

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA

7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 • www.stnc.org • 818-951-7411 • FAX 818-951-7412

August 17, 2017

Attention elected officials and community members,

There is a conflict of use problem in the Angeles National Forest: Hiker, Biker, and Equestrian vs. Hunter. This affects the safety and quality of life of our families and their animals in Sunland- Tujunga. Specifically, the Haines Canyon Debris Basin and the area north of the Riverwood Ranch - stretching west to Little Tujunga Canyon are in question.

As the city becomes more populated and pushes against US Forest Service boundaries, more people are using the National Forest for recreation. Hiking and biking have become more popular than ever, and equestrians continue to ride the dedicated horse trails.

The problem comes during 2 months in the fall, when hunters are allowed to pursue deer with high-powered rifles and bow and arrows. For many years this was an accepted practice. In the past, one or two hunters a year would "hoof-it-in" to try to find a deer. But last year brought a relatively large population of hunters, not on foot, but in pick-up trucks and ATVs. Several incidents were documented where an equestrian or hiker was occupying the same part of a trail as a person shooting at a deer, or a coyote. This influx of hunters made community members stop and wonder if it is even legal for deer hunting to take place in high-density recreation areas.

According to the Los Angeles County Firearms Closure Areas map, it is already illegal to shoot guns in most of those areas. Furthermore, the San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountain Scenic Preservation map declares most of these areas to be within the Los Angeles City Boundary. There is absolutely no firearm or bow and arrow discharge allowed in Los Angeles unless on a licensed shooting or archery range. In the Riverwood Ranch area, there are US Forest Service signs forbidding guns.

While we respect the rights of hunters, we assert there is no place for the hunt in high-density recreation areas. This is a deadly accident waiting to happen. There are hundreds of square miles of the Angeles National Forest where hunting is appropriate. It does not belong next to homes or on the hiking, biking and equestrian trails of Sunland-Tujunga. We must make it safe for our families and animals that live next these areas, and also allow everyone to enjoy the Angeles National Forest without fear.

We are asking the City of Los Angeles to immediately work with other agencies, and community members, to declare these areas closed to firearms and bow and arrow discharge before the hunting season of 2017 begins, and to work with all agencies to ensure the 'no firearms or bow and arrow discharge laws' are enforced this year and every year going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krystee Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Krystee Clark

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council President

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council voted to support this letter unanimously at their public meeting on August 9th 2017