



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

# San Gabriel Mountains Monument Area 5 Years of Accomplishments

The San Gabriel Mountains Monument area provides approximately 346,000 acres of forest, habitat, wilderness and recreation opportunities for the nearby large urban population. It provides an area where youth can learn about resources, where volunteers can invest time and sweat into making a difference, and where communities can connect with the watershed and a little bit of wildland not far from home.



*Hikers in a wilderness in the San Gabriel Mountains area.*

While this area has garnered recent attention, it has been a point of investment for the past five years - FY10 through FY14 - for the Forest Service, local communities, nonprofits and businesses. Following are only a few highlights of the many accomplishments.

## Partnerships

- Management - of resources and facilities - would be impossible without the dozens of partners and their continued commitment towards financial support through donations and grants and even greater support through their time to actively work on projects.
- Continuing partnership agreement with City of Azusa for management of the San Gabriel Canyon Gateway Center. The City also funded \$1 million for construction of the Center.
- With National Forest Foundation (NFF) and Coca-Cola, hosted an ecosystem restoration day for Coca-Cola employees, as well as receiving a grant from the company for watershed health and ecosystem restoration.
- After the 2009 Station Fire, many partners came forward to help with recovery and restoration, including NFF, Disney and South Coast Air Quality



*Volunteers from Southern California Edison work on invasive species removal.*

District, who have donated more than \$1.9 million in support of the effort. The reforestation project resulted in a carbon sequestration pilot project to capture and store



*Crewmembers hiking to a work site.*

730,417 metric tons of carbon. The Forest Service has committed to 100 years of maintenance in the area. To date, 626,778 trees have been planted on 3,284 acres and replanted 321,832 trees on 1,749 acres within carbon demo units.

- The TREE PEOPLE, an organization committed to tree planting, has supported Station Fire recovery, with more than 11,000 people performing 800 hours of planting and tree maintenance on 186 acres.
- Cattle Canyon Project - a five-year collaboration between the Watershed Conservation Authority and partners is a pilot project addressing resource management along portions of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. The program provides valuable job training experience for area youth. A \$725,000 grant from the State of California is supporting the project and its goal to improve habitat and enhance recreation quality. In its second year, the project is doing interpretive outreach, environmental education and conducted a visitor survey to identify site improvements with the assistance of stakeholders.
- More than 1,000 active land use permits, including utility companies, provides opportunities for discussion about additional investments in ecological restoration, including chaparral restoration, noxious weed eradication and forest health efforts.
- Continued work and service with special use permit holders with an emphasis on recreation, including Mt. Baldy Ski Lifts and Burro Canyon Shooting Park, both of which are in the San Gabriel Mountains Monument area.



*Lineman working on powerlines.*



West Fork Footbridge crossing the San Gabriel River.

### Recreation

- The West Fork Day Use Area and Footbridge projects included improvements to the day use area and construction of a \$425,000 footbridge, funded through Capital Investment Project (CIP) funds. Visitors can now access the San Gabriel River without crossing a busy bridge on Highway 39, providing safe and sustainable access.
- More than \$1.2 million in Recreation Site Improvement funds were invested in Switzers and Charlton Day Use Areas and Chilao-Little Pines Loop.
- Installation of restroom facilities throughout San Gabriel Canyon, with the West Fork and San Gabriel Visitor Centers' possible through a partnership and \$70,000 contribution by the local water district.
- Cleaning up after visitors, including collection of more than 280 tons of trash from dispersed recreation in Standard Amenity Fee Areas and pumping 80,000 gallons of human waste from restroom facilities.
- San Gabriel Canyon Super Sweep collaboration with the California Trail Users Coalition annually involves more than 200 volunteers assisting recreation staff cleaning all forks of the San Gabriel River. The event helps improve habitat for threatened and sensitive native fish species.
- More than 35,000 visitors have enjoyed off-highway vehicle opportunities in the area.
- The four Wilderness Areas in the San Gabriel Mountains Monument area attract a multitude of partnership, volunteer and recreation opportunities.
- Many organized groups and partners have been instrumental in trail maintenance and improvement in



Picking up trash in the San Gabriel Mountains.

the area, including the Boy Scouts of America, Sierra Club, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Concerned Off Road Bicyclists Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Community Hiking Club and William S. Hart High School.

### Capital and Other Financial Investments

- Approximately \$5 million invested in restoration of the popular high-use Crystal Lake Campground, damaged by the 2002 Curve Fire.
- The Rincon Fire Station was rebuilt using \$3.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.
- More than \$1.8 million in ARRA funding was utilized for recreation site improvements across the Angeles National Forest, including work at Buckhorn Campground - one of the most popular campgrounds on the Forest, as well as at the Buckhorn Day Use Area, Burkhardt Trailhead and Vetter Lookout.

### Social and Resource Investments

- San Gabriel River system fish passage possible through removal and notching of dams.
- More than 290 acres of hazardous fuels reduction and treatments.
- Automated trail sign maker for increased efficiency and reduced costs for better signage.
- San Gabriel District Environmental Education Program serves over 8,500 students annually. Over the past five years, the San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association has contributed approximately \$10,000 to the program.
- The LA County Fair Outdoor Recreation display, "America's Great Outdoors," has been a collaboration between the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Los Angeles County Fire, LA Fair officials and many volunteers for the past four years. With more than 1 million visitors to the LA County Fair each year, this provides a great opportunity to showcase the San Gabriel Mountains Monument area.



Camp Smokey as part of the recreation display at the LA County Fair.

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# San Gabriel Mountains Youth Crew Accomplishments

The San Gabriel Mountains provides an island of greenspace and natural resources in Southern California. Drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors, it faces both urban and natural challenges - from trash and vandalism to increased erosion and damage to water resources.

To manage these demands, the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests embarked on an extremely successful and powerful partnership with four area Conservation Corps - California, Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley and Urban - to address critical and ongoing maintenance needs in the San Gabriel Mountains area.



*San Gabriel Mountains Crewmembers.*

## Program Budget

In this location, the Forest Service will spend more than \$1.25 million over the next three months on this critical program. Of this amount, \$480,000 has already been invested in the crews working on the ground.

## Crew Information

- The San Gabriel Mountains Crews work year round, with opportunities after school and on weekends, in contrast to traditional crews which are summer only.
- Crews consist primarily of diverse, underprivileged youth from nearby urban areas.
- The program provides a unique outdoors experience working with a natural resource agency.
- For many this is their first experience in a forest.
- Crewmembers gain valuable work experience through the program.



*Crewmembers clean a parking area.*

## Resource Benefits

For the Forest Service, the Crews' contribution towards improved water quality, sanitation, public services and trail and road maintenance is invaluable. Other key work and accomplishments include:

- Repairing and repainting picnic tables, restrooms,



*Crewmembers work on a bridge.*

fences and other facility maintenance.

- Completing minor repairs on building exteriors.
- Trail maintenance and improvement.
- Providing quality visitor services.
- Implementing erosion control measures on roads and trails.
- Removing graffiti from rocks and structures.
- Fuel reduction activities, including brush removal.
- Cleaning up rivers, improving water quality and benefitting wildlife habitat.
- Restoration activities following floods, including debris removal.



*Trash along a stream in the San Gabriel Mountains, with graffiti on the rock on the opposite bank.*

## Relationship Value

The relationship between the Forest Service and the San Gabriel Mountains Crews is synergetic:

- The Forest Service's success in maintaining the facilities and sustaining the natural resources in this area is due to the continued dedication and hard work of the crewmembers.
- Crewmembers report that the work they do at this location is not only very rewarding for them, but also instills a sense of pride and accomplishment for them and their families.

Expansion of this program through additional funding and support would benefit not only the resources and facilities in the San Gabriel Mountains area, but also area youth and their families.



*Above: Trash and litter in the San Gabriel Mountains. Right: San Gabriel Mountains Crewmembers collect trash from sites impacted by visitors.*



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# San Gabriel Mountains Monument Future Projects

## Plans for the Future

While many of the accomplishments over the past five years are ongoing projects, following are a few items planned in the months and years to come:

- Commitment to ongoing investment in the volunteer and partnership program, working with NFF and other partners to continue moving towards long-term, sustainable funding for three key positions - Partnership Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator and Conservation Education Coordinator.
- Implementation of the Mt. Baldy Digital Wilderness Permit System, which once installed will provide a self-service system, reduce paper use, provide a digital inventory and serve as a reference in the event of search and rescue. This innovative system was developed collectively with a volunteer.
- The top priority for CIP is to improve trash and toilet services, increasing trash and pumping services and replacing toilet rentals with more permanent structures. \$260,000 has been submitted for FY15.
- More than \$3.6 million has been requested in CIP funding for a variety of renovations, site improvements, paving and interpretive projects, all of which will enhance the recreation experience for visitors.



View from Crystal Lake Recreation Area.

## San Gabriel Mountains Monument FY15 Proposed Projects

Priority	Fiscal Year	Project Name	Work Description	NEPA Completed	Total Estimated Cost
1	2016	Oaks Picnic Area	Oaks Picnic Area Renovation	Yes	\$ 280,000
2	2016	Coldbrook Campground Renovation	Campground Renovation	0	\$ 115,000
3	2016	Crystal Lake Campground Phase 2	Crystal Lake VIS Center and Amphitheater Renovation and Crystal Lake "Area" Renovation	0	\$ 430,000
4	2016	Mt Baldy VIS Center and Natural Resource Education Center Phase 2	Phase 2 - Remodel of Mt Baldy VIS Center and classroom	Yes	\$ 90,000
5	2016	Entrance Station	Clear Creek Entrance Station Renovation	Yes	\$ 100,000
6	2016	Road Pavement Maint. (ANF)	Asphalt Pavement Road Maint. (FY2015)	0	\$ 1,219,424
7	2016	Sycamore CG	Sycamore CG & Day Use Renovation	Yes	\$ 475,000
8	2016	Interpretation Fabrication	Scenic Byway Interpretation	0	\$ 75,000
9	2016	Walk-in Campgrounds Renovation	Camp Ground Renovation - Cooper Canyon, West	Yes	\$ 375,000
10	2016	Manaker Campground	Manker Campground's 25 camp site Renovation	Yes	\$ 200,000
11	2016	San Antonio Falls Trailhead	Trailhead Construction - develop parking area with striping and signage (200 vehicles).	0	\$ 120,000
12	2016	South Fork CG	South Fork CG Renovation	Yes	\$ 575,000
13	2016	South Fork Trailhead	South Fork TH Renovation	Yes	\$ 60,000
14	2016	Big Rock CG	Big Rock CG Renovation	Yes	\$ 250,000
15	2016	Dev Rec Renovation	Bandido & Mt. Pacifico Renovation	Yes	\$ 700,000
16	2016	San Gabriel Natural Resource Education Center	Repaving and Greenhouse construction	Yes	\$ 55,000
17	2016	Trails Renovation	Iron Canyon Trail	0	\$ 85,400
					<b>\$ 5,204,824</b>

## San Gabriel Mountains Monument FY16 Proposed Projects

Priority	Fiscal Year	Project Name	Work Description	NEPA Completed	Total Estimated Cost
1	2015	Scenic Byway (Hwy 2)	Recreation Sites Renovation	Yes	\$ 218,663
2	2015	Crystal Lake Campground Phase 1	Campground Maintenance - Renovation	Yes	\$ 520,000
3	2015	Interpretation	Interpretation Projects @ Chilao, Mt. Wilson, & Scenic Byway Wayside	0	\$ 555,000
4	2015	Chilao VC	Visitor Center Renovation	0	\$ 180,000
Mt Baldy VIS Center and Natural Resource Education Center Phase 1					
5	2015	Mt Baldy Visitor Center Phase 1	Mt. Baldy Visitor Center Renovation	Yes	\$ 50,000
6	2015	Grassy Hollow VC	Upgrade Fire Sprinklers	0	\$ 18,000
7	2015	Road Pavement Maint. (ANF)	Asphalt Pavement Road Maint. (FY2015)	0	\$ 1,219,424
9	2015	Colby Bridge TH	Colby Bridge Picnic Area Renovation	Yes	\$ 60,000
10	2015	Lightning Point Solar	Solar Power for Pumps	0	\$ 30,000
11	2015	Monte Cristo CG	CG Renovation	Yes	\$ 200,000
12	2015	Littlerock Rec Area	Repair of SST	Yes	\$ 40,000
13	2015	Mt. Wilson Parking Lot	Repaving	0	\$ 80,000
14	2015	Gateway Center	Visitor Center Renovation	Yes	\$ 50,000
15	2015	Trails	Maintenance - High	0	\$ 161,000
	2015	Oaks Picnic Area Phase 1	Oaks Picnic Area Renovation - NEPA	No	\$ 3,000
	2015	Coldbrook Campground Renovation - NEPA	Campground Renovation - NEPA	No	\$ 3,000
	2015	NEPA for Dev Rec Sites	NEPA Planning	No	\$ 65,000
	2015	Trails NEPA FY15	NEPA	No	\$ 45,000
	2015	Trails - West Group	NEPA	No	\$ 40,000
	2015	NEPA	NEPA Planning	No	\$ 40,000
					<b>\$ 3,578,087</b>

The San Gabriel Mountains provide a unique environment, naturally and socially. It is an area enjoyed by many and where ongoing investment and help from volunteers, partners, appropriations, grants and agreements will be necessary to balance the needs of the people and the landscape.

The responsible management of this area will maintain the ability for youth and communities to connect with and be inspired by this special and truly remarkable area. And the Forest Service looks forward to the meeting the challenges of managing this treasured National Monument in the years to come.