



Cattle Canyon Improvements Project Continues in 2015

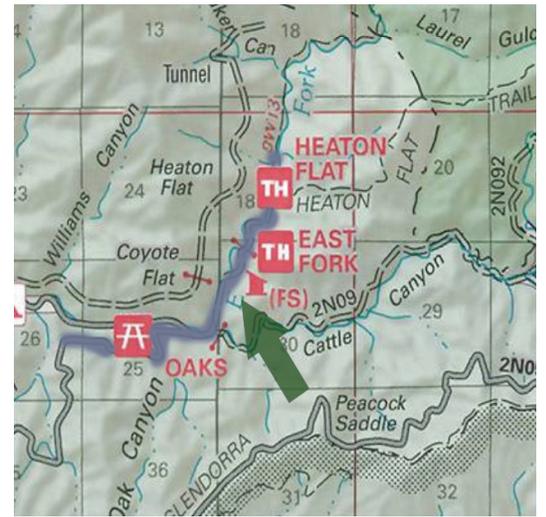
The Cattle Canyon Improvements Project is a five year collaboration between the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) and partners as a pilot project addressing resource management along portions of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River which is within the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The project provides valuable job training experience for area youth and is entering its third year. A \$725,000 grant from the State of California is supporting the project and its goal is to improve aquatic habitat and enhance recreation quality along the river.

The WCA was created in 2003 as a joint powers entity of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District to partner with others to focus on open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects in watersheds of both the San Gabriel River and the Lower Los Angeles River.

The Project has four main elements: 1) an outreach interpretive program 2) a visitor use survey within the confluence of the project 3) an evaluation of the interpretive environmental education program and 4) a site development plan.

Through input from government and non-government partners, the project seeks to promote stewardship of public lands, enhance recreational experiences and engage in ecological restoration of natural areas through an "All Lands" approach.

This summer this successful project will work with partners, and stakeholders on phase 4 to develop a site plan in 2015 to determine what site improvements can be made to enhance the quality of recreation while continuing to protect the watershed.



Cattle Canyon Improvements Project



Spotlight On...



Fish Canyon Falls

Popular Fish Canyon Falls Trail Once Again Reopened

The popular Fish Canyon Falls Trail, closed since December, was recently reopened to the public. The trail had been reopened last summer after a previous lengthy closure. It was closed again in December following a rock slide that required a group of campers to be rescued.

The Forest Service then worked with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, city of Duarte, and Vulcan Materials Co., and reopened the trail on Feb. 11, following a thorough assessment for accessibility and safety.

As with many outdoor activities, there are inherent risks and hazards with hiking and trail users are advised to take caution, heed public safety warnings and assume responsibility for their actions. Hikers should be aware that the trail, although not particularly strenuous does have portions that wind along very narrow edges with steep drops and high cliffs. In addition, hikers are encouraged to wear appropriate gear, remain on the trail at all times, and obey posted signage. Most importantly, the trail is not currently recommended for young children. For additional information on the trail, please visit the City of Duarte at www.accessduarte.com/.

General Updates



San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Fund

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) jump started the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Fund by pledging to raise \$3 million in support of the Monument. To date, the National Monument Fund has already reached \$2.1 million with substantial contributions from the California Wildlife Conservation Board, Edison International and individual donors.

The National Monument Fund was created to help jump start critical restoration and stewardship projects within the national monument and to ensure that these projects address the needs of Los Angeles' diverse communities. The funds will be used to restore priority recreation areas and natural habitat throughout the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument within the Angeles National Forest.

To support the NFF National Monument Fund, find out more about the monument, or the work NFF, please visit: www.nationalforests.org/SanGabrielMountains.

San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative

Three months of diligent efforts from a community working group have paid off and great progress is being made towards establishing a collaborative process that will be responsive to many stakeholder interests in the Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel Mountains, and surrounding region.

Community working group members chose the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative as the name for the new group. The name, along with the draft purpose statement and goals, was presented at the full group's kick-off meeting which was held on March 4th. The National Forest Foundation (NFF), who is facilitating the process, invited 45 local and regional organizations and entities to participate in the Community Collaborative and approximately 30 attended the first full meeting.

NFF Community Collaborative will also form committees to address project or issue-specific needs. The committees will necessarily involve many outside organizations and individuals who have important expertise and experience. For more information, please visit:

www.nationalforests.org



Friends of the Angeles

Working Together:

The Friends of the Angeles is committed to enhancing the value of the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. Friends of the Angeles works to build and lead community-based coalitions to address priority needs for ecologic restoration, cultural and diverse community inclusion, large landscape level connectivity, sustainable recreation, engaging and connecting with youth and creating stronger education and interpretation programs. Their goal is to help those new to the mountains become engaged; and to strengthen the support of existing partners, whether it's by being a more responsible forest visitor, volunteering, donating, being active in a Friends or User group, supporting a nonprofit, or using their influence through their connections with civic, corporate, or government organizations.

The Friends' group is excited for the opportunity to help strengthen the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and looks forward to working with Angeles National Forest and other supporters on the development and implementation of the Monument Management Plan. For more information, please visit:

www.friendsoftheangeles.org

Upcoming Events



Earth Day Events Planned at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument

The U.S. Forest Service along with the Western National Parks Association (WNPA), El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, G2 Gallery, the National Park Service, and California State Parks are hosting "Earth Month Los Angeles"-- a month dedicated to raising awareness about Earth conservation through celebrating the beauty and importance of national parks and public lands.

Upcoming events that are currently being planned at the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument include:

- A photo exhibit curated and mounted by G2 Gallery featuring regional, national, and state parks and forests – Channel Islands, Catalina Island, Santa Monica Mountains, Pinnacles, San Gabriel Mountains, Angeles NF, Mojave Preserve, and nearby State Parks.
- A essay, art, or photo or video contest for 11th and 12th grade high school students on the significance of parks or public lands and how they connect to your life through community, culture, or a personal story. Winners of the contest and their work will be featured at an exhibit and reception on April 11th and 12th.
- Earth Day Event on Thursday, April 22. There will be programming for grade and middle schools in the Plaza with attendance by National Park Service, State Parks, and US Forest Service Rangers.

Specific information for all of the events that are being planned for the Earth Month celebration will be provided at elpueblo.lacity.org/index.htm

Resources Highlights

Natural Resources: Fish

As March rolls around exciting things are happening in the streams of the San Gabriel Mountains. Native fish are gearing up for reproduction otherwise known as the spawning season. These fish have been saving energy for months to put into the effort that is about to begin in the days or weeks ahead. Females have been developing eggs to be deposited, typically in gravelly riffles, on the bottom of the stream. Males have stored energy in order to undergo morphological changes, which are changes to their color and physical appearance. These fish are now going through the final changes in order to produce thousands of tiny eggs which will develop into fish that will hopefully make it to adults. Most will not make adulthood, but that is why fish produce so many eggs--to ensure that some will reach adulthood in order to continue the cycle.

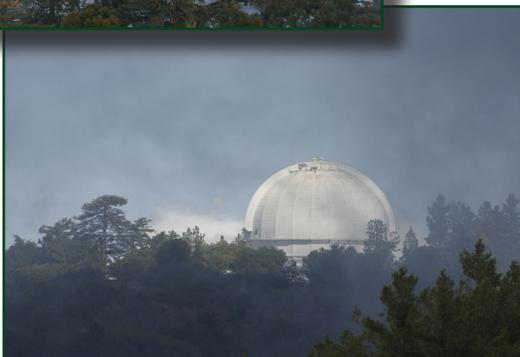
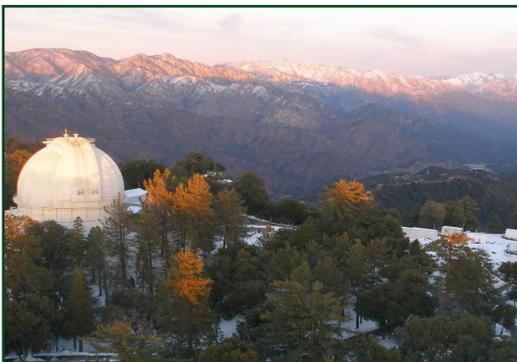
These fish have adapted to the variable conditions that occurs in Southern California which can result in very heavy flashy flows in some years. They can vary when they spawn based on external cues from their environment. Variables like the photo period (amount of sunlight in a day) and water temperature are important cues to these species and tell them when it is the right time to spawn. Fish can respond to these cues by spawning earlier in the spring or later in the summer if needed. Water temperature is a very important component to the spawning cycle as it can have a dramatic influence on how long it takes for eggs to hatch into larvae and how well the larvae develop and when they emerge from the gravelly riffles as tiny fish called fry. With the warm winter and the low rainfall amounts dropped on the San Gabriel Mountains this season, it is likely that this will be an early spawning season.

So if you are in the mountains in March and near the streams please keep these fish in mind and keep the streams clean by taking only pictures and leaving only footprints. After all, this is their home, we are just lucky enough to live close enough to enjoy it!



A Santa Ana Sucker Fish

Anitquities: Mt. Wilson Observatory



Mt. Wilson Observatory

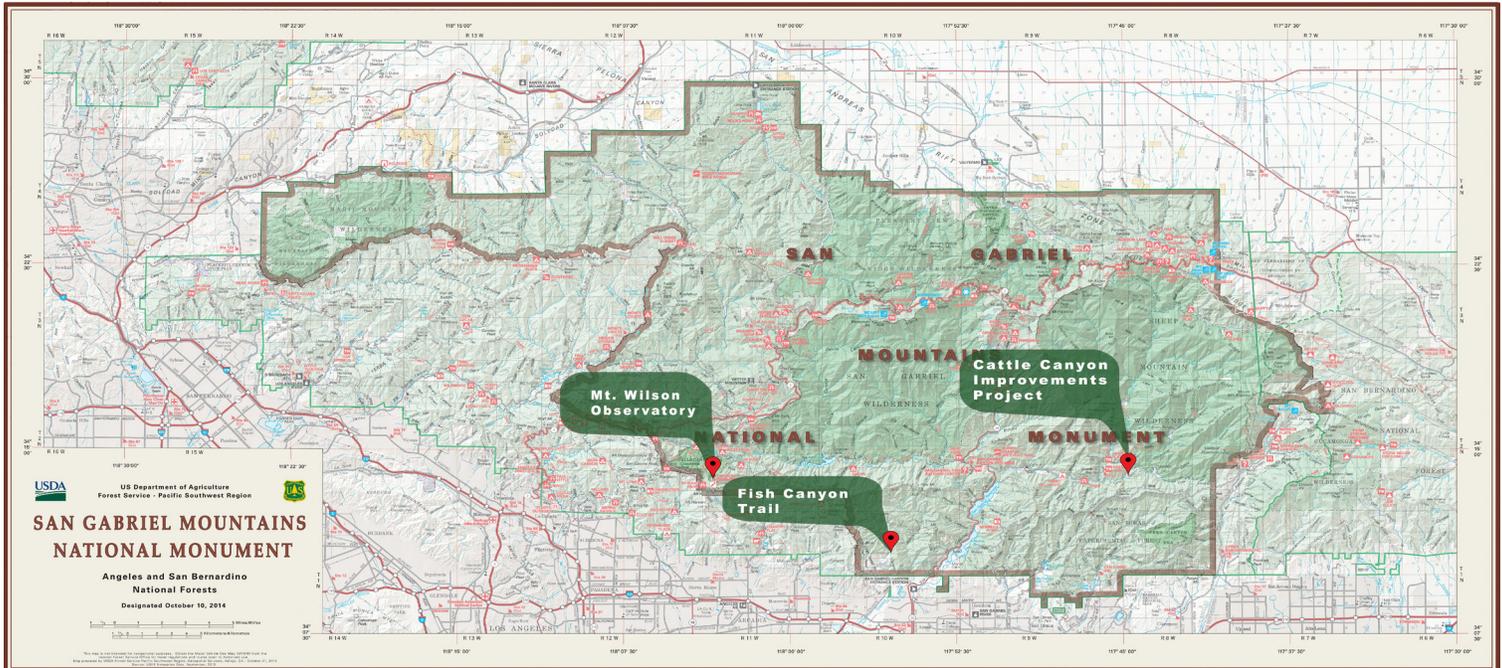
Mt. Wilson Observatory is located in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument on Mount Wilson. The observatory was used in the first half of the 20th century by renowned astronomers including Harlow Shapley and Edwin Hubble.

Mt. Wilson Observatory was founded by George Hale and houses two historic telescopes—1) the 60-inch Hale telescope built in 1908 and the 100-inch Hooker telescope which was completed in 1917.

Today, Mount Wilson's original solar and night-time telescopes, the world's largest for two generations of astronomers, have been joined by new facilities achieving unprecedented high-resolution views of the stars. Mount Wilson Observatory is operated by the Mount Wilson Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, under an agreement with the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.mtwilson.edu/>

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 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/Sehk>

Facebook: [/AngelesSGMNM](https://www.facebook.com/AngelesSGMNM)

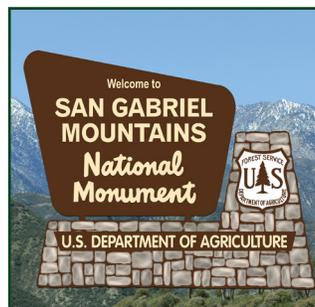
Twitter: [@Angeles_NF](https://twitter.com/Angeles_NF)

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