



MOUNTAIN BEARS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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June 27, 2017

To: Those concerned in the California Democratic Party Executive Board
The Angeles National Forest Administration

Subject: **Proposed Resolution: MT. BALDY SAFETY SIGNAGE**

The members of the Mountain Bears Democratic Club of the San Bernardino mountains are pleased to wholeheartedly support the resolution and the efforts of its author, Ruth Musser-Lopez.

It has long been the practice of both Federal and State agencies to ignore the use of public lands when it means extra work or expense, but both are more than happy to bill the families of users when unannounced hazards cause a family member to go missing. It seems more than fair to ask the caretakers of these lands to either maintain hiking trails or announce that they are not maintained, and should be used with full assumption of risk.

Sincerely,
(Signed)
Michele Laws, President
Mountain Bears Democratic Club

cc: Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, Sidney R. Yates
Building, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20250
Ruth Musser-Lopez

Proposed Resolution: MT. BALDY SAFETY SIGNAGE

WHEREAS, the summit of Mount San Antonio in the Angeles National Forest is LA's highest peak better known as "Mount Baldy," is 10,064 feet in elevation boasts spectacular views, it is nonetheless treacherous, with areas such as "Icehouse Canyon" and the seven tenths mile long "Devil's Backbone" trail along a rocky ridge to the "Notch" and the summit portion of the mountain, often coated with ice, buffeted with strong winds that at times gust to 100 miles per hour, with the trail narrowing to little more than 18 inches across one stretch with a precipitous drop off on one or both sides; AND

WHEREAS, even the strongest or most skilled of climbers might lose footing in Icehouse Canyon or fall from the parapets of Devil's Backbone only to be hard pressed to stop the ensuing downward slide and having done so climb the steep icy grade back to the trail at the top of the ridge or climb out of the canyon with highly potential fatal consequences; AND

WHEREAS, the California Democratic Party is concerned that at the expense of lives, safety and considerable cost to the state and local agencies in the past 15 months since April 9, 2017, Mount Baldy has claimed the lives of 6 hikers and put at risk of great peril the lives of search and rescue teams and tracking dogs in efforts to recover lost hikers or their corpses;

THEREFORE, the California Democratic Party resolves to urge the Angeles National Forest to install signage at the trail head and at the dangerous trail portals which signage would include written language and pictorial icons or ideograms expressing the danger of the trail ahead and what precautions might be taken; with strongly suggested language being "enter at your own risk—you may be liable for costs associated with your rescue or recovery;"

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Angeles National Forest administration.

*Author/Sponsor: Ruth Musser-Lopez, (AD33) SD16 Ex-Officio SDCC Delegate;
Adopted on April 25, 2017 by the Desert Bones Democratic Club, a chartered Democratic organization.*