



Friends of the
Desert Mountains

PRESS RELEASE

45480 Portola Avenue, P.O. Box 1281
Palm Desert, CA 92261
760 568-9918 fax: 760 568-9908
www.desertmountains.org

Contact: Scott Segal
Friends of the Desert Mountains
Phone: (760) 862-9084
Email: ssegal@desertmountains.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PALMS TO PINES BIRDING AND NATURE TRAIL SCENIC LOOP BUS TOUR Saturday, September 6, 2008; 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PALM DESERT, Calif., (September 12, 2008) – This exciting “naturalists excursion by luxury coach,” presented by Friends of the Desert Mountains in support of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, will take place on Saturday, September 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring their binoculars and field guide and join local naturalist and expert ornithologist, Kurt Leuschner, on a birding adventure through the biotic communities of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains.

Stops will include various scenic locations along the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway, including Lake Hemet, Hurkey Creek, Idyllwild Nature Center and Lake Fulmor. The trip includes use of a spotting scope and opportunities to view pinyon jay, bald eagle, Scott’s oriole, California thrasher, whiteheaded woodpecker and other species featured in the Palms to Pines Birding and Nature Trail guide. Refreshments, snacks and a light lunch will be provided.

Ticket prices are: \$65 for the general public; \$50 for Friends of the Desert Mountains members and active volunteers. All proceeds will go to fund additional volunteer-supported National Monument programs. Call 760-862-9984 between 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for more information or to reserve seating.

About Friends of the Desert Mountains

Friends of the Desert Mountains is a Palm Desert-based non profit organization dedicated to protecting the magnificent mountains, scenic vistas, recreation trails and natural open spaces that make up the Coachella Valley. The mission of the organization is to secure, acquire and preserve lands in the Coachella Valley and the surrounding mountains, and to support education, conservation and research in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. To date, Friends of the Desert Mountains has acquired more than 30,000 acres of land throughout the Coachella Valley.

Let's be Friends.