



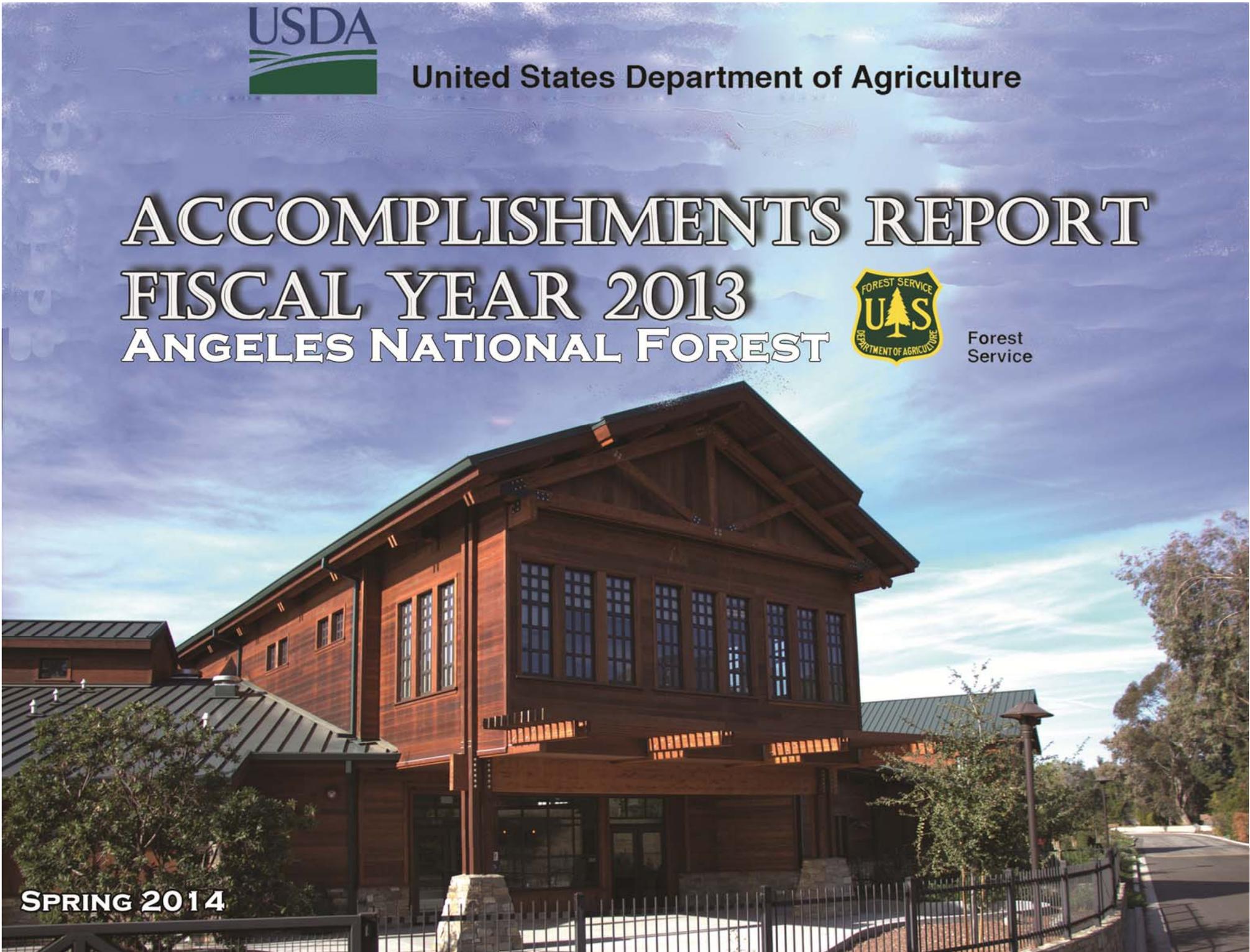
United States Department of Agriculture

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2013 ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST



Forest  
Service

SPRING 2014



# Welcome to the 2013 Annual Accomplishment Report of the Angeles National Forest!

## From the Forest Supervisor

The Angeles National Forest was established more than a century ago, changing and developing along with the Southern California culture. During its history, it has attracted countless numbers of outdoor enthusiasts.

The Angeles began as the San Gabriel Timberland Reserve in 1892; it was the first national forest in California and the second in the nation. The reserve was later changed to the Angeles National Forest in 1908. Many changes and challenges have come throughout the decades and we are proud to continue to conserve and protect 700,176 acres of forest.

The Angeles hosts about 4 million visitors each year, making it one of the most visited national forests in the nation. The Angeles' proximity to the greater Los Angeles area makes it the most urban national forest in the country, which leads to increasing demands for multiple uses including telecommunications sites, utility corridors, dams, water sources and conveyances and film-industry locations.

Although, this means that we are faced with a tremendous challenge, it also presents us with exceptional opportunities. While we remain committed to the original tenets of

forest and watershed conservation, we must at the same time provide for the increasing public-use needs of millions of forest visitors each year.

We are proud to be stewards of the land for all of you, the American public. The employees of the Angeles and I would like to share with you our accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2013. Please take a moment to look through the highlights of our annual accomplishments report. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts from our volunteers, neighbors, partners, and cooperators.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Thomas A. Contreras*

Forest Supervisor

Angeles National Forest.

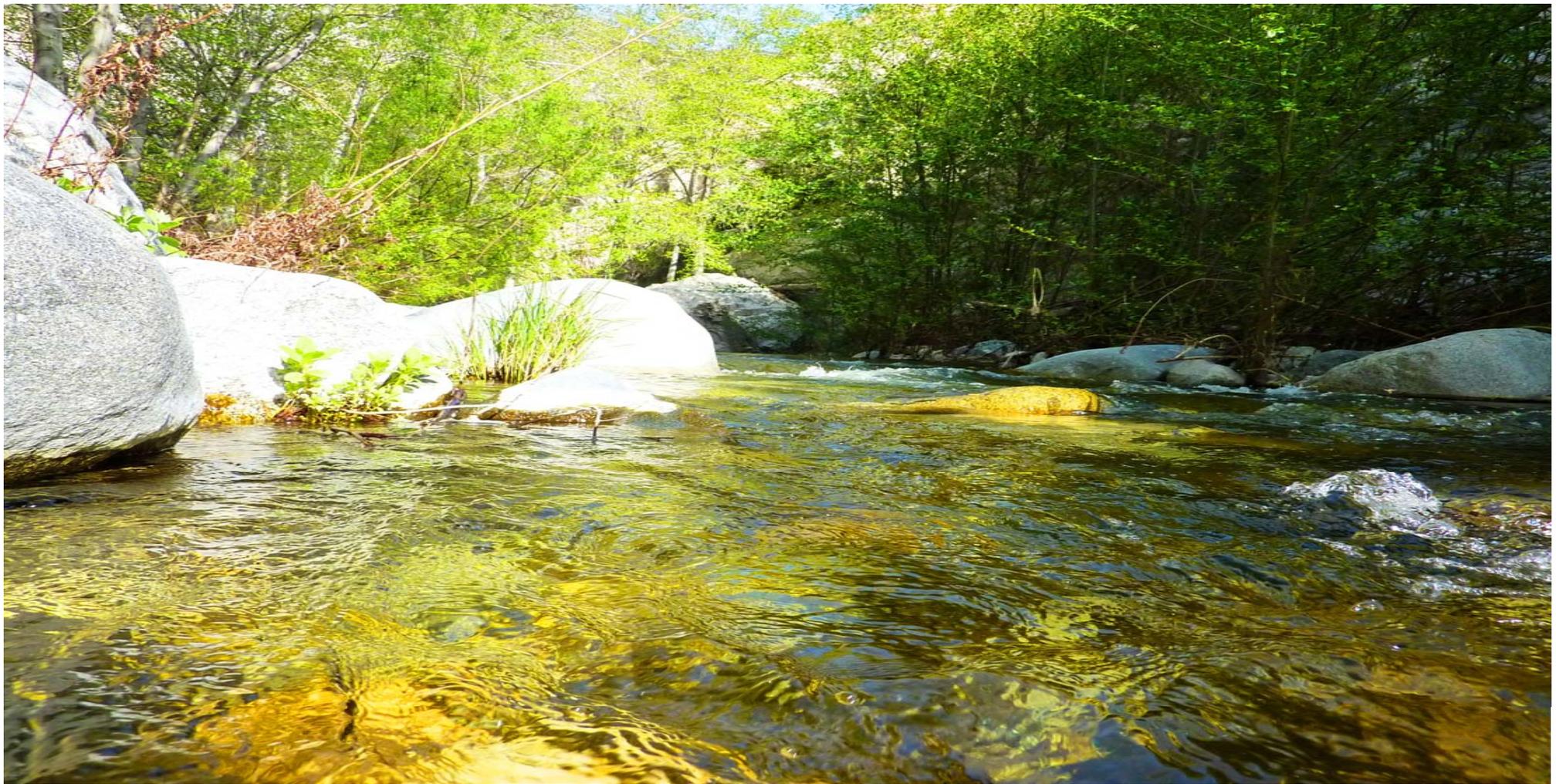


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# Wild and Wonderful!





*It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.*

*-Robert Louis Stevenson*

# Angeles National Forest Leadership Team

## Line Officers

Thomas A. Contreras	Forest Supervisor	626-574-5216
Daniel Lovato	Deputy Forest Supervisor	626-574-5217
Ron Ashdale	Safety Officer	626-781-6782
Sonja Berdahl	Forest Engineer	626-574-5292
Bob Blount	Santa Clara Mojave Rivers Ranger District Ranger	661-269-2808 ext. 225
Theresa De La Torre	Administrative Officer	626-574-5245
Fabian Garcia	Executive Director, Southern California Consortium	626-574-5349
James Hall	Fire Management Officer	626-574-5223
Maria Holquin	Budget Officer	626-574-5325
Michael McIntyre	Los Angeles River Ranger District Ranger	818-899-1900 ext. 223
Tana Moreland	Civil Rights Officer	626-574-5222
Sherry Rollman	Public Affairs Officer	626-574-5205
John Thornton	San Gabriel River Ranger District Ranger	626-335-1251 ext. 250
Jaimie Uyehara	Resource Officer	626-574-5256
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United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

## Contact Information

Angeles National Forest

### Supervisor's Office

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FAX (626) 574-1613

TDD(626)574-5209

Web Page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/angeles>

Twitter: @Angeles\_NF

### Los Angeles River Ranger District

12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon RD.

San Fernando, CA 91342

(818)899-1900

FAX (818)896-6727

### San Gabriel River Ranger District

110 N. Wabash Ave.

Glendora, CA 91741

(626)335-1251

FAX (626)914-3790

TDD (626)335-1251 Ext. 256

### Chilao Visitor Center

(Seasonally Open)

Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy 2)

La Canada, CA 91011

Weekends 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m

(626) 796-5541

### Clear Creek Information Station

(Seasonally Open)

Angeles Crest Highway

La Canada, CA 91011

Weekends 8 a.m. -4 p.m.

(626) 821-6764

### Grassy Hollow Visitor Center

Weekends, Holidays 10 a.m. -- 4 p.m.

(Seasonally Open)

(626) 821-6737

Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy 2 )

Wrightwood, CA 92397

### Mount Baldy Visitor Center

Mount Baldy Road

Mount Baldy, CA 91759

Fri 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Weekends 7 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

(909) 982-2829

### Big Pines Information Station

Highway 2/Big Pines Highway

Wrightwood, CA 92397

Closed Until Further Notice

## The Angeles is a Land of Extremes

**T**he Angeles National Forest is a land of contrasts and extremes in its urban terrain. The forest is spread out over 1,000 square miles and is divided into three districts. The San Gabriel Mountains rise up quickly from the Los Angeles Basin to 10,064 feet at the top of Mt. San Antonio. The mountains are steep and fractured, shaped by the San Andreas Earthquake Fault running along their northern boundary.

The lower elevations are often hot and dry throughout the summer, while the mountains remain cool. The highest peaks are often blanketed with snow in the winter. As a result of the wide range of elevations, the forest experiences tremendous variation in climate.



The Angeles provides not only recreational opportunities, but also helps support the infrastructure of the Los Angeles Basin. The forest's location makes it an attractive and economic location for both recreation and non-recreation uses. This land of multiple uses provides 35 % of the Los Angeles Basin's water and 72 % of all open space within Los Angeles County.

The forest administers about 1,200 special use permits annually, including 420 recreational and 680 land that have been issued for purposes including telecommunications sites, utility corridors, dams and ski areas.

The Angeles National Forest also has five designated wilderness areas that offer quiet refuges within close proximity to urban areas. It truly offers a vast variety of benefits for all.

# Angeles National Forest Statistics

Fiscal Year (FY) 10/01/2012 thru 09/30/2013

<b>General:</b> Acres of land	700,176	Number of Engines	28
Permanent Full time Employees	353	Crews (Full-Time, On-Call)	11
Temporary Employees	156	Acres of Hazardous Terrain Treated	1,904
Firefighter Apprentices	25		
Student Employees	12	<b>Natural Features:</b> Wilderness Areas	5
		Wilderness Area (acres)	123,000
<b>Budget:</b> 5 -Year Average Angeles Budget	\$40.52 million	Wilderness Elevation Ranges (feet)	1,600 to 10,064
FY 2013	\$31.88 million	Lakes and Reservoirs	10
		Rivers and Streams (miles)	240
<b>Recreation Infrastructure:</b> Annual Number of Visitors	4 million	Sensitive Plant /Wildlife Species	81
Picnic Areas	36	Threatened & Endangered Species	11
Campgrounds	46		
Visitor Centers	3	<b>Infrastructure Under Permit:</b>	46
Information Centers	2	(Energy Transmission Lines/Pipelines )	
Entrance Stations	1	Water Sources and Conveyances	216
		Dams and Debris Basins	18
<b>Trails:</b> Trailheads	53	Research	6
Trails (miles)	548	Ski Areas	5
Off highway vehicle areas	2	Communications Facilities	140
Off highway vehicle route miles	270	Miles of (Forest Service) Roads	1,032
		Gas and Oil	17
<b>Fire Management:</b> Number of Wildfires	192	Organization Camps	17
Wildfire Acres Burned	32,947	Recreation Residences	379
Cost to Suppress Wildfires	\$31 million		
(separate from forest budget)			

# Los Angeles River Ranger District

**T**he Station Fire Closure was maintained due to health and safety concerns but the remaining closure area will be reopened in FY2014 upon the completion of trail work by partners. Based on fee collections, the recreation use of the District has surpassed pre-Station Fire levels (with less recreation opportunities available).

The District met most efficient level staffing over 95% of the time.

The district prepared and planted 331,672 trees on 2,285 acres within the Station Fire area. Volunteers from TreePeople in partnership with the forest planted on 45 acres of that area. The 2,285 acres have also had tree survival and stocking exams.

The district accomplished certification of natural regeneration without site preparation on 76 acres.

Timber stand improvement was accomplished on 2,822 acres. This includes release for survival on 1,955 acres within the Station Fire area, 180 acres of

release for growth, 180 acres of pre-commercial thinning, and 507 acres of pruning.

Forest personnel finished pre-commercial thinning and release for growth on 270 acres under the Western Bark Beetle Initiative funding. This work was done to reduce mortality from bark beetles.

The district sold wood permits for 15,700 cubic feet of wood to the public.

Worked with the National Forest Foundation to continue seeking grants and partnerships for the Big Tujunga Treasured Landscape. The highlight was the award and partnership with Coca Cola for watershed improvement projects.

A total of 331 permits out of 409 were administered to standard.



## Summary Statements Regarding Accomplishments

Planted 273,122 trees on 1,749 acres within the Station Fire area through a grant from the National Forest Foundation and its sponsors, the Disney Corp. and Southern California Air Quality Management District as part of a carbon sequestration project. The grant paid for the site prep, planting, seed costs and seedling costs for the trees. This was Year 2 of a 5-year program to reforest conifer stands deforested by the Station Fire. Replanting, release, survival exams and tree maintenance were covered by this grant. Previously, 118,997 trees on 1,544 acres received release for survival treatments within the Station Fire area. These were trees planted in 2011 and 2012.

# The San Gabriel River Ranger District

**T**he San Gabriel District planted over 3,000 trees in burned areas affected by fires, disease, insects and/or drought, with the objective of ecologically restoring and protecting the watershed.

The district also treated/removed over 100 acres of non-native species in an effort to ecologically restore riparian habitat, aquatic conditions and the overall riparian ecosystems. This project helped improve threatened, endangered, and/or sensitive plant and wildlife species habitat while improving the aesthetic quality of riparian and recreation areas.

The San Gabriel District Environmental Education Program provided education programs to over 5,000 students last year. These ranger-led programs are designed around the California State Curriculum Standards. Ecology, water quality, California's gold, and Native American culture were a few of the subjects provided.

The district logged in over 25,000 volunteer hours. Recreation employees and volunteers cleaned over 14,000 restrooms, picked up over 11,000 bags of trash, wrote over 10,000 notices of required fees, interacted with over 10,000 forest visitors, and extinguished over 450 illegal ground fires/BBQs throughout the year.



## Wilderness and Trails Management

The district finalized its Wilderness Education Plan to include Sheep Mountain, San Gabriel Mountain, Magic Mountain, and Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness areas. This document was submitted to the regional office for review prior to completion to assure that we were capturing educational components that met regional goals.

## Trails 2013

Staff worked directly with our trail volunteer group (San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders) to achieve trail maintenance objectives. Last year, they were able to complete about 26 miles of trail maintenance. Staff also worked with this volunteer trail crew to develop an automated trail sign maker. This machine has already produced 22 trail signs for the Crystal Lake area.

## Infra Wilderness and Trails

Staff worked to increase scores for the 10-Year Wilderness stewardship challenge by working with counterparts such as the Inland Empire Urban Conservation corps and through the development of management plans such as the Wilderness Education plan completed in summer of 2013.

# The Santa Clara Mojave Rivers Ranger District

**T**he district planted about five acres of Jeffrey Pine and Ponderosa Pine near Guffy Campground in Wrightwood to restore vegetation after past fires left the area in a deforested condition. Spring plantings have showed low survival success and therefore the fall plantings were an effort to determine alternative techniques for the unique microhabitats in our mixed conifer forests.

Staff finalized a collection agreement to fund a \$333,224 grant to support invasive plant species removal in the Santa Clara River watershed. This was in collaboration with the City of Santa Clarita, Castaic Lake Water Agency, California Department of Water Resources and private landowners.

Staff implemented approved Burned Area Emergency Response activities for four fires that occurred in 2012: the Mesa View, Copco, Five Mile, and Highway fires. They also implemented approved BAER activities for the Powerhouse and Sharp Fires.

The district partnered with the San Bernardino Urban Conservation Corps to perform surveys of the Magic Mountain and Pleasant View wildernesses.

Staff conducted a highly successful community outreach program that included working with five Fire Safe Councils, Town Councils for Juniper Hills, Green Valley, Acton, and Lake Hughes, and especially with the Angeles volunteers in managing the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center. This has resulted in less illegal activity on the Forest and less impact on resources.

Staff used the Powerhouse and Sharp fires as an opportunity to increase District firefighters' awareness of the importance of ecological restoration and to increase District interdisciplinary cohesion.

Staff worked with our ski resorts to improve efficiency for ongoing summer maintenance and construction work while improving resource protection and best management prac-

tices during project implementation. The staff has worked hard on improving ongoing communications with the resorts and has taken a proactive role in ensuring that all resorts are in compliance with the latest American National Standards Institute B77.1 -2011 standard.

The district developed multi-project, multi-year cost recovery agreements including new major category agreements. The agreements were with Mt. Waterman Ski Resort and Southern California Gas Company. There was another agreement with Plains All American Pipeline LP for about \$327,000 for the review of a Pipeline Reroute Project and ongoing pipeline repair projects.



# Engineering

## FACILITIES

Fox Field Air Tanker Base (capital improvement project) contracts are in progress and will be completed in FY 2014.

Engineering completed its contract for the construction of West Fork Trail Bridge. It also took advantage of regional carryover funds (\$520,000) and amended an agreement with Los Angeles Conservation Corps to rehab Gabrielino Trail, reconstruct a steel girder bridge burned in the Station Fire, rehab Monte Cristo Campground, and construct approach ramps for the West Fork Trail Bridge. Engineering also competed for FY 2014-2015 capital improvement project to remodel Little Tujunga Barracks.

## ROADS:

Staff met all targets for road maintenance and decommissioning and performed additional road maintenance in support of reforestation. They awarded an Emergency Relief for Federally Own Roads contract for slide removal on Santa Clara Divide Road. The staff also awarded a contract for Little Tujunga paving funded with regional carryover funds and Emergency Relief reimbursement.

Engineering submitted contract packages for Powerhouse Fire Burned Area Emergency Response road repair and gate installation, and awarded a La Paloma Road Bridge Repair contract using Legacy road funds. It also successfully competed for FY 2014-2015 capital improvement projects for pavement maintenance at Santa Clara Divide Road and Coldbrook Campground.

## OTHER:

Ricardo Lopez worked with Cal Poly Pomona to develop a 2012-2013 senior project. A team of Cal Poly Pomona civil engineering students worked on a project related to drainage, hydrology and runoff mitigation at Crystal Lake Campground. Last year, a new team of students spent a few overnight camping sessions at Crystal Lake in order to continue a new phase of similar research, focusing on a different section of the campground. The forest Engineering staff (in collaboration with the Southern California Consortium) continues to be involved with educational presentations for Cal Poly engineering students. Our staff plans to continue this collaboration with the university in the coming years by engaging students and faculty in potential projects that will benefit the Forest Service.



# Fire and Aviation

Staff sponsored the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Angeles Fire Explorer Academy. A total of 44 Explorers graduated from the Fire Training Academy (68% were placed into Fire jobs). They were selected from two Explorer posts on the Angeles that serve over 55 diverse youth Explorers. Explorers participated in over 10 volunteer service events and projects that required technical skill.

## Program Management/Administration

Staff planned and managed a \$23 million dollar program budget Project Work Plan for WFPR fire funds.

Fire staff participated in the 2013 California Shake Out (Statewide Earth Quake Drill), coordinated with Los Angeles County on Defensible Space Project for the Angeles, completed 13 Annual Operating Plans and 11 agreements with local cooperators and the National Park Service. They also participated in Annual Meetings with local cooperators. Staff also completed oversight management for six Forest Fire Staff Areas (i.e. Fuels, Aviation, Training, Prevention, Dispatch and Planning), and completed updates and changes to the Initial Response areas for both Federal Land and Response areas with our cooperators.

## Fuels Management-Forest Health

Fire developed and balanced Project Work Plans for hazardous waste funding, met the hazardous fuels funding target for FY 2013, hosted Veterans Green Crew (LARRD), developed a proposal for Wilderness Areas for Dozer Use, and updated Developed Defense Zone and an Evacuation Route List for ANF;

## Fire Prevention and Education

Staff secured a Regional \$55,000 grant for LA County Fair and Antelope Valley Fair, participated in the America's Great Outdoors exhibit at Los Angeles County Fair, and provided a Fire Management Representative for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project.

Fire personnel participated in Salute to Youth, hosting and outreaching to over 4,000 high school students, provided a representative for the Barren Ridge Project, continued to provide prevention education for numerous organizations and schools on Fire Prevention, and coordinated Interagency Fire Investigators meetings with federal, state and local agencies.

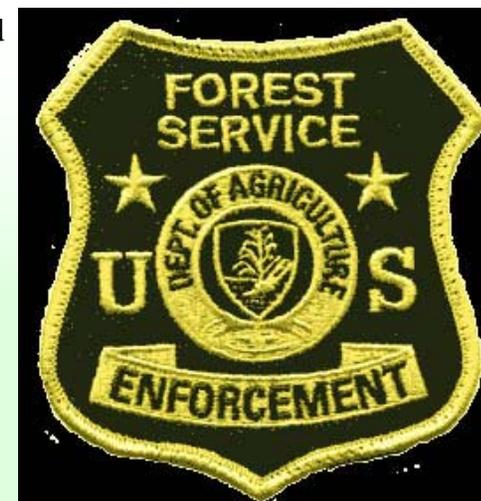
## Aviation Management

Fire and Aviation received a contract for the construction of the new helicopter offices at Fox Field; staffed one Type 1 Helicopter and one Type 2 Helicopter; selected as the Nations Night Flying Module; and maintained a year round Air-Tanker Base.



# Law Enforcement & Investigation

- Law Enforcement and Investigations personnel continued to conduct enforcement of illegal mining operations and illegal homesteading in areas closed to those activities. The enforcement has been very successful in eliminating those activities.
- They continued to assist the districts in administrative-cabin and special use compliance.
- In the first quarter: 1,067 incidents generated 357 incident reports, 236 Federal citations, 326 state citations and 148
- Angeles Enforcement continued to work closely with local law enforcement cooperator agencies, i.e. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. and California Highway Patrol, in enforcement action within the forest.
- LEI units are continuously working in conjunction with Sheriff's units in the off-highway vehicle areas such as Rowher Flats, Rincon Red Box Road and Santa Clara Divide Road for illegal off-road activity. This patrol also includes areas of the forest with extensive dirt roads where illegal riding and resource damage has been documented.
- Student Harvey Spear returned for his third summer in May 2013. He was assigned to Officer Rene Villanueva as his student trainer.
- The Angeles Law Enforcement group acquired two K-9 teams; Officer Michele Estrada has been selected to be the handler for the teams.
- The Angeles LEI group had a position vacant due to the transfer of Officer Mike Testa to R-3; efforts to fill the vacancy continued in progress.
- Angeles Law Enforcement Officer Ishmill Lett completed training to be a certified firearms instructor for the South Zone Law Enforcement group.
- The Angeles Enforcement unit conducted its third operation against illegal hunting in late 2012. This enforcement was conducted in conjunction with other government agencies and consisted of contacting hunters for hunting licenses and weapons compliance. This took place on opening day of deer season in October 2012. In a 36-hour period, 44 arrests were made for illegal hunting activity and illegal possession of weapons. Forty six weapons were seized from non-citizens of the United States.



# Public Affairs

**P**ublic Affairs staff maintained congressional relations with two U.S. Senators and 23 Congressional offices (ANF has about one third of California's Congress members). They updated the Forest Congressional Map, and arranged meetings, presentations, open houses and VIP tours throughout the year. These included multiple Congressional meetings and tours, three international delegations, Regional Office representatives and a General Management Review.

**Did you know?** Angeles National Forest is almost the same size as Rhode Island in terms of acreage.

Staff actively participated with the Los Angeles Federal Executive Board; oversaw and prepared content and maintained the Forest's external and internal websites. They readily used approved social media venues (such as Twitter), maintained media contacts and a database that includes over of 80 contacts. They also developed and distributed public/employee information including a Forest Wide Annual Accomplishments Report for FY 2012, priorities flyers, newsletters (the Grapevine), updates and other general information.

The PAO compiled and wrote the Forest's Mid-year Performance Accomplishments Report and the Final Annual Performance Accomplishments Report FY 2013. Staff wrote and/or distributed over 40 press releases, media advisories, updates and eight employee newsletters.

Staff maintained a Forest-wide mailing database of over 1,000 people and agencies (used for Public Information/NEPA), developed and reformatted Forest Recreation brochures and posted them to the internet. They responded to over 300 media phone requests, interview requests, and inquiries requiring research and preparation. (These exclude fire information calls that range in the hundreds during a large incident such as the Powerhouse Fire).

Public Affairs answered over 400 public email inquiries through the website and responded to a variety of customer service issues. Staff assisted the Regional Office to write the updated position description for classification of the GS-12/13 Public Affairs Officer position.

They participated and presented at the Annual Regional Public Affairs Officers Conference, processed and drafted reply letters/documents for 26 FOIA requests, and provided general information to the public and visitors. The Supervisor's Office received over 3,000 missed calls during the recent furlough - while the shutdown was highly unusual - the call volume and visitor use is not uncommon. Staff also created multiple PowerPoint presentations and updated Forest Factoid lists.

*\*Workplace Morale and Environment - see separate write-up submitted on September 9, 2013*



# Recreation-Lands-Special Uses

## Recreation Management

The forest facilitated collection of 280 tons of trash from dispersed recreation sites within Standard Amenity Fee Areas and pumped 80,000-gallons of human waste (*Porta Potties and Toilet Structures*)

## Off-Highway Vehicle Use

OHV use is a popular attraction on the Forest. In 2013 the Forest collected over \$133,000 in OHV area, fees provided OHV opportunities for over 35,000 visitors, and successfully monitored for the TES in accordance with Fish and Wildlife.

## Fee Collection

Because of its proximity to Los Angeles the Angeles National Forest collects the most recreation fees in the region. With over 10 million people in Los Angeles County, the Forest is considered the backyard for the local residences dwelling on the valley floor.

Staff collected \$959,000 in Recreation fees, the *highest amount collected in R-5*. The Angeles collects 20% of the fees in the region. This will carry over \$584,000 into Fiscal Year 2014. Staff also issued over 3,500 *Notices of Required Fee* to visitors without a visible Adventure Pass.

## Wilderness:

2013 brought the start of managing two new wilderness areas on the National Forest—the *Pleasant View Ridge* and *Magic Mountain* wilderness areas. In 2013 the Forest's first attempt to manage the newly designated areas earned the following:

- 2013 Regional Forester's Honor Award
- Baseline Campsite Inventory data
- Established a relationship with the Urban Conservation Corps—An inner city youth conservation collective

## Land Use Management

### Southern California Edison

Issued a Special Use Permit and started constructing two major power line segments for the largest industrial project on the National Forest. The project will upgrade over 40-miles of power-line almost doubling the electrical capacity of the lines being replaced.

### Permit Administration Coordination and Planning

The Special Uses program and project planning have greatly improved since the start of the fiscal year due to the addition of a GS-12 Reality Specialist. The Forest has improved its land-use management efforts at ski areas, shooting ranges, communication sites, sediment disposal sites, and dams and reservoirs. Working with the Region and the Office of General Counsel the Forest has issued Notices of Non-Compliance to several permit holders.



# Recreation-Lands-Special Uses Cont.

## Tribal Relations Program

The Angeles National Forest is one of the most urbanized forests in the National Forest System. The history behind the emergence of the Los Angeles urban center includes the fragmentation of the local tribes through the Spanish incorporation into the mission system. As such, there are no federally recognized tribes within the immediate vicinity of the forest. The three closest federally recognized tribes that the forest consults with are located within the sphere of influence for the Los Padres National Forest (Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians and Tejon Indian Tribe) and San Bernardino National Forest (San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians). The forest consults and maintains a relationship with non-federally recognized tribes, Native American organizations, and individuals within the greater Los Angeles area.

Consultation and collaboration occurred for forest planning and specific projects as well as detailed points of interest such as repatriation of sensitive remains and artifacts or access to areas for traditional gathering. The program also is engaged in a more formal level of consultation on a government-to-government level with the tribal governments of the federally recognized tribes (San Manuel, Santa Ynez and Tejon). Topics discussed in this level of consultation included Forest Land Management Plan revision, planning regulations, and forest projects and programs.

## Heritage Program

The Heritage Program of the Angeles National Forest is responsible for ensuring forest operations and projects are in compliance with a number of federal laws (National Historic Preservation Act, National Environmental Protection Act, Archaeological Resource Protection Act, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) enacted for the preservation and protection of cultural resources. To date, about 70,000 acres have been inventoried and over 1,300 prehistoric and historic sites have been recorded on the Angeles. In FY2013, the heritage program inventoried 576 acres, recorded 13 new archaeological sites, and updated seven other sites.

In FY2013, in support of the forest's program of work, the heritage program analyzed 68 forest projects involving over 2,000 acres. Of these, 16 projects involving 66 archaeological resources required site-specific protection measures or treatments designed to protect both prehistoric and historic resources from potential project related impacts or effects.

The forest continued the collaborative partnership with the non-profit Ridge Route Preservation Organization, to preserve and enhance the Old Ridge Route, a National Register District. The organization has continued its involvement in protecting and stabilizing efforts by contributing time and labor on ongoing projects as part of its "Clean Up The Ridge Route" initiative to clear and maintain drainage structures to help prevent failure or impacts to the historic roadway. The effort resulted in 230 volunteer hours, for an estimated value of \$5,011. The Forest Fire Lookout Host project contributed volunteer time rehabilitating and staffing the remaining historic lookout as well as fundraising to rebuild lookouts that burned down in 2002 and 2009; volunteers staffed Slide Mountain Lookout site and part of the Los Angeles County Fair Lookout Exhibit as a living history exhibit. The forest also sponsored one Passport-In-Time project. The project involved volunteer fieldwork led by Heritage and focused on providing survey opportunities to locate and record new archaeological sites. This effort resulted in 320 volunteer hours, for an estimated value of over \$6,972.

# Resources

**R**esources accomplished removal of 1,587 acres of noxious weeds when the assigned target was 250 acres. Staff established 2,454 acres of forest vegetation by contract, funded partially by partners. There was an improvement of 3,273 acres, which exceeded the target. For soil and watershed resource improvement, 800+ acres of the target were planned and accomplished. Staff also completed 15 miles of stream enhancement through a combination of non-native fish removal and recreational dam removal in Big Tujunga and the San Gabriel area, and reforestation. Staff sold 326 cubic feet of timber (target was 200 cubic feet).

## Target - Threatened Endangered and Sensitive Species

Staff actions covered four species. Resources continued its partnership with U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for recovery actions for the mountain yellow-legged frog, California condor recovery plan actions and trash removal, Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog surveys in Devils Canyon, Little and Big Rock Creeks; California red legged frog surveys in San Francisquito and Aliso Canyon; recreational dam removals in Big Tujunga and San Gabriel rivers in occupied designated critical habitat for the Santa Ana Sucker; Santa Ana Sucker surveys in Big Tujunga and in the San Gabriel OHV area; parking lot closure to limit rec use in occupied Arroyo Toad habitat; Arroyo Toad surveys in Little Rock, Upper Big Tujunga and Castaic Creek; and Santa Ana Sucker education in Big Tujunga and San Gabriel Rivers through public outreach and signage.



## NEPA - Southern Province - Land Management Plan Amendment and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

The Angeles proposed an additional wilderness area and provided three members of the core team. The draft supplemental EIS was released for a 90-day comment period in February 2013. The Angeles held two very successful public meetings and one stakeholder meeting with mountain bike and wilderness groups. The interdisciplinary team responded to over 400 specific, substantive comments. Release of the draft record of decision and start of the objection period was delayed by the furlough in order to avoid including the holiday season.

# Safety/Health Workplace Fiscal Year 2013.

**T**he Angeles National Forest has appointed safety coordinators for each district on the forest. The Forest Safety Officer facilitates monthly forest-wide Safety Committee meetings. Safety has developed warehouse and office procedures that are directly related to safety in the workplace and are a result of having a new SO. Staff has also designated an employee trainer for in-house annual fire extinguisher inspection, tagging, repairing, etc.

The trainer is California certified and this process will save \$2,500 per year at the SO and even more for each district. Safety has added a permanent line officer to participate in the forest-wide Safety Committee. The line officer will be able to get a pulse for items that need attention and help to facilitate the outcomes.

The forest continues to review and resolve issues identified on our Safety Program Evaluation Checklist evaluation. We have purchased hazardous material containers for facilities that were identified in the evaluation as deficient.

We have monthly safety meeting with topics selected for all SO employees.

The Forest Safety Officer has been trained to instruct in CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and first aid, saving funds by not using outside vendors. The Safety Officer is documenting safety training in a binder at the SO and district offices.

Staff has started safety projects as a result of the Safety Journey II sessions. These will be local projects that employees can engage in with available funds.

Some projects have been on the list for some time and the goals are to remove these items to make the work place safer for our employees.

The forest provided a well-received Safety Engagement session for volunteers and we have trained 80 % of employees on Safety Journey II.

Several employee and facility security upgrades are in process to include:

- Security cameras have been installed at the SGRRD office and the Arcadia office and training facility. We plan to add the LARRD and the SCMRRD office in the coming year. We have also made different furniture arrangements at the SGRRD office reception area.
- A new secondary gate at the SO will be operating soon.



# Administrative & Budget

**Administration** personnel activated or updated about 175 LincPasses. About 20% were for other USDA agencies.

Staff generated 573 SF-52s for the Angeles National Forest. This breaks down as follows: 100 - Supervisor's Office; 224 - Los Angeles River Ranger District; 152 - San Gabriel River Ranger District; 97 - Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District.

Administration responded to 27 reply dues and updated the Supervisor's Office building standards.

Staff received 12 new claims for FY 2013, responded to numerous inquiries from Albuquerque Service Center/Claims on new and old cases. Staff also set up and programmed 10 iPads and 5 iPhones for forest personnel and night flying helicopter.

## **Budget**

In Fiscal Year 2013, requisitions were monitored on a weekly basis to ensure they were awarded. It was critical for our forest to meet the June 1, 2013 date for award of all contracts. All Forest funds were monitored as best we could to ensure we stayed within our forest allocation of budget line items. Forest Leadership Team members were provided status of funds once the reports were deemed reliable. Adjustments were made accordingly.

The forest has been able to absorb unplanned expenses by limiting necessary purchasing and travel and leveraging the use of resources from other program areas. Budget gave advice and counsel regarding budget matters to Forest Leadership Team members and program managers. It also gave direction to the team pertaining to fire transfer dollars and ensured direction was given forest wide. The results of the monthly R5 Budget conference calls were shared with the Leadership Team.

Budget worked with the team to balance Work Plans to the R5 Final Budget. Budget leveled employee days, training and fleet. Targets were planned in the Work Plan regardless of system of record. On a monthly basis, Budget reminded program managers and FLT to report their accomplishments in system of record. Budget also met inquiries from the Washington Office, Albuquerque Service Center and Regional Office in a timely manner.

Other than what was described above we expect to be within our budget authority with exception of Fire. The Budget Officer attended the R5 Budget Conference/Training in April 2013 and was asked to make a presentation to explain how the forest keeps a small number of work plans by integrating projects in the Work Plan System.

# Angeles Volunteer/Interpretive/Partnership Stewards Strategy

**T**he volunteer-partnership staff created the ANF Volunteer Project Directory and brochure to notify interested groups and individuals of volunteer activities and opportunities on the Angeles National Forest. Each month the directory is updated, posted on the ANF website, and mailed to an e-mail list of more than 900 contacts. This has resulted in increased interest in the volunteer program and an increase in volunteer applications and inquiries. The staff also developed a Forest-wide, virtual-volunteer orientation session that will allow volunteer coordinators to conduct orientation with new volunteers, at any time and location, who have internet and phone service.

The comprehensive orientation covers Forest Service history/mission, ANF priorities, volunteer opportunities, health and safety, and federal laws and regulations on civil rights, ethics, and personal conduct. This will result in increased consistency in volunteer-program management, and greater understanding of Forest-wide policies and practices affecting volunteer service.

The staff also worked with the Friends of the Angeles Coalition to build and strengthen the Forest's partnership network, and to identify priority projects that would benefit from partner/donor support.

In FY 2013, volunteers provided 75,406.3 hours of service to the Angeles National Forest, valued at \$1,669,495.48. In addition, the Forest's partnerships and organization-agreement hours totaled 32,458 hours, valued at \$718,620.12.



# Southern California Consortium

The Southern California Coalition was included in the Regional Forester’s award for “Diversity and Inclusion” for helping put together the partnership for Wilderness Inventory work. This was carried out by the Urban Conservation Corps on the San Bernardino and Angeles national forests. The Consortium work also resulted in the hosting of five interns from the CSU Water Resource Institute on three national forests and one research station.

The Consortium maintains strong relationships with Franklin High School in Highland Park, John Muir High School in Pasadena and Semillas Sociedad Civil High School in downtown Los Angeles. Generation Green programs are offered on each of the three campuses by Consortium staff, creating a visible accessible Forest Service to over 2,500 additional youth and community members. Generation Green participants engage in community service, leadership development and overnight trips including backpacking trips to Yosemite and Mono Lake.

Consortium staff also employed 12 Hispanic and African-American high-school-age urban youth from John Muir High School and Semillas High School to an 8-week Forest Service Youth Conservation Corps crew on the Angeles National Forest.

Staff trained 32 Hispanic and African-American high-school-age urban youth from Pasadena and downtown Los Angeles schools, who were engaged in Los Angeles County Fair Leadership Camp. This was a leadership development program building on the Youth Conservation Corps learning experience.

The Consortium facilitated a partnership leading to over 12 young adults and youth engaged in onsite environmental education with the Water Conservation Authority, Urban Conservation Corps, and the San Gabriel River Ranger District in the high-use “east fork” area of the river recreation areas. Consortium staff worked directly with Hispanic-serving campuses including University of La Verne, Cal Poly Pomona, San Diego State University’s Imperial Valley Campus and CSU Fullerton. Staff hosted college students on the Angeles and presented career information to them on their campuses. The Consortium also outreached to over 5,500 kindergartens through college students in the Southern California Province; and developed working relationships with higher education coalitions in El Centro and Oxnard to service southern California communities more effectively.



# Civil Rights

**A**s of September 2, 2013, the Angeles National Forest's permanent workforce total was 353. Overall workforce diversity is 47.88%, up by 1.0% with the increase in the Pacific Islander Population. Female population is 19 %, up by 0.2% from 2012. The Forest had 17 new hires with a diversity selection rate of 47.88%. Female selection rate was 17.6%, with one selection in fire and two selections in non-fire. Diversity selection rates for promotions were 47.1%. Promotions for females were 11.8% under the Angeles workforce rate of 19.0%.

## Quarter 1

On November 13, 2012, the Civil Rights Officer attended the NAACP Professional and Executive Diversity Job Fair for outreach and recruitment, in addition to spreading information about the Forest Service and its mission.

Staff worked with employees to resolve workplace conflict, preventing the filing of an EEO complaint/grievance, and creating a better work environment.

## Quarter 2

Staff performed informal management inquiry, saving the forest money. They also continued research and network with the public, other agencies, colleges and universities to obtain and maintain updated contact information for targeted outreach and recruitment.

## Quarter 3

Staff performed informal management inquiry, and completed inquiry into allegations of Sexual Harassment, both saving the Forest money.

The Civil Rights Officer continued research and networking with the public, other agencies, colleges and universities to obtain and maintain updated contact information for targeted outreach and recruitment. She also worked with employees to resolve workplace conflict, preventing the filing of an EEO complaint/grievance, and creating a better work environment.

## Quarter 4

Staff worked diligently towards encouraging Angeles employees to work towards completing the No Fear Act training and performed inquiry into allegations of Sexual Harassment, saving the Forest money.

## USDA Strategic Plan (2010-2015)

**Goal 1:** Assisting Rural Communities to create Prosperity ensuring Self-sustainment, Repopulation, and Thriving Economically.

**Goal 2:** Ensuring National Forests & Private Working lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change, while enhancing water resources.

### Chief's Focus Point

#### Areas of Focus

**Safety:** Goal is to become a zero-fatality organization

**Inclusiveness:** Offer more outdoor opportunities to urban communities

**Restoration:** Work with partners to restore ecosystems.

**Fire:** Learn to live with fire.

**Community:** Engage urban communities in protecting urban forests.

### Regional Forester's Focus

#### Ecological Restoration

- Restoration work on Rim, American, and Aspen fires.
- Accelerating restoration work in the areas where Fire Settlement Funds are available.
- Utilizing normal appropriated funds in an integrated way to get program of work obligated by June 1.

#### Healthy Workforce & Workplace

- Acknowledging that employees are foundation of the agency
- Promoting health and welfare to accomplish ecological restoration
- Encouraging flexible work schedules, participating in fitness programs while balancing work & family life in very demanding careers



United States Department of Agriculture

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# FY 2014 Priorities

## Angeles National Forest Priorities



### To Make a Difference Every Day in Every Way...

Safety first both employee and public safety need to be factored into planning and implementation of projects. Foster collaborative, community-based stewardship to help ensure the sustainable delivery of resources and services. Take an All Lands Approach—Look beyond agency boundaries—build and maintain solid partnerships Connect diverse publics with the National Forest. Plan strategically to reduce costs and practice sound financial management. Develop creative strategies to fund and train new employees while increasing diversity. Increase the workforce skill base. Become more comfortable and efficient using web-based technology in day-to-day operations.

