NEWS RELEASE

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

For Immediate Release November 15, 2008 Contact: Dash Stolarz (323) 221-9944 x198

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Announce Temporary Closure of Area Parks Due to Sayre Fire

Los Angeles—As a result of the recent Sayre Fire, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) announced temporary closure today of some of its parkland in the fire-affected areas of the San Gabriel Mountains, and Santa Clarita Woodlands. The parks will be closed until further notice.

Wilson Canyon in Sylmar, which sustained major fire damage, will be closed for at least a week while MRCA staff conducts natural resource and public safety assessments. The MRCA Chief Ranger, Ken Nelson, has asked the public to respect park closure signs and barricades and not try to enter a closed park or trail. "The conditions can be unpredictable," said Nelson. "Park rangers will be patrolling the parks, but the post-fire situation can be extremely dangerous."

Parks Closed Until Further Notice:

In Sylmar:

Wilson Canyon Park—Sustained Major Fire Damage

In Santa Clarita

Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon:

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East Canyon Trailhead

Mentryville

In Newhall:

Whitney Canyon Park (Owned by the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority. Operated by MRCA.)

Elsmere Canyon

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the California State Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve over 60,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, and has improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a Public Agency of the State of California formed pursuant to the Joint Powers Act between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, and the Conejo Recreation and Park District. It has helped to preserve more than 60,000 acres of public parkland throughout the Southern California region.

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