



United States Department of Agriculture

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan Environmental Assessment



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Contents

Chapter 1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background	1
1.1.1 2006 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan	1
1.1.2 2014 Forest Plan Amendment	2
1.1.3 2012 Planning Rule	2
1.2 Proposed Project Location	2
1.3 Need for the Proposal	3
1.4 Public Involvement and Tribal Consultation	5
1.4.1 Public Involvement Strategy	5
1.4.2 Tribal Consultation	6
1.5 Key Issues	7
1.5.1 Transportation/Access	7
1.5.2 Sustainable Recreation and Use	7
1.5.3 Social Issues and Environmental Justice	7
1.5.4 Wildlife, Sensitive Species, and Threatened and Endangered Species	8
Chapter 2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives	8
2.1 Proposed Action	8
2.1.1 Plan Components	9
2.1.2 Monitoring	27
2.2 No-Action Alternative (Continue Current Management)	27
2.3 Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis	27
2.4 Decision to be Made	28

List of Tables

Table 2.1.3. Suitable uses commodity and commercial uses, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument	14
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List of Figures

Figure 1. Vicinity map.....	4
Figure 2. Proposed Land Use Zone map	19

Chapter 1.0 Introduction

The Forest Service is proposing to amend the 2006 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) with a management plan to provide for the protection of the objects of interest identified in the Presidential Proclamation establishing the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (Monument) (see Proclamation attached as appendix below).

We prepared this environmental assessment (EA) to determine whether implementation of the amendment may significantly affect the quality of the human environment and thereby require the preparation of an environmental impact statement. By preparing this environmental assessment, we are fulfilling Agency policy and direction to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For more details of the proposed action, see the “Proposed Action and Alternatives” section of this document.

1.1 Background

On October 10, 2014, President Barack Obama designated 346,177 acres of existing Federal lands as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in an executive action, the eighth national monument under Forest Service management. A national monument is a designation given to a protected area of Federal land. The Proclamation for the Monument mandated the preparation of a management plan for the Monument within 3 years. The Monument Plan will be developed according to new regulations adopted in 2012, referred to in this document as the 2012 Planning Rule.

1.1.1 2006 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan

The existing Forest Plan was adopted in 2006 and includes 99 percent of all National Forest System lands now within the Monument. Approximately 4,030 acres of the Monument are within the San Bernardino National Forest, managed according to the San Bernardino Land Management Plan, also adopted in 2006. The regional forester has assigned administrative and planning authority for the Monument (including the portion within the San Bernardino National Forest) to the Angeles National Forest. The San Dimas Experimental Forest is still administered under the jurisdiction of the Pacific Southwest Research Station.

Although adopted using the 1982 Forest Service Planning Rule, the Forest Plan is based upon the principles of adaptive management, as outlined in the report of a committee of scientists published in 1999. The plan has three parts: the Vision, the Strategy, and the Design Criteria, which together provide management direction to integrate multiple uses (recreation, conservation education, special uses, etc.) with protection and enhancement of natural resources (air and water quality, wildlife, soils, fuel reduction, native vegetation, etc.). Part 1 is the vision; this part of the plan looks to the future and describes a collective vision or desired condition for the national forests of southern California over time. Proposed amendments to language in this part may be found in the “Desired Conditions” section of the proposed action below. Part 2 is the forest-specific strategies; this part of the plan can be thought of as “the tools” that will be used to achieve the desired conditions in Part 1. This section includes descriptions of objectives, program emphasis, and potential resource management strategies. Proposed amendments to language in this part may be found in the “Objectives” and “Suitability of Lands” sections of the proposed action below. Part 3 includes the design criteria. The design criteria consist of pertinent environmental and public land management laws, standards that define the parameters for the activities the Forest Service anticipates, and other guidance (including management guides,

manual and handbook direction or other appropriate reference material). Proposed amendments to language in this part may be found in the “Standards” and “Guidelines” sections of the proposed action below.

1.1.2 2014 Forest Plan Amendment

The land use zones were changed through a Forest Plan amendment in October 2014. Within the Monument, this amendment changed approximately 780 acres from Back Country and Back Country Motorized Use Restricted to Backcountry Non-Motorized zone, as well as some other minor adjustments, within the West Fork Inventoried Roadless Area. In 2009, Congress designated approximately 39,039 acres as the Magic Mountain and Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness Areas. Both areas are within the Monument.

1.1.3 2012 Planning Rule

The 2012 Planning Rule provides the overarching framework for individual forests and grasslands in the National Forest System to use in developing, amending, and revising land management plans. Forest and grassland supervisors use these procedures to develop land management plans that set forth specific desired conditions and guidance; for example, for forest health and resilience, species and habitat protection, contributions to sustainable communities, and recreational opportunities and other multiple uses. The 2012 Planning Rule defines the scope of forest plan amendments very broadly, and leaves discretion to a forest supervisor as to the scope and scale of plan amendments. The 2012 Planning Rule creates an adaptive framework that allows the Forest Service to meet modern and future needs, taking into account new understanding of science, land management, and the all-lands context for managing resources. It focuses on outcomes, rather than outputs, and helps units identify their unique roles in the broader landscape and create land management plans to guide proactive contributions to ecological, social, and economic sustainability. The 2012 Planning Rule emphasizes collaboration, requires improved transparency, and strengthens the role of public involvement and dialogue throughout the planning process. It also requires the use of the best available scientific information to inform decisions. Notably, the 2012 Planning Rule provides an emphasis on sustainable recreation as an important multiple use and as a contributor to social and economic sustainability, including requirements that plans provide for sustainable recreation. Sustainable recreation includes settings, opportunities, and access for a range of uses, on land, water, and in the air. There are requirements to provide for ecosystem services, protect cultural and historic resources, protect wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers, and appropriately manage other designated areas and areas of Tribal importance. New requirements direct a unit and landscape-scale monitoring program based on the latest science, strengthening the role of monitoring so that units can better track changing conditions and measure progress towards meeting objectives in the plan.

The Forest Service chose to prepare a plan amendment because most of the land management plan (LMP) is still relevant and there is only a need to make limited changes to the LMP as a result of the new monument. Amendments allow the Forest Service the ability to keep LMPs up to date to respond to changing conditions. For these reasons, a forest plan amendment is considered appropriate to meet the requirement of the Proclamation for a management plan, and allow the continued management of the Monument within the context of the Forest.

1.2 Proposed Project Location

The project area is located in the northern and southeastern portions of the San Gabriel Mountain Range, approximately 30 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The recently designated National

Monument covers 342,177 acres of the Angeles National Forest and 4,030 acres of neighboring San Bernardino National Forest. Figure 1 shows the current administrative boundaries of the Angeles National Forest subunits, known as ranger districts, overlaid by the Monument boundary.

1.3 Need for the Proposal

The purpose of the Monument Plan is to amend the existing Forest Plan (as amended, 2014) in order to evaluate the new conditions associated with the designation of the Monument. The need for change arises out of the Presidential Proclamation's direction to complete a management plan within 3 years of designation. Required elements of the plan are contained within the Presidential Proclamation establishing the Monument, including direction for the protection of identified Monument objects, public access when consistent with natural resource protections, public engagement, a transportation plan, and withdrawal of lands from uses associated with mining laws, subject to valid existing uses. Specifically, the Presidential Proclamation directs the plan to:

- Promulgate such regulations for the management of the Monument, as deemed appropriate.
- Provide for maximum public involvement in the development of that plan, including, but not limited to, consultation with Tribal, State, and local government, as well as community environmental conservation, health, and justice organizations
- Provide for protection and interpretation of the scientific and historic objects identified above and for continued public access to those objects, consistent with their protection.
- Protect and preserve Indian sacred sites, as defined in section 1(b) of Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996, and access by Indian Tribal members for traditional cultural, spiritual, and tree and forest product-, food-, and medicine-gathering purposes, to the maximum extent permitted by other applicable laws and consistent with the purposes of the Monument.

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests Environmental Assessment

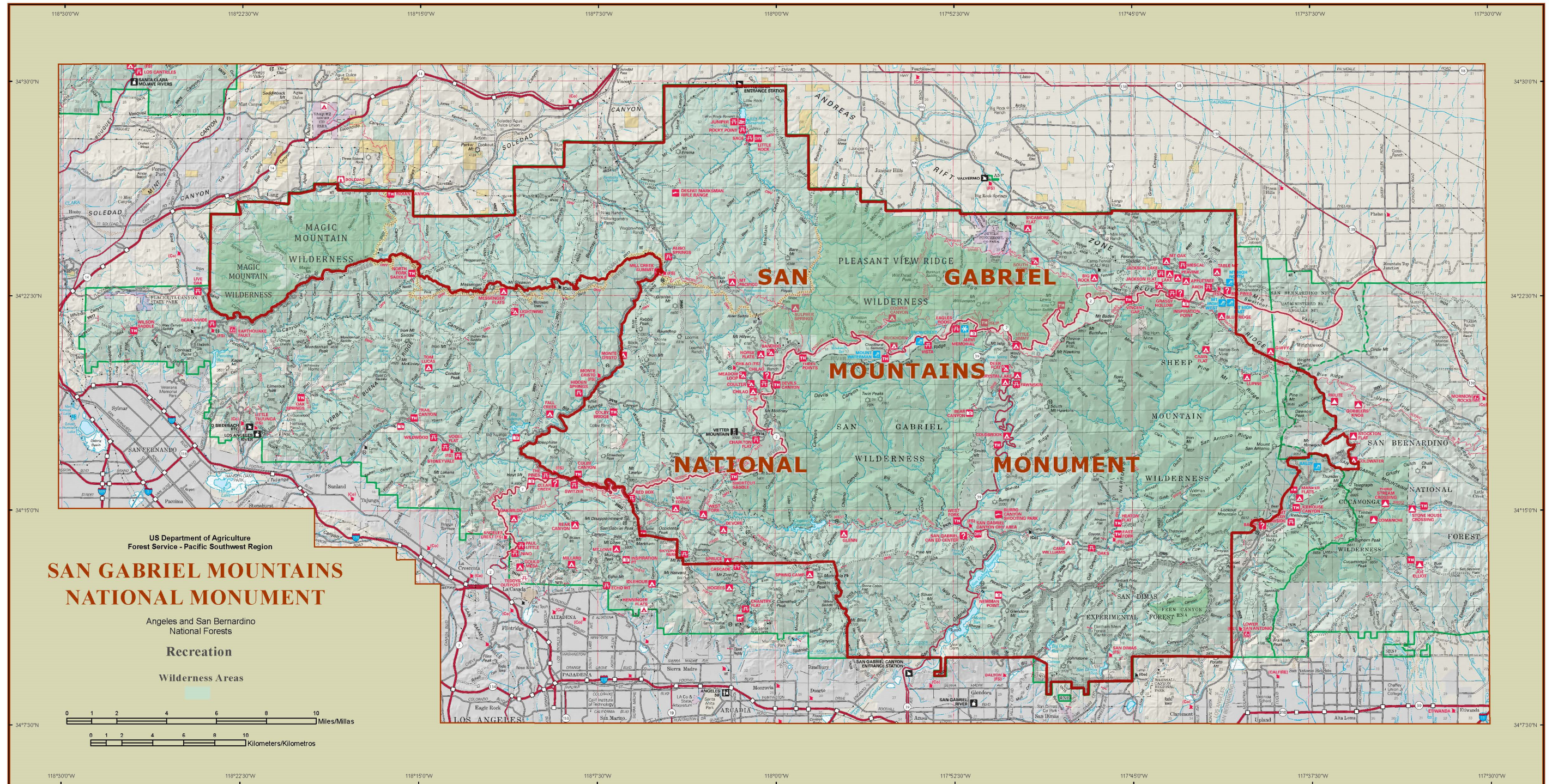


Figure 1. Vicinity map

1.4 Public Involvement and Tribal Consultation

1.4.1 Public Involvement Strategy

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) defines scoping as “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.” Scoping is a valuable step in the analysis process and is designed to share the proposed action, gather new information, define the overall scope of the analysis, and ultimately identify issues used to develop alternatives and otherwise refine the analysis.

The project first appeared on the Angeles National Forest’s Schedule of Proposed Actions in July of 2015. A scoping letter describing the purpose and need and proposed action and seeking public comments was sent via regular mail or email to approximately 3,200 interested groups, individuals, and agencies on June 15, 2015, with comments requested to be returned by July 27, 2015. A press release was sent to local news media outlets on June 10, 2015. A notice of intent to prepare an environmental assessment was published in the *Federal Register* on June 12, 2015. All notices included a web address for the project’s website where comments could also be submitted. The project’s website could also be accessed from the home page of the Angeles National Forest’s public website. The Angeles National Forest held five public open houses to discuss the development of the Monument Plan at the following locations:

- June 22, 4-8 pm, Pacific Community Center, 501 S. Pacific Ave., Glendale, CA
- June 23, 4-8 pm, Palmdale Legacy Commons Senior Center, 930 East Avenue Q9, Palmdale, CA
- June 24, 4-8 pm, Glendora Public Library, 140 S Glendora Ave., Glendora, CA
- June 25, 3-8 pm, Pico House, 424 N Main St, Los Angeles, CA
- June 26, 4-8 pm, Big Pines Lodge, 24537 Big Pines Highway, Wrightwood, CA

A 15-day extension was requested and granted by the Forest Supervisor, extending the period until August 11, 2015. A variety of printed materials was available at these open houses, including a Monument fact sheet, frequently asked questions, project schedule and key milestones, and scoping letter. An assessment of what planning components were needed to meet the direction in the Proclamation, known as the “Need to Change” document, was the focus of the open houses. Printed information was available in English and Spanish. A Spanish translator was available at all the open houses.

The public was invited to comment on the proposed action, identify potential conflicts or benefits, and provide any relevant information that would be useful in the subsequent environmental analysis. The Forest Service received and considered responses from 917 interested groups, individuals, and agencies in the form of letters, emails, and website submissions (appendix A). All comments were thoughtful narratives reacting to the proposed action with support, opposition, concerns, or requests for revision and new alternatives. The Forest Service appreciates the time and perspectives shared by each commenter, and the willingness of all to engage in the environmental analysis process.

During and after the comment period, Forest Service staff continued public engagement by responding individually to over 120 inquiries by e-mail and phone. The Forest Service attended several meetings sponsored and requested by interested groups. These groups included

organizations focused on social justice and underserved communities, such as the Asian Pacific Policy Council, San Gabriel Mountains Forever, and The City Project.

The Forest Service also continues to attend monthly meetings of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative, and make formal presentations, as requested. This is a representative group formed and managed by the National Forest Foundation to represent various interests and communities associated with the National Monument. There are 45 members of this group, made up of public, non-profit, and private stakeholders.

1.4.2 Tribal Consultation

Tribal consultation associated with the Monument was formally initiated with federally recognized Tribes following the official designation of the Monument in November 2014. The meeting, attended by the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, was held at the Angeles National Forest Supervisors Office between the Forest Supervisor, Forest Tribal Relations Manager, and the Cultural Policy Director of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians. Follow-up letters were sent to all three of the appropriate federally recognized Tribes that could ascribe cultural affinity to lands encompassed by the new Monument within the Angeles National Forest in mid-2015. These letters were sent to the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians on July 23, 2015, the Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians on July 28, 2015, and the Tejon Indian Tribe on July 28, 2015. The “need to change” document was provided to each of the Tribes, in addition to requesting comments on the initial plan development strategy (i.e., as an amendment to the Angeles Forest Plan). Comments were requested by mid-August, but it was stated that comments from Tribes would be welcomed throughout the planning and plan development process. In an effort to respond more effectively and within the formal Government to Government consultation process, each of the three federally recognized Tribes were invited to a formal meeting in September to discuss any comments with the Forest Supervisor, following their review of the scoping and need to change documents. No Tribal comments or contacts for a follow-up formal meeting with the Forest Supervisor were received from the Tribes at that time.

The Monument Plan and ongoing analysis were an agenda topic most recently at the Angeles National Forest January 2016 Tribal meeting. Letters to each of the three federally recognized Tribes, in addition to over 123 other Native American groups and individuals, were sent on November 17, 2015. The invite letters requested a meeting to discuss a range of topics, in addition to the current status of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan. Individuals representing a number of non-federally recognized Tribes attended, along with the Forest Environmental Coordinator, who provided an update on the Plan’s development.

In March of 2016, the Forest’s Tribal Relations Manager contacted the Cultural Policy Director of the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, a federally recognized Tribe, to discuss the development of the Monument Management Plan, and to respond to information concerning their participation and level of involvement. Following this discussion, a formal meeting with the Forest Supervisor was set for April 18, 2016, with representatives from the Tribe.

The Forest’s Tribal Relations Manager has been in regular contact with two groups representing the Gabrielino Tribe, a non-federally recognized Tribe who ascribe cultural affinity to lands encompassed by the Monument, since the January 2016 meeting. These discussions have involved requests that support specific objectives or goals within the Monument Proclamation. These requests comprised of providing administrative access within the Monument for the collection of traditional Native resources, and in another instance, facilitating the restoration and access to significant cultural resource sites for ceremonial purposes (in addition to providing site

documentation and records), to Tribal members and their Tribal archaeologist, which is currently ongoing.

1.5 Key Issues

Through internal and external scoping we have identified four key issue categories for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Plan Analysis.

1.5.1 Transportation/Access

- How might the Forest Service address inadequate parking within popular areas of the Monument?
- How might the Forest Service address dangerous conditions associated with Monument roads being used for night time raceways?
- How might the Forest Service reduce traffic congestion during illegal zip-lining and bungee-jumping from the Bridge to Nowhere and during winter snowfall?
- How might the Forest Service work with communities to reduce traffic congestion issues in communities that provide ingress and egress to the Monument?

1.5.2 Sustainable Recreation and Use

- How might the Forest Service address conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users and conflicts between different types of non-motorized trail users?
- How might the Forest Service address the need for trail system inventory, mapping and characterization, levels of difficulty, variety of opportunities (long distance, beginner, technical, single track, loops for a variety of uses including mountain bikes, hikers and horses) and planning for new trail development and connections?
- How might the Forest Service address the need for road and trail maintenance and restoration, particularly on national recreation trails, including the Silver Moccasin and Gabrielino Trails, those closed previously for resource issues, and those in fire-damaged areas?
- How could the Forest Service support access to the Monument for underprivileged youth and minority populations?
- How might the Forest Service outreach to differing demographics, such as youth, millennials, and urban populations that may not initially have knowledge of or an interest in visiting the Monument?
- How could the Forest Service address the need to provide meaningful visitor information and environmental education and interpretation programs that are relevant to diverse visitors?
- What are the impacts of concentrated recreational use on streams and riparian areas? How might the Forest Service manage recreational use to protect aquatic resources?

1.5.3 Social Issues and Environmental Justice

- How could the Forest Service increase access and the ability to enjoy existing opportunities in the Monument for youth and minority populations adjacent to the Monument?

1.5.4 Wildlife, Sensitive Species, and Threatened and Endangered Species

- What plan components may be needed to protect sensitive and threatened and endangered species, including Santa Ana sucker, arroyo chub, Santa Ana speckled dace, mountain yellow-legged frogs, California red-legged frogs, coast horned lizards, arroyo toads, lungless salamanders, ensatina, Pacific pond turtles, California spotted owls, and Nelson's bighorn sheep?
- What are the impacts of livestock grazing and off-highway vehicle use on sensitive species in the Monument?

Chapter 2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed action and following alternatives were considered.

2.1 Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to change some existing management direction in the Forest Plan according to the 2012 Planning Rule to be consistent with the Presidential Proclamation establishing the Monument, and to capture those changes in the Monument Management Plan. All other direction from the Forest Plan would apply to the Monument and be included in the standalone Monument Management Plan (provided as an appendix to the EA). All other direction from the Forest Plan will also be tiered to for analysis. Within the Monument, hereby adopted as a single management area (defined within the 2012 Planning Rule), the Forest Plan would be amended in the following areas to ensure appropriate management of the Monument, consistent with the Proclamation:

- 1) Forest Plan Part 1 – Goal 3.1, related to Managed Recreation in a Natural Setting;
- 2) Forest Plan Part 1 – Goal 4.1, related to Energy and Minerals Production;
- 3) Forest Plan Part 2 – Land Use Zones (as amended by 2014 land use plan amendment), related to Wilderness Areas and suitable uses allowed within land use zones;
- 4) Forest Plan Part 2 – Prospectus, related to Heritage Resources; Forest Plan Part 2 – Place-Based Program Emphasis, related to Wilderness Areas;
- 5) Forest Plan Part 2 – Appendix A: Inclusion of the description of current wilderness areas;
- 6) Forest Plan Part 2 – Appendix B: Strategies, related to MIS species, Recreation, Transportation, Minerals Off-Highway Vehicle Use Opportunities; and
- 7) Forest Plan Part 3 – Standard S34 and Appendix D, related to the framework for regulation of recreational uses.

No other applicable aspects of the Forest Plan in Part I (Vision, including goals), Part 2 (Strategy including objectives, suitable uses within land use zones, and “places”), and Part 3 (Design Criteria, including standards) would change as part of this proposal.

At the end of the amendment process there would be a single document that would serve as a separate San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan (provided as an appendix), adopted as an amendment to the Forest Plan. Thus, new planning direction would replace existing Forest Plan direction and unchanged Forest Plan direction that applies to the

Monument would be incorporated within the same document. Existing direction from the Forest Plan that applies to the Monument would be incorporated into the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan, with only changes to the applicable acres, species numbers/lists, and percentages to portray these figures in the context of the Monument.

The Monument Plan will apply to all National Forest System lands within the Monument, including the small portion on San Bernardino National Forest System lands (1 percent), which would also be guided by the direction provided by the Management Plan.

New plan components, modifications to existing Forest Plan plan components, and monitoring measures described in the next section would apply to the implementation of this alternative.

2.1.1 Plan Components

These plan components were developed to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts, as well as promote beneficial impacts from plan implementation and are incorporated as an integrated part of the proposed action. Plan components are intended to provide for social, economic, and ecological sustainability and multiple uses in an integrated manner. In addition, best available scientific information is incorporated to inform the development of plan components and other plan content.

Plan components identified below would only apply to the Monument. Applicable, existing Forest Plan plan components will be tiered to where no changes are necessary to protect Monument objects and comply with the direction provided within the Proclamation. These plan components address the key issues that were identified during scoping. Consequently, the proposed Monument Management Plan would include the following new and modified plan components to provide a free-standing, detailed management framework for planning-level direction (provided as an appendix) on all lands encompassed within the Monument.

2.1.1.1 New Plan Components and Modifications to Existing Forest Plan Components

The following new plan components and changes to the existing Forest Plan were developed by the interdisciplinary team to respond to the Forest Plan amendment purpose and need.

Part 1: Southern California National Forests Vision

The Forest Service proposes the following modifications (in ***bold italic***) to the 2006 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan Forest Goals and Desired Conditions:

Forest Goals and Desired Conditions

The following changes to the Forest Plan “Goals and Desired Conditions” are proposed for the Monument. The 2012 Planning Rule provides different definitions of “Goal” and “Desired Condition”. The two components are described together here since they were used interchangeably in the existing forest plan.

Managed Recreation in a Natural Setting: Goal 3.1 – Provide for Public Use and Natural Resource Protection

Management of recreation uses on the national forests of southern California has traditionally been low-key with minimal regulation of use patterns. As surrounding populations have soared, national forests have become a primary source of natural open-space based recreation activities. Limited access (due to steep topography and dense chaparral) has led to a pattern

of generally low levels of use across most of the landscape. Recreation is highly concentrated in areas that are relatively flat with roaded access (e.g., valley bottoms and forested mountain valleys and plateaus). In addition, water is an attraction that draws large crowds in many areas. This concentrated and unregulated use has become a concern, especially where sensitive natural resources may be disturbed.

Increasing demand for recreation use is accommodated within the capacity of the land to support it. An emphasis on natural resource protection improves resource conditions through increased regulation of recreation use. Improved recreation infrastructure is designed to direct use away from sensitive areas or, where this is not possible, minimize adverse effects. Expansions in recreation infrastructure are balanced by restoration and removal of unneeded facilities that do not meet user needs or are in conflict with resource protection needs. There is a low level of increase in roaded acres over time, as defined by road density analysis. ***Alternative transportation and public transportation opportunities are considered, in coordination with other agencies and gateway communities, as a means to provide access to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by visitors who do not have access to personal vehicles, and to address concerns with vehicle congestion, limited parking capacity, and public safety.***

Recreation: Recreation opportunities, outreach, activities and services contribute to urban community well-being and visitors' physical and mental well-being. Recreation opportunities are provided that represent a variety of skill levels, needs and desires in partnership with permit holders, private entities, nonprofit/volunteer groups, diverse community groups, state, federal and Tribal partners. ***Products, services, and the built environment are aligned with needs and expectations of the surrounding area's diverse population base.*** Scenic routes are a prominent feature that link the key places within the national forests and offer ecosystem-based excursion opportunities through the forests' varied landscapes. Quality hunting and fishing habitat and access opportunities are available to the public. Facilities and infrastructure are high quality, well-maintained, safe, accessible, and consistent with visitors' expectations. Abandoned facilities and facilities no longer needed are removed and sites are restored to natural conditions.

Conservation Education: Conservation education is broad and includes interpretation, environmental education, and visitor information. People connect to the land and to each other through expanded public information, interpretive services, and environmental education programs/activities, with well-supported nonprofit partners and local community groups in a lead role and the Forest Service providing guidance and leadership. Proactive efforts reach both traditional and nontraditional users and lead to a greater citizen understanding, appreciation, advocacy, and participation in forest stewardship and ecosystem conservation. ***Engaging youth in outdoor recreation and conservation education is recognized as a priority for fostering the next generation of public land stewards.*** Recreation and natural resource management, as well as conservation education is improved through increased knowledge of social science and heritage resources. ***Monument interpretation stories capture the rich cultural history that shaped the landscape, including Native Americans, Spanish missionaries and colonialists, Mexican rancheros, Euro-American and Asian settlers and prospectors.*** As the Forest Service learns more about the diverse communities and stakeholders it serves, better services are supplied to national forest visitors through the use of current knowledge of who is using the national forests and how.

Public outreach and education will promote the use of contemporary social media, new and emerging communication technology, and culturally relevant media outlets, such as the Hispanic Communications Network.

Heritage Site Protection: Significant heritage resource sites are preserved or enhanced. Connections are made with the American people on the importance of public land heritage stewardship through public involvement programs. The important role heritage resources plays in ecosystem management including the importance of socio-cultural values within an environmental context, both past, present, and future is recognized.

Tribal and Native American Use: The national forests are maintained in a condition so that Tribes and other Native American groups and individuals can exercise and retain traditional connections to the land and to foster both traditional and contemporary cultural uses of the national forests. The national forests have active agreements and protocols to facilitate access to traditional cultural resources, collection, consultation, and government-to-government relationships.

Road and Trail System: The transportation system of roads and trails is safe, affordable, and environmentally sound; responds to public needs; and is efficient to manage. The system provides public access for recreation, special uses and fire protection activities, and supports forest-management objectives. The system is well maintained commensurate with levels of use and available funding. The system is connected to state, county or local public roads and trails. Scenic routes are a prominent feature within this interconnected system. Roads and trails determined to be unnecessary through Roads Analysis and the analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), are removed and the landscape is restored. Rights-of-way to access National Forest System lands satisfy public needs and facilitate planned resource activities. Over the planning period, the number of inventoried unclassified roads and trails are reduced, and the development and proliferation of new unclassified facilities is minimized. ***A general trend is maintained in reducing automobiles over time. Evaluate alternative transportation and public transportation opportunities. Improve needed operational maintenance level 2 National Forest System roads to standards that will make them competitive to qualify for Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) funding (operational maintenance level 3+) and any related available federal funding. Improve non-motorized trails to standards that make them competitive to qualify for Federal Lands Transportation Program funds (“provide an engineered surface”) and any related available federal funding.***

An environmentally sustainable, integrated system of remote, urban and rural non-motorized trails is established and maintained. The system can accommodate a range of experience in high-quality settings, and is managed to minimize conflicts while providing opportunities for partnerships, learning, stewardship and mental and physical renewal for a diverse, urban visitor population. The availability of day-use ‘loop trails’ is improved.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) systems provide a range of recreation opportunities, and challenges for OHV enthusiasts through the development of an integrated system of trails and low maintenance standard roads. OHV use is occurring on designated roads and trails only. High-use areas are managed within capacities in order to maintain the quality of experiences. Facilities that provide access to the OHV system are developed in conjunction with the development of the overall OHV system. Conflicts between OHV enthusiasts and other recreationists with private lands, and homeowners adjacent to national forest land and with

resource issues are addressed and resolved in a timely manner. Resolutions are consistent with area objectives and management direction.

Habitat Protection: Habitats for federally listed species are conserved, and listed species are recovered. Habitats for sensitive species and other species of concern are managed to prevent downward trends in populations or habitat capability and to prevent federal listing. Habitat conditions are stable or improving over time as indicated by the status of management indicator species.

Heritage Site Protection: Heritage resources, whether Historic or Native American, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be protected and preserved. Road and trail maintenance, and OHV use and activity, will be managed to prevent adverse effects to those values or attributes that make them eligible for the NRHP.

Outcome Evaluation Question: Are trends in indicators and visitor satisfaction surveys indicating that the national forest has provided quality, sustainable recreation opportunities that result in increased visitor satisfaction? (See implementation and effectiveness monitoring in Appendix C of Part 3.)

Energy and Minerals Production: Goal 4.1a—Administer Minerals and Energy Resource Development while protecting ecosystem health.

A wide variety of minerals and energy resources are found on southern California national forests, including precious minerals, oil and gas, high quality metallurgical, chemical and cement grade carbonate rocks, and mineral materials. The national forests have an essential role in contributing to an adequate and stable supply of mineral and energy resources while continuing to sustain the land's productivity for other uses and its capability to support biodiversity goals. ***The Presidential Proclamation establishing the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument withdrew all National Forest System lands within the Monument from mineral and energy resources. This action removes these lands from being subject to Federal mining laws, with the exception of existing rights, and the Materials Act of 1947, which allows for the sale of common variety minerals such as sand, gravel, and stone.***

The desired condition is that approved minerals and energy developments, ***In the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument***, are managed to facilitate production of mineral and energy resources ***only where consistent with the Proclamation and withdrawal. Mining would occur only under authority of the 1947 Materials Act. Project specific analysis would ensure protection of Monument Objects of Interest.***

Outcome Evaluation Question: Has the national forest been successful at protecting ecosystem health ***and Monument Objects of Interest*** while providing mineral and energy resources for development? (See implementation and effectiveness monitoring in Appendix C of Part 3.)

2.1.1.2 Part 2: Angeles National Forest Strategy

The Forest Service proposes the following modifications (in ***bold italic***) to the 2006 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan Forest Suitable Land Uses, Prospectus, Special Designation Overlays and Program Strategies and Tactics.

Suitability of Lands

The following changes to the Forest Plan Suitable Land Uses table and descriptions are proposed for the Monument. These changes would provide a new suitability of lands plan component, in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule.

Table 2.1.3. Suitable uses commodity and commercial uses, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Activity or Use	Land Use Zone						
	Developed Areas Interface	Back Country	Back Country Motorized Use Restricted	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness	Experimental Forest
(Non-Rec) Special Uses: Low Intensity Land Use	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	By Exception	By Exception	By Exception	For Research
Communication Sites	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	By Exception	By Exception	Not Suitable	By Exception
Livestock Grazing	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Designated Areas	Not Suitable
Major Transportation Corridors	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Major Utility Corridors	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Road Construction or Re-construction	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable for authorized use	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	By Exception
Developed Facilities	Suitable	Suitable	By Exception	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	For Research
Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Areas¹	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Minerals Resources Exploration and Development²	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Renewable Energy Resources	Suitable	Suitable	By Exception	By Exception	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Wood Products, Including Fuelwood Harvesting	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	By Exception	Not Suitable	By Exception
Special Forest Products	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	By Exception	By Exception	Not Suitable

*By Exception = Conditions which are not generally compatible with the land use zone but may be appropriate under certain circumstances.

With the exception of valid existing rights.

² With the exception of valid existing rights, and the Materials Act of 1947, which allows for the sale of common variety minerals such as sand, gravel, and stone.

Existing Wilderness (122,098 acres or 17 percent of the national forest): This zone includes congressionally designated wildernesses. Only uses consistent with all applicable wilderness legislation and with the primitive character are allowed in existing and recommended wilderness. Road access is limited to uses identified in the specific legislation designating the wilderness (see wilderness in the forest-specific design criteria of Part 2 of the Forest Plan), approximately .7 percent of the National Forest System and non-system roads are found in this zone including 1.4 miles of unclassified road. The characteristic Recreation Opportunity Spectrum objective is Primitive with limited areas of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.

Wildland/Urban Interface Threat Zones (see Appendix K in Part 3 of the forest plan) may occur in this zone. Community Protection vegetation treatments within the existing wilderness zone may occur by exception. In these cases, managers will consider wilderness needs. The management intent is to administer this zone for the use and enjoyment of people while preserving its wilderness character and natural conditions. Non-conforming uses will be removed to preserve wilderness character. Designated wilderness includes:

- Sheep Mountain Wilderness
- San Gabriel Wilderness
- *Magic Mountain Wilderness*
- *Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness*

Objectives

The following changes to the Forest Plan Prospectus are proposed for the Monument. These changes would provide a new objectives plan component, in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule.

- The Heritage Program emphasis includes identifying all activities that have the potential to adversely affect or do not complement significant cultural properties. *Heritage staff expect to review all recorded or documented historic properties within the designated Wildernesses to identify any that support or enhance Wilderness values and characteristics. Resources that meet this criteria will be managed as Priority Heritage Assets (PHA). Management will entail scheduled monitoring of the unidentified Wilderness PHAs, and enhancement efforts to promote these values and connections between Heritage and Wilderness values.* (See tables: Her 1 - Heritage Resource Protection; Her 3 - Forest-wide Heritage Inventory; and Her 4 - Heritage Research). Program emphasis will also focus on public participation programs such as Passport in Time (see: Her 2 - Public Involvement Program) *Heritage staff shall assess and review all documented and unevaluated resources within the Monument, identifying those resources that support the Monument proclamations significant historical themes, are integral to enhancing the Monument's distinctiveness or character, and those at risk, for regular monitoring. These identified resources will be classified and added to the Forest's list of Priority Heritage Assets. Of the 44 sites identified within the designated Monument, those determined to meet the criteria for classification as a Priority Heritage Asset (PHA) will be monitored every 5 years. As new resources are identified within the Monument, these will be assessed and reviewed for classification as a PHA. If determined to meet the Monument's PHA criteria, these will be scheduled for monitoring every 5 years.*

- Partnerships and volunteers will be emphasized to improve visitor services and increase opportunities for interpretation and environmental education (see tables: REC 4 - Conservation Education; Her 2 - Public Involvement Program). ***Provide a minimum of [insert number] conservation education programs/events per year within the Monument.***

Place-Based Program Emphasis

The following changes to the Forest Plan “Places” are proposed for the Monument. These changes are optional plan content, and are not plan components specifically defined or used in the 2012 Planning Rule. They are retained in the Monument Management Plan to provide the public with recognizable, defined areas within the Monument, and to enhance and supplement desired conditions.

Angeles High Country

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Little Rock Creek 7.5 miles
- San Antonio Canyon Creek 2.2 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- San Gabriel Wilderness 5,928 acres
- Sheep Mountain Wilderness 23,290 acres
- ***Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness 26,757 acres***

Recommended Wilderness:

- Sheep Mountain (Sheep Mountain Wilderness) 1,897 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Devil's Punchbowl 89 acres
- Mt. Baden-Powell 252 acres
- Mt. San Antonio 164 acres

Soledad Front Country

Existing Wilderness:

- ***Magic Mountain Wilderness 11,938 acres***

Special Interest Areas:

- Aliso - Arrastre Middle and North 7,850 acres

Desired Condition: The Soledad Front Country Place is identified as a "Key Place" for its natural appearing area that functions as a scenic backdrop and transitional landscape. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the dramatic canyon and rugged mountain views, the presence of pine and juniper stands, and a well-defined age class mosaic with patches in chaparral. ***Designated wilderness is maintained as a naturally evolving and natural appearing landscape that functions as wilderness and remote for primitive, dispersed recreation use.*** Heritage resources are managed to standard under a

comprehensive and integrated management plan. Wildlife linkages connecting the San Gabriel Mountains to the Castaic and Santa Susana Mountains is established and functioning. Habitat conditions for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species are improving over time. Exotic species are reduced and controlled over time. Private land between the two mountain ranges is acquired and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is connected.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is expected to focus on the protection of communities from the threat of fire, the management of high levels of recreation use, and the maintenance of urban and forest infrastructures (facilities). The success of this emphasis is dependent on a sustainable level of development and the delicate balance between the needs of people and the effects of those uses on the plant and animal communities in the national forest. Uses must be balanced to promote the conservation of valuable natural resources and to sustain the needs of people. ***Wilderness management emphasis is expected to be focused on maintaining the sense of remoteness and solitude throughout the designated wilderness area.*** The significance of the heritage resources in the Place is recognized through the designation of special areas managed for the heritage resource value. Special emphasis will be given to acquiring private land between the San Gabriel and Sierra Pelona Mountain Ranges in order to connect the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The national forest will focus on protection of open space and boundary management in anticipation of future adjacent development.

The national forest is active in regional planning efforts to establish a wildlife linkage connecting the San Gabriel Mountains to the Sierra Pelona and Santa Susana Mountains. Uses and activities are managed to provide opportunities for establishment of regional wildlife linkages in the Soledad Front Country Place. Protection and enhancement of threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species, such as the unarmored threespine stickleback, arroyo toad, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, San Diego horned lizard, two-striped garter snake and sensitive plants will be emphasized in all activities. Arundo and other exotic species eradication to restore healthy riparian systems will continue to be emphasized.

Special emphasis will be given to acquiring private land between the San Gabriel and Castaic Mountain Ranges in order to connect the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Mojave Front Country

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Little Rock Creek 10.9 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- ***Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness 26,757 acres***

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Devil's Punchbowl 1,166 acres

Desired Condition: The Mojave Front Country Place is maintained as a natural appearing and cultural landscape that functions as a year-round, low elevation open space for Mojave Basin residents and the residents of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. ***Designated wilderness is maintained as a naturally evolving and natural appearing landscape that functions as wilderness and remote for primitive, dispersed recreation use.*** It also serves as

a scenic backdrop for the Antelope Valley and this desert-interface landscape is identified as a "Key Place" for the Angeles National Forest. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are distinct desert views from within the Place and rugged mountain background views, desert scrub, scattered pinyon pines, Joshua trees, sycamore, and cottonwood in drainages and shaded canyons, as well as the remnants of Native American history.

A wildlife linkage connecting the San Gabriel Mountains north to Saddleback Butte has been established and is functioning. Habitat conditions for threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species are improving over time. Exotic species are reduced and controlled over time.

Program Emphasis: Management is expected to focus on community protection, recreation use, and urban and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, consistent with the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concern and their habitat, as well as heritage resources. Management will also emphasize the interpretation and protection of the heritage resource sites of the Place, which are some of the oldest in the national forest. ***Wilderness management emphasis is expected to be focused on maintaining the sense of remoteness and solitude throughout the designated wilderness area.*** Forest health in terms of water quality and quantity will be managed to provide for forest ecosystem needs and the instream flow necessary to support surface and subsurface resources. Uses will be balanced and promote the conservation of resource qualities that sustain these uses and provide attractions for this area. The national forest will focus on open space protection and boundary management in anticipation of adjacent development.

The national forest is active in regional planning efforts to establish a wildlife linkage connecting the San Gabriel Mountains north to Saddleback Butte. Uses and activities are managed to provide opportunities for establishment of a regional wildlife linkage in the Mojave Front Country Place.

Protection and enhancement of threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species such as the arroyo toad, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, San Diego horned lizard, two-striped garter snake, California spotted owl, joint beavertail cactus and other sensitive plants will be emphasized in all activities. Arroyo toad surveys will be completed. In the Little Rock area, the current Monitoring and Use Assessment Plan will be evaluated and redesigned. Exotic species eradication to restore healthy riparian systems will be emphasized.

Appendix A – Special Designation Overlays

The following changes to the Forest Plan "Special Designation Overlays" are proposed for the Monument. These changes would update the Special Designations to acknowledge and be consistent with designation of two new wilderness areas in 2009.

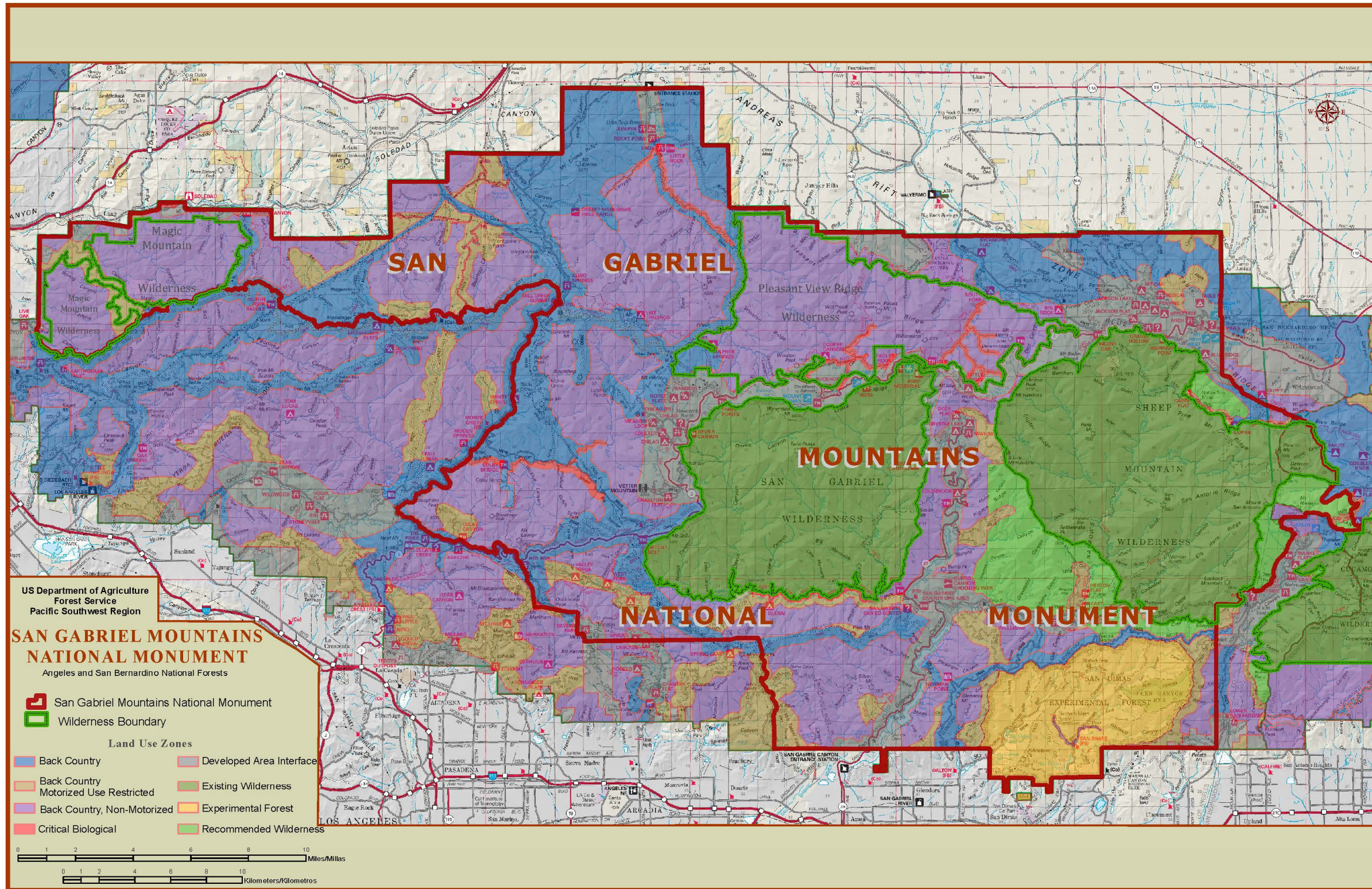


Figure 2. Proposed Land Use Zone map

Magic Mountain Wilderness ***Places: Soledad Front Country*** ***11,938 Acres***

The United States Congress designated the Magic Mountain Wilderness in 2009. The Magic Mountain Wilderness is generally bounded by: Santa Clara Divide Road (3N17.7) on the south; Backcountry Discovery Trail 1 (3N37) on the east; and forest boundaries on the north and west. A closed road traverses the mountain from the community of Lange to Magic Mountain. This corridor separates the Magic Mountain Wilderness into two portions.

The Magic Mountain Wilderness's chaparral-covered hillsides and oak-studded canyons provide a scenic vista and suitable habitat for the California condor. The area also offers primitive recreational opportunities for the rapidly urbanizing Santa Clarita Valley. There are no officially designated trails within this wilderness. However, several social trails exist which were created by visitor use.

Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness ***Places: Angeles High Country,*** ***27,040 Acres***
Mojave Front Country

The United States Congress designated the Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness in 2009. This wilderness area is located roughly 30 miles northeast of La Canada, north of the Angeles Crest Highway where the San Gabriel Mountains slope north to meet the Mojave Desert. The area features 8,200-foot Mt. Williamson and other dramatic peaks, formidable cliffs, the headwaters of Little Rock Creek, remote backcountry, and some of the most magnificent canyon country in the San Gabriel Mountains.

The Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness is generally bounded by: California Highway 2 (Angeles Crest Scenic Byway) on the south; Little Rock Canyon on the west; and the forest boundary on the north; and High Desert National Recreation Trail (10W02 Burckhardt) on the northeast.

The area can be accessed from California State Highway 2 at Vincent's Gap, Islip Trailhead, Buckhorn Campground, and Three Points Trailhead and from the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and High Desert National Recreation Trail.

Trails going through this wilderness include: High Desert National Recreation Trail (10W02 Burckhardt), Islip Saddle (9W02), and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Appendix B – Program Strategies and Tactics

The following changes to the Forest Plan Program “Strategies and Tactics” are proposed for the Monument. These changes are optional plan content, and are not plan components specifically defined or used in the 2012 Planning Rule. These changes would provide new management approaches and strategies, in accordance with the 2012 Planning Rule.

WL 2 – Management of Species of Concern

Maintain and improve habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants, including those with the following designations: game species, harvest species, management indicator species, and watch list species.

- Manage State of California designated Wild Trout streams to maintain high quality habitat for wild trout populations.
- Coordinate and form partnerships with the CDF&W and other cooperators such as Partners in Flight to maintain and improve fish, wildlife, and plant habitat.

- Monitor *at-risk species according to the planning rule direction on monitoring.*
- Monitor habitat for ecological health indicators (e.g., tamarisk, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and bullfrogs).
- Develop and maintain wildlife water sources and other habitat improvement structures.
- Protect habitat during fire suppression activities where feasible.
- Cooperate with other agencies, partners, and other national forest programs to maintain and improve landscape level habitat conditions and ecological processes over the long-term for landscape linkages, wildlife movement corridors, key deer and bighorn sheep fawning, lambing, and winter ranges, and raptor nesting sites.

Her 1 - Heritage Resource Protection

Protect *and preserve* heritage resources for cultural and scientific value and public benefit:

- *Manage* known significant cultural properties to identify any activity that adversely affects, or has the potential to adversely affect, or does not complement the site. *Develop measures, in consultation with project planners, to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects or impacts.*
- *Protect heritage sites during fire suppression and rehabilitation activities where feasible.*
- Use partnerships to *develop and* implement site management *stewardship* plans for heritage resource sites, focusing on those sites with recognized significance or at risk from public or land use effects. *Evaluate historic sites for appropriate management. Develop site management plans for noteworthy heritage resources wherever they occur.*
- *In consultation with Tribes, work to improve the interpretative potential of Native American resources within the monument, focusing on traditional uses, Tribal history, and current relationship of local Tribes to the San Gabriel Mountains.*
- Evaluate *and assess* historic sites for appropriate management. Develop site management plans *and/or stewardship partnerships* for noteworthy *or at risk* heritage resources.

Formally evaluate heritage sites named in the Presidential Proclamation and nominate to the National Register of Historic Places, as appropriate.

- *Aliso-Arrastre Special Interest Area*
- *Eldoradoville, located along the East Fork of the San Gabriel River*
- *Mt. Wilson Observatory*
- *San Dimas Experimental Forest*

REC 2 - Sustainable Use and Environmental Design

Analyze, stabilize and restore areas where visitor use is negatively affecting recreation experiences, public safety, and environmental resources. Manage visitor use within the limits of identified capacities: Implement recreation capacity control measures in specific high-use areas as use levels become a concern. Conduct threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species occupancy surveys within potential threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species recreation conflict areas. Implement Adaptive Mitigation for Recreation Uses (Appendix D) in existing and new recreation sites and uses whenever a conflict between uses or sensitive resources is detected.

- *Continue to prioritize work with Forest Service Units and external partners to develop sustainable recreation studies, recreation design plans, new products, or recreation design features to improve recreation management within the Monument and ensure relevance to the Monument's diverse visitor use base.*
- *Evaluate the need for recreation carrying capacity in high use areas such as San Gabriel Canyon by following the Interagency Visitor Use Management Framework (<http://visitorusemanagement.nps.gov>), including:*
 - *Identifying visitor capacities and strategies to manage use levels within capacities*
 - *Documenting the criteria and rationale for establishing visitor capacities*
 - *Documenting the relationship between the amount of visitor use and existing conditions and how the management actions are expected to affect that relationship*
- *Work with Monument gateway communities and partners to manage potential impacts and maximize the potential benefits associated with Monument designation by addressing items such as:*
 - *Parking capacity at Monument access points*
 - *Appropriate Monument access points to publicize*

REC 3 - Recreation Participation

Offer a wide range of high quality, environmentally sustainable developed and dispersed recreation opportunities to a rapidly growing and culturally diverse visitor population, with minimal visitor conflicts and effects to other resources:

- *Develop new, environmentally sustainable recreation opportunities, areas and infrastructure to relieve concentrated demand within existing high-use areas and to accommodate future growth and new uses elsewhere.*
- *Improve, remove or replace aging developed recreation infrastructure to better meet current needs and future demand. Replacing opportunities lost to closures will be a high priority.*
- *Inventory and analyze existing and potential dispersed use, including, but not limited to, hiking, motorized recreation, day-use, recreational target shooting, waterplay, snowplay and camping opportunities. Identify areas where that use is consistent with resource protection and public safety, and mitigate or eliminate problems over time.*

- Implement adaptive management processes at recreation facilities to proactively *engage* persons with disabilities, contemporary urban visitors, aging populations, diverse ethnic groups, *youth*, and day-use emphasis (see Appendix C, Monitoring Requirements).

REC 4 - Conservation Education

Visitors have a greater understanding about the significance and importance of forest ecosystems, heritage resources, and the interrelationship between people and the natural environment:

- The Forest Service plays a leadership role in environmental stewardship and conservation education partnerships with non-profits, volunteer groups, communities, governments, organization camps and private entities, emphasizing and enhancing the capability of field program and project delivery, especially to underserved populations *and youth*. Coordination between national forests is promoted for maximum results and cost efficiencies of programs and projects.
- *Develop a Monument conservation education plan that is tiered to the Monument Plan.*
 - *Focus conservation education on the themes of urbanization, fire, heritage resources, and wildlife and plants that are noted as the main management challenges.*
- *Provide universal signs and multilingual outreach.*
 - *Prioritize implementation of universal signs throughout the Monument.*
 - *Provide public information and education in the primary languages of Monument visitors to ensure communication is intentional, meets information needs, and conveys a message of public access for all:*
 - *Expand the use of multilingual information and outreach including:*
 - *Interpretive signs.*
 - *Standard recreation signs.*
 - *Online information and social media.*
 - *Multilingual visitor contact personnel such as recreation staff, law enforcement and volunteers.*
 - *Effectively use social media and contemporary communication technology.*
- *Prioritize youth engagement efforts in line with the Region 5 Integrated Youth Engagement Strategy, and continue participation in programs such as:*
 - *Southern California Consortium “Generation Green” program.*

REC 5 – Recreation Special Use Authorizations

- Manage recreation residences as a valid use of National Forest System land.
- Complete Recreation Residence Consistency Review and Continuance Determinations including Recreation Residence Compliance Inspections.
- Manage all recreation special-uses in compliance with law, regulation and policy.

- Administer all recreation special-use authorizations to standard.
- Establish authorization holder responsibility for public education about threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species approved by the Forest Service for recreation special-use events within all threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species habitats.
- ***Develop criteria for appropriate types of special events, requests, and emerging uses within the Monument.***

Trans 1 - Transportation System

Plan, design, construct, and maintain National Forest System roads and trails to meet plan objectives, to promote sustainable resource conditions, and to safely accommodate anticipated levels and types of use:

- Implement landscape -scale transportation system analysis on a priority basis. Coordinate with state, county, local and regional government entities, municipalities, Tribal governments, other agencies, and the public. ***Participate in Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Coordinate with Caltrans to improve transportation connectivity within the Monument, while minimizing adverse resource effects.***
- ~~***Add unclassified roads to the National Forest System of roads when site-specific road analysis determines there is a public need for the road.***~~
- Enhance user safety and offer adequate parking at popular destinations on high traffic passenger car roads, while also minimizing adverse resource effects.
 - ***Consider incorporating a system for temporary one-way traffic flows and closures during peak volumes.***
 - ***Evaluate parking capacity limits as a means to manage visitor use and vehicle congestion.***
 - ***Enforce parking capacity as a means to manage high visitor use levels.***
 - ***Prevent or limit parking in riparian areas to reduce resource damage.***
 - ***Explore opportunities to increase parking capacity in key areas to manage vehicle congestion.***
- Using priorities identified in the roads analysis process, reduce the road maintenance backlog to provide safe, efficient routes for recreationists and through-traveling public, and to safely accommodate fire protection equipment and other high clearance vehicles.
- Implement Corridor Management Plan for the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway.
 - ***Coordinate with programs such as CAR-LESS CA and connections such as with El Pueblo and Gold Line transit line.***
 - ***Coordinate with Collaborative Long-Range Transportation Planning effort to ensure that the CL RTP is responsive to the transit/transportation needs of the Monument.***
- ***Maintain awareness that “Driving for pleasure” is, and will continue to be, an important use.***

- *Update the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests motor vehicle use maps as necessary to reflect changes in allowed uses to public motor vehicle use.*

Trans 2 - Unnecessary Roads

Reduce the number of unnecessary or redundant unclassified roads and restore landscapes:

- *~~Decommission roads and trails that have been determined to be unnecessary for conversion to either the road or trail system through site-specific road analysis.~~ Decommission and rehabilitate high-risk, low-value roads identified in the roads analysis process.*
- Establish levels of restoration through project planning. *Continue to coordinate projects with California State Parks and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program, including those identified for restoration of unauthorized off-highway vehicle uses.*

Lands 4 – Mineral Withdrawals

Monitor and manage withdrawal status to document the condition of lands that could affect other actions (e.g., watershed protection, mining):

- ~~Review existing withdrawals to determine if continuation is consistent with the statutory objectives of the programs for which the lands were dedicated.~~
- ~~Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry TEP species key habitats in areas of mineral potential where habitat is not protected by any other means and would benefit by withdrawal. Protective measures will be maintained for the period of time needed to provide the necessary protection for TEP species and key habitats. Implement in occupied habitats for the arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo.~~

ME 1– Minerals Management

~~Manage minerals and energy resources commensurate with the conservation of forest resource values and the long-term health and biological diversity of ecosystems.~~

Manage valid Federal mineral rights existing within the Monument and mineral sales under the Materials Act of 1947 in a manner consistent with the proper care and management of the protected objects.

- ~~Limit withdrawals from mineral entry to maintain opportunities to access mineral and energy resources where environmentally sustainable and threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species are not impacted.~~
- ~~Assure long-term access and availability for leasing of oil and gas resources from environmentally suitable lands for regional, statewide and national energy needs.~~
- Use terms and conditions of the operating plan to offset the effects of mining consistent with the conservation of habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, and preserving significant heritage resources.
- Eliminate unapproved and noncompliant minerals operations.
- Facilitate environmentally and culturally sensitive exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources on National Forest System land open to

these activities, or on withdrawn lands consistent with valid existing rights, and integrate these activities with the planning and management of other resources.

- ~~Work with California Department of Fish and Game to prohibit suction dredging to protect threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species. Participate with the state to identify for the public those sections of streams that are open or closed to dredging.~~
- ~~Coordinate with California Department of Fish and Game on applying and enforcing state suction dredge regulations on the San Gabriel River. Participate with the state to identify for the public those sections of streams that are open or closed to dredging.~~
- ~~For approved mining operations within occupied threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive species habitat, riparian habitat, or other areas with species of concern, monitor mining operations as needed to ensure compliance with plans of operation.~~

Part 3 Design Criteria for the Southern California National Forests

The Forest Service proposes the following modifications (in ***bold italic***) to the 2006 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan Forest Plan standards and adaptive mitigation for recreation uses:

Plan Standards Required by (36 CFR 219)

S34: Where a threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, or sensitive species occurs in a recreation site or area, take steps to avoid or minimize negative impacts to the threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate or sensitive species and its habitat. Use the least restrictive action ***practically feasible*** that will effectively mitigate adverse impacts to the species and habitat (refer to Appendix D).

Appendix D – Adaptive Mitigation for Recreation Uses

Recreation Implementation Guidelines

These guidelines apply to all existing and new recreation sites and uses whenever a conflict between uses or sensitive resources is detected. Sensitive resources include threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species and habitats, riparian habitats, soil and watersheds, heritage resources, user conflicts, or other resources.

The management actions will be implemented in the order (education; perimeter control; management presence; redirection of use – if appropriate) listed below unless analysis of the conflict clearly indicates that a stronger measure is immediately necessary. The actions and practices include, but are not limited to:

1. Conservation Education

- Use information networks, including public service announcements, internet sites and links, ***social media***, and visitor guides and newsletters to communicate information regarding sensitive resources.
- Install and maintain appropriate multilingual information boards, interpretive panels and regulatory signs at developed sites and dispersed areas within sites of sensitive resources.

- Develop interpretive and environmental education programs for the public, Forest Service personnel, concessionaires, other special-use authorization holders, and volunteers about sensitive resources and habitats. Engage the services of special-use authorization holders that provide services to the public (i.e., concessionaires, organization camps, outfitter guides) to assist in the development and delivery of these programs. Provide authorization holders with messages about sensitive resources/management issues so that they can use them to educate people. Ensure that the methods chosen do not result in unacceptable effects to sensitive resources. Coordinate efforts between the four southern California national forests for maximum results and cost efficiencies. Use existing visitor centers where appropriate.
- De-emphasize the site or area and develop an information strategy to direct visitors to national forest/Monument recreation opportunities that do not affect sensitive resources.

2.1.2 Monitoring

No new resource monitoring requirements beyond those identified in the existing Forest Plan (Part 3, Appendix C) have been identified as necessary for the implementation of the proposed action.

2.2 No-Action Alternative (Continue Current Management)

The no-action alternative is required by the National Environmental Policy Act and serves as a baseline to compare effects of action alternatives.

Current management would continue in accordance with the 2006 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan, relevant amendments, and interim management direction. Because this alternative is the continuation of current management and would not result in changes to the existing Forest Plan, protections of Monument objects would only be provided where existing goals or objectives address them.

Plan components do not apply to the no-action alternative because a Monument Plan would not be proposed under this alternative; no changes would be made to the existing Forest Plan or applicable amendments in the planning area under the no-action alternative. Continuing current management under the no-action alternative would include the use of standard operating procedures and best management practices from the Forest Plan for management of lands within the Monument.

The no-action alternative does not meet the purpose and need of complying with the Presidential Proclamation establishing the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to complete a Monument management plan in the 3 years provided or providing expanded opportunities.

2.3 Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

We carefully considered the alternatives below and determined they would not be carried forward into detailed analysis in the environmental assessment. For an alternative to be analyzed in detail in the environmental assessment, it must meet the purpose and need for action and address one or more key issues.

Alternatives not considered in detail in the EA may include, but are not limited to, those that do not meet the purpose and need, are technologically or economically infeasible or illegal, or would result in unreasonable environmental harm.

Public scoping comments provided a large number of suggestions for actions to address some of the key issues and other relevant resource concerns identified above. Some public comments suggested the Forest Service operate a tram/bus/rail system to shuttle visitors into and out of the Monument. This suggestion is outside the capacity of the Forest Service to provide with current funding and staffing. An alternate proposal to coordinate with other partner authorities will be pursued as a part of this planning effort.

Construction of new bike paths into the Monument, more recreational facilities (such as bathrooms, trash cans, parking, etc.), and entrance stations at entrances to the Monument were also proposed. These types of action are outside the scope of the planning effort, as defined by the purpose and need. Site-specific analysis would be necessary and appropriate for considering this kind of development within the Monument.

Some commenters suggested the Forest Service should complete Travel Management Regulation Subpart A, B, and C planning in conjunction with the Monument Management Plan amendment. The Angeles National Forest has considered incorporating these processes into the Monument Plan amendment process, but has determined it is not necessary for the scope of this planning effort and would be best addressed in a focused planning effort to follow in the future. In addition, the Angeles has conducted a Forestwide roads analysis process that included all system roads, and has also gone through the route and area designation process—leading to the creation of the current motor vehicle use map. This existing direction continues to guide and inform decisions within the Monument.

Comments also advocated that the Forest Service provide more funding/staffing for the Monument or charge additional fees for admission to the Monument to pay for additional facilities. While previous Monument designations indicate that resources are likely to increase, this is not a decision that can be made within the current Monument Plan, as funding levels fluctuate from year to year and are based upon congressional appropriation processes.

Changing the fee structure is site-specific action outside the scope of the planning effort, but could be considered in a future process focused on such changes.

Some commenters suggested the Forest Service establish visitor capacity allocations. This type of action is outside the scope of this planning effort, but could be considered in a future site-specific process focused on such changes in specific areas. The proposed action does include a goal to evaluate visitor capacity.

A number of comments sought that the Forest Service should deny the California High Speed Rail application for routes through the Monument as a part of this planning effort. This suggestion is outside of the scope of this planning effort, as special use permits are considered on a case-by-case basis once submitted by applicants.

2.4 Decision to be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to amend the Forest Plan as proposed in this document, or make adjustments based on input that emerges from the environmental analysis and

public comment. The Forest Plan amendment (see “Chapter 2.0 Proposed Action”) would include: New desired conditions, objectives, suitability of lands, and standards and guidelines.

Appendix

Presidential Proclamation -- San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Known as the crown to the Valley of Angels, the peaks of the San Gabriel Mountains frame the Los Angeles skyline. Over 15 million people live within 90 minutes of this island of green, which provides 70 percent of the open space for Angelenos and 30 percent of their drinking water. Millions recreate and rejuvenate in the San Gabriels each year, seeking out their cool streams and canyons during the hot summer months, their snowcapped mountains in the winter, and their trail system and historic sites throughout the year.

The San Gabriels are some of the steepest and most rugged mountains in the United States. Situated adjacent to the mighty San Andreas Fault, the mountains are geologically active, migrating northwest at an average of 2 inches each year. Deep canyons, many with precious perennial streams, score the mountain peaks -- north toward the arid Mojave Desert and south to the temperate San Gabriel Valley.

The rich cultural history of these mountains echoes their striking geologic features and ecological diversity. Cultural resources represent successive layers of history, including that of Native Americans, Spanish missionaries and colonialists, Mexican rancheros, and Euro-American settlers and prospectors. Native American history runs deep, at least 8,000 years, exemplified by the Aliso-Arrastre Special Interest Area known for its heritage resource values, including several rock art and cupules features, the concentration of which is unique to southern California. Due to urban development and natural processes, this area also contains the best preserved example of a Gabrielino pictograph that characterizes the California Tradition of rock painting.

Early European explorers' use of the area consisted mainly of early explorers traveling through the area. Over time, land grants, Spanish missions, and townsites surrounded the mountains, relying heavily on them for water, building supplies, and game.

By the 1840s, gold prospectors poured into the mountains. Large placer and lode mining operations were established in the San Gabriels, with mixed success. The historic mining town of Eldoradoville, located along the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, had at its peak in 1861 a population of over 500 miners, with general stores, saloons, and dance halls along with numerous mining camps of tents, wooden shacks, and stone cabins along the river.

In the early 20th century, responding to the burgeoning interest of urban dwellers in backcountry hiking and weekend rambling, a number of trails, lodges, and camps -- many of which were accessible only by horseback or on foot -- were constructed throughout the mountains. Remnants of these historic resorts, which attracted local residents and Hollywood stars alike, can still be seen and are important aspects of the region's social and cultural history.

Enthusiasm for recreating in the mountains continues today. The San Gabriels offer hundreds of miles of hiking, motorized, and equestrian trails, including several National Recreational Trails and 87 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. In the footprint of the resorts of the Great Hiking Era, many visitors partake of Forest Service campgrounds built on the foundations of early 20th-century lodges and resorts. In a region with limited open space, the mountains are the backyard for many highly urbanized and culturally diverse populations within Los Angeles, underscoring the need for strong partnerships between this urban forest and neighboring communities.

The mountains have hosted world-class scientists, studying the terra firma at their feet as well as the distant galactic stars. Astronomer Edwin Hubble performed critical calculations from his work at the Mt. Wilson Observatory, including his discovery that some nebulae were actually galaxies outside our own Milky Way. Assisted by Milton Humason, he also discovered the presence of the astronomical phenomenon of redshift that proved the universe is expanding. Also on Mt. Wilson, Albert Michelson, America's first Nobel Prize winner in a science field, conducted an experiment that provided the first modern and truly accurate measurement of the speed of light. Closer to earth, the San Dimas Experimental Forest, established in 1933 as a hydrologic laboratory, continues the study of some of our earliest and most comprehensively monitored research watersheds, providing crucial scientific insights.

Although proximate to one of America's most urban areas, the region has untrammelled wilderness lands of the highest quality, including four designated wilderness areas: San Gabriel, Sheep Mountain, Pleasant View Ridge, and Magic Mountain. These lands provide

invaluable backcountry opportunities for the rapidly expanding nearby communities and also provide habitat for iconic species including the endangered California condor and least Bells' vireo, and the Forest Service Sensitive Nelson's bighorn sheep, bald eagle, and California spotted owl. Inventoried roadless areas and lands recommended for designation as Wilderness also provide important habitat, including a connectivity corridor important for wide ranging species, such as the mountain lion.

The importance of the San Gabriels' watershed values was recognized early. As early as the late 1800s, local communities petitioned to protect the mountains for their watershed values. As a result, President Benjamin Harrison established the San Gabriel Timberland Reserve in 1892, the precursor to the Angeles National Forest.

Reflecting the needs of the nearby population centers, the San Gabriels host an array of flood control and water storage, delivery, and diversion infrastructure, including six large retention dams as well as numerous telecommunications and utility towers.

The San Gabriels' rivers not only provide drinking water but are also areas of high ecological significance supporting rare populations of native fish, including the threatened Santa Ana sucker. The San Gabriel River supports rare arroyo chub and Santa Ana speckled dace, a species found only in the Los Angeles Basin. Little Rock Creek tumbles down from the northern escarpment to the Mojave Desert below and supports important populations of the endangered mountain yellow-legged frog and arroyo toad, as well as the threatened California red-legged frog. On the slopes of Mt. San Antonio, San Antonio Creek rushes through an alpine canyon studded with stalwart bigcone Douglas fir, and the magnificent 75-foot San Antonio Falls draw thousands of visitors every year.

In addition to rivers, the San Gabriels contain two scenic lakes, both formed by the area's remarkable geologic forces. The alpine Crystal Lake, found high in the mountains, was formed from one of the largest landslides on record in southern California. Jackson Lake is a natural sag pond, a type of pond formed between the strands of an active fault line -- in this case, the San Andreas.

Climatic contrasts in the San Gabriels range from the northern slope desert region, home to Joshua trees and pinyon pines, to high-elevation white fir and a notable stand of 1,000-year-old limber pines. Vegetation communities, including chaparral and oak woodland, represent a portion of the rare Mediterranean ecosystem found in only 3 percent of the world. Mediterranean climate zones have high numbers of species for their area.

The San Gabriels also provide suitable habitat for 52 Forest Service Sensitive Plants and as many as 300 California-endemic species, including Pierson's lupine and San Gabriel bedstraw, that occur only in the San Gabriel range.

The mountains harbor several of California's signature natural vegetation communities, including the drought-tolerant and fire-adapted chaparral shrubland, which is the dominant community and includes scrub oaks, chamise, manzanita, wild lilac, and western mountain-mahogany. Mixed conifer forest is an associated vegetation community comprising Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, white fir, and riparian woodlands including white alder, sycamore, and willow. These communities provide habitat for numerous native wildlife and insect species, including agriculturally important pollinators, the San Gabriel Mountains slender salamander, San Bernardino Mountain kingsnake, song sparrow, Peregrine falcon, mule deer, and Pallid bat.

WHEREAS section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431) (the "Antiquities Act"), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected; and

WHEREAS it is in the public interest to preserve and protect the objects of scientific and historic interest at the San Gabriel Mountains;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Antiquities Act, hereby proclaim the objects identified above that are situated upon lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (monument) and, for the purpose of preserving those objects, reserve as a part thereof all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States within the boundaries described on the accompanying map entitled, "San Gabriel Mountains National Monument" and the accompanying legal description, which are attached to and form a part of this proclamation.

These reserved Federal lands and interests in lands encompass approximately 346,177 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, or other

disposition under the public land or other Federal laws, including location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument, or disposition of materials under the Materials Act of 1947 in a manner that is consistent with the proper care and management of the objects protected by this proclamation.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights. Lands and interests in lands within the monument's boundaries not owned or controlled by the United States shall be reserved as part of the monument upon acquisition of ownership or control by the United States. To the extent allowed by applicable law, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior shall manage valid Federal mineral rights existing within the monument as of the date of this proclamation in a manner consistent with the proper care and management of the objects protected by this proclamation.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to alter the valid existing water rights of any party, including the United States.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to interfere with the operation or maintenance, nor with the replacement or modification within the existing authorization boundary, of existing water resource, flood control, utility, pipeline, or telecommunications facilities that are located within the monument, subject to the Secretary of Agriculture's special uses authorities and other applicable laws. Existing water resource, flood control, utility, pipeline, or telecommunications facilities located within the monument may be expanded, and new facilities may be constructed within the monument, to the extent consistent with the proper care and management of the objects protected by this proclamation, subject to the Secretary of Agriculture's special uses authorities and other applicable law.

The Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) shall manage the monument through the Forest Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this proclamation. The Secretary shall prepare, within 3 years of the date of this proclamation and in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, a management plan for the monument and shall promulgate such regulations for its management as deemed appropriate. The Secretary shall provide for maximum public involvement in the development of that plan, including, but not limited to, consultation with tribal, State, and local government, as well as community environmental conservation, health, and justice organizations. The plan shall provide for protection and interpretation of the scientific and historic objects identified above and for continued public access to those objects, consistent with their protection. To the maximum extent permitted by other applicable law and consistent with the purposes of the monument, the plan shall protect and preserve Indian sacred sites, as defined in section 1(b) of Executive

Order 13007 of May 24, 1996, and access by Indian tribal members for traditional cultural, spiritual, and tree and forest product-, food-, and medicine-gathering purposes.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to enlarge or diminish the rights of any Indian tribe as defined in section 1(b) of Executive Order 13007.

The Secretary shall prepare a transportation plan that specifies and implements such actions necessary to protect the objects identified in this proclamation, including road closures and travel restrictions. For the purpose of protecting the objects identified above, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes, the Secretary shall limit all motor vehicle use to designated roads, trails, and, in the Secretary's discretion, those authorized off-highway vehicular use areas existing as of the date of this proclamation.

The Secretary shall, in developing any management plans and any management rules and regulations governing the monument, consult with the Secretary of the Interior. The final decision to issue any management plans and any management rules and regulations rests with the Secretary of Agriculture. Management plans or rules and regulations developed by the Secretary of the Interior governing uses within national parks or other national monuments administered by the Secretary of the Interior shall not apply within the monument.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of California with respect to fish and wildlife management.

Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the United States Forest Service in issuing and administering grazing permits or leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply with regard to the lands in the monument in a manner consistent with the proper care and management of the objects protected by this proclamation.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to alter the authority or responsibility of any party with respect to emergency response activities within the monument, including wildland fire response. The Secretary may carry out vegetative management treatments within the monument, except that timber harvest and prescribed fire may only be used when the Secretary determines it appropriate to address the risk of wildfire, insect infestation, or disease that would endanger the objects identified above or imperil public safety.

Recognizing the proximity of the monument to Class B airspace and that a military training route is over the monument, nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to restrict general aviation, commercial, or military aircraft operations, nor the designation of new units of special use airspace or the establishment of military flight training routes, over the monument.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of the monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA