



THINKSTOCK

'Convert-a-Can' Project Improves Conditions in West Fork

In early March, Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument hosted the second annual "Convert-a-Can" event to promote clean open space through the use of art and creativity.

Megan Devine, Emily Garcia, and 30 fellow students from San Gabriel Mountains Forever Leadership Academy, turned nine bear-proofed brown dumpsters into panoramic scenes of rivers flowing through canyon walls and brightly painted wildflowers accented with inspirational quotes. The event took place within the monument--- off the West Fork of the San Gabriel River and took plain trash receptacles located next to picnic areas, roads, and trail-heads and turned them into colorful pieces of art.

"By 'converting' these cans," said Esmeralda Bracamonte, (acting) district ranger for the San Gabriel River Ranger District, "we have not only promoted clean-open space, but added inspiration and creativity to an already spectacular place demonstrating what partnerships between the Forest Service and volunteer groups can accomplish together."

Forest and Monument leadership have highlighted the importance and value of partnerships with groups like the San Gabriel Mountains Forever who share our goal to improve the overall health of the San Gabriel Mountains. "It is through dedicated volunteers such as those who participated in this event, who help us to care and make a powerful difference for many of our visitors," said (acting) Deputy Forest Supervisor, John Thornton.



San Gabriel Mountains Forever students paint trash dumpsters



Completed "Can"

Spotlight On

San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders Remove Graffiti Along Highway 39



A Trailbuilder removes graffiti on HWY 39

In an effort to improve visitors' experiences while visiting the new National Monument, the San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders have adopted Highway 39 from the San Gabriel Canyon Gateway Center to the Crystal Lake Campgrounds by removing the existing graffiti.

The Trailbuilders have successfully covered or removed graffiti along the Highway twice, using materials

purchased by volunteers through FaceBook contributions from hikers, bikers, campers, fishermen, backpackers, and climbers to the Trailbuilders organization.

This work further demonstrates the positive impact partnerships between the Trailbuilders and the Forest Service has on the land, resulting in a special visitor experience.



General Updates

Returning the Forest Service shield to the Field

The Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument will launch a Field Ranger Program this summer to put more forest rangers on the ground in the forest and monument. “The program will return the shield to the field,” says L’Tanga Watson, forest recreation officer. Watson is helping to reestablish a Forest Service presence on the ground by working with field rangers from the Deschutes National Forest to introduce their, first in the nation, field ranger program to the San Gabriel’s.

The program will put uniformed employees on the ground making positive public contacts, connecting with local communities, and serving as ambassadors to our visiting public.

This summer field rangers will fan-out across the landscape to connect the public to the environment. The program emphasizes conservation education, information sharing, and making positive face-to-face contacts with people visiting the Forest and Monument.



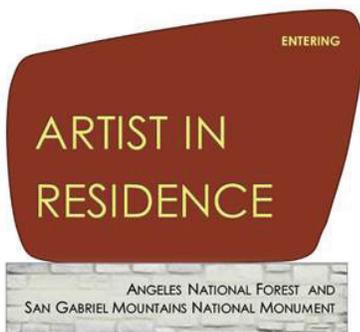
Monument Management Plan

The Forest Service will soon be seeking public comment on the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan. Five meetings will take place at various locations surrounding the Angeles National Forest in late June.

Angeles National Forest is required to have the Monument Management Plan completed within three years of the Monument’s OCT 10, 2014 designation. Once the comment period is open, those wishing to comment may visit the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument website, attend a public meeting, or contact the Forest Service for more information.

“It is our [Forest Service] goal to give a voice to every stakeholder and citizen of the San Gabriel Mountains with hopes that every question or concern is addressed in the Monument Management Plan,” said acting Forest Supervisor Daniel Lovato

Upcoming Events



National Artist-in-Residence Program Comes to Angeles NF and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

The Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument is hosting the 2015 Artist in Residence program. The program, currently held at several dozen National Parks and Forests in the United States, offers artists of any medium a unique setting in which to practice their chosen art form. The Forest and Monument is accepting applications until April 30. Selections will be in May 2015, and residencies are scheduled between June and October.

Those selected may stay at Crystal Lake Resort (elevation 5,500 feet) and Buckhorn Ski Lodge on Angeles Crest Highway (elevation 7,000 feet) for one to two weeks, based on their project needs. Residents are required to contribute either a piece of work representing their experience while at the cabin or a monetary donation of their choosing to the not-for-profit 501(c)3 supporting the program. They are also asked to share their talents with local communities through an open house, exhibit, performance, or workshop during their residency. Residents will participate in an annual art show reception held the following year. Applications are judged for artistic value, uniqueness, creativity, historic or natural resource content/message, and the ability expressed by the artist to work in a primitive setting.

More information on this program can be found at: www.angelescrest.org/artist

General Updates



Collaborative established the additional goals of: educational, cultural and historical resources; maintaining an open line of communication and relationship with the Forest Service; provide a forum where diverse community voices can express their views and identify areas of agreement to help inform Forest Service decisions and activities; engage actively the broader community.

Community Collaborative

Following a successful kick-off meeting in early March, the newly formed San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative is moving forward with enthusiasm.

As a first step towards the work that lies ahead, Community Collaborative members agreed that the group's mission statement would be:

“Represent the general public by integrating diverse perspectives to identify, analyze, prioritize and advocate for values, resources, investments, management objectives and implementation practices that sustainably benefit all communities throughout the region, the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.”

Additionally, the Community Collaborative will work with the Forest Service to identify, prioritize, and then improve sustainable opportunities that include but are not limited to the following areas: Public Safety, Watersheds, Recreation and Visitor Services. Moreover, the Community

It is anticipated that the Community Collaborative will form committees to address project, or issue-specific needs. The committees may involve outside organizations and individuals who have relevant expertise and experience. Anyone who would be interested in joining a committee, please visit the link below for more information on the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative and how to get involved.

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

National Forest Foundation's Monument Fund Reaches 74 percent of Goal

One of the major contributors to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Fund is the California Wildlife Conservation Board. A key element of the Conservation Board funding is supporting recreation and restoration projects designed to improve habitat for sensitive species of fish and amphibians such as the Santa Ana Sucker fish and Arroyo toad.

In one such instance, the National Forest Foundation is working with the Forest Service and partners to reroute the popular Colby Canyon trail that leads to Strawberry Peak. By rerouting the trail, it restores critical habitat of the Arroyo toad.

The National Forest Foundation also, recently received a grant from the California Foundation for Stronger Communities to help connect under-served populations in urban areas to the monument. The California Foundation for Stronger Communities is the charitable wing of the California Municipal Finance Authority which works to strengthen local communities by assisting with the financing of economic development and charitable activities throughout the State of California. **This grant brings the total funds raised to date to \$2.22 million, or 74 percent of their \$3 million goal.**

Forest Supervisor Attends Monument Panel Meeting

Acting Angeles National Forest Supervisor, Daniel Lovato, served as a panel member at the *San Gabriel Mountains National Monument: What's Next?* - panel discussion hosted by the Sierra Club and held March 25 at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

The public meeting aimed to share the latest updates regarding the Monument and to indicate what the next steps would be as the Forest Service and partners prepare the Monument Management Plan

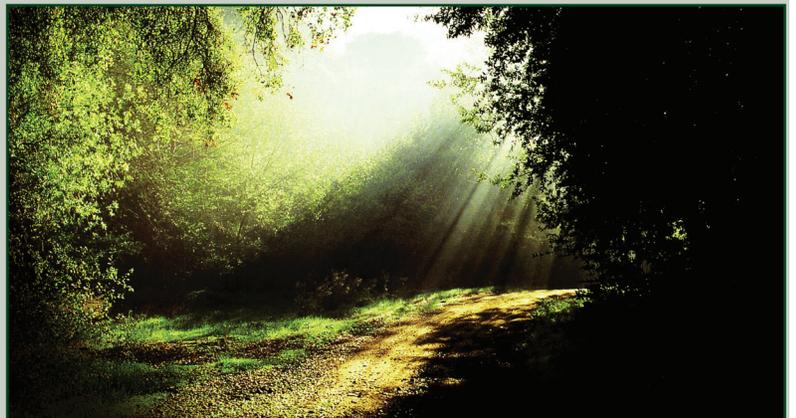
History Highlight: *What's in a Name?*

Dalton Canyon

One of the earliest non-American settlers was an Englishman, Henry Dalton, who became the owner in 1844 of 4,400 acres at mouth of the San Gabriel Canyon. Dalton Canyon bears his name.

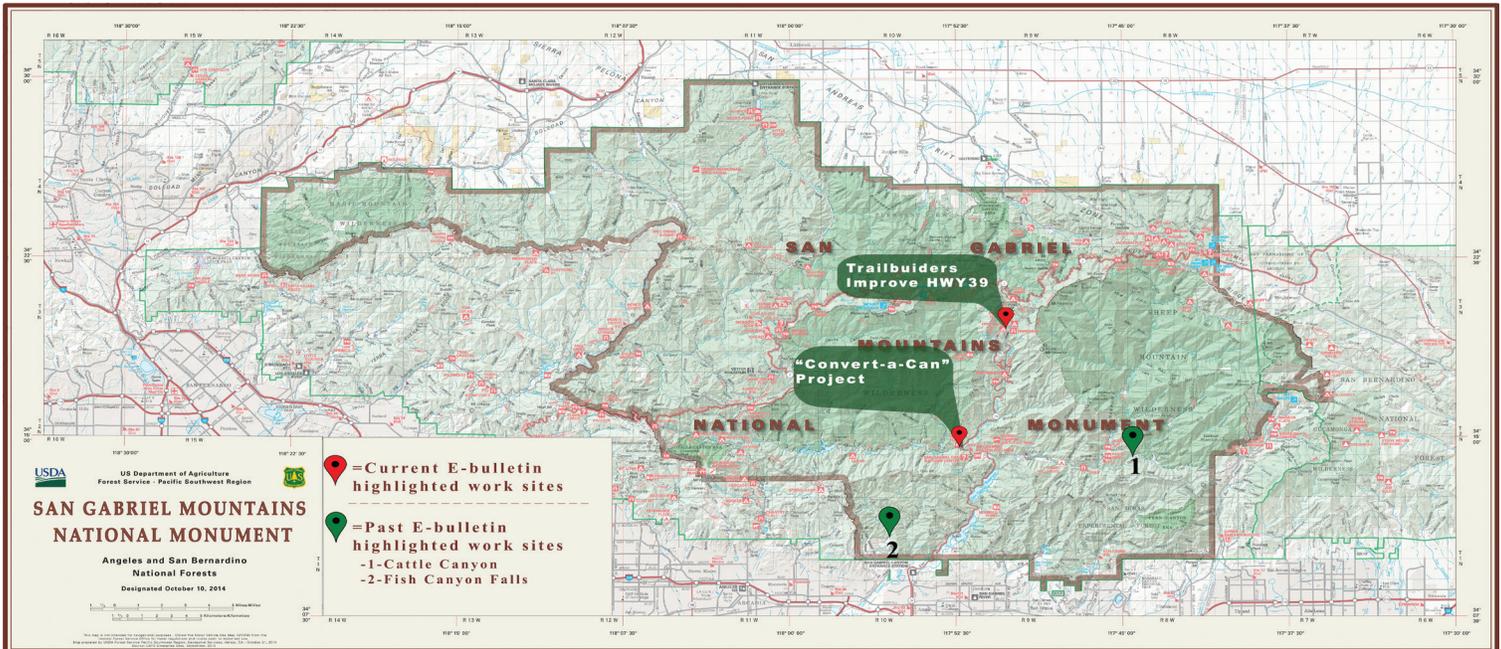
Mt. Harvard

In Mt. Harvard nearby was changed from its name of Martin's Peak to honor a group of Harvard University scientists who camped there in the spring of 1889 while selecting a site for the later famous Mt. Wilson Observatory.



A spring morning invites a walk among the oaks of Big Dalton Canyon

References



Link to Monument Boundary Map : <http://go.usa.gov/JSxh> (pdf format)

Useful Links

Angeles NF Website:

www.fs.usda.gov/angeles

Angeles NF Visitor Guide

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

Friends of the Angeles

www.friendsoftheangeles.org/

National Forest Foundation

www.nationalforests.org/SanGabrielMountains

Get to Know Virtual Hike

www.get-to-know.org/hikes

Discover the Forest

www.discovertheforest.org/

Descubre el Bosque:

www.descubreelbosque.org/

Contact Us

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Online

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

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

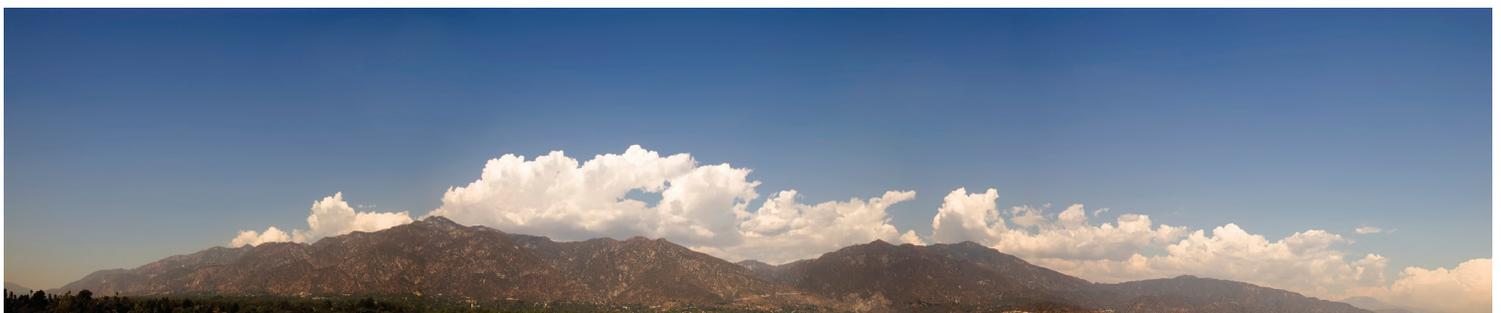
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Questions and Comments regarding E-Bulletin can be sent to:

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