



United States Department of Agriculture



## Fact Sheet

- ▶ The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (the Monument) is the eighth Forest Service national monument. The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President or Congress the authority to designate national monuments in order to protect “objects of historic or scientific interest.”
- ▶ Located primarily in the Angeles National Forest (the Forest), the monument is 346,177 acres. The Forest, including the Monument, provides open space to more than 15 million people living within 90 minutes of the area, and provides a portion of the drinking water to Los Angeles.
- ▶ The mighty San Andreas Fault and other geological forces have shaped these steep and rugged mountains. The highest point in the San Gabriel Mountains is the 10,064-foot Mt. San Antonio, nicknamed Mt. Baldy.
- ▶ Deep canyons, many with perennial streams, provide crucial habitat for rare and unique wildlife, including the California condor, the California spotted owl, bighorn sheep, and 1,000-year-old limber pines.
- ▶ The monument is rich with cultural and historic sites. Within the Monument, more than 600 archeological sites exist including several rock art and cupules features exist, the concentration of which is unique to southern California. Two Native American rock art sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- ▶ The Monument is the heaviest used area on the Angeles National Forest, which receives more than four million visitors per year. This number is expected to increase now that the area has been designated. Hiking, biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle use, fishing, hang-gliding, hunting and picnicking are just a few of the recreational activities on the monument.
- ▶ In a region with limited open space, the mountains are the backyard for many highly urban and culturally diverse communities. The Monument’s designation will also vastly enhance recreational access, interpretive and environmental education and bolster already strong partnerships between the Forest Service and neighboring communities.
- ▶ Science and research have been and continue to be an integral part of the Monument. The historic Mt. Wilson Observatory has hosted world-class scientists, including astronomer Edwin Hubble. The San Dimas Experimental Forest provides crucial scientific insights into watersheds and aquatic science.
- ▶ The Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.
- ▶ For more information go to: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/sgmnm>



*Photo: A Mallard duck floats gently along the West Fork of the San Gabriel River.*



Forest Service

Pacific Southwest Region

Angeles National Forest & San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

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