



United States Department of Agriculture



THINKSTOCK

## An Update from the Monument Manager



The Angeles National Forest and the newly created San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, located right next door to the city of Los Angeles, is known as the crown to the Valley of Angels. The peaks of the San Gabriel Mountains frame the Los Angeles skyline and for literally millions of people, this mega-urban forest and monument are the favorite “go-to” place for recreation and to rejuvenate from city-life stresses. For many – adults and children alike – the mountains serve as a favorite recreation or vacation area, and even an outdoor classroom for exploring natural and cultural heritage and learning the importance of natural resource conservation.

As many of you are aware, on October 10, 2014, President Barack Obama designated a portion of National Forest System land within the Angeles National Forest as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. It is the 8th and newest national monument to be managed by the Forest Service. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the public, partners, cooperators, employees and others informed regarding efforts to fulfill the objectives identified in the presidential proclamation. These include the establishment of a collaborative group and the development of a management plan within the next three years while continuing to complete important work on the ground. It is our goal to provide ongoing updates to help keep folks aware of key focus areas, accomplishments and upcoming events. This brief summary newsletter is no way intended to include everything, but will feature a few key highlights in each publication. So, please take a moment to look through the newsletter.

We welcome your stories, input and assistance to keep communication relevant and up-to-date. On behalf of Forest Service employees, we thank you for your continued enthusiasm and support.

Shane Jeffries,  
Interim Monument Manager



## Spotlight On...

### Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon meets with National Hispanic Leadership Regarding Monument

On Thursday, January 8, Deputy Chief Leslie Weldon hosted a meeting with key National Hispanic Leadership Agenda members in Washington D.C. Among the topics of interest was an update on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument efforts. Deputy Chief Weldon shared many of the updates included in this report and highlighted the great ongoing work of the US Forest Service—Southern California Consortium diversity outreach program. Hispanic communities make up approximately 48% of the population in southern California, which is within a 90 minute drive from the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Source: 2013 US Census Quickfacts

*El día 8 de Enero, Deputy Chief, Leslie Weldon, tuvo una recepción con miembros claves de la organización “Agenda Nacional del Liderazgo Hispano”. Dentro de los temas de interés, surgió el desarrollo del Monumento Nacional Montañas de San Gabriel. Muchos de los informes en este resumen fueron incluidos, y también resalto el trabajo de promover diversidad que ha realizado el programa “Consortio del Sur de California”, un programa del Servicio Forestal que trabaja con jóvenes para inculcar metas de estudiar ciencias en la universidad. Hispanos son aproximadamente 48% de la población que vive a una distancia donde puede llegar al bosque dentro de 90 minutos en coche.*

# General Updates

## Communication

The Angeles National Forest continues to meet with key stakeholders, congressional representatives and local communities surrounding the monument to discuss the monument management plan, the community collaborative, and ways in which the public can engage in both.

## Collaborative Planning

The Angeles National Forest is working with the National Forest Foundation to develop a community work group that is organizing a full community collaborative. The Forest has been actively involved with the work group thus far and is excited to say most of the heavy lifting to get the collaborative off the ground has been accomplished.

The full community collaborative is scheduled to meet for the first time on March 4, 2015. Please visit the below link for more information about how to get involved.

**San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Collaborative webpage:**  
<http://www.Nationalforests.org/sanGabrielMountains>



## Monument Management Plan

Officials from Angeles NF and the Regional Office are establishing a team and a preliminary time-line for completion of the Monument Management Plan which is required by October 2017.

## Leadership Changes for 2015

Thomas A. Contreras, Forest Supervisor, announced that he accepted a position assisting the Regional Forester in Vallejo, Calif. beginning mid January 2015 until his scheduled retirement this spring. He will be retiring with over 35 years with the agency.

Daniel Lovato, Deputy Forest Supervisor, has been selected as the acting Forest Supervisor and John Thornton, Ranger for the

San Gabriel River Ranger District, has been selected as the acting Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Angeles for the next 120 days.

In November 2014, Shane Jeffries, Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Dechutes National Forest was appointed as the Interim Monument Manager through February 2015. Ashlee Ransom, Liaison Officer for the Washington Office, has been brought in to assist with Public Affairs. Fabian Garcia, Southern California Consortium Director was appointed as the acting Partnership Coordinator. These key positions are to supplement capacity of existing forest staff.

Additionally, Michael McIntyre, District Ranger, Los Angeles River Ranger District, retired in January 2015 after 33 years with the agency. Currently, Dennis Merkel, District Recreation Officer, is Acting District Ranger.

Official request for two 120 day detail positions are currently being processed for the District Ranger positions on the Los Angeles and the San Gabriel River Ranger Districts.

## Gabrielino Trail Bridge Completed by LA Conservation Corps

Gabrielino Trail Before



Gabrielino Trail After



Recently the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, with support from a local contractor, completed the re-decking of the Arroyo Seco steel girder bridge reconnecting portions of the Gabrielino Trail that was damaged by fire. This marks a significant milestone in improving trail conditions in the National Forest and National Monument.

This project was conducted as a partnership between the Forest Service and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in order to leverage federal and nonprofit dollars while exposing corps members to careers in the great outdoors. The Forest Service continues to work with local conservation corps to complete trail restoration work—ranging from trail maintenance to trail reconstruction.

### 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS

#### Includes

- Los Angeles Conservation Corps
- California Conservation Corps
- San Gabriel Vally Conservation Corps
- Urban Conservation Corps of the Inland Empire

## Projects

The Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument are actively working to pursue grants that will benefit the landscape and visitors.

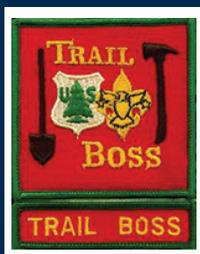
Two of the most recent grant applications supported by the Forest Service were the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants: 1) Environmental Solutions for Communities and 2) 21st Century Service Corps: Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists.

Both of these applications support youth corps in implementing ecological restoration and watershed protection work on the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, including a "Watershed Ranger Outreach Program" stemming from the Cattle Canyon project. This project is a 3-year pilot study that seeks to promote stewardship of public lands along heavily visited portions of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River within the newly designated San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The project, which includes the participation of youth in conservation education, public outreach and habitat restoration, will be

entering its third season of implementation. The Angeles National Forest, Watershed Conservation Authority, and local community groups have collaborated to address resource management challenges resulting from high levels of dispersed recreational use along the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. Our goal, by engaging youth to promote stewardship, is to mitigate the impacts to water quality and the riparian ecosystem while improving the overall quality of recreation.



**Through partnerships, much more can be accomplished!**



In 2015, USFS volunteers will host a Trail Boss training certification class to educate personnel on how to supervise either "Trail Blazing" or "Forest Conservation" projects at the unit level.

The purpose is to certify participants to do trail surveys, conduct project planning for individual or youth groups.

Specific requirements are necessary for certification. The proposed dates for Trail Boss certification training are January 10-11; March 7-8; April 25-26; and May 2-3.

Training objectives are to provide participants with appropriate knowledge on tool use, personal safety, condition surveys, brush clearing, and other trail work.

For more information on how to get involved, please reach out to Patrick Aubuchon, Chief Trail Boss, 818-781-7465, bigaub@sbcglobal.net.



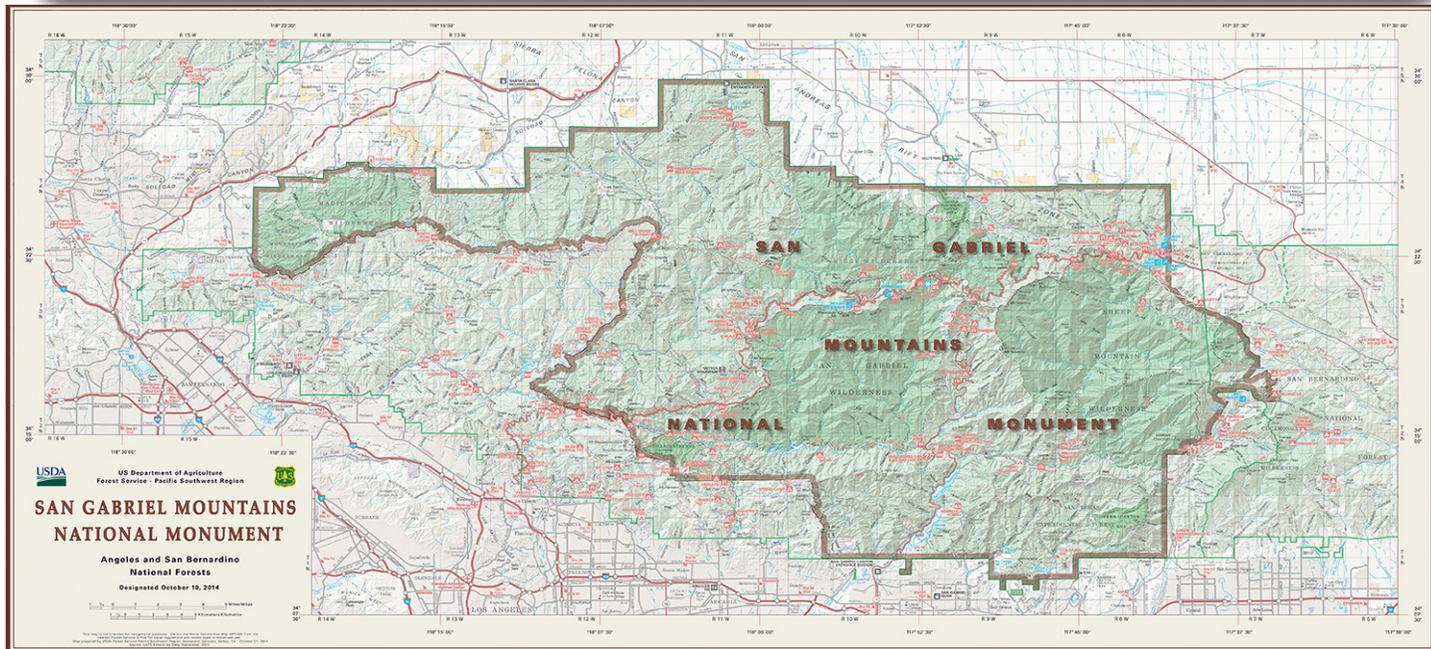
The Angeles NF/SGMNM has applied to bring the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps to assist in improving recreation sites. If awarded, the NCCC Crew will be working projects in the Monument this spring.

The AmeriCorps is a network of national and community service programs that engage 75,000 Americans each year to provide:

- Areas of natural and other disasters
- Infrastructure improvement
- Environmental stewardship conservation
- Energy conservation
- Urban and rural development

The NCCC is a team-based, full-time, residential program for men and women between ages of 18 and 24. Members are based at regional campuses in several states.

# References



Link to Monument Boundary Map .PDF : <http://go.usa.gov/JSxh>

## Useful Links

**Angeles NF Website:**

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

**Angeles NF Visitor Guide:**

<http://go.usa.gov/zJgB>

**Friends of the Angeles:**

<http://www.friendsoftheangeles.org/>

**National Forest Foundation**

<http://www.nationalforests.org/SanGabrielMountains>

**Get to Know-Virtual Hike:**

<http://www.get-to-know.org/hikes>

**Discover the Forest:**

<http://www.discovertheforest.org/>

**Descubre el Bosque:**

<http://www.descubreelebosque.org/>

## How to Contact Us

**San Gabriel Mountains  
National Monument  
on the Web**

**Visit:** <http://go.usa.gov/zsPQ>

**Facebook:** /AngelesSGMMN

**Twitter:** @Angeles\_NF

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Questions and Comments regarding  
newsletter can be sent to  
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