

# **US Forest Service Commercial Filming & Photography**

Mountaintop Ranger District  
Big Bear – Arrowhead – Barton Flats  
c/o Inland Empire Film Services  
195 N. Del Rosa Dr., Suite 6, San Bernardino, CA 92408  
(909) 460-8100, x101 ~ [usfs@iefilmpermits.com](mailto:usfs@iefilmpermits.com)

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## **General:**

The Forest Service permits commercial filming & Photography on public lands. Like other commercial uses of National Forest System lands (NFS) and resources, commercial filming & photography require a Temporary Special Use Permit issued by the District Ranger.

Prior to the issuance of the permit, the Forest Service will determine if there are any environmental concerns in the proposed shoot location. The Forest Service may deny permits for filming that depict practices prohibited on NFS lands (i.e. operating vehicles off-road, maintaining an illegal campfire, littering, etc).

The Forest Service encourages use of environmental messages and depiction of environmentally sound practices in connection with the filming. Staff will work with the film producers on ways to incorporate such messages and practices in a manner consistent with the production.

## **Obtaining a Location and Permit:**

The production company should contact Inland Empire Film Services (IEFS) describing the type of location desired and the activity or effect to be captured on film. They may suggest areas that have the desired "look" saving the company hours of scouting or may refer the production company to the District Office for more detailed assistance. Once a location is chosen, obtain the permitting information from IEFS.

## **Insurance:**

The Special Use Permit requires that the permit holder indemnify the United States against any liability arising from the use or occupancy of NFS lands. The permit requires the holder to have their insurance company name the United States Government as an additionally insured party. The minimum required liability coverage shall be as follows: 1) General liability, each occurrence - \$300,000; 2) Property damage (each occurrence) - \$25,000; 3) Death or injury (to one person) - \$100,000; and 4) Death and injury (to more than one person) - \$300,000. A copy of a Certificate of Insurance **and** a letter of endorsement (ISO form # CG-20-12-07-98 or equivalent) will be required prior to the issuance of the permit. In the event that aircraft will be used, an **additional** Certificate of Insurance **and** Letter of Endorsement, naming the United States Government as additionally insured, in the amount of \$10 million is required (see "Aircraft" for regulations). Drones will require UAS/Aircraft Insurance in the amount of \$2 million. **NO HAND-WRITTEN CERTIFICATES OR ENDORSEMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

The following clauses must be shown **verbatim** on the Certificate or Binder and the Letter of Endorsement:

In the Certificate Holder Box: **"USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333."**

In the Description of Operations Box: **"It is understood and agreed that the United States Government, in care of USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333, is additionally insured solely as respects liability arising from the operations of the named insured."**

And

**"It is understood and agreed that the coverage provided under this policy will not be cancelled or its provisions changed or deleted before thirty (30) days written notice to the United States Government, in care of the USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333."**

On the Letter of Endorsement: **"USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333."**

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**"It is understood and agreed that the coverage provided under this policy will not be cancelled or its provisions changed or deleted before thirty (30) days written notice to the United States Government, in care of the USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333."**

**Fees:**

Permit fees are based on the number of production employees and dates required for the shoot. All fees are due and payable prior to filming. All fees are subject to change without notice.

**Still Photography**

1-10 persons: \$105.87/day  
 11-30 persons: \$317.53/day  
 31+ persons: \$529.21/day

**Motion Picture, Television, Video**

1-10 persons \$ 317.53/day  
 11-30 persons \$ 423.35/day  
 31-60 persons \$1,058.42/day  
 61+ persons \$1,274.16/day

IEFS Fee \$225 per permit (non-refundable)\*

Once your total is calculated, IEFS will send you an invoice with instructions on how to pay. NOTE: payment must be in advance of your permit being processed. Non-payment will stall your permit application and could result in your permit being denied.

**Cost Recovery:**

In order to respond to the needs of the industry, it is necessary for our representatives to put aside their normal work to process permit requests and conduct studies that may be needed to facilitate the use of an area.

In some cases, a Forest Officer or a third party monitor may be assigned to the production as a monitor to insure resource protection and public safety. The monitor will act as the District Ranger's representative approving or disapproving requests that may occur during filming. The monitor also has the authority to suspend operations for non-compliance.

The production company will pay expenses incurred by the Forest Service through Cost Recovery, depending on the amount of time necessary to process the permit application and monitoring if needed. (Processing and Monitoring are assessed separately). All Special Use Permits for filming on the National Forest are subject to Cost Recovery.

2023 Processing and Monitoring Fee Schedule		
Fee Category	Hours	Rate
1 (Minimal Impact)	>1 and up to and including 8	\$151
2	> 8 and up to and including 24	\$TBD
3	> 24 and up to and including 36	\$TBD
4	> 36 and up to and including 50	\$TBD
5 (Master Agreement)	Varies	As specified in the agreement
6	> 50	Full reasonable costs, except MLA Full actual costs (MLA)

**Public Access:**

Public access to the set may be restricted during rehearsals and actual filming periods. However, the closure of any area to the general public be considered on a case-by-case basis. The needs of Forest visitors must be considered when planning activities. **Special Use Permits do not grant exclusive use.**

**Filming Schedules:**

Filming may be restricted on weekends between 5:00 pm on Fridays and 6:00 am on Mondays. Filming may not be allowed on holidays. Night filming will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Generally, night shooting will be restricted if residents of nearby campgrounds or private residences will be disturbed by noise, light, and other related filming activity.

*\*to avoid this fee, you can contact the USFS directly for permit processing – (909) 382-2728. This may also increase your permit processing time to 4 weeks or more.*

**Special Effects:**

Pyrotechnics, use of weapons, temporary construction, etc. will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All special effects must be approved prior to filming. In some cases, Forest Officers, County Fire Officers and/or fire suppression equipment will be required (See Collection Agreements).

**Vehicle Operation:**

- All roadways are to be kept open to the public.
- During filming, a road may NOT be closed for an extended period of time.
- Emergency traffic is allowed through at alltimes.
- Vehicles are NOT allowed off of legal roads. (Roads not shown on the Forest map are often illegal and cannot be used.)
- Parking areas will be determined prior to the shoot. Parking can be extremely limited and the use of shuttle vehicles is encouraged.

**Winter Road Closures:**

The following roads are closed in November (dates vary due to weather) to all vehicular travel: 1N02, 1N05, 1N54, 1N96, 2N06, 2N08, 2N10, 2N13, 2N13C, 2N27, 2N68, 2N80, 2N93, 3N09 and the dirt road just East of Snow Valley Ski Area that accesses the Camp Creek Trailhead. Gates are used to close these roads in order to protect the road surface and to provide non-motorized winter recreation activities. Other roads, although not closed, are not maintained during the winter season and may be impassable.

**Aircraft:**

Flight operations, flight paths, and landing zones must be approved in advance. Tail numbers, make, model, color, frequency monitored, etc., will be provided to the Federal Interagency Communication Center. A FAA approval, in writing, is also required. See "Insurance" for additional insurance requirements. A Forest Service monitor (at the expense of the production company) will be required for any production using aircraft. The company will provide direct radio communication between the aircraft and the monitoring ranger. All Federal and State aircraft regulations apply.

**Representative:**

A bona fide representative of the production company must be on the location at the time of the shoot. This representative is responsible for following the permit terms as well as any special direction required by the District Ranger.

**Credits:**

We **require** credit be given as follows:

"Filmed on location in the San Bernardino National Forest"

And Special thanks be given as follows:

"Mountaintop Ranger District – Big Bear"

and

"Inland Empire Film Services"

**Who to Contact:**

IEFS will be handling the permit process for the US Forest Service – Mountaintop Ranger District – (909) 460-8100, x101; [usfs@iefilmpermits.com](mailto:usfs@iefilmpermits.com). They can also assist you with finding local crew, vendors, locations or permits for other jurisdictions around the Nation Forest.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political belief, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.



SAN BERNARDINO

# National Forest

## Photography/Filming Request



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Title & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Backup contact Title & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FedEx #: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX #: \_\_\_\_\_

Production Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Production Information:

Type Film, please check which one or ones apply:

- Still Photography
- Commercial
- TV Movie
- TV Episodic
- Feature
- Music Video
- Corporate Video
- Other

Proposed Location(s) (including size of area needed): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Set Up (date, length of time, time of day) \_\_\_\_\_

Filming (start/stop): \_\_\_\_\_

Breakdown and restoration (start/stop): \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate filming date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parking (vehicles, equipment, aircraft): \_\_\_\_\_

Staging (dressing rooms, catering, portable restrooms, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Stunts/Special Effects Proposed**, please check which one or ones apply:

- Pyrotechnics  Hazardous Materials  Wild Animals  Aerial Stunts  Riparian Area  Developed Recreation Site  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Request Information**, please check which one or ones apply:

- Wilderness  Use of aircraft (type, time of day, flight path)  Weather  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of people on location: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Description of Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Including map of area, proposed ground disturbing activities, attach narratives and story boards as needed)

**III. Description of Equipment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment detail**, please check which one or ones apply:  Generators  Cars  Trucks  RV's  Other

**Action involving vehicles and/or equipment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Props proposed:**

**Traffic and safety control/special closures measures needed** (Have you obtained permission to use improvements not owned by/under the jurisdiction of the United States Government ,i.e. structures, roadways, etc.):

**\*Please attach any other relevant information with additional sheets to the end of this application.**

## 2. For Forest Service Use Only

Fees:

Photography/Filming fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Collection Agreement/Cost Recovery: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate of Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_

Bonding Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner Permission Required:  Yes  No

Road Encroachment Permit Required:  Yes  No

### Fee Schedule 2024:

**Processing Fee - \$151.00**

#### **Still Photography (if permit required)**

**1- 10 persons \$105.87/day**

**11-30 persons: \$317.53/day**

**30+ \$529.21/day**

#### **Motion Picture and Television Location:**

**1-10 persons \$317.53/day**

**11-30 persons \$423.35/day**

**31-60 persons \$1,025.42/day**

**60+ : \$1,274.16/day**

**EXHIBIT A**  
**OPERATING PLAN**

The following terms must be met for this authorization to remain in effect:

1. This authorization is not to be interpreted as exclusive to the production company. The roads near the areas occupied are to remain open to public travel. Fire and other emergency vehicles going into or out of the areas under this authorization will always be given immediate access.
2. This authorization is contingent upon the holder acquiring all necessary permits and /or permission from affected agencies (CALTRANS, CA Highway Patrol, County of San Bernardino, FAA, BB Municipal Water District, City of Big Bear Lake, etc.) or private landowners.
3. Use of fire and prevention:
  - a. CAMPFIRE – Campfires are not authorized.
  - b. SMOKING – Smoking will be permitted within enclosed vehicles only while traveling. Outside of vehicles, individuals must clear an area three feet in diameter to mineral soil. All cigarettes must be extinguished and buried in mineral soil before leaving any smoking area.
  - c. PARKING – To prevent a wild land fire due to hot exhaust, vehicles must be parked in areas predetermined by the Forest Service or in cleared areas free of flammable materials. Access to all Forest Service system roads must be kept clear at all times. Staging or off-site parking must be approved in advance.
  - d. FIREWORKS – No fireworks or other incendiary devices shall be brought onto or used on any National Forest lands within the boundaries of the San Bernardino National Forest.
  - e. SPARK ARRESTERS AND MUFFLERS – A muffler or spark arrester satisfactory to the authorized officer shall be maintained on the exhausts of all vehicles or other internal combustion engines used in connection with this authorization.
4. Avoid all destruction, defacement, or carving of trees, shrubs and all natural features. Use no boughs for beds or shelters. Collecting live plant material is forbidden except by special permit from the Forest Service.
5. The Permittee shall protect the scenic aesthetic values of the area under this authorization and adjacent land as far as possible with the authorized use, during construction, operation and maintenance of the production site.
6. The Permittee shall take reasonable precautions to prevent pollution of or deterioration of the lands or water that may result from the exercise of the privileges extended by this permit.
7. Trash and garbage will be removed from the site and dispose of at the DobleDump.
8. Signs are not to be nailed to or hung from trees or other vegetation. Directional signs will be removed at the close of production.
9. An authorized agent of the company must be on site throughout the shooting.

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



**UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE  
BIG BEAR RANGER DISTRICT  
ANIMAL STIPULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL FILMING**

1. Animals not endemic to the area shall be under the control of **qualified handlers at all times**. Animals shall **NOT** be allowed to feed on natural vegetation.
2. Permittee is responsible for providing appropriate feed and water for the animals. Plant-eating animals shall be fed non-germinating pellets or certified weed-free hay for two days prior to filming **AND** during filming on USFS lands. Animals will be either tied to a parked vehicle; contained in a free standing fenced corral; and/or housed within a trailer in a parking area or road, when not in use.
3. All animal “waste” shall be removed from USFS lands on a daily basis. Transmission of diseases from domestic animals to wildlife will be avoided through appropriate action (vaccines, avoidance of contact, etc).

Permittee acknowledges, by signing below, that he/she knows, understands and accepts the terms and conditions under which this permit is issued.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Permittee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Animal Wrangler Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Permittee Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Animal Wrangler Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number



**SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST**  
**SPECIAL USE – AIRCRAFT NOTIFICATION FORM**

Any Special Use Authorization (permit) holder that requires the use of aircraft (fixed or rotor wing) within the San Bernardino National Forest will be required to fill out this form. Submission of this form will be routed through the District or Forest Lands Program Manager to the Forest Aviation Officer.

All "Aircraft Notification Forms" must be completed and submitted at least 3 business days prior to the desired flight date.

**Required Information**

**Project Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of project: \_\_\_\_\_ Time(s) proposed: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Second Contact having direct commo. with aircraft: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude/Longitude (preferred Degrees.Decimal Minutes format) \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft Tail Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Aircraft Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Aircraft Make/Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft Tail Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Aircraft Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Aircraft Make/Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft Tail Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Aircraft Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Aircraft Make/Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact radio frequency aircraft will monitor during project: \_\_\_\_\_

-Agency Use Only-

**Lands Program** Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Forest Aviation Officer** (meaton@fs.fed.us) Received Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Forward to:(circle)      FICC    HPS    KWLD    SBDATB    SBDHTB



## Rare Animals of the San Bernardino National Forest – San Bernardino Mountains

The San Bernardino National Forest is home to a number of rare plants and animals. Our biologists are trying to learn more about these unique species and we could use your help! If you should ever encounter any of the species described below, please record sightings, including information about what you saw, when you saw it, and where you saw it. Photographs would be greatly appreciated. All of these animals are protected species—please do not handle them, collect them, or harm them in any way.



### Rare Reptiles

These rare snakes and lizards are often found in areas with a lot of rocks or logs. None of them are venomous but may bite if bothered. If you see them, leave them alone and let them leave the area on their own.

← San Bernardino Mountain Kingsnake: This colorful snake has declined in numbers due to over-collecting by people who want to keep them as pets. These snakes are between 20 – 40 inches long.

### San Bernardino Ringneck Snake: →

This two-toned snake flashes its orange belly when intimidated or scared to scare off predators. These snakes are between 10 – 16 inches long.

FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.



Southern Rubber Boa: → This small docile snake looks like an overgrown earthworm. It is active at dawn and dusk, especially during rainy periods. The southern rubber boa is extremely rare and lives in downed logs and rocky outcrops.

FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED AND STATE



### Terrestrial Mountain Garter Snake (below left) and Aquatic Two-Striped Garter Snake (below right):

These small active snakes are common in the mountains. The aquatic garter snake is found near water and eats small fish, tadpoles, and invertebrates. The terrestrial garter snake is found at higher elevations in the San Bernardino Mountains. FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.



## Mammals

Mammals can be found across a wide variety of habitats and are abundant on the San Bernardino National Forest.



← San Bernardino flying squirrel: This mammal is a subspecies of the northern flying squirrel and it is only known to occur in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. **They don't actually fly**—instead, they glide on thick pieces of skin spread between their legs. These animals like to den in cavities at the top of dead trees. Flying squirrels **are much smaller than the common gray squirrel; they're** closer in size to our local chipmunks. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

Ringtail: This nocturnal carnivore is known to live in hollow trees, logs, and cavities on our forest. They stick close to streams and riparian areas but may be found on open ground near bushes and rocky out-crops. Ringtails may be confused with raccoons because of their striped tail, however they are much smaller averaging between 24—32 inches long with the tail being more than half the length of their body. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**



← American badger: Active mainly at night during all seasons, the badger has a triangular face with distinctive black and white pattern, and brown or blackish "badges" marking the cheeks. It also has a white stripe extending from the nose to the base of the head. Badgers can be aggressive in defending their territory. They use their distinctively long front claws to excavate lengthy tunnel systems and to dig prey out of holes in the ground. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**



Western Spotted Skunk: The spotted skunk is much smaller than its more common relative the striped skunk. With an average size ranging between 14– 22 inches, this small omnivore forages mainly at night in brushy, rocky, and riparian areas. They den in cavities, burrows, brush piles and under buildings. Like other skunks, these animals will spray an obnoxious scent when threatened. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**



Porcupine: There are old records for porcupine in the Big Bear area but none have been recorded since the mid-1990s. We believe they still exist here and want to hear about sightings. This plant-eater nibbles on tree bark and young branches. They den in burrows, rock crevices, and hollow trees. They move slowly and have poor eyesight. **Contrary to popular belief, they don't throw their needle-like quills.** Instead they erect them and back towards a predator giving them a snout-full of quills (especially dogs). Please report sightings to the Forest Service. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**



### Rare Amphibians

Amphibians are usually associated with water or very moist areas. Their eggs are laid in water and they spend their first life stage there as tadpoles. Then the tadpoles grow legs and they move onto land. They like areas with logs or a lot of leaf litter. These animals are harmless and will not bite. If you are lucky enough to see one, please leave it alone.

#### Large-blotched and Monterey Salamanders → Slender Salamander

These are the only salamanders that occur in the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains. They are nocturnal and most active during wet periods. Typically found under logs or in moist areas. These salamanders are about 2 –3 inches long.

FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED



Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog: This frog was once our most common frog; now it is very rare. Part of its decline is probably due to an increase in non-native predators, habitat loss, water pollutants, and disease. Contact one of the biologists below immediately if this animal is seen. **FEDERALLY ENDANGERED. FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**



#### Other Important Information:

- You may observe many other animals that are not shown on this flyer. If you do, please be aware that it may be a protected species (we could not fit all potential species on this flyer). Therefore, please do not harm, handle, or collect any of our forest animals.
- If you see any of these animals, please leave them be and try to minimize disturbance.
- Please take note of their appearance, behavior, and location. Take a photo if possible.
- For questions or to report sightings, contact Forest Service District Biologist Robin Eliason (reliason@fs.fed.us). Photos and observations are greatly appreciated.

### Animal Signs and Avoidance Areas

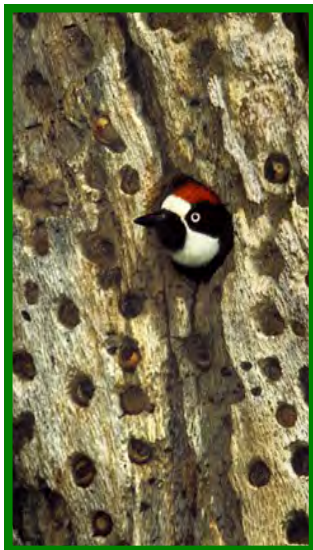
Listed below are several examples of important habitat features that many of our rare animals use. It is critical to their survival that we try our best to reduce the damage caused to these areas. If possible, try to limit the disturbance of your project in and around these important features.



**Bird Nests:** Birds don't just nest in trees. Some species nest on the ground in shallow scraps in the dirt; others nest in or under bushes. It is important to look for active nests in bushes and shrubs or other vegetation before disturbing the plants. Nests with eggs or chicks must be avoided. If there are adult birds in the immediate area that seem to be upset by your presence, that is another clue that an active nest is present. Old inactive nests will look like they are falling apart and may have spider webs across them. It is okay to disturb or destroy inactive nests. When moving through grassy areas, it is important to watch where you step so that nests are not disturbed or crushed.



**Woodrat Nests:** Woodrats are an important rodent in the forest ecosystem. They are the main prey item for the California Spotted owl and their nests offer shelter for reptiles including the San Bernardino Mountain Kingsnake. The nests are typically built around the base of a shrub or downed tree. They are constructed of sticks and other woody material.



**Snags:** Dead trees are also called snags. Not all snags are a hazard. Snags serve as food cache sites for many animals. The food reserves help some animals make it through the colder months. Cavities in the tree offer shelter for birds, squirrels, raccoons, and bats. Sloughing bark offers a day roost site for bats. Snags are also habitat in the life cycle of many insects.



## Rattlesnake Identification and Safety



Rattlesnake Identification: Rattlesnakes are the only venomous snake in the San Bernardino Mountains. The most common rattlesnake you will find on the San Bernardino National Forest is the southern Pacific rattlesnake (left). Although rattlesnakes have several distinctive features, many people are not sure how to identify one. Rattlesnakes have a powerful body, thin neck, and a well-defined triangular or arrow-shaped head.

Looking for the characteristic rattle on the tail (right) is a good method to identify rattlesnakes, but sometimes these rattles are lost.



Using the snake's color or pattern is NOT a reliable method of identification. In the San Bernardino Mountains, full-grown Pacific rattlesnakes tend to be dark in color – almost black without obvious patterning (right). Young rattlesnakes, on the other hand may be a lot lighter in coloration with very obvious patterns (above left).

By comparison, a non-venomous snake tends to look more like a snake a child rolls out of clay: the head, neck and body have more-or-less the same diameter. They do not share the distinct skinny neck of the rattlesnake. *(Please note: This is true only of snakes native to California and does not apply to exotic snakes or snakes imported into California from elsewhere.)*

- Rattlesnakes do not always rattle so do not rely on being warned that there is one nearby.
- Always be careful to look before stepping or reaching someplace you cannot see. Do not pick up a rattlesnake or harass it. The majority of bites are because people think they know how to handle them and **want to show off. It's not worth the risk.**
- Even dead rattlesnakes can bite (due to reflexive muscle action).
- Keep pets on leash—dogs get bitten much more frequently than people do. Dogs are curious and put their snouts and paws under bushes and rocks where snakes prefer to rest.