

# **Firestone Scout Reservation – Mapper’s Notes**

(Hills of grass)

by Clare Durand

Internal 1:15,000 scale (may be printed at other scales), 5m contours, ISOM 2017-2 from LiDAR basemap

Firestone is made up of typical Southern California hillsides covered with grassland, chaparral, and coast live oak forest. This property is operated by BSA, Greater Los Angeles Area Council and we appreciate them giving us access for orienteering.

The map has LiDAR generated contours and field-checking has taken place in 2023 and 2024. This map is still a work in progress. All field-checking to date was done during wet winters. Vegetation may be lower during dry times of year. The extent of field-checking is shown with a thick purple line. Areas outside of this line show only the base contours and are either yellow or white, with no vegetation details. The actual vegetation could be drastically different. You may legally cross the purple line, but there’s not any good reason to do so.

## **Roads:**

The camp has an extensive network of dirt roads. Most of the dirt roads are in good shape and are mapped as vehicle track or better. Smaller trails are less common and may be indistinct. Some older roads have overgrown but are obvious as cuts in the terrain. Depending on how obvious and long they are, they may be mapped as rides, or not at all.

## **Terrain:**

Steep reentrants and spurs are the primary feature of Firestone. Reentrants can be quite steep. They get the steepest as you get deeper into them. In many places the bottom of the reentrant has such steep sides that it has been mapped as gully. Pay careful attention to know where you will be able to cross the reentrant.

## **Vegetation:**

Firestone has three main vegetation types

Open grassland - mapped as rough open where the grass is runnable. But there can also be grass that grows above your head and is quite thick. This is mapped as thick undergrowth. You can fight your way through it if necessary, but it’s generally preferred to go around.

Coast Live Oak forest - mapped as white. The oaks tend to grow around the reentrants and on the hillsides leading down to reentrants. The fastest running is often under the oak canopy, but the canopy often reaches to the ground on the edges. In places you will have to fight through that or look for an opening to get from the yellow into the white. Fallen oak trees typically are not mapped and are usually not a large enough obstruction to significantly affect route choice.

Chaparral - This thick, bushy vegetation may be mapped as fight or as thick undergrowth depending on its height and density.

Individual trees, bushes, and fight - The green circle is usually an individual coast live oak. If there is more than one trunk, it is probably mapped as white. Small green dots are individual bushes or smaller trees. Many are deciduous with leaves off during the winter. Dark green blobs are slightly larger groups of bushes and fight.

Light Green - Where I saw larger patches of poison oak it has been mapped as light green. This is generally found under the oak trees in the reentrants or on the lower slopes near reentrants. Smaller patches aren't mapped.

Distinct vegetation boundary symbol is used to delineate areas where the mapping looks the same, but the vegetation is different. For example, sage undergrowth meeting tall grass.

**Rocks:**

Rock features are few and far between. Some boulders and cliffs less than one meter high may be mapped if they are highly visible.

**Hazards:**

Steep Reentrants with gullies in the bottom

Poison Oak - larger patches mapped as light green. Found in shaded lower areas in and around reentrants.

Rattlesnakes - If you don't bother them, they won't bother you. If you see one, give it a wide berth.

Mountain Lions - While this is mountain lion territory, the likelihood of a mountain lion encounter is minimal. If you see one, don't run. Make yourself look as big as possible and make a lot of noise.

Bees - Beekeeping is done on site. When beehives are in the area, they are mapped with the out-of-bounds purple crosshatch symbol. The bees can be territorial near their hives, so please stay away from any such areas.