

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan



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San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Purpose of Monument Plan

On October 10, 2014, President Barack Obama signed the Proclamation designating 346,177 acres of existing Federal lands as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (Monument). The Monument is the eighth national monument under Forest Service management. The Proclamation described the historical, natural, and cultural significance of the features within the proclaimed area that warranted the special designation of a national monument. The Proclamation also directed that certain uses continue, including Tribal rights to utilize the lands in traditional manners. The Proclamation acknowledges the continuation of valid existing rights and uses, such as utilities and water infrastructure.

The Proclamation directed that the administration of these activities continue, but in a manner consistent with the intent of the Proclamation. The Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the Monument were withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, with the exception of valid existing mining rights. The Proclamation mandated the preparation of a monument management plan within 3 years, a transportation plan, and further, that the management framework to be developed in a collaborative manner. This San Gabriel Mountain National Monument Plan (Monument Plan) was developed according to new Forest Service planning regulations adopted in 2012, referred to in this document as the 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule.

The purpose of this Monument Plan is to provide strategic direction and guidance for future management of the Monument. It provides a basis for informed decision making, while guiding resource management, practices, uses, and framework for project development. The Monument Plan does not include specific projects and activity decisions. Project-level decisions will be made at a later date, after additional detailed analysis and further public involvement. The Monument Plan is adaptive in that it can be amended to update management direction based on new knowledge and information.

This Monument Plan is strategic in nature and does not attempt to prescribe detailed management direction to cover every possible situation. While all components necessary for protection and interpretation of the scientific and historic objects of the Monument are included, the Monument Plan also provides flexibility needed to respond to uncertain or unknown future events and conditions, such as fires, floods, climate change, changing economies, and social changes that may be important to consider at the time future decisions are made.

This Monument Plan has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and the 2012 Forest Service planning regulations (36 CFR 219), as amended. This management plan is also accompanied by an environmental assessment (EA) as required by the regulations used in its development (36 CFR 219.13).

Planning Area

The Monument Plan planning area includes all National Forest System (NFS) lands within the boundaries of the Monument in the northern and southeastern portions of the San Gabriel Mountain Range, approximately 30 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles in southern California. The Monument encompasses 342,175 acres of the Angeles National Forest (ANF) and 4,002 acres of the land previously administered and managed by the San Bernardino National Forest. The Regional Forester has assigned administrative and planning authority for the entire Monument area to the ANF. The amended ANF LMP will apply to NFS lands within the ANF administrative boundary, which now includes the entire Monument. The changes associated with the ANF LMP and within the Monument management plan will apply only to the Monument area.

Management Planning Overview

United States Forest Service (Forest Service) land management planning is an adaptive process that includes forest plan development, monitoring, and adjustment based on desired social, economic, and ecological conditions and the evaluation of impacts to those conditions. The overall purpose of planning is to ensure land management based on current information that guides land stewardship to best meet the needs of the public.

Relationship of this Land Management Plan to Other Planning Documents

The Monument Plan will amend the current ANF Land Management Plan (ANF LMP). Specifically, the ANF LMP plan components listed below will be superseded by the new plan components in the Monument Plan:

1. “There is a low level of increase in roaded acres over time, as defined by road density analysis.”
(from ANF LMP Part 1, Managed Recreation in a Natural Setting, Goal 3.1 – Provide for Public Use and Natural Resource Protection, page 33.)
2. “Habitat conditions are stable or improving over time as indicated by the status of management indicator species.”
(from ANF LMP Part 1, Managed Recreation in a Natural Setting, Goal 3.1 – Provide for Public Use and Natural Resource Protection, page 35.)
3. Table 2.1.3 Suitable uses commodity and commercial uses, Angeles National Forest:

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
Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Areas	Suitable	Suitable	By Exception	By Exception	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Minerals Resources Exploration and Development	Suitable	Suitable	By Exception	By Exception	By exception	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

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

(from ANF LMP Part 2, Suitable Land Use Zones, Land Use Zones, Table 2.1.3, page 6.)

4. “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.

- Monitor management indicator species (MIS).”

(from ANF LMP Part 2, Appendix B – Program Strategies and Tactics, WL 2 - Management of Species of Concern, page 99.)

5. “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.”

(from ANF LMP Part 2, Appendix B – Program Strategies and Tactics, Lands 4 – Mineral Withdrawals, page 122.)

- 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.

(from ANF LMP Part 2, Appendix B – Program Strategies and Tactics, ME 1 – Minerals Management, page 123.)

6. “S57: Free use rock, invertebrate fossil, and mineral collecting for non-commercial personal uses must be approved by the authorized officer.”

(from ANF LMP Part 3, Plan Standards Required by (36 CFR 219), page 3)

The management direction contained in the rest of the ANF LMP will apply to the Monument, unless specifically noted in the Monument Plan.

Scope and Applicability of this Management Plan

The Monument Plan applies to all NFS lands and activities within the boundaries of the Monument. Future projects will be proposed, likely in partnership with organizational stakeholders, to fulfill the vision and make progress toward the desired conditions, goals, and objectives of the ANF LMP and this Monument Plan. In achieving progress, the ANF will use the management approaches delineated here. And, for all future projects, the standards and guidelines will be applied in planning projects.

Whenever a specific project or activity is proposed, additional public involvement will occur, site-specific effects will be analyzed, and separate decisions will be made within the framework of the Monument plan.

The Monument Plan does not reiterate other existing laws, regulations, and policy that already provide protection of those Monument resources identified within the Proclamation, such as policies regarding heritage resources, balancing effects of projects with rare species and habitats, or closure of the San Dimas Experimental Forest to general use, except under permit for research or limited educational purposes.

Management Plan Organization, Content, and Terminology

The existing ANF LMP will continue to apply within the Monument, except for the changes described in this plan. The new Monument Plan components will amend the ANF LMP.

Under the 2012 Planning Rule, management plans can be added as a land management plan amendment or a full-scale revision. Because the combination of laws, rules, regulations, policy, and the existing ANF LMP provide many protections and an adaptive management framework using the best available science and balancing public needs with ecosystem conservation, a full-scale revision was not warranted.

For a land management plan amendment, the responsible official, with consideration of stakeholder input, determines which plan components are to be included. The Monument Plan includes six plan components that guide future project and activity decision making: desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards, guidelines, and management approaches. All projects and activities within the Monument need to be consistent with these plan components:

A **desired condition** is a description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. A desired condition description is specific enough to allow progress toward achievement to be determined but does not include a completion date.

A **goal** is a broad statement of intent, other than desired conditions, usually related to process or interaction with the public. Goals are expressed in broad, general terms, but do not include completion dates.

An **objective** is a concise, measurable, and time-specific statement of a desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions. Objectives are based on reasonably foreseeable budgets.

A **standard** is a mandatory constraint on project and activity decision-making, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

A **guideline** is a constraint on project and activity decision-making that allows for departure from its terms, so long as the purpose of the guideline is met. Guidelines are established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

Management approaches are considered to be other plan content. Management approaches describe the principal strategies and program priorities the ANF intends to use to carry out projects and activities under the Monument Plan. Management approaches may discuss potential processes such as analysis, assessment, inventory, project planning, or monitoring. The **suitability of lands** is

determined for specific lands within the plan area. The lands are identified as suitable or not suitable for various uses or activities based on desired conditions applicable to those lands. The suitability of lands is not identified for every use or activity. If certain lands are identified as not suitable for a use, then that use or activity may not be authorized.

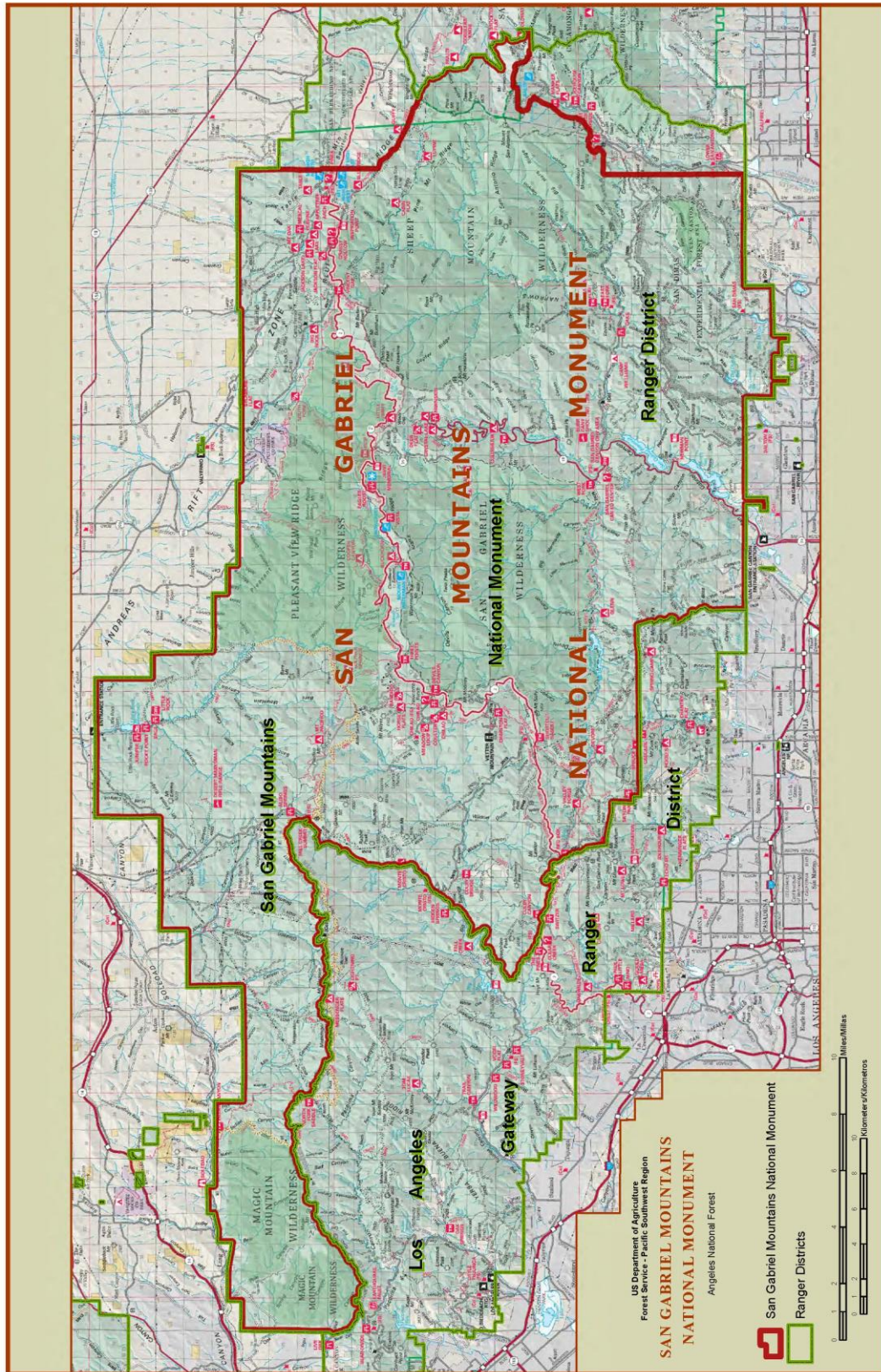


Figure 1. San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Chapter 2 – San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan

Introduction

The Proclamation requires a management plan be written for the Monument and directs that the Monument Plan:

...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.

The scientific and historic objects identified in the Proclamation include cultural resources, recreational and scenic features, scientific features, diverse wildlife and aquatic species, vegetative communities, and infrastructure.

The direction contained in the ANF LMP will continue to apply within the Monument, unless specifically changed in this monument plan. Additional plan components are also listed below and will supersede the plan components listed in the ANF LMP.

Vision

The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument reflects a unique recreational and educational gateway to America's most urban national forest in the nation's most populous county. The Monument offers exceptional interpretation and educational opportunities that can elevate understanding of the region's natural and cultural heritage, while fostering new generations of environmental stewards. In addition to the natural and cultural wonders, the Monument includes critical infrastructure that sustains the surrounding metropolis, including flood control and water storage, delivery and diversion, energy development, utilities, and telecommunication facilities. This mix of natural wonders and infrastructure sets this monument apart from others and highlights the vital need for biodiversity and access to open space existing in harmony with essential services that sustain quality of life for surrounding communities.

Diversity and inclusivity are reflected in the visiting public, agency employees, volunteers, and partners, who are integrated into the fabric of the Monument. This monument is our monument. A variety of sustainable recreation opportunities and well-maintained facilities are available to the public. A transportation plan promoting safe, manageable access opportunities accommodates visitor needs in balance with resource protection and user capacity considerations. Monument operations are conducted in close cooperation with surrounding communities. Management actions balance resource protection, recreation, water management, and infrastructure needs. Collaboration and partnerships enliven connections to local and regional organizations and communities to support protection of objects of interest, enhance recreation opportunities, and achieve ecological restoration goals. A resilient, healthy, and sustainable forest landscape accessible and welcoming to all who call Southern California home, for present and future generations, showcases this monument's importance and potential to the nation.

Plan Components

Plan components are intended to provide for social, economic, and ecological sustainability and multiple uses in an integrated manner. These plan components were developed to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts, as well as promote beneficial impacts from plan implementation.

Goal

1. Expand ANF network of partnerships to accomplish management aspirations, including improved interpretive materials and educational opportunities.

Transportation

Desired Conditions

1. The Monument is accessible through alternative transportation and public transportation options in coordination with other agencies and gateway communities to provide greater access for those who do not use personal vehicles, and for the benefit of reducing vehicle congestion, addressing parking capacity issues, and improving public safety.
2. Road density within the Monument remains stable or is decreasing. The number of automobiles in high-use areas decreases over time as a result of alternative modes of transportation.
3. Roads and trails are maintained to standard.
4. Sufficient access points and parking areas are provided to serve visitors to the Monument during peak seasons in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to resources and the gateway communities and neighborhoods that surround the Monument.
5. Transportation connectivity to and within the Monument is improved through coordination with State, county, local, and regional government entities; municipalities; Tribal governments; other agencies; and the public.
6. The road and trail system is sufficient to provide a good balance of recreation opportunities for all users, including hikers, hunters, bicyclists, equestrians, OHV enthusiasts, and motorists, consistent with sustainable recreation practices.
7. The road and trail system includes easy-to-interpret signage that includes standard symbols recognized internationally. Up-to-date maps are available and in different media formats that clearly identify roads and trails, recreation opportunities, parking, and alternative transportation options that are understood by visitors who may not speak English.
8. The number of unauthorized roads and trails is decreased.

Goal

1. Evaluate alternative transportation and public transportation opportunities, including identifying programs that facilitate access from underserved communities, ways to link to public transportation options in gateway communities, and sites appropriate for bus access at key recreation areas.

Standard

1. Outside of the San Gabriel and Little Rock OHV areas, all vehicles are limited to designated roads and trails.

Guideline

1. Parking capacity should be considered during the planning of any new trail heads, including how parking may affect gateway communities when trails are located in their vicinity.

Management Approaches

1. Where appropriate, upgrade Road Management Objectives to maximize opportunities to improve roads and protect resources.
2. Analyze roads shown as “Likely Not Needed” in the roads analysis and travel analysis processes and determine if appropriate to decommission.
3. Coordinate projects with California State Parks and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program, including projects that maintain routes open to OHV use and restore areas of unauthorized off-highway vehicle uses.
4. Collaborate with gateway communities and local partners to manage potential impacts and maximize potential benefits associated with Monument designation by addressing issues such as identification of appropriate access points, parking capacity at access points, and alternative public transportation access options.
5. Coordinate with local, county, and State governments on transportation planning.
6. Coordinate with the Federal Highway Administration - Central Federal Lands Highway Division, and other regional transportation and planning agencies to improve access to the Monument.
7. Coordinate with Caltrans to improve transportation and wildlife connectivity within the Monument, while minimizing adverse resource effects.
8. Coordinate with transportation agencies to explore opportunities to connect with communities throughout Los Angeles County, working closely with Metro and Metrolink Stations and other regional, municipal, and local public or private transit systems.
9. Coordinate with the Federal Lands Collaborative Long-Range Transportation Planning effort to ensure it is responsive to the transit/transportation needs of the Monument.
10. Driving for pleasure is and will continue to be an important use within the Monument. For some members of the public with mobility limitations, driving may be the only means of experiencing the Monument
11. Update the ANF’s motor vehicle use map as necessary to identify currently designated roads, trails and areas for public motor vehicle use.
12. Manage high visitor use and traffic congestion using the following strategies:
 - Consider using temporary one-way traffic flows and closures during peak volume periods, while utilizing adequate signage, guidance, and traffic controls consistent with established standards.
 - Evaluate the use of parking capacity limits.
 - Enforce parking capacity limits and locations established by the appropriate governing authority.
 - Prevent or limit parking in riparian areas to reduce resource damage.
 - Explore opportunities to increase or better distribute parking capacity in key areas, including providing access by shuttles or other forms of public transportation. Parking locations should be clearly identified and delineated.

Sustainable Recreation

Desired Conditions

1. Recreation opportunities, including products, services, and the built environment, support the needs and expectations of the diverse population.
2. The Forest Service provides quality recreational settings and opportunities, allowing the growing and increasingly diverse visitor population to gain their desired recreation experiences throughout the Monument.
3. The Forest Service provides a comprehensive, well-maintained and sustainable trail system. Standard international symbols are used at trailheads and wayfinding points.
4. Public information and education is multilingual where possible to ensure communication meets information needs and conveys a message of public access.

Goals

1. Actively manage recreation in concentrated use areas to improve recreational quality. Avoid or reduce impact on special status species and aquatic species through improved management of dispersed recreation, designated river access points, transit stops, designated parking, and high-quality support infrastructure and visitor services.
2. Strategies aimed at provision of outreach, communication, and recreation service delivery for diverse groups will remain a priority of the Forest Service.

Management Approaches

1. Prioritize work with external partners to conduct sustainable recreation studies, develop recreation design plans, new products, or recreation design features to improve recreation management within the Monument and ensure relevance to the diverse visitor use base.
2. Evaluate the sustainable recreation carrying capacity in high use areas such as San Gabriel Canyon, following the Interagency Visitor Use Management Framework.

Visitor Experience, Information, and Environmental Education

Desired Conditions

1. The Forest Service provides visitors with culturally relevant and easily accessible information to guide and enrich their experience.

Goals

1. Maintain or increase the number of conservation education programs or events per year within the Monument.

Objective

1. Develop and implement the Master Visitor Reception, Interpretation, and Education Plan with an emphasis on outreaching to diverse youth within 3 years. The plan will focus on engagement of youth in outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities, educate them about Monument resources, help foster the next generation of public land stewards, and work toward achieving the Desired Conditions.

Management Approaches

1. Interpretation materials capture the rich cultural history that shaped the area, including Native Americans, Spanish missionaries and colonialists, Mexican rancheros, Euro-Americans, and Asian settlers and prospectors.
2. Public outreach and education uses contemporary social media, new technology, and culturally relevant media outlets. Engage schools, communities, universities, museums, and other educational institutions invested in elevating public awareness of the environment, conservation, and outdoor recreation presents exceptional opportunities to re-imagine Angelenos' connections to their surrounding forests and open spaces.
3. Expand the use of multilingual information in outreach.

Heritage Resources

Desired Conditions

1. Cultural resources and historic properties are protected and preserved for cultural and scientific value and public benefit.
2. Priority Heritage Assets receive enhanced monitoring and protection, and enhance the Monument's distinct characteristics.
3. Cultural resources and historic properties are documented and protected, and heritage values and connections are promoted as an integral feature of the Monument.

Goal

1. The cultural resources identified in Management Approach 7 are to be enhanced through interpretative measures such as exhibits, displays, formal evaluation and National Register nominations and listing, protection and stabilization treatments, public education, and outreach efforts.

Standards

1. Cultural resources and historic properties within the Monument will be managed in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800.
2. Pursuant to the Programmatic Agreement between the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5); California State Historic Preservation Officer; Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer; and the Advisory Council, all cultural resources within the Monument are treated as historic properties and assumed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places until formally evaluated and determined, through consensus, not eligible.

Guidelines

1. Projects within the Monument should be designed to avoid, or minimize, adverse effects or impacts to cultural resources and historic properties.
2. Cultural resources and historic properties should be protected during fire suppression and rehabilitation activities, where feasible.

Management Approaches

1. Review all recorded and documented cultural resources and historic properties located within the Monument. Identify at-risk cultural resources and historic properties for enhanced monitoring and protection as Priority Heritage Assets.
2. Assess and review documented and unevaluated cultural resources and historic properties to identify those resources that enhance the Monument's distinct characteristics and cultural themes, as identified in the Proclamation. Regularly monitor those identified as at-risk every 5 years, at a minimum. Depending on the monitoring findings, at-risk cultural resources monitoring may occur at more frequent intervals. Manage these identified resources as Priority Heritage Assets. As new resources are identified within the Monument and determined to meet the criteria to be managed as Priority Heritage Assets, they will also be monitored on a 5-year cycle, or more frequently if necessary.
3. Use partnerships to develop and implement stewardship plans for identified Priority Heritage Assets, emphasizing those cultural resource and historic property sites specifically named in the Proclamation.
4. In consultation with Tribes, work to improve the interpretative potential of Native American resources within the Monument, focusing on traditional uses, Tribal history, and the current relationship of local Tribes to the San Gabriel Mountains.
5. Develop partnerships with local universities for student and faculty involvement, including research opportunities, field schools, internships, and other education programs that may assist the Monument with protection and management of cultural resources and historic properties.
6. Continue the Forest's relationship with the Society for California Archaeology, and work cooperatively with the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program to assist with site monitoring when feasible.
7. Evaluate the following cultural resources and historic properties for eligibility under the National Register of Historic Places: Aliso-Arrastre Special Interest Area; Eldoradoville, located along the East Fork of the San Gabriel River; Mt. Wilson Observatory; and San Dimas Experimental Forest. Prioritize the remaining cultural resources and historic properties for evaluation to determine their eligibility for listing. Nominate sites eligible for listing following evaluation.
8. Work with Biological Resources staff to map and identify Tribally significant plant species within the Monument in an effort to manage, protect, and promote plant gathering and harvesting by Tribal members.
9. Prioritize survey efforts and the identification of data gaps within the Monument to better manage cultural resources.

Biological Resources

Desired Conditions

1. Habitat conditions are stable or improving over time as indicated by the 2016 Angeles Land Management Plan Monitoring Strategy.
2. Habitats of special status species (threatened and endangered and Forest Service sensitive) in the Monument are managed to preserve and protect these species.

Goal

1. When land management plan monitoring indicates that habitat conditions are degrading or destabilizing, corrective actions will be taken. Corrective actions may include, but are not limited to, restoration, modification of management actions, or other options suitable for the species or watershed affected.

Mineral Resources

Suitability of Lands

1. Free-use rock, invertebrate fossil, and mineral collecting for non-commercial personal uses is not suitable within the Monument.

Management Approaches

1. Coordinate with local, State and Federal agencies to coordinate enforcement efforts, including enforcement of unauthorized mining activities.
2. Develop partnerships with local volunteer groups to document illegal mining activities.
3. Develop an education program on the resource damage of illegal mining.

Designated Areas and Areas Recommended for Designation

Desired Conditions

1. Designated Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness within the Monument are maintained as a naturally evolving and natural-appearing landscape that provides for primitive and unconfined recreation use. The sense of remoteness and solitude is maintained.
2. The nature and purpose of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) are to provide for outstanding journeys on foot or on horseback in the spectacularly wild landscapes of high Pacific mountain ridges. Tranquility and closeness with nature can be found consistently along the trail, evoking a feeling of extended retreat from civilization, even if only venturing out for a day.

Guidelines

1. New recreation events, such as foot races or horseback endurance events and fundraising events should be limited to designated crossings only on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) within the Monument. Existing recreation events may be allowed to continue at current levels.
2. Within the Monument, new trails that are proposed to cross the PCT or to be built within the foreground of the PCT, should be designed to minimize conflicting uses and to minimize the scenic, aural, and resource impacts to the PCT.

Suitability of Lands

1. Within the Monument, the PCT foreground is not suitable for special-use authorizations for new communication sites and wind generation sites.
2. New roads are not suitable within the foreground of the PCT unless required by law to provide access to private lands or documented as the only prudent and feasible alternative.

Land Use Zones

Suitability of Lands

1. Mineral and energy resources exploration and development are not suitable within the Monument, except where valid rights already exist at the time of the Proclamation (table 1). Activities within permitted sediment placement sites are not considered mineral and energy resources exploration and development projects.

Table 1. 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
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 Development¹	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

¹ With the exception of valid existing rights.

Critical Biological Land Use Zone

This zone includes areas on the ANF that are considered important for the protection of at-risk species. There are no changes to the definitions of Critical Biological Land Use Zones (CBLUZ) in ANF LMP direction that apply to this zone (ANF LMP Part 2, p. 9). However, three new CBLUZs are proposed, as well as the expansion of the West Fork of the San Gabriel River, an existing CBLUZ. See table 12 and Figures 2 through 6.

Table 2. San Gabriel Mountains National Monument critical biological land use zones (CBLUZ)

Primary Species Protected and Primary Uses			
CBLUZ	Primary Species Protected	Place	Primary Uses**
East Fork San Gabriel River	Santa Ana sucker	San Gabriel Canyon	CBLUZ location is from just above the Oaks day use site upstream to the private land parcel near the Bridge to Nowhere, including the Cattle Canyon tributary upstream to the upper extent of the Santa Ana designated critical habitat. <i>This area is currently managed as a wild trout stream and this designation is retained.</i> Existing transportation and other uses <i>such as hiking, fishing and dispersed recreation</i> will continue. <i>Overnight camping is not allowed.</i>

Primary Species Protected and Primary Uses			
CBLUZ	Primary Species Protected	Place	Primary Uses**
North Fork San Gabriel River	Santa Ana sucker	San Gabriel Canyon/Angeles Uplands East	CBLUZ location is from the West Fork/North Fork confluence upstream to the northern extent of the Santa Ana sucker Designated Critical Habitat, including a segment of the Bichota Canyon tributary of the North Fork San Gabriel River. Existing uses <i>such as hiking, fishing and dispersed recreation</i> will continue. <i>Overnight camping is not allowed.</i>
Aliso Canyon Creek	California red-legged frog	Soledad Front Country	The current West Wide Energy Corridor and the SCE transmission line corridor will be managed for utility infrastructure, including new and upgraded transmission lines. Expansion of these corridors would not be allowed without a Plan amendment. <i>Existing road networks would be condensed where appropriate, reducing redundancy, while allowing ongoing maintenance of infrastructure.</i> Access to utility corridors will be maintained while minimizing road infrastructure within the CBLUZ. Existing Transportation and other uses <i>such as hiking, fishing and dispersed recreation</i> will continue. <i>Overnight camping is not allowed.</i>
West Fork San Gabriel River	Santa Ana sucker	San Gabriel Canyon	CBLUZ location is Cogswell Dam downstream to the beginning of the wild trout area (2nd bridge). This area is currently managed as a wild trout stream and this designation is retained. Management of the Cogswell Dam for flood control and water conservation including water release is not in conflict with the CBLUZ designation and is retained. Installation of toilets can be considered neutral or beneficial use. Administrative use and use of NFS Road 2N25 as a hiking and bicycle path will be retained. <i>Maintenance and use of the disabled access fishing platforms along the West Fork will continue.</i>

**This is a partial list of activities associated with these CBLUZs. See Suitable Uses Tables in Part 2 of the ANF LMP (pp. 4-7) for a full description of all suitable uses within CBLUZs.

Existing Wilderness Zone

This zone includes congressionally designated wildernesses. There are no changes to the ANF LMP direction that applies to this zone. However, two wilderness areas were designated since 2005 that occur within the Monument: Magic Mountain Wilderness and Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness. The portions of these two wilderness areas within the Monument will be zoned Existing Wilderness (

). The Pleasant View Wilderness will be part of the Angeles High Country Place and the Magic Mountain Wilderness will be part of the Soledad Front Country Place. The ANF LMP uses “places” to describe the theme, setting, desired conditions and program emphasis of an area. For a description of these two wilderness areas, see Table 3.

Table 3. Descriptions for wilderness areas designated by Congress in 2009

Title	Place	Acres
Magic Mountain Wilderness	Soledad Front Country	11,938
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness	Angeles High Country, Mojave Front Country	27,040
<p>The United States Congress designated the Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness in 2009. This wilderness area is located roughly 30 miles northeast of La Cañada, 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 and South Fork Big Rock Creeks (which provide Designated Critical Habitat for the endangered mountain yellow-legged frog), remote backcountry, and some of the most magnificent canyon country in the San Gabriel Mountains.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Trails going through this wilderness include: High Desert National Recreation Trail (10W02 Burckhardt), Islip Saddle (9W02), and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.</p>		

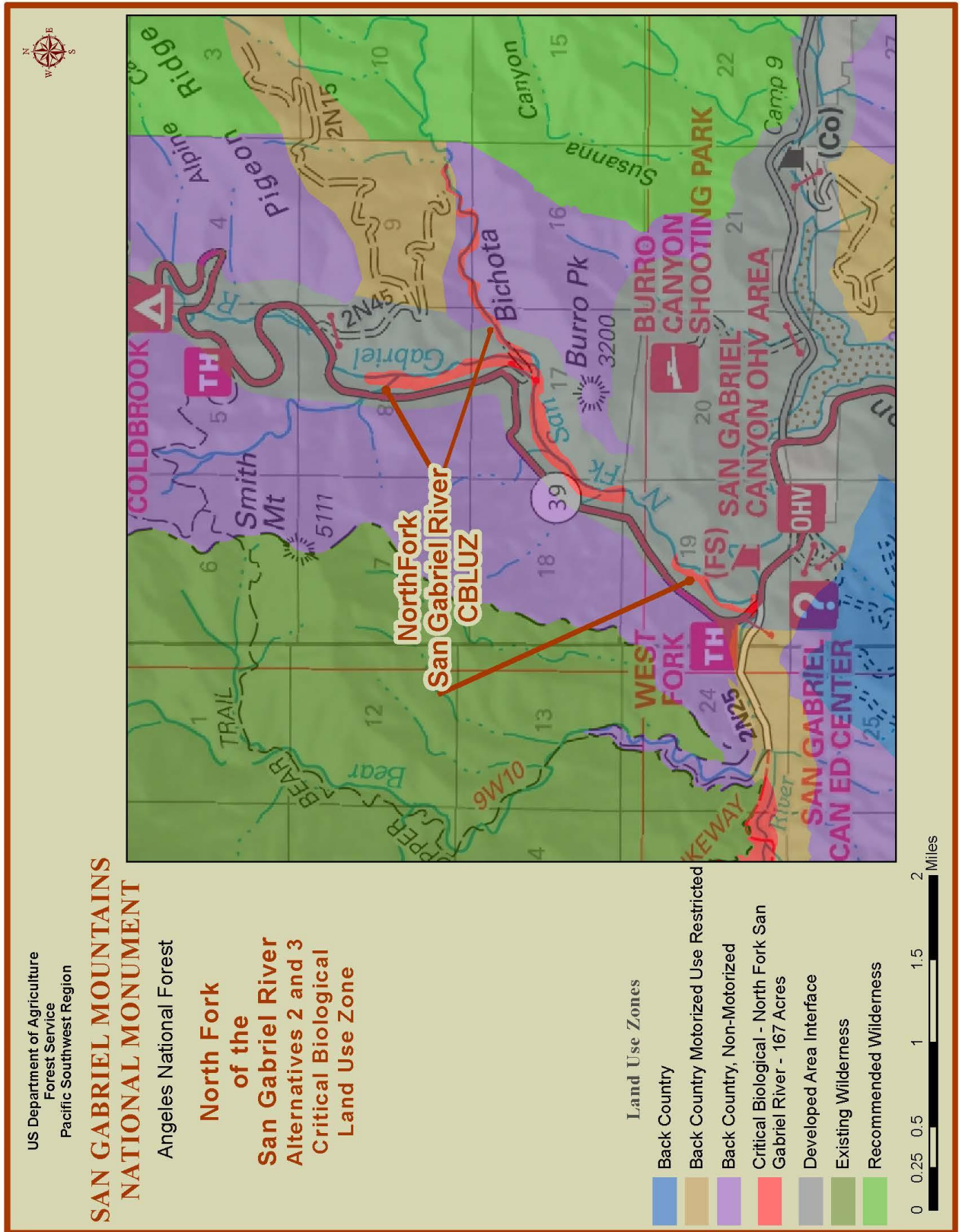


Figure 2. San Gabriel Mountains National Monument land use zones in detail – North Fork of San Gabriel River

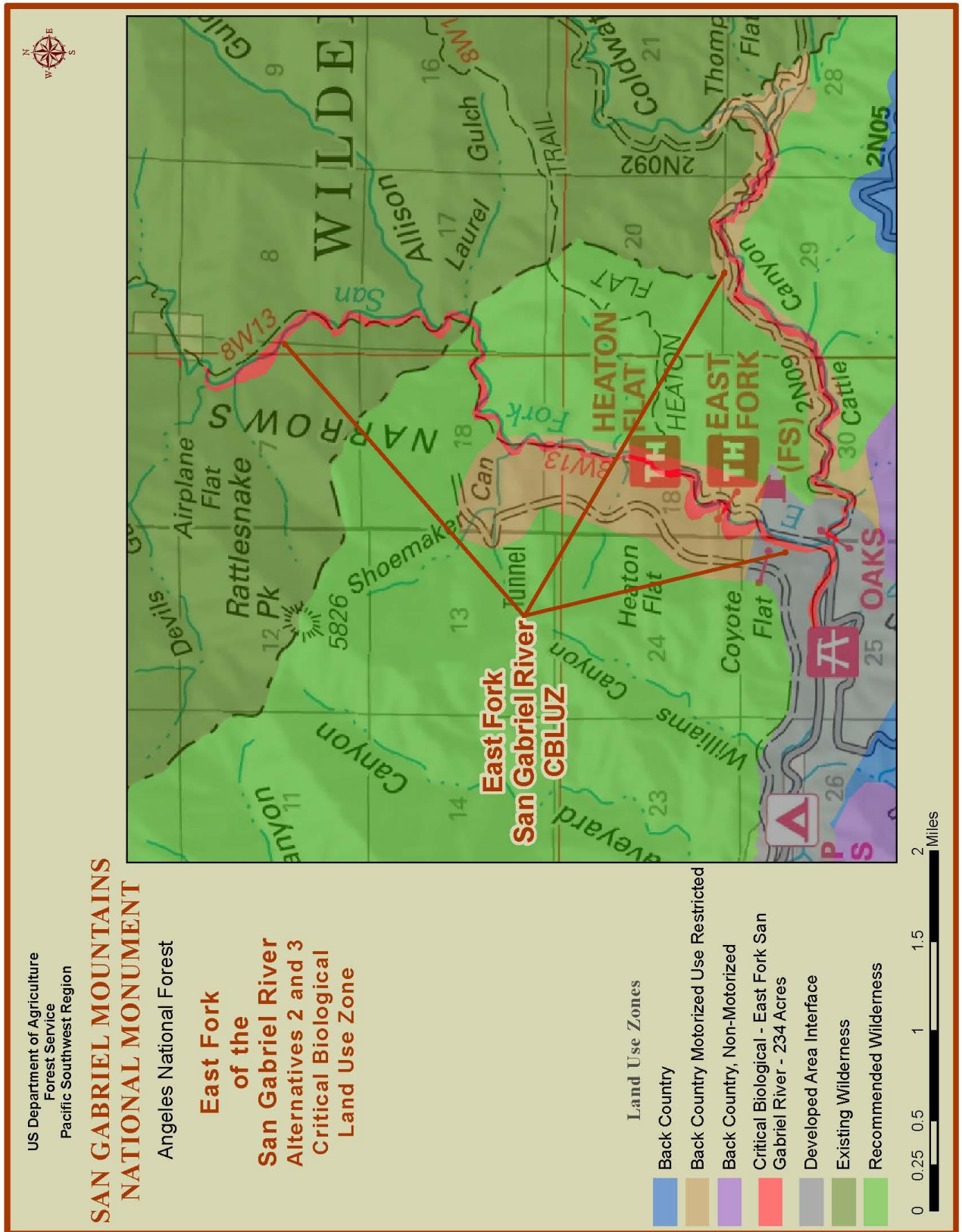


Figure 3. San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Land Use Zones in detail – East Fork of San Gabriel River

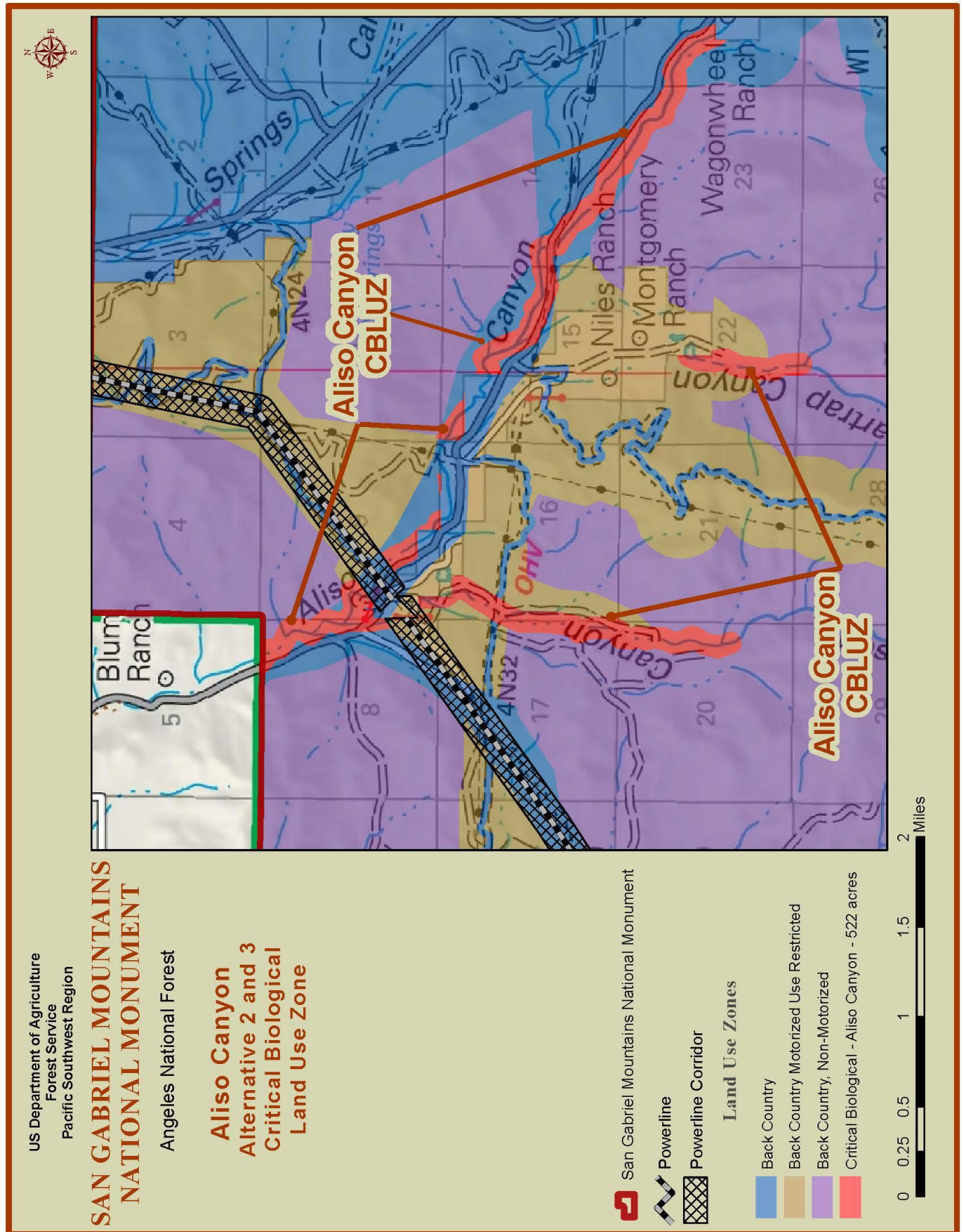
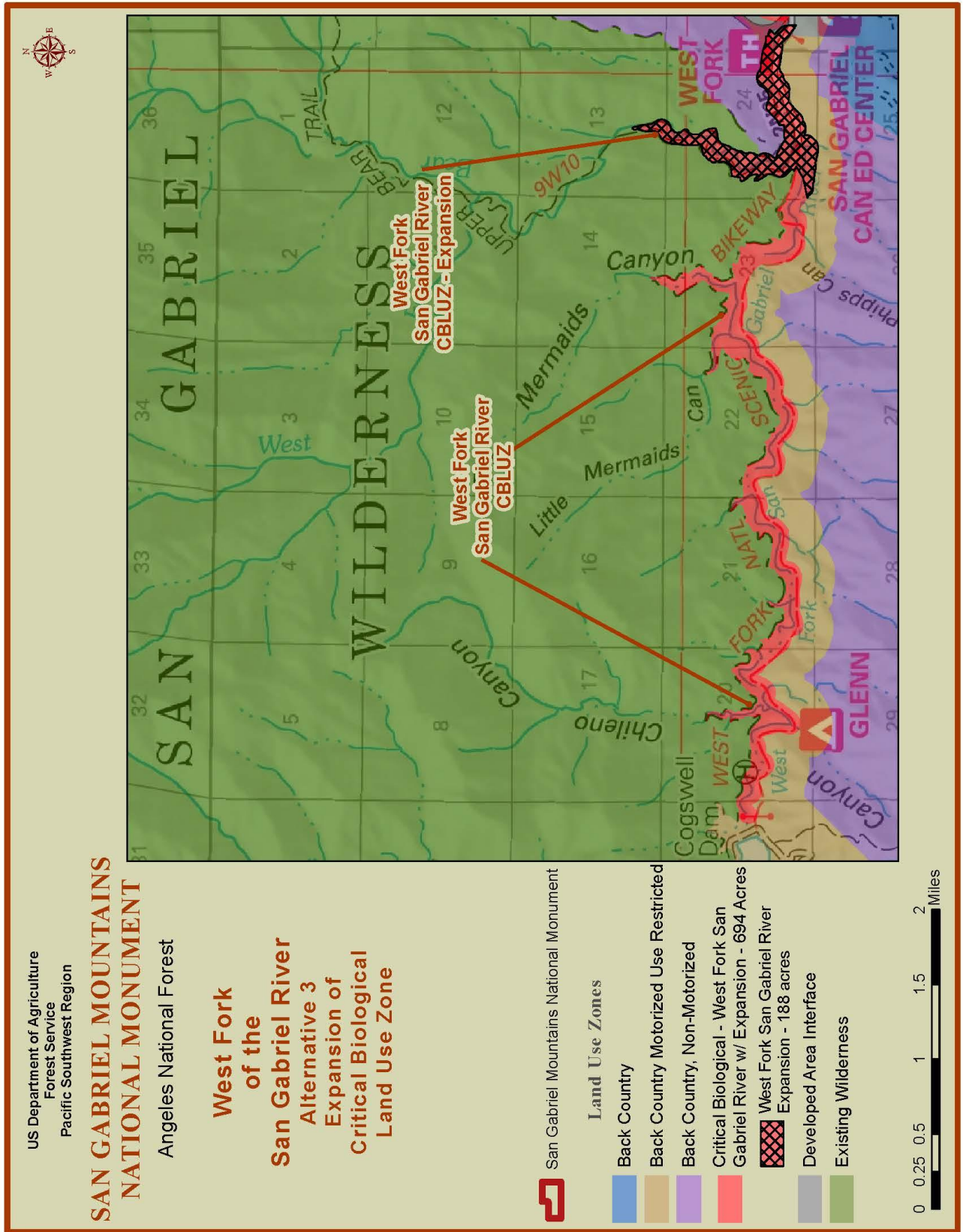


Figure 4. San Gabriel Mountains National Monument land use zones in detail – Aliso Canyon



Climate Change

Management Approaches

1. Consider Forest Service climate change assessment and databases to inform management decisions (i.e., regional climate change trend reports; vulnerability assessments of key resources; adaptation strategies, and management recommendations).
2. Continue reporting measures related to climate change adaptation and sustainable operations.
3. Educate the public about ecosystems and potential impacts of climate change and other stressors. Interpretation and conservation education materials and activities convey up-to-date and clear messages about impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

Chapter 3 – San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Transportation Plan

The Presidential Proclamation (2014) states:

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 ANF LMP's current management direction is consistent with the Proclamation direction to limit motorized vehicles to designated roads, trails, and areas. The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Plan is a programmatic-level decision and does not directly authorize any project-level or site-specific actions. The transportation plan also does not make any site-specific changes to the transportation system. Instead, it provides a framework by which to manage the transportation system and inform future decisions to support the management intent of the Monument Plan. Changes to the existing transportation system will only be made after appropriate site-specific environmental analysis.

Current Transportation System

Road System

Within the Monument there are over 519 total miles of existing roads under various jurisdictions. Of these, over 276 miles are open to motor vehicle use. While there are a number of public transportation options available in municipalities surrounding the Monument, there are currently no options for taking public transportation to and within the Monument.

Driving for pleasure is a popular activity on scenic routes through the Monument. For some older Americans and people with disabilities, driving may be the only means to experience the Forest. Highway 39 and Highway 2, Angeles Crest Scenic Highway are major State routes providing access into and through the Monument. Angeles Forest Highway, Big Pines Highway, Mt. Baldy Highway, Glendora Mountain and Glendora Ridge Road and many other County roads also provide scenic access into and through the Monument.

There are two designated open OHV areas within the Monument: the San Gabriel Canyon OHV area includes 150 acres of rocky, sandy, reservoir land; and the Little Rock OHV area includes the Little Rock OHV trail. Outside of the two open OHV areas, all vehicles are limited to designated roads and trails.

The NFS roads within the Monument that are currently designated for motorized use, including OHV use, are shown in the Motor Vehicle Use map for the ANF. This map is published as required by the Forest Service Travel Management Regulations.

Non-motorized Trail System

The non-motorized trail system within the Monument currently consists of approximately 243 miles of system trails that provide hiking, hunting, horseback riding, and mountain biking opportunities. The Monument has 87 miles of national trails, including the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the Silver Moccasin, Gabrielino, and High Desert National Recreation Trails.

All trails, except the Pacific Crest Trail and trails within wilderness areas, are open to mountain bikes. The West Fork National Scenic Bikeway parallels more than 8 miles of the West Fork San Gabriel River. This gated, paved road provides a relatively flat, paved route for bicyclists of all abilities.

Road Maintenance

The combination of steep terrain, geological features, and erodible soils in the Monument result in erosion hazard ratings of high or very high. As a result, proper maintenance and care of existing roads are critical to minimize effects due to erosion. Roads with inadequate design and maintenance of drainage features and with steep, cut banks can be a primary human-caused source of soil and water disturbances in montane environments. Generally, higher densities of roads within a watershed result in quicker run-off to the stream network and increase the risk of channel erosion and downstream sedimentation. Proper decommissioning of roads is necessary to achieve positive long-term effects through removal of chronic sources of erosion, sedimentation, and hydrologic modification. Any new roads or road relocation must be constructed with strict standards and guidelines, especially those that could influence Riparian Conservation Areas or watershed values, are located in landslide-prone areas, or could cause soil erosion.

Similarly, most trails are located on soils with either high or very high erosion hazard ratings. Trail maintenance and care are necessary to keep the integrity of the trails at a level to be used by the public in an uninterrupted manner. The proliferation of unauthorized roads and trails is an ongoing problem and results in unacceptable effects to soils and other resources. Many have been created by recreation use from communities immediately adjacent to the Monument or off-road vehicle travel. These trails contribute to lost soil productivity and increased soil erosion and compaction, both long- and short-term. It is important to remove these trails, restore the land in an expeditious manner, and prevent them from recurring.

Roads within the Monument are either maintained by the Forest Service, or by local government agencies or the State under a special use permit or easement. Special-use roads, such as roads leading to communication sites are generally maintained by the user under a special-use permit.

Transportation System Management

Maintenance Strategy

The following strategies will be used to prioritize needed maintenance and to improve the ability to complete needed maintenance for roads managed by the Forest Service:

1. Public safety and natural resource protection are the highest priorities for road maintenance.

2. Maintenance level 3 through 5 roads are higher priority for maintenance than are maintenance levels 1 and 2 roads, due to the higher potential loss of investment, generally higher traffic volumes and speeds, and resulting safety risks and liabilities.
3. Submit appropriate projects for maintenance, reconstruction, or rehabilitation funding when opportunities are available (agency funding, state grants, partnerships, and other sources).
4. Seek additional sources of funding to reduce the maintenance backlog and keep the road system in acceptable condition. Potential sources include Federal Highway Trust Fund through the national transportation bill, Green Sticker funds for roads open to OHV and appropriated funding or special funds designated for the Monument.
5. Partner with user groups, permittees, and other entities to accomplish needed road maintenance.
6. Consider closing roads not currently needed (Likely Not Needed designation in Subpart A Report) to reduce maintenance costs and resource conflicts. Some road prisms may be retained for future access needs (trail, fire access, etc.).
7. Consider restricting vehicle access for certain roads to emergency use only. These roads would remain open to pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian use, but would be maintained at a minimum level (ML 1) of service to reduce maintenance costs.
8. Consider opportunities to reduce the size of the road system by decommissioning individual roads or converting them to non-motorized trails.
9. Follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process, including public involvement as appropriate, in decisions to close or decommission roads or trails.

Forest Transportation System Changes

Changes to the forest transportation system may include actions such as changes of assigned maintenance levels for individual roads, construction of new roads, removal of roads from the system through decommissioning, and conversion of roads to trails. New roads will generally be limited, although roads could be constructed to meet management goals of providing access to new recreation facilities or opportunities; providing access to the Monument resources; providing access to administrative sites (ranger stations, work centers, etc.); providing alternatives to roads producing unacceptable resource effects; or providing access for scientific research.

The priority for road retention emphasizes retaining road access for public use and for management activities similar to current access levels. For public access, emphasis should be on maintaining roads to recreation sites, concentrated use areas or access points for dispersed recreation, sites authorized by special-use permits, and private land. The road system will also be available for recreational driving and for off-highway vehicle use on roads designated for such use. For management access, emphasis should be on ecosystem restoration and fire protection.

Criteria for Transportation Analyses within the Monument

Roads analyses are conducted forestwide and are not limited to the Monument. However, because the roads' analyses inform the Transportation Plan within the Monument, the criteria used for the roads analyses are listed. Roads with 'high risks for causing unacceptable effects to natural resources' should be repaired, relocated, closed, or decommissioned to reduce effects. Road decommissioning should focus on roads producing unacceptable effects where repair or relocation are unreasonable, where the potential for resource effects and high maintenance costs outweigh the need for access for resource management or recreation, and any unauthorized motorized routes remaining after the system was last designated in 2011.

Changes to the transportation system in ANF will generally be identified through the existing roads analysis process and any future travel analysis processes, and subsequent decisions would be made through site-specific project analysis. The objective of travel analysis (previously called roads analysis) is to provide decision-makers with critical information to develop and manage transportation systems that are safe and responsive to public needs and desires, are affordable and efficiently managed, have minimal negative ecological effects on the land, and are in balance with available funding for needed management actions. Travel analysis informs decisions related to identification of the minimum road system needed for safe and efficient travel and for administration, utilization, and protection of NFS lands, and to inform decisions related to the designation of roads for motor vehicle use.

An ANF roads analysis was completed in 2005, and addressed all NFS roads within the eventual Monument. This Roads Analysis Process (RAP) is still a valid tool to help inform decisions about the road system (USDA Forest Service 2005c).

In the completed RAP, evaluation criteria were created based on specific topic areas described in the FS-643 miscellaneous report (agency direction at the time). These topics included ecosystem functions and processes; aquatic, riparian zones, and water quality; terrestrial wildlife; economics; minerals and range management, water production, and special forest products; special use permits; general public transportation; administrative uses; protection; road-related and unroaded recreation; passive use values; social issues; and civil rights and environmental justice. Similar criteria would be appropriate to evaluate the need for future changes in the trail system.

The evaluation criteria developed for the Forest RAP were:

- Watershed risk factors
 - ◆ Watershed Condition Class
 - Slope Stability Hazard
 - Earthquake Hazard Rating
- Species risk factors
 - ◆ Riparian Species
 - Stream Crossings
 - Habitat for Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species outside of Riparian Areas
 - Riparian Conservation Areas
- Administrative Benefits
 - ◆ Community protection, fire suppression, prevention, and prescribed fire
 - ◆ Vegetation management, resource evaluation and management
 - ◆ Special use access and administration
 - ◆ Law enforcement
 - ◆ Mining activities of existing rights
 - ◆ Any other roaded access needed to manage the forest, including ecological rehabilitation, restoration, or reclamation
- Public Benefits

- ◆ Access to developed recreation sites and campgrounds
- ◆ Driving for pleasure
- ◆ Access to recreational special uses (including Recreational Residences)
- ◆ Access to local surrounding communities

The risks and benefits of each road were compared, resulting in two categories of roads flagged for further study. The first group of roads identified contains those that may require mitigation. “High Priority for Mitigation” roads are those roads (or segments) that were found to have both higher risk scores and a high level of public or administrative importance. The following criteria were used in their identification:

1. Watershed Risk Score is greater than or equal to 4; OR Species Risk Score is greater than or equal to 4.
2. Public Importance Score is greater than or equal to 3; OR Administrative Importance Score is greater than or equal to 3.
3. Combined RAP Score is greater than or equal to 5 (highest possible is —10)

The second group of roads requiring further study is those with “High Risk and Low Importance.” Roads that fall into this group pose significant risk to either species or watersheds and are of low importance to the public, forest personnel, and special use permittees. The following criteria were used to identify these roads or segments:

1. Watershed Risk Score is greater than or equal to 4; OR Species Risk Score is greater than or equal to 4.
2. Public Importance Score is less than or equal to 2, AND Administrative Importance Score is less than or equal to 2.
3. Combined RAP Score is greater than or equal to 5 (highest possible is —10).

A Subpart A report required under the current Travel Management Rule was completed. As a part of the analysis to complete the report, all ANF NFS roads were evaluated again by an interdisciplinary team to determine roads that were “Likely Not Needed.” These roads were then compared to the “High Risk and Low Importance” roads identified in the 2005 RAP and any changes were documented. When changes are proposed to the forest transportation system to further the purposes of the Monument, the decisions made will be informed by the 2005 RAP and the current Subpart A Report and possibly additional travel analysis, along with site-specific project analysis. Evaluation criteria for the travel analysis will include criteria similar to the criteria described for the RAP, as well as other criteria appropriate to the site-specific project analysis.

The complete RAP and Subpart A Report can be found in the project file at the Supervisor’s Office of the Angeles National Forest and on the ANF website as a reference to the Monument Plan.