

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK



State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
P. O. Box 2390 Sacramento 95811



Palomar Mountain State Park
Palomar Mountain, California 92060
Phone: (714) 742-3462

CAMPING

There are 30 campsites in the Doane Valley Campground, and 21 in the Cedar Grove area. Each site has a table, stove, and food locker. Piped drinking water and combination buildings with restrooms, hot showers, and laundry tubs are nearby.

PICNICKING

Silver Crest picnic area is near park headquarters. Each of the 36 individual picnic sites has a woodstove. Piped drinking water and restrooms are nearby. The gathering of down wood or other plants is not allowed, and fuel must be brought into the park or purchased from the park staff.

FISHING

Doane Pond is stocked with trout, and fishing, open all year, is especially good during the winter, spring, and early summer. There is also an informal picnic area near the pond with several tables and stoves, a modern restroom and parking lot.

Short, gentle trails wind through the park, including some that are suitable for riding horseback.

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The thick forests and rolling mountain meadows of Palomar Mountain State Park are in northern San Diego County on the west side of Palomar Mountain. Large pine, fir, and cedar trees made the park one of the few areas in southern California with a Sierra Nevada-like atmosphere. Summer evenings are cool (average elevation 5,500 feet) and from several points it is possible to look out over large areas of southern California ocean and desert.

From Highway 76 either of two roads can be used to reach the park. The one from Rincon Springs is scenic but rather steep and winding. County Road 57 from Lake Henshaw is longer but its gentle grade makes it more suitable for heavily loaded vehicles and those pulling trailers.

To the east, beyond the limits of the park, is the world-famous Palomar Observatory and the high point of the 6,100-foot mountain. Many park visitors make the trip—16 miles by road—to the observatory which is operated by the California Institute of Technology. A museum and photo gallery are open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

HISTORY

Indians called the area "Pauw," a Shoshonean word meaning mountain. The Spaniards, however, named it "Palomar," or "place of the pigeons" for the thousands of band-tailed pigeons that nested on its slopes. A wide variety of birds and small animals live in and around the park, though coyotes, mountain lions, and other once plentiful predators are now rarely seen.

Pine and fir trees from Palomar Mountain were harvested for the construction of Mission San Luis Rey, and since that time the park area has known a variety of uses. In 1846 it became a part of the famous Warner Ranch. Warner's grant application to Governor Pio Pico indicates that the area was little used and not well thought of at the time. Warner's constant trouble with the Indians reached a climax in 1851 when they drove him off the lands. There is considerable evidence including the bedrock mortars and metates in Doane Valley to indicate that these Indians and their forebears had been living in the area for hundreds and perhaps thousands of years.

It is said that in the 1850's cattle and horse

thieves often used the remote mountain meadows of Palomar to shelter their stolen animals until it was safe to take them across the border.

Nathan Harrison, a slave who had followed

his southern master to the gold rush in California,

took up residence as a free man near the eastern

edge of the present park. He made hay and ran

hogs in the Doane Valleys despite frequent trouble

with bears and mountain lions. The old road from

Pauma Valley is named in his honor.

The valleys in the park were named in honor

of George Edwin Doane who came to the area in

the early 1880's. Doane built his shake-roofed log

cabin in the little clearing between Upper and

Lower Doane Valley in what is now the Doane

Valley Campground. Some of the apple trees he

planted in his yard are still living. Doane made hay

and raised cattle and hogs on his 640 acres of

meadowland.

During the southern California land boom

of the 1880's many people homesteaded on

Palomar Mountain. Four apple orchards within the

park date from this period as does the Scott cabin

on Thunder Ridge.



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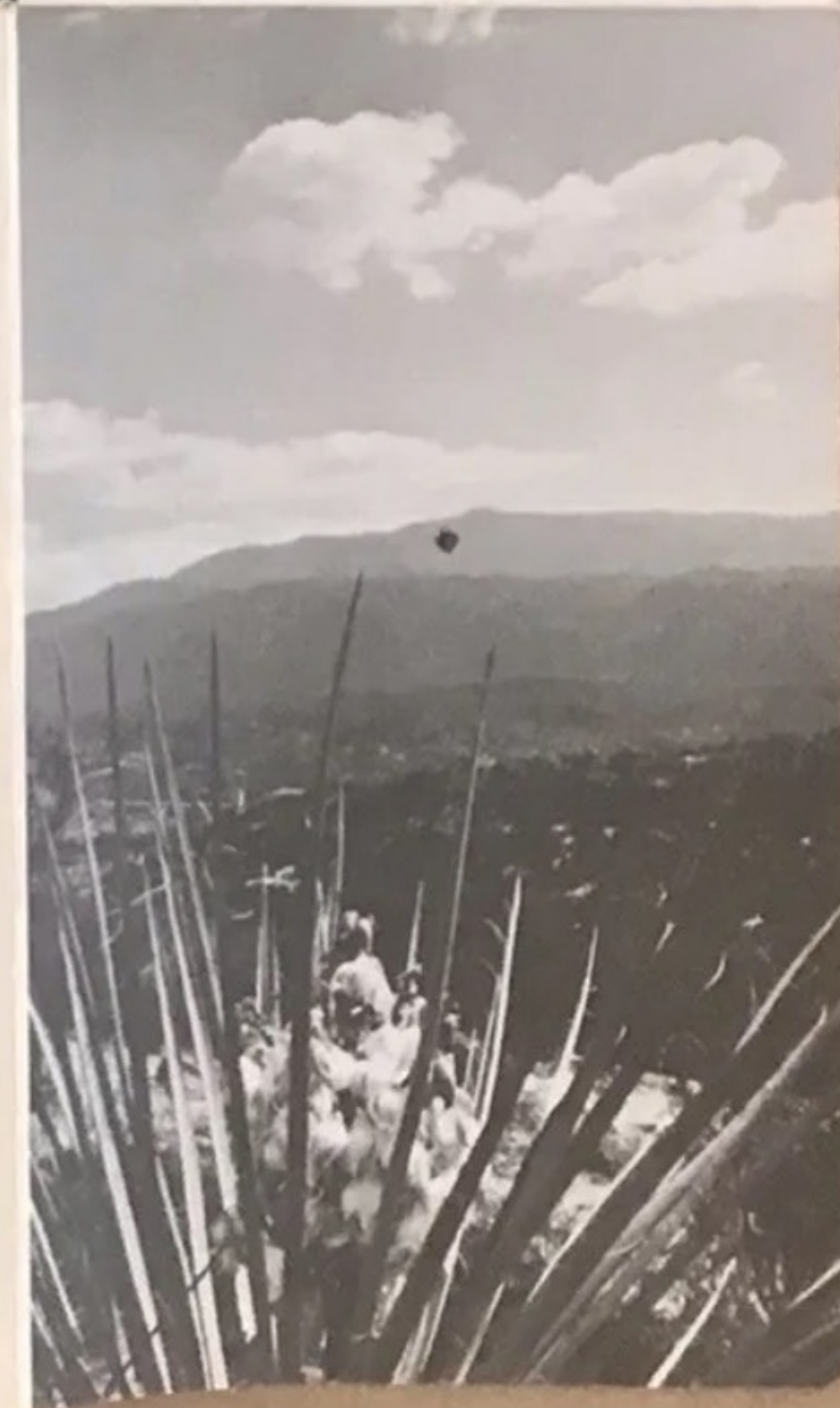
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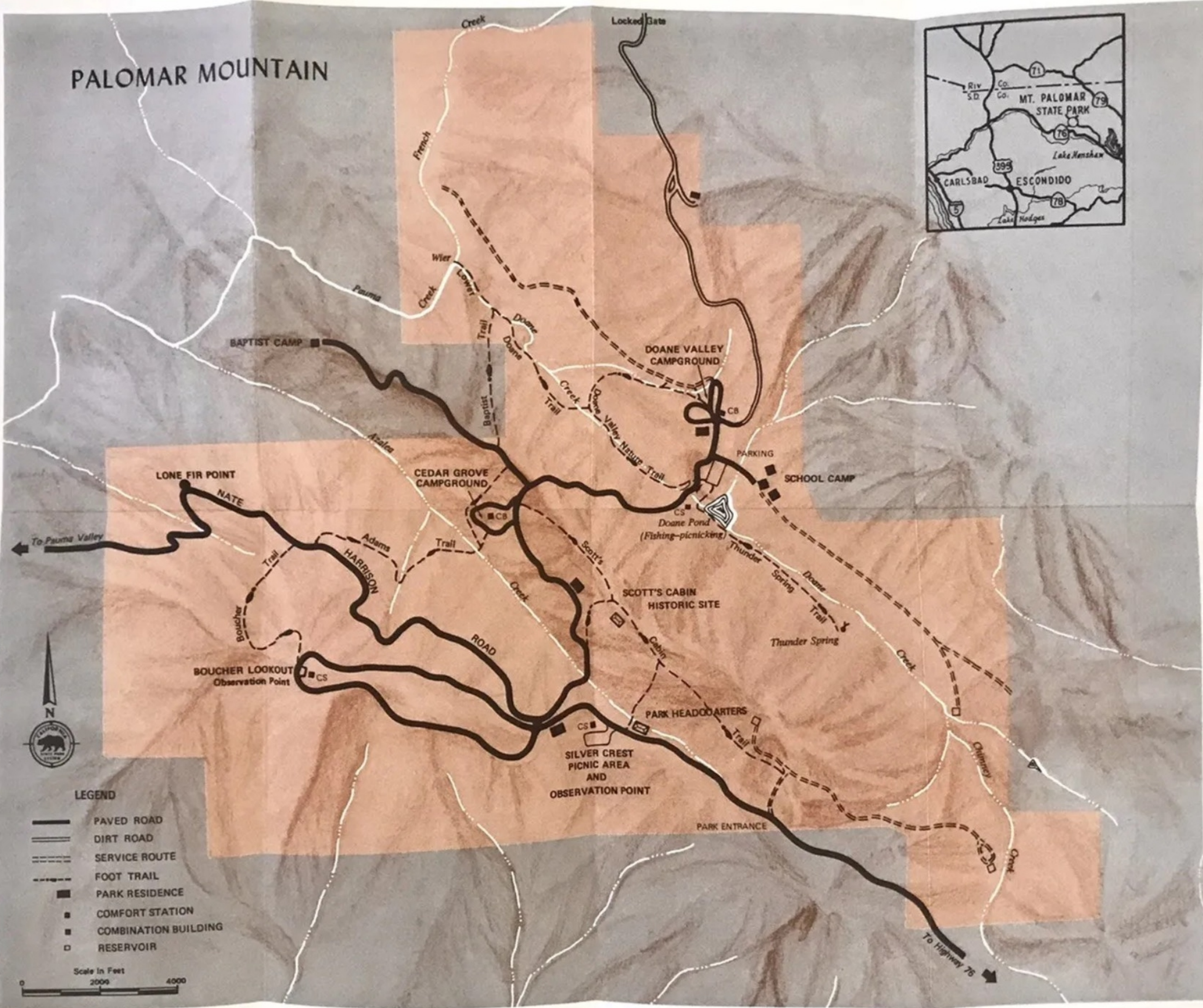
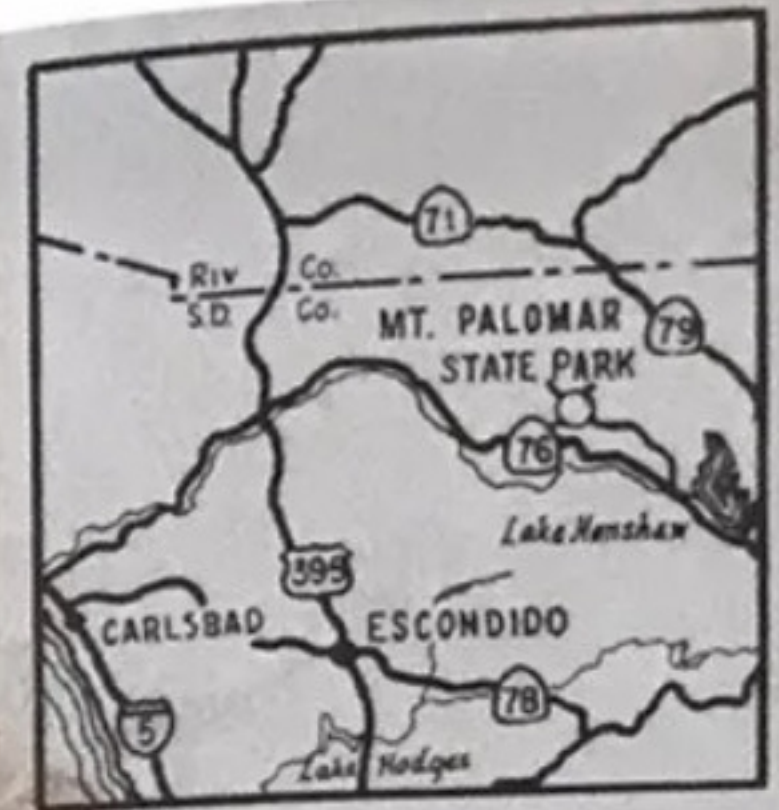
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LEGEND

- PAVED ROAD
- DIRT ROAD
- SERVICE ROUTE
- FOOT TRAIL
- PARK RESIDENCE
- COMFORT STATION
- COMBINATION BUILDING
- RESERVOIR

Scale in Feet

0 2000 4000

