

From: Kathleen Jackson - Sierra Club  
1039 Chestnut St., Paso Robles  
Phone: 238-4353

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Saturday before Easter, April 9th, the Sierra Club offers a seven-mile all-day hike, characterized as moderately strenuous.

The walk will traverse the length of the scenic heartland of the controversial Pismo-Oceano Dunes of south San Luis Obispo County. Described as 7 miles of white, wind-sculptured wilderness, the area embraces ten freshwater lakes; and the massive white dunes are laced with intermittent green glades suitable for picnicking and camping.

Among wildflowers which will be seen are banks of lavender prickly phlox, a species of Indian Paintbrush which is native to Wisconsin, and the rare purple mint found only in these coastal dunes; also several interesting sand verbenas in yellow, magenta and a hybrid pink. Large shrubs of yellow-plumed lupine are now in full bloom. Many birds are heard in the dunes at this time of year: among the, the Audubon warbler, Bewick's Wren, Song Sparrow, Lesser American Gold Finch, Warbling Vireo, and Turtle Dove. Near the creeks can be found American avocets, kites, killdeer, ducks and swallows; also hummingbirds.

Sunset Magazine's recent February article on Pismo indicated the wide variety of recreation pursuits now enjoyed in this beach and dunes area. This Saturday April 9 excursion is one in the Sierra Club outing series presented to invite public acquaintance with the recreation, scenic and natural science values in this unique coast playground.

Although much of the area is zoned for industrial development, conservation organizations and the State Park Commission have recommended it for state park acquisition.

Meeting time for the hike is 9:30 a.m. at the entrance of Oceano Campground, Pismo State Beach, 3 miles south of Pismo Beach. Bring lunch and canteen of water. The public is cordially invited, according to the hike leader, Kathleen Jackson, 1039 Chestnut Street, Paso Robles, 238-4353.



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