.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Please consider leaving your dog at home. If you do bring your dog, please use a leash.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.



5. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.
- **Playing amplified music on the trail or in camp is not appropriate in wilderness.** Leave the technology at home.



6. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. It's that simple. There is no garbage service in the wilderness. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.

- Deposit solid human waste in cat holes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover and disguise the cat hole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products. Bring a dedicated plastic bag to pack out these materials.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.



7. Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic artifacts and structures
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture or dig trenches.
- Do not stack rocks.