



## NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Forest Service, Angeles National Forest and  
San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

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# Stewardship and Recreational Opportunities Enhanced on Angeles National Forest with New Monument Designation

**ARCADIA, Calif.**—President Obama used his authority last month under the Antiquities Act to establish 346,177 acres of national forest land in the San Gabriel Mountains in southern California as a national monument. The designation permanently protects the popular outdoor recreation destination to increase access and outdoor opportunities to the public.

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, designated on October 10, 2014, is located within the Angeles National Forest. The monument landscape will provide large-scale open space to many of the residents of Los Angeles County. In addition to protecting the land, the monument designation creates new opportunities for the Angeles National Forest and local communities to collaborate in the enhancing of stewardship and recreational opportunities on federal land.

Since the designation, partners have pledged to raise funding to jumpstart public involvement and restoration of high-priority projects. Also, signage was installed at the base of San Gabriel Canyon (pictured above) and nearly 200 jobs have been created by hiring crews from the Youth Conservation Corps, California Conservation Corps and the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps. The crews have been out on the landscape of the San Gabriel Mountains improving trails and recreation sites.

The Angeles remains actively at work throughout the forest. A partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) has provided a long-term and large-scaled restoration effort on the forest as part of the NFF's "Treasured Landscapes" within Big Tujunga Canyon. Additionally the forest has entered into an agreement with the Los Angeles Conservation Corp to do heavy restoration and habitat protection on over 20 miles of the Gabrielino National Scenic Trail, including the deck replacement of the Arroyo Seco Steel Girder Trail Bridge. Crews have been on the trail for over a year now reconstructing areas that were damaged by fire.

Although the existing staff on the Angeles National Forest will remain responsible for managing the overall landscape of the forest, an interim (until February 21, 2015) monument manager, Shane Jeffries, has been brought in to provide additional support to the Angeles National Forest along with a partnership coordinator and a public affairs specialist. Also, an assessment team assembled to review and recommend to Forest Service Leadership, potential organizational needs to help the forest with long term plans of managing the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The team is comprised of Forest Service employees who are experienced and skilled in working within a national monument.

“I’m looking forward to working with Shane and the interim monument team on a collaborative framework of protecting our natural resources, engaging more with our surrounding communities, and increasing the recreational and stewardship opportunities on the Angeles National Forest,” said Tom Contreras, Angeles National Forest Supervisor.

More than 15 million people live within 90 minutes of the San Gabriel Mountains, which provides 70 percent of the open space for Angelenos and 30 percent of the drinking water. The monument has already created stronger partnerships with the local community, user groups and stakeholders surrounding the Angeles National Forest and will continue engaging citizens with diverse interests and backgrounds.

“The Forest Service will be as inclusive as possible, reflecting that this new monument belongs to all. This is the people’s monument,” said Randy Moore, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester, US Forest Service.

For more information about the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, please visit:

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

*About the U.S. Forest Service:* The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, part U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

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