



United States Department of Agriculture



THINKSTOCK

A Message From the Monument Manager



The Angeles National Forest and the newly designated San Gabriel Mountains National Monument are located right next door to the city of Los Angeles. 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 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 learning the importance of natural resource conservation.

As you might imagine, once the President established the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, many exciting and challenging efforts were initiated including: coordination with the National Forest Foundation and a community work group to establish a full community collaborative; development of a team of experts to assist with drafting a Monument Management Plan; and continued planning and implementation of natural resource management and public services in the monument and across the Angeles National Forest. We intend to produce this monthly newsletter to share progress on these important topics and to put a spotlight on other exciting opportunities related to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and we welcome your ideas and feedback in keeping our 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 discussed was an update on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Deputy Chief Weldon shared many of the updates included in this newsletter and highlighted the great ongoing work of the US Forest Service, along with the Southern California Consortium diversity outreach program.

Hispanic communities make up approximately 48% of the population in Southern California.

Source: 2013 US Census QuickFacts

El día 8 de Enero, Deputy Chief, Leslie Weldon, tuvo una recepción con miembros claves de la organización “National Hispanic Leadership Agenda” en Washington D.C. Dentro de los temas de interés surgió el desarrollo del Monumento Nacional—Montañas de San Gabriel. Los informes incluidos en este resumen fueron presentados y también resalto el gran esfuerzo del Servicio Forestal y su programa “Southern California Consortium” que lleva ocho años conectado comunidades hispanas al bosque nacional en el sur de California. Actualmente hispanos son aproximadamente 48% de la población que rodea el nuevo Monumento Nacional—Montañas de San Gabriel.

General Updates

Communication

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

Collaborative Planning

The National Forest Foundation partnered with the Angeles National Forest to convene and facilitate a small community working group. The working group is in the process of organizing and identifying a diverse group of stakeholders to form a full collaborative group. The Forest has been actively involved with the working group thus far and is excited to say that most of the heavy lifting to get the collaborative off the ground has been accomplished.

The full collaborative group is scheduled to meet for the first time on March 5, 2015. Please visit the link below for more information on collaborative planning and how to get involved.

SGMNM Collaborative Webpage:

<http://www.Nationalforests.org/sanGabrielMountains>



Monument Management Plan

Officials from the Angeles NF and the Regional Office are establishing a team to develop a preliminary timeline 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 at the Regional Office in Vallejo, CA beginning mid January 2015 until his retirement, scheduled for this spring. He will be retiring with more than 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. Both positions are a detail of 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 and Fabian Garcia, Southern California Consortium Director, was selected as the acting Partnership Coordinator. These positions provide added capacity to the forest so that existing staff work won't be interrupted.

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.

The forest has requested two additional 120 day detail positions-- 1) District Ranger for the Los Angeles Ranger District and 2) District Ranger for the San Gabriel River Ranger District.

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 wildfire. This marks a significant milestone toward 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 Valley Conservation Corps
- Urban Conservation Corps of the Inland Empire

Projects

The Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument are working closely with partners to pursue grant opportunities.

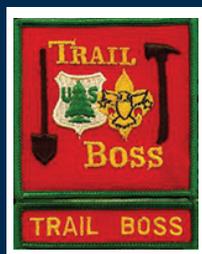
Two of the most recent grant applications submitted by the forest were for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Environmental Solutions for Communities and the 21st Century Service Corps: Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists grants.

Both of the 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. The goal is to engage youth and promote stewardship in order to mitigate the impacts to water quality and the riparian ecosystems 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.

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 survey, brush clearing, and other trail work.

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



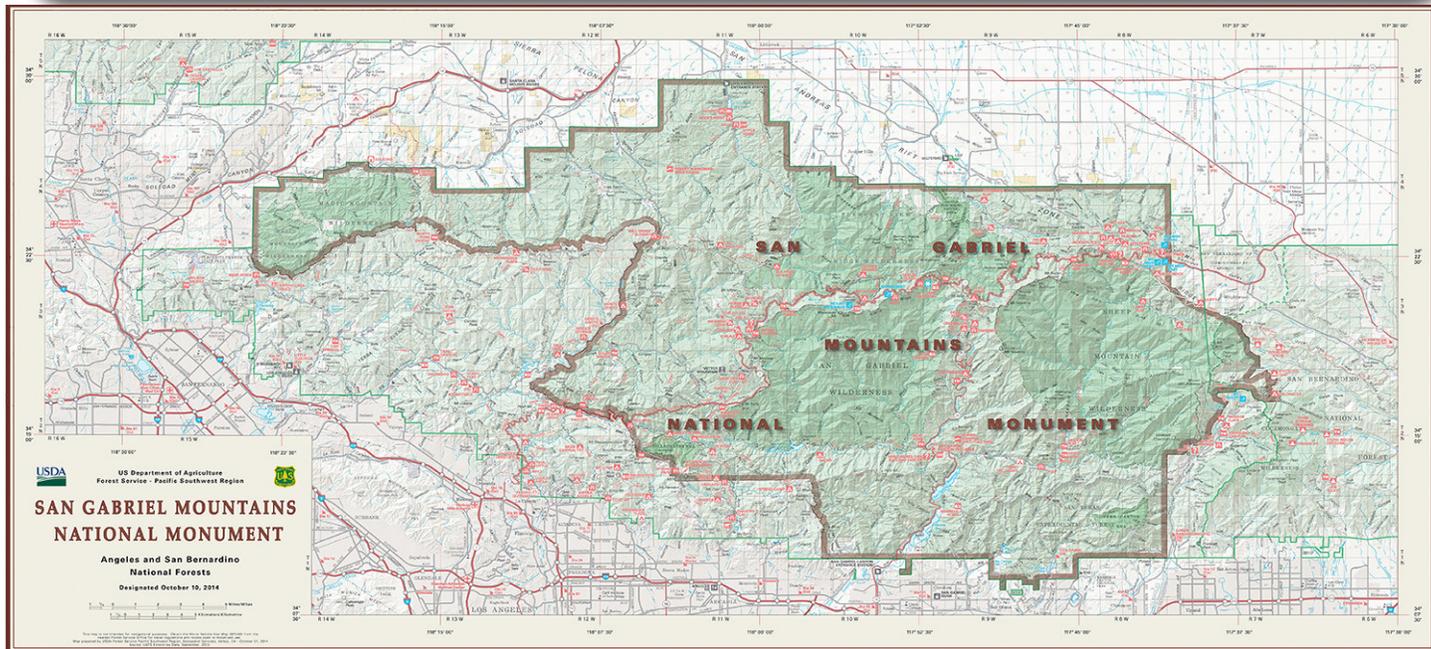
The Angeles NF/SGMNM has applied to bring the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps to assist in improving recreation sites. If awarded, the NCCC Crew will be working on projects in the monument this spring.

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

- 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 : <http://go.usa.gov/JSxh> (pdf format)

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 to Know Virtual Hike

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

Discover the Forest

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

Descubre el Bosque:

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

How to Contact Us

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

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

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