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Draft Land Management Plan

Part 2:

Angeles National Forest Strategy



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Part 2-Angeles National Forest Strategy

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Land Management Plan Strategy

This document is the second of the three parts of the land management plan for the Angeles National Forest and describes the strategic direction that will be employed over the next 3 to 5 years to move toward realizing the desired conditions described in part 1 (the Vision) of the land management plan. It includes a description of the suitable uses for each of the land use zones. This part also includes a prospectus describing past performance history and anticipated performance over the next 3 to 5 years. Place Based Program Emphasis is found at the end of part 2.

Part 2 supplements part 1 of the plan (the Vision). Part 1 sets the context for managing the Forest and describes a common vision for the National Forests in southern California. Part 1 discusses the niche occupied by the forests within the communities of southern California (as well as the region and the nation), the desired conditions for forest resources, the expected outcomes and the challenges we expect to have as we implement the land management plans.

The third part of the land management, Design Criteria, includes a short example of the legal framework we work within, the legally required standards, and an index of Forest Service handbook and other applicable guidance that can be used to implement the direction described in the land management plan.

Suitable Land Uses

Land Use Zones

Except when specific areas are determined to be "not suitable" for a specific type of use in the land management plan, laws, or other national or regional policy, National Forests are suitable for a variety of uses (36 CFR 219) based on the desired conditions identified and described in Part 1 of the land management plan. Tables 2.2.1 through 2.2.4 display uses that are not suitable by land use zone or suitable only in designated areas.

The term "when justified" means that the use is generally not suitable, however, it may be considered when there is a compelling public need. Although a use may be identified as appropriate to a given land use zone, all use of National Forest System lands are subject to the design criteria identified in part three of this plan. These design criteria are applied at the project-specific planning level.

Eight land use zones have been identified for the Angeles National Forest. These zones, including overlays, are applicable to only the National Forest System Lands and in no way modify zoning applied to other ownerships by local government agencies. The zones include:

- **Rural and Urban Interface (URI):** This zone includes areas adjacent to communities with consolidated infrastructure. There is a high intensity of human use and high level of dependence on roads. Resource use and development are expected.
- **Developed Area Intermix (DAI):** This zone includes areas adjacent to communities or concentrated developed areas with more scattered or isolated community infrastructure. Although there is a high level of human use and roads, the environment appears more natural and motorized use is less intensive than in the URI zone. Resource use and development may generally occur.
- **Back Country Motorized (BCM):** This zone includes largely undeveloped, natural or natural appearing areas where motorized use may occur. The intensity of human use is low to moderate. Facilities may occur.
- **Back County Non-Motorized (BCNM):** This zone includes the same backcountry environment as BCM but motorized use is not allowed. The intensity of human use is lower than in BCM, with expectations for more user challenge and solitude. Facilities, if any, are primitive.

- **Critical Biological (CB):** This zone includes the most important areas on the Angeles National Forest to manage for the protection of imperiled species. Facilities are minimal to discourage human use. Activities and modification to existing infrastructure are allowed if they are beneficial or neutral to the species. Dispersed use such as hiking and hunting is generally allowed. Use of adjacent National Forest system roads is allowed.
- **Wilderness (EW):** This zone includes existing Wilderness lands.
 - San Gabriel Wilderness
 - Sheep Mountain Wilderness
- **Recommended Wilderness (RW):** This zone includes land that the Forest Service is recommending to Congress for Wilderness designation.
 - Cucamonga Addition
 - Sheep Mountain Addition
- **Experimental Forest (EF):** This zone serves as a research and demonstration area, and is generally closed to the public except by permit. This zone occurs only on the San Dimas Experimental Forest, which is managed by the Pacific Southwest Research Station.

Table 2.1.1: Suitable Uses Resource Management, ANF

Table 2.1.2: Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, ANF

Table 2.1.3: Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, ANF

Table 2.1.4: Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, ANF

Special Designation Overlays

The following land use classifications act as overlays to the primary land use zones. In other words, suitable uses identified in the land use zone tables are generally suitable in these overlay classifications unless specifically excluded. When differences occur in suitable uses between the land use zone and special designation overlay, the more restrictive set of allowable uses apply.

Wild and Scenic River

Suitable uses are those compatible with protecting and enhancing the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated or found eligible.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers Include:

- Little Rock Creek
- San Antonio Canyon Creek
- San Francisquito Canyon
- San Gabriel River (East, North, and West Forks)

All existing facilities, management actions, and approved uses will be allowed to continue in eligible river corridors until a decision is made on inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System, provided these facilities, actions, and uses do not interfere with the protection and enhancement of the river's outstandingly remarkable values.

Proposed new facilities, management actions, or uses on National Forest land are not allowed if they have the potential to affect the eligibility or potential classification of the river segment.

Uses comply with Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 8.2, which includes a description of developments and activities that are permitted, restricted or prohibited within the designated river corridor for each of the three classifications (wild, scenic and recreation).

Research Natural Areas

Research natural areas include relatively undisturbed areas of the forest that form a long-term network of ecological reserves designated for research, education, and the maintenance of biodiversity. This designation applies to both established and proposed research natural areas.

Established Research Natural Areas Include:

- Falls Canyon
- Fern Canyon

There are no proposed research natural areas for the Angeles National Forest.

Research natural areas are selected to preserve a spectrum of relatively pristine areas that represent a wide range of natural variability within important natural ecosystems and environments, and areas that have unique characteristics of scientific importance. Research natural areas are also selected for one or more of the following reasons:

- To serve as reference areas for evaluating the range of natural variability and the impacts of management in similar environments.
- To protect and maintain representative or key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community, or ecosystem levels.
- To serve as areas for the study of ecosystems and ecological processes including succession.
- To provide onsite and extension educational activities.
- To serve as baseline areas for measuring ecological change.

Uses that retain the research values for which the site is designated are appropriate.

Special Interest Areas

Special interest areas protect and, where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, palentological, or other special characteristics. Uses that are compatible with maintaining the target of the areas designation are appropriate.

Existing Special Interest Areas Include:

- Devils Punchbowl
- Mt. Baden-Powell
- Mt. San Antonio

Proposed Special Interest Areas Include:

- Aliso-Arrastre-Middle

Scenic Integrity Objectives

The scenery management system (SMS) is a tool for integrating the benefits, values, desires, and preferences regarding aesthetics and scenery for all levels of land management planning. People are concerned about the quality of their environment and the aesthetic values of landscapes, particularly the scenery and spiritual values. Scenic integrity objectives have been designated for all areas of the forest. At the project level, all forest activities are subject to review of the scenic integrity objectives.

Public Uses Regulated by Other Agencies

The California State Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) manages California's fish and wildlife populations for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

Hunting is permitted throughout the National Forests of southern California during hunting seasons designated by the CDF&G. Hunting is not permitted in those areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited by county ordinance, California State law, or federal regulations. Hunters must follow all laws including no hunting within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area for safety. Except as permitted by CDF&G, it is unlawful to use a dog to pursue/take animals or to train a dog for hunting. The CDF&G may issue dogtraining and organizational field trial permits authorizing releasing and taking domestically reared game birds, bobwhite quail, or coturnix quail. Such organized events require a special use permit from the appropriate forest office.

Angling is encouraged in most areas of the National Forests during fishing seasons designated by the CDF&G. Some locations have special regulations and a few are closed to fishing in order to protect the steelhead trout and other aquatic species that depend on high quality habitat.

Prospectus

The prospectus describes recent trends and expectations regarding the levels of experiences, goods and services, or other outcomes that are supplied by the forest, as well as anticipated resource improvements planned over the next 3 to 5 years. Past performance is generally a good indicator of what is expected in the near future. Performance expectations under two budget levels are projected into the future (see Performance History). Annual monitoring and evaluation of trends in performance indicators determine if there is a need to shift program emphasis to more effectively move toward the desired conditions (see Monitoring Trends and Performance Indicators). Strategic program emphasis is described through specific objectives that the forest will focus on under current budget expectations (see Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives). The Forest Supervisor will plan and implement projects that contribute to achieving desired conditions described in part one, while meeting the standards described in Part 3. Information in this prospectus will be updated on a regular basis to reflect changes in management emphasis or budget fluctuations. The final section describes examples of performance risks that could cause a need for change in management emphasis (see Performance Risks).

Performance History

A common methodology was applied during the development of the Forest Business Plan, in order to describe the activities and programs for the Angeles National Forest. With the direction of cross-functional representatives, activities were organized into six functional areas which describe all areas of the business for which the forest is responsible. The functional areas were then broken down into 35 programs. Forest management can use the results to clearly communicate program capability with a variety of audiences.

Angeles National Forest's management is guided by the expertise of the people working in all of its functional areas including resource management, public use & enjoyment, and facility operations & maintenance. As an example, managers from these functions know how and where to route an off-highway vehicle trail around a threatened & endangered species habitat. Unfortunately, these managers often lack the resources to accomplish many of the projects essential to effectively managing the forests resources.

To achieve the vision of a healthy forest, the required resources must be available and directed toward the correct tasks. The six functional areas are:

- **Management & Administration:** Forest leadership, management and administrative support activities, communications, external affairs, planning, human resources, information technology, and financial management.
- **Resource Management:** Activities related to managing, preserving, and protecting the forest's cultural and natural resources.
- **Public Use & Enjoyment:** Activities which provide visitors with safe, enjoyable and educational experiences while on the forest.
- **Facility Operations & Maintenance:** Activities required to manage and operate the forest's infrastructure (roads, facilities, and structures).

- **Commodity & Commercial Uses:** Grazing management, forest special product development, and activities related to managing non-recreation special uses such as forest access, telecommunications sites, and utility corridors.
- **Fire & Aviation Management:** Wildfire prevention through education, hazardous fuels reduction, and proactive preparation. This program also includes on-forest, national or international wildfire and emergency incident response.

Monitoring Trends and Performance Indicators

Monitoring in Part 2 of the land management plan is focused on program implementation including inventory. The forest currently uses the budget formulation and evaluation system (BFES) performance indicators for tracking program accomplishments. The current system is expected to be replaced by a performance accountability system integrating annual budgets with programs of work and linking these to tracking of strategic plan performance indicators.

Each of the key BFES performance indicators are estimated for two budget levels in the performance history section, one based on the current budget trend and the other an estimate of the total capability and need for the program activity on the forest assuming an unconstrained budget. Performance indicators are shown at the end of each management function section:

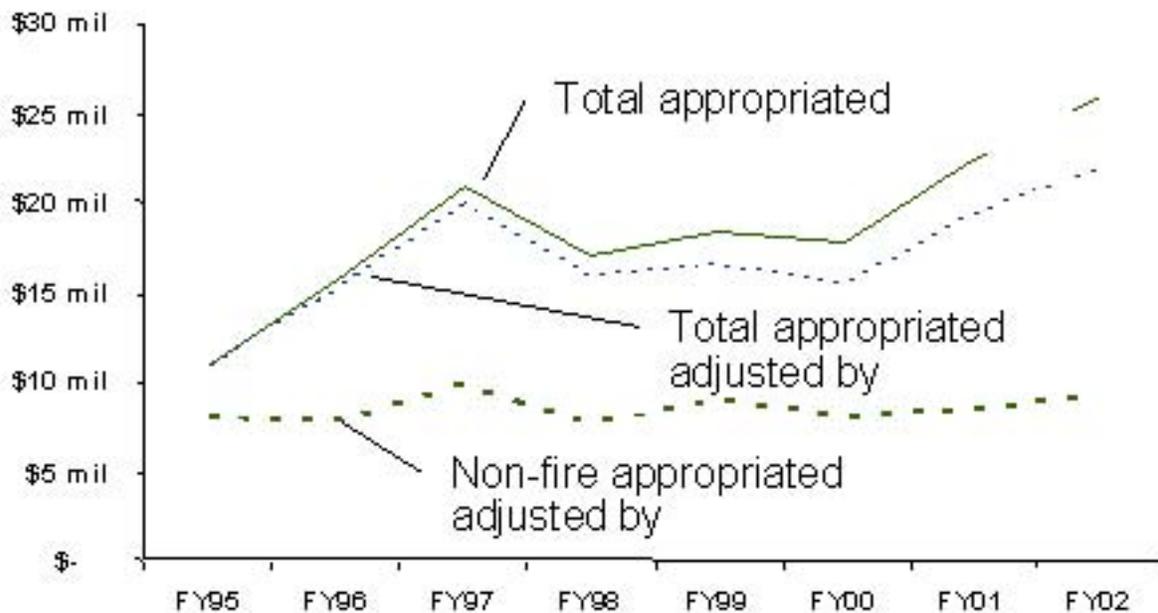
- Management and Administration
- Resource Management, Resource Management Performance Indicators, ANF
- Public Use and Enjoyment, Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, ANF
- Facilities Operation and Maintenance, Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, ANF
- Commodity and Commercial Uses, Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, ANF
- Fire and Aviation Management, Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, ANF

Actual performance is tracked over time through annual documentation of accomplishment and these trends are evaluated periodically to determine if the forest needs to shift program strategies (see Adaptive Management Cycle). This data is reported in the annual monitoring and evaluation report as part of the forest's implementation monitoring efforts.

Inventory is a continuous effort (see AM 2: Forestwide Inventory Program Strategies and Tactics section). As funding is available, priority inventories are implemented and reported through various resource information systems including interagency systems. Periodic evaluation of inventory data is used to explore trends in resource conditions over time. Annual monitoring and evaluation reports (see AM 1: Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation) will document when there is a need to change the plan in response to declining trends in resource conditions.

General Budget History

Angeles National Forest's appropriations reached their highest level ever in 2002 of \$25.9M. Of this amount, 64% or \$16.6M was budgeted for wildfire preparedness, with the remaining 36% or \$9.3M covering all other operations. Funding growth rates in these two segments show similar disparities: between 1995 and 2002 wildfire preparedness budgets grew at a rate of 30% per year, while growth in all other program budgets was a much lower 2%. These differences have been particularly dramatic since 2000, appropriated fire budgets grew by almost 75% between 2000 and 2002, from \$9.5M to \$16.6M. Over the same time period, all other program budgets increased by only 15% (from \$8.1M to \$9.3M).



Management and Administration

The current complex web of federal, State, county, local, partnership, not-for-profit, and private relationships require broad and deep skills and experience to effectively manage the forest. The challenge of proactively organizing the transformation of a healthy forest requires more than just management, it requires the leadership of everyone who might be affected by that change.

The forest business plan divides the Management & Administration category into General Management, Financial Management, General Administration, District Management, Planning, Public Affairs, and Information Technology programs. The land management plan addresses two of these programs, general and district management.

General Management: Vision, leadership, performance reporting, legislative contacts and priority setting are the tasks of the Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, and their immediate support staff. From the Supervisor's Office in Arcadia, human resources, engineering, recreation, resources, public relations, information technology and other staff functions provide technical and administrative support to the districts.

District Management: The Angeles is divided into three ranger districts oriented around watershed boundaries: the San Gabriel River Ranger District, the Los Angeles River Ranger District, and the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District. A District Ranger oversees all of the programs and staff specific to that district, and maintains relationships with local communities and organizations. This program only covers the management-related activities of the district rangers and their direct support.

Resource Management

The mission of the Forest Service is "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The resource management function manages the health of the vegetation on the land, the quality of wilderness areas, the boundaries and ownership of the land, the cultural heritage that resides on the land, the quality of the water running on and under the land, the air quality above the land, and the habitat for the wildlife roaming the land. These programs include the data management

that allows forest personnel to analyze and store all data collected as part of program activities.

Wildlife management staff at the Angeles NF carry out projects associated with monitoring and preserving key species, provide NEPA and other environmental permitting support to non-wildlife forest projects, and complete wildlife monitoring activities associated with legal requirements and forest plan implementation.

Vegetation management protects critical habitats, reduces fire and erosion risks, and replants burned or otherwise damaged vegetation. The forest has identified the following vegetation management project categories related to community protection and forest health.

- **Mortality Removal - Annual Need: 1,000 acres.** The removal of dead vegetation to reduce fire hazard. Timber sales to remove merchantable trees and contract removal of non-merchantable trees and shrubs, slash treatments. Projects will move forested areas from condition class three towards condition class one. In chaparral areas mortality removal is planned to reduce the fire hazard from high to low.
- **Thinning - Annual Need: 300 acres.** The removal of living trees from overstocked stands, in most cases trees of 24 inches in diameter or less. These projects include the treatment of all slash and are expected to move forested areas from condition class two or three towards condition class one. Thinning is required prior to the reintroduction of fire in most cases.
- **Reforestation And Restoration Of Forest Vegetation - Annual Need: 100 acres.** Restoration projects are either designed to facilitate natural recovery following disturbance (fire, drought related mortality, insect and disease) or to implement planting projects as needed when natural processes are not likely to achieve desired results.
- **Fuelbreak Maintenance - Annual Need: 500 acres.** Existing fuelbreaks are generally maintained using prescribed fire or grazing. Most of the fuelbreaks are in high hazard chaparral areas and are designed to limit wildfire size and provide firefighter access and improved firefighter safety. A few of the fuelbreaks are in coniferous forest and serve to limit fire spread from or towards communities or timber stands in poor condition. Most of the existing fuelbreaks are on ridgetops or along roads.
- **Fuelbreak Construction - Annual Need: 50 acres.** Most of the planned fuelbreaks are also along roads and ridgetops and are proposed for limiting wildfire patch size. While most fuelbreaks are constructed with machinery, some are built by hand or by using prescribed fire. Herbicides are used to kill resprouting chaparral and then fire is used to maintain the fuelbreak over time. Fuelbreaks are sometimes constructed near communities to provide some level of future protection in cases where land ownership patterns or topography limit the applicability of the "buffer" concept.
- **Buffers - Annual Need: 1,500 acres.** The reduction of vegetation density adjacent to structures within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). A WUI defense zone is a relatively narrow area in width (see standard S120 in Part 3), directly adjoining structures that is converted to a non-flammable state to increase defensible space and firefighter safety. A secondary buffer (the WUI threat zone, see standard S120) is an additional strip of vegetation modified to reduce flame heights and radiant heat. The two buffers together are designed to make most structures defensible. These buffers are applicable to National Forest land only and apply to all structures on public land. They also apply where National Forest boundaries are directly adjacent to communities on private lands. Techniques may include hand or machine removal of vegetation and herbicides in the WUI defense zone. Treatments in the secondary buffers are less intensive and can generally be maintained with prescribed fire over the long term. In forested areas, extensive tree thinning is planned as part of installing WUI threat zones.
- **Rx Fire - Annual Need: 7,000 acres.** Projects in this category are generally large burns in chaparral to reduce fire hazard near communities or as part of an overall landscape mosaic designed to limit wildfire patch size. Prescribed fire is also used to help restore and maintain land in the coniferous forest areas, currently categorized as condition class one or two. Some prescribed burns are conducted to enhance wildlife browse conditions.

Projects often incorporate a combination of these activities designed to most effectively meet site-specific objectives.

Watershed, soil and air management personnel work to protect and monitor air, water, and soil resources

throughout the forest and surrounding area. Special designation areas and land ownership and adjustment staff work on programs to protect and enhance the geographic integrity of forest land.

The Lands program is responsible for maintaining the forest's property records, completing land transactions, and surveying and protecting the boundaries. The forest has 600 miles of boundary, only 100 of which have been resurveyed and marked since the late 1800s. The current staffing of two people in this area is insufficient to deal with the backlog of survey needs and an ever-increasing number of forest boundary encroachments by private landowners. Today, there are an estimated 5,000 such encroachments. These encroachments degrade the quality of forest land and possibly remove it from the public domain. In addition, many opportunities exist to purchase private lands to further protect critical forest resources. At current funding levels, staff cannot pursue all opportunities that would benefit the forest.

Heritage resource management strives to protect significant heritage resources present on forest land, to share their values with the American people, and to contribute relevant information and perspectives to natural resource management. Under various agreements with the California State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Angeles has agreed to both provide heritage support to other resource-related projects on the forest (Section 106), and also to develop a sound overall program for the management of the forest's heritage resources (Section 110). The majority of staff time is currently occupied in the former capacity.

Table 2.1.5: Resource Management Performance Indicators, ANF.

Public Use and Enjoyment

Public Use & Enjoyment at the Angeles National Forest includes all activities related to providing visitors with a safe and educational experience. The functional area includes all interpretive services, visitor center management, interpretive media, in-forest concessions management, fee collection, and visitor safety and law enforcement services.

The overall mission of the interpretive services, visitor centers and education program is to forge intellectual and emotional connections between people and their natural and cultural heritage. The primary focus of the interpretive services and education program is on public service communication. The Angeles National Forest uses a variety of media to deliver information on recreational opportunities, on stewardship responsibilities such as heritage and wilderness protection, and on in-depth topics of public interest.

The Angeles National Forest manages approximately 500 recreation special use authorizations, including four concession campground complexes, two concession target shooting areas, five ski areas, a marina, 26 organization camps, and over 450 summer homes. The forest also issues and administers numerous recreation events, such as mountain bike events and car rallies.

Campgrounds and Developed Sites: The Angeles National Forest operates 63 campgrounds with over 1,100 individual campsites and an additional 36 picnic areas. Activities include trash collection, cleaning, maintenance of equipment, monitoring of water systems, and others associated with keeping the facilities clean, safe, and in good repair.

Concentrated Use Areas (CUA): Concentrated use areas are locations throughout the forest where large groups of people recreate outside of established recreation facilities. These locations are often along rivers and streams with easy road access, and lack the trash collection, restroom, and other facilities found at traditional developed sites. This lack of facilities combined with heavy use results in significant degradation of these sites from litter, vegetation loss, erosion, and graffiti.

Table 2.1.6: Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, ANF.

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Buildings, Grounds & Utilities: The Angeles National Forest operates over 350 buildings throughout the forest. These range from restroom facilities at campgrounds to fire stations spread throughout the forest to administrative offices. Spending on these facilities falls into two categories: annual maintenance and capital improvements.

Grounds maintenance includes ongoing exterior upkeep. All walkways, steps, and lawn areas are cleaned by the grounds operation. Snow removal is performed when needed. Grounds operation also includes maintaining sprinkler systems, the mowing, edging, and fertilization of all lawn area, as well as tree pruning and flower bed maintenance. Work also involves repair and improvement of hardscape elements such as retaining walls, curbs, and sidewalks.

Roads: A large road network maintained by several different agencies crisscrosses the forest. The California Department of Transportation is responsible for most of the publicly accessible paved roads throughout the forest. Many other sections are the maintenance responsibility of Los Angeles County and local city governments. Still, over 1,000 miles of roads are the responsibility of the Forest Service.

Table 2.1.7: Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, ANF.

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Non-Recreation Special Uses: This program receives the majority of funding in this functional area. Given the Angeles National Forest's proximity to Los Angeles' 10 million people, forest land is in high demand for electronic sites, transmission lines, pipelines, roads, reservoirs, sediment disposal sites, apiaries and film shoots.

Minerals: The minerals program at the Angeles National Forest strives to manage mineral exploration and production in a manner consistent with resource protection, and to provide for the reclamation of those lands where mining activity is or has taken place. In addition, the Angeles National Forest minerals managers ensure that all mineral operations are operated according to existing regulations

Grazing: While many forests in the National Forest System have large timber and grazing activities, the Angeles focuses more on recreational and commercial land use. There are no large-scale timber or grazing operations on the Angeles National Forest at this time.

Table 2.1.8: Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, ANF.

Fire and Aviation Management

Fire Management includes all activities involved with pre-fire preparation, fire hazard reduction such as brush removal, and public education concerning fire prevention and safety.

The Fire Management and Administration group formulates and administers fire management and safety plans, and supervises and oversees all fire management operations including budget and planning, general supervision, scheduling, and other administrative.

Wildfire suppression and national support encompass all activities included in containing and mitigating the damages of wildfires caused by either natural or human means. This program also includes support activities of fire crews and disaster teams in helping other areas of the country in terms of wildfires and disaster support. Frequently Angeles fire personnel are called to fight fires on other forests and assist in mitigating the effects from other disasters such as earthquakes or terrorist activity. However, most of these assignments relate to fighting large forest fires in the U.S. All activities within the forest are viewed as local and described under wildfire suppression. In addition to supporting large suppression operations nationally, other types of assignments come via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Past assignments have included earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, 9/11 disaster support, and supervision of the Columbia Space Shuttle debris recovery.

Prevention is based upon three primary categories: education, engineering and enforcement. Education includes Smokey Bear Programs to instill a fire prevention ethic in school children and Firewise community programs that target civic and home owner groups. Engineering includes abatement of fire hazard along roadways and in high use areas using fire retardants and removal of flammable vegetation. Enforcement includes executing state fire law regarding hazard abatement around structures, for both public and private land in the forest. This also is done along all electrical transmission and distribution systems placed by public utilities across the forest.

Hazardous fuel reduction is the set of activities associated with removing dense brush and vegetation from areas where they pose a significant threat to human life, property, and forest resources, and where they interfere with the health of natural fire-adapted ecosystems. Fuel reduction involves direct management of vegetation using

prescribed fire, mechanical, manual, or chemical methods. This is accomplished by a multidisciplinary planning approach using resource specialists, local governments, communities and contractors. The forest fuels officer provides overall leadership for this program that is then carried out by fire management personnel and local government.

Table 2.1.9: Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, ANF.

Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives

Based on expected management priorities, the Angeles National Forest leadership team selected objectives to emphasize in each program area over the next three to five years. Forest-wide program emphasis is described for each of the six management functions in this section. Specific geographical place based program emphasis is described at the end of each place description (see Place Based Program Emphasis).

Management and Administration

Effective Management

The forest will enlist the support of local communities, partners, and volunteers to promote land stewardship by jointly developing and implementing a broad range of conservation activities. (See Business Plan for the Angeles National Forest 2003).

Tribal Relations

Emphasis will be placed on further developing relationships with tribal governments; working together to resolve issues and to facilitate the continued traditional and cultural tribal use of the forest.

Resource Management

Wildlife, Fish and Plant Management

Program emphasis for wildlife management is on minimizing the effects of urbanization. The National Forests will emphasize protecting core areas from the threat that urbanization poses such that these areas will continue to conserve biodiversity in an interconnected regional open space network. Habitat loss and fragmentation will be reduced through conserving and managing habitat linkages within, and where possible between, the forests and other public and privately conserved lands. Declining trends in TEPCS species populations will be neutralized or reversed by maintaining or improving habitat capability, removing invasive species, and by reducing conflicts with other activities such as recreation, resource or community development. Staff expect to implement 10% of recovery tasks and conservation measures identified in recovery plans and species and habitat conservation strategies. Continue the emphasis on improving our knowledge base regarding riparian dependent threatened and endangered species through basic inventory of suitable habitat. Prioritize completion of the inventory of nonwilderness areas in the next five years.

Vegetation Management

Forest health will improve through using the community protection program. Vegetative treatments target restoration of desired fire regimes; the improvement of water quantity, quality and flow in order to maintain or improve riparian habitats; improvement of watershed conditions will be deferred until community protection projects are implemented. Staff expect to implement approximately 5% of identified forest health projects.

Invasive Species

Place a high priority on controlling nonnative species that prey on or compete with TEPCS species. Staff expect to implement control measures on approximately 20% of the known areas where invasive species are conflicting with TEPCS species.

Physical Resources (Soil, Geology, Water and Air)

Management will emphasize gaining control of groundwater and surface water resources in order to benefit

ecosystem health and forest administrative needs. To address the increased demand for groundwater and surface water resources of the National Forests, program emphasis will be on balancing the needs of water users with resource needs for the maintenance or improvement of stream, riparian, springs and wetland habitat by procuring water rights and instream flow agreements. Staff expect to complete approximately 90% of the water diversion permit reauthorizations backlog, including acquiring available water rights or relocating diversions to the forest perimeter if possible.

Land Ownership and Adjustment

The forests will work collaboratively with others to acquire land that contains unique resources, allow for continued public access, enhance public use, or improve habitat linkage. Staff expect to implement land adjustment strategies on approximately 5% of the areas identified on land adjustment maps.

The forest will emphasize retaining and restoring clear title to National Forest System land by resolving trespass and encroachment uses. Managers expect to resolve approximately 10% of the backlog of trespass and encroaching uses cases.

Heritage Resources

Within this planning cycle, document all known significant cultural properties to identify any activity that is or has the potential to adversely affect or does not complement the site. Staff expect to develop measures to mitigate the adverse effects or impacts on approximately 40% of the sites.

Public Use and Enjoyment

Recreation

The forest will emphasize providing balanced, environmentally sustainable recreation opportunities to meet the needs of a growing, urban, culturally diverse population, particularly day use. Managers expect adaptive management measures to be implemented on approximately 75% of concentrated use areas and developed sites that have TEPCS conflicts identified. Complete Forest Order designating remote camping areas.

Recreation special uses are an important program component. Complete re-issuance of recreation residence permits by 2008.

Investment emphasis will focus on Forest Service recreational facilities and administrative maintenance needs. Opportunities will be developed through partnerships and special funding to reduce the backlog of facility maintenance. Managers expect to reduce the facilities maintenance backlog by approximately 25%.

Conservation Education

Partnerships and volunteers will be emphasized to improve visitor services and increase opportunities for interpretation and environmental education. Staff anticipate increasing partnerships by approximately 20%.

Landscape and Scenery Management

Scenic resources will emphasize conserving or restoring aesthetic, recreational, and open space values, especially those of high-valued scenery such as scenic backdrops for local communities and increasingly rare values such as solitude.

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Road and Trail System

The roads program will emphasize managing the transportation system to address user demand, forest and community protection needs, and resource considerations. Roads and trails will be maintained to reduce the level of effects to species and watersheds while safely accommodating use. Staff expect to maintain approximately 60% of forest system roads to their objective maintenance level. Complete a Forest Order designating OHV trails and roads. Complete a Forest Order designating trails suitable for mechanized (i.e., mountain bike) use.

Roads accommodating high levels of use will be candidates for improvement, including parking in appropriate locations for popular destinations. Managers expect to enhance parking opportunities on approximately 10% of

identified potential sites.

Decommissioning of unneeded or unauthorized roads and trails will be emphasized. Complete site-specific road analysis on approximately 30% of the unclassified roads and make appropriate designations (Forest System Road, decommission or Forest Designated Trail, either motorized or non-motorized).

Access to the National Forests will be acquired where needed for administrative and public use through purchase, exchange, easements, and rights-of-way. Program emphasis will be on developing and maintaining roads and trails systems that address access issues and minimize conflicts with private landowners. Staff expect to acquire approximately 10% of the rights-of-way needed to operate the forest road and trail system.

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Non-Recreation Special Uses

Demand for the infrastructure to provide water, energy, transportation and other needs to support communities will continue to receive focus with program emphasis on managing these uses while preserving open space and natural settings. Special uses are authorized only when they cannot be accommodated on private land. Maintaining open space is given priority over accommodating urban needs. Staff expect to reduce the backlog of permit re-issuance and reduce lands encumbered by use authorizations by approximately 20%.

Fire and Aviation Management

Preparedness

Suppression of wildfires is the first priority for program managers. All wildfires on southern California National Forests are considered to be a threat to communities. Aggressive fire suppression and prevention strategies will be implemented near communities to achieve the objectives to protect life and property from wildland fire and subsequent floods. Managers expect to maintain the suppression organization at 90% of the most efficient level or higher.

Buffers around structures, fuelbreaks, and vegetation treatments to maintain or restore forest health within community protection areas are the next priority. Over the next 3 to 5 years, vegetative treatments will be strategically integrated to maximize community protection efforts and minimize wildfire size, while considering habitat needs. Mortality removal will be integrated with thinning within the community protection buffers. Staff expect to complete approximately 40% of identified treatment needs.

Program Strategies and Tactics

This section details the program strategies the forest may choose to emphasize to progress toward achieving the desired conditions and goals described in Part 1. The forest will prioritize which strategies they choose to bring forward in any given year using the program emphasis objectives (Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives), national and regional direction, and available funding. Lists of more specific tactics are included to help the reader understand what may be involved in implementing these strategies. Finally, each strategy that supports a Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goal and objective is linked to the 2004-2008 National Strategic Plan (GPRA Objectives).

Management and Administration

Management Efficiency

Partnerships and Cooperative Relations

Tribal Relations

Tribal 1: Traditional and Contemporary Uses

Allow traditional uses, access to traditionally used areas (as well as contemporary uses and needs), by tribal and other Native American interests:

- Protect, conserve, and restore traditionally or contemporarily used resources. Opportunities for traditional use of the forest and forest resources are improved and provisions are made to offer access to sites with cultural significance. Use opportunities during project planning and implementation to identify, enhance, and protect traditionally or contemporarily used resources.
- Maintain opportunities for spiritual solitude for tribal groups and individuals. Retain the character of traditional sites in conditions consistent with traditional cultural uses.
- Establish effective partnerships to address issues of mutual concern (plant material propagation, etc).
- Work collaboratively with tribes to determine appropriate locations and levels for gathering traditional plant materials.

Tribal 2: Government to Government Relations

Establish effective relationships with federally recognized tribes:

- Using the National Tribal Relations Strategy, develop government-to-government protocols with all recognized tribes and organized groups of local Native Americans within this planning cycle.
- Develop protocols to promote collaborative partnerships for heritage resource management, ecosystem restoration, comprehensive fire planning, and to recognize historic Native American access rights to land areas and resources.

Resource Management

Adaptive Management Cycle

AM 1: Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation

Report the results of land management plan monitoring and evaluation questions in the annual monitoring and evaluation report, including the actions taken to respond to new information learned through the adaptive management cycle:

- Amend the land management plan as necessary in response to monitoring and evaluation.
- Implement adaptive management measures designed to redirect activity outcomes toward improved environmental protection.
- Manage recreation opportunities to respond to changing visitor demographic profiles.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 5.

AM 2: Forestwide Inventory

Develop and maintain the capacity (processes and systems) to provide and analyze the scientific and technical information needed to address agency priorities including:

- Develop the capacity use existing databases and monitor the results to track and display the cumulative effects of forest plan implementation.
- Conduct surveys within suitable habitat to determine presence of threatened and endangered species.

- Survey suitable habitat for federally listed and Forest Service sensitive species. Update all maps and databases as information is obtained.
- Survey wetlands, vernal pools, meadows, springs and stringer meadows for plant and wildlife species (e.g., spring snails, etc).
- Identify and map all riparian areas.
- Inventory geologic resources (fossils, caves, groundwater basins and extractions, geologic special interest areas, geologic features along scenic corridors, etc.) that are available to the public, affecting other resource areas, or needing special management or protection.
- Identify and mitigate geologic hazards (seismic activity, land slides, land subsidence, flooding and erosion) through landscape and watershed planning, sediment placement site planning, engineering design, reclamation and maintenance.
- Inventory water extractions, diversions, miles/acres of streams, acres of water bodies, acres of riparian, etc.
- Study and identify how rock types and geomorphic processes directly affect soil type development, geo-technical conditions for excavations and construction activities, vegetative type distribution and development, and variation in species habitat. Develop an improved understanding of the relationships of geologic resources and hazards to ecologic functions and patterns as they apply to the management of forest lands and the effects of fire.
- Conduct integrated inventories of ecologic functions (ecological unit inventory) at the scale appropriate to the need.
- Complete invasive nonnative plant and animal inventories based on regional protocol methods.
- Work with the appropriate agencies and academic sources to develop protocols and survey guidelines, gathering current information and identifying additional research needs for resource management. Implement research as opportunities occur. Priority wildlife studies:

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 1.

Biological Resources

WL 1: Imperiled Species Management

Manage habitat to move species toward recovery and de-listing. Prevent listing of proposed and sensitive species by:

- Maintaining or improving habitat conditions for wildlife, fish and plant species.
- Using vegetation management practices to reduce habitat loss due to catastrophic fires.
- Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries to develop recovery plans for federally listed species. Implement Forest Service actions as recommended in recovery plans for federally listed species. Develop a written recovery strategy to implement the Forest Service portion of recovery objectives identified in an approved USFWS recovery plan. In the absence of an approved plan, implement interim Forest Service objectives.
- Establishing and maintaining a working relationship with county planning to insure coordination on development projects within the county.
- Where known or potential conflicts may occur, coordinating with California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) regarding fish stocking to implement measures to resolve conflicts with all TEPCS species and habitats.

Linked to GPRA:

Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 3.

Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

WL 2: Management of Species of Concern

Implement priority conservation strategies for species or habitat (with a viability rating of 5) as identified within the species account conservation consideration section (species and habitat management strategies). Develop habitat management strategies for additional species if new information indicates a viability concern. Prioritize implementation of the most effective conservation measures when funding allows. Five general strategies have been identified below with priority species indicated for the next 3 to 5 years:

STRATEGY: EDUCATION/INFORMATION/INTERPRETATION

Importance of riparian and aquatic species and habitat:

- Arroyo chub, Santa Ana speckled dace and other native fishes
- Arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, coast range newt
- American dipper, southwestern willow flycatcher
- Humboldt lily

Value of vegetation management to species at risk:

- San Gabriel Mountains elfin butterfly
- Golden eagle, California spotted owl, flammulated owl, long-eared owl

Importance of keeping vehicles on roads:

- Arroyo toad

Habitat fragmentation, species linkages and corridors and biological diversity:

- American badger, mountain lion, Nelson's bighorn sheep

STRATEGY: SURVEY/INVENTORY/INCREASE KNOWLEDGE BASE

Riparian and Aquatic Species:

- Arroyo chub, Santa Ana speckled dace, Santa Ana sucker and other native fishes
- Aquatic invertebrates
- California red-legged frog, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle
- Southwestern willow flycatcher
- Humboldt lily

Species with limited distribution:

- San Gabriel Mountains elfin butterfly, California diplectronan caddisfly

Terrestrial species:

- American badger, Nelson's bighorn sheep (San Gabriel)

Upland plants:

- Parry's tetracoccus, Humboldt lily

STRATEGY: HABITAT RESTORATION/IMPROVEMENT

Streambank stabilization, riparian area plantings:

- Arroyo chub, Santa Ana speckled dace, and other native fishes
- Southwestern willow flycatcher

Control of invasive, nonnative species--water loving plant species such as arundo and tamarisk, warm water fish, bullfrogs, and weeds in the upland areas:

- Santa Ana sucker, partially armored three-spine stickleback, and other native fishes
- Coast range next, arroyo toad, southwestern pond turtle

Control of feral animals--domestic sheep and dogs:

- Nelson's bighorn sheep

Vegetation and fuel treatments, prescribed burning:

- Santa Ana sucker, partially armored three-spine stickleback, and other native fishes
- Purple martin, flammulated owl, California spotted owl
- Nelson's bighorn sheep
- Mountain yellow-legged frog

STRATEGY: MONITOR/STUDY

Generally, federally listed species.

Riparian or aquatic species:

- Santa Ana sucker, Santa Ana speckled dace
- California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, arroyo toad
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo
- Additional priority species and habitat to inventory and monitor are species, primarily fairy shrimp, associated with vernal pools (although they did not fit into the viability rating 5 category).

Species responsive to vegetation treatments:

- Nelson's bighorn sheep
- California spotted owl

Species recovery after wildfire (burned area monitoring):

- Santa Ana speckled dace, California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog
- Parish's checkerbloom
- California spotted owl

Upland plant species:

- Pierson's spring beauty, Mount Gleason paintbrush, San Gabriel Mountains dudleya

STRATEGY: HABITAT PROTECTION

Proposed project planning (e.g. reduce type conversion, minimize additional developments, timing of projects to avoid critical life stages):

- All species of concern benefit from sound project planning

Prescribed fire or vegetation treatment:

- Santa Ana sucker, Santa Ana speckled dace, arroyo chub, partially armored three-spine stickleback, California red-legged frog
- Mountain yellow-legged frog, arroyo toad
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, long-eared owl, purple martin, California spotted owl, American dipper, calliope hummingbird

Coordination With Other Agencies:

- Mountain yellow-legged frog
- Nelson's bighorn sheep, mountain lion, American badger
- California condor, California spotted owl
- Santa Ana sucker

Habitat Acquisition:

- Southwestern willow flycatcher, flammulated owl, long-eared owl, California spotted owl
- Mountain lion, American badger
- Aquatic species

Restricted human access during critical life stages (barriers, gates, re-routes, etc.):

- Prairie falcon, golden eagle, bald eagle

Prevent the spread of invasive nonnative species (plant and animal):

- Santa Ana sucker, Santa Ana speckled dace, and other native fishes
- Arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog
- Southwestern pond turtle
- Southwestern willow flycatcher

Fire Prevention and Suppression:

- Southwestern pond turtle, coast range newt, arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog
- MacGillivray's warbler, Southwestern willow flycatcher, California spotted owl, flammulated owl
- Mountain lion

Linked to GPRA:

Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 1.

Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1,3, and 5.

Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 1.

IS 1: Invasive Species Prevention and Control

Prevent the introduction of new invaders, conduct early treatment of new infestations, and contain and control established infestations.

- When setting priorities for treating invasive species, consider the rate of spread of the species; the sensitivity

of the location, especially invasions occurring within occupied or potential habitat for threatened, endangered or proposed species or within special management areas such as research natural areas, special interest areas, and wildernesses; and the probability that the treatment(s) will be successful.

- Prevent the introduction of invasive species and coordinate the treatment of invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries. Coordinate internally as well as with local, state and federal agencies and permittees to prevent future introductions of invasive species through stocking, recreational use, special use authorizations and all other forest management and emergency activities or decisions that could promote additional invasions. Emphasize using weed management areas to consolidate and coordinate weed prevention and treatment efforts across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Routinely monitor noxious weed control projects to determine success and to evaluate the need for follow-up treatments or different control measures. Monitor known infestations as appropriate in order to determine changes in density and rate of spread. Conduct follow-up inspections of ground disturbing activities to ensure compliance with Regional Noxious Weed Management Strategy.

Linked to GPRA Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 1.

WL 4: Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants Habitat Management

Maintain and improve habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants including desirable Management Indicator Species:

- Manage State of California designated Wild Trout streams to maintain high quality habitat for wild trout populations.
- Coordinate and form partnerships with the CDFG and other cooperators such as Partners in Flight to maintain and improve fish, wildlife, and plant habitat.
- Maintain and improve the habitat for Management Indicator Species.
- Maintain and/or improve habitat conditions for target species within wildlife emphasis areas.
- Retrofit water developments with wildlife escape ramps as opportunities occur.
- Monitor habitat for ecological health indicators (e.g., arrundo, tamarisk and bullfrogs).
- Maintain developed wildlife water sources or other habitat improvement structures.
- Protect habitat during fire suppression activities where feasible.

Linked to Goal 6: Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

FH 1: Vegetation Restoration

Restore vegetation through reforestation or other appropriate methods after stand-replacing fires, drought, or other events or activities that degrade or cause a loss of plant communities.

- Where needed, implement reforestation using native tree species grown from local seed sources. In such plantings, consider long-term sustainability of the forest vegetation by taking into account factors such as fire regime and regional climate. Consider small nursery operations to facilitate reforestation and to improve restoration success where direct seeding is ineffective. Use noxious-weed-free seed in all plantings.

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 3.

FH 2: Prevention of Type Conversion

Minimize vegetation type conversion (permanent or long-term loss of plant communities) resulting from frequent fires:

- Promote intervals greater than 35 years between fires in all coastal sage scrub types to reduce the likelihood that they will be converted to annual grasslands or other vegetation types. Within the range of the California gnatcatcher, treat chaparral adjacent to coastal sage scrub to reduce the threat of wildfire and/or to reduce the intensity of fires that burn into it.

- Protect subalpine forest and woodlands from stand-replacing fires.
- Protect closed-cone woodlands and forests (Coulter) with developing cone banks until they are sufficiently large to perpetuate stands after fire. In Coulter pine woodlands not growing in chaparral, or other highly flammable vegetation types, reduce the potential for high-intensity, stand-replacing fires.
- Protect desert woodlands (e.g., pinyon-juniper) and desert scrub vegetation from burning outside the desired range of variability. After fires, protect these types from disturbances and additional fires to ensure natural regeneration, except where more frequent fires have played a role in the maintenance of the vegetation type.
- Emphasize fire prevention and fuelbreak maintenance to reduce the number of fires burning at excessively short fire-return intervals (less than 25 years) that have degraded, or could degrade, low-elevation (below 2000 feet) chaparral.

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objectives 1 and 3.

FH 3: Restoration of Forest Health

Protect natural resource values at risk from wildfire loss that are outside the desired range of variability, or where needed for wildlife habitat improvement:

- Implement vegetation management activities to reduce tree densities and fuel loading in yellow pine and mixed conifer forests to levels similar to those that characterized forests of the pre-suppression and early suppression eras (ca. 1880-1930). Restore species composition comparable to forests of the same era with an emphasis on increasing the relative abundance of large-diameter (greater than 24 inches diameter breast height), shade-intolerant conifer species.
- Implement vegetation treatments that improve the health of Coulter pine forests and woodlands growing in chaparral. Focus treatments on stands greater than 35 years, except where it is necessary to protect life and property. In the latter case, treatments may occur in stands greater than 20 years so long as cone-seed banks are adequate to perpetuate the stands.
- Remove ladder fuels and forest floor fuel accumulations to protect stands of bigcone Douglas-fir from stand-replacing crown fires. Reduce fuel loading in chaparral adjacent to fir stands so that future wildfires are less likely to initiate crown fires from surrounding shrublands.
- Treat fuel loading in montane chaparral to reduce the likelihood that fires originating in this type will generate crown fires in adjacent forested stands.
- Manage chaparral in selected locations to protect the life and property of human inhabitants (e.g., the urban interface), to improve wildlife forage, and to protect watersheds from the adverse impacts of large, destructive, high intensity fires. In selected watersheds, manage for even-aged patch sizes of less than 5,000 acres.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 1.

FH 4: Insect and Disease Management

Protect natural resource values that are at risk due to insect or disease loss at levels outside of the desired range of variability or where needed to improve habitat:

- Thin conifer stands to prevent water stress and damage by bark beetles.
- Report unusual mortality of vegetation promptly to the Forest Health Protection function. Forest Health Protection investigates detection reports and coordinates funding requests from the forest for pest suppression and prevention projects.
- Consider desired pest management suppression projects when economically viable such as suppression of dwarf mistletoe in high value trees at developed recreation sites.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 1.

Physical Resources

Air 1: Minimize Smoke and Dust

Control and reduce fugitive dust to protect human health, improve safety and moderate or eliminate environmental impacts.

- Incorporate visibility requirements into project plans.

Air 2: Forest Air Quality Emissions

Maintain and update the inventory for wildland fire and other forest resource management emissions within the current State implementation plan (SIP). The State implementation plan inventories establish levels of air pollution that meet the long-term federal air quality attainment goals of the permitting Air Pollution Control District.

- Describe the frequency, duration and magnitude of prescribed and wildfire emissions in each Air Pollution Control District.

WAT 1: Watershed Function

Protect, maintain and restore natural watershed functions including slope processes, surface water and ground water flow and retention, and riparian area sustainability:

- Assess impacts of existing or proposed groundwater extraction and tunneling projects and proposals to assure that developments will not adversely affect aquatic, riparian or upland ecosystems.
- Restore, maintain and improve watershed conditions. Assure approved and funded rehabilitation and emergency watershed treatments are implemented in an effective and timely manner.
- Maintain or restore soil properties and productivity to ensure ecosystem health (soil microbiota and vegetation growth), soil hydrologic function, and biological buffering capacity.
- Manage riparian conservation areas (RCA) to maintain or improve conditions for riparian dependent resources. Riparian conservation areas include aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and lands adjacent to perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams as well as around meadows, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps, and springs and other water bodies. Riparian dependent resources are those natural resources that owe their existence to the area such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, fairy shrimp, aquatic invertebrates, plants, birds, mammals, soil and water quality.
- Achieve and maintain natural stream channel conductivity, connectivity and function.
- Assess and manage geologic resources and hazards to integrate earth science principals and relationships into ecosystem management, reduce risks to people and resources, and interpret and protect unique values.
- Identify, prioritize based on risk, and mitigate impacts of abandoned and inactive landfills on water, soil and other resources. Stabilize and reclaim where necessary, abandoned and inactive landfills to maintain proper watershed function, public safety and resource benefit.
- Inventory, analyze and prioritize abandoned mines to identify chemical and physical hazards, historic significance, and biological resources prior to reclamation. Mitigate safety hazards and adverse environmental impacts, conduct reclamation as needed, and assure that water quality standards are met.
- Maintain watershed integrity by replacing or disposing of displaced soil and rock debris in approved placement sites.
- Develop direction and policy (southern California-, forest-, or place-wide as appropriate) for protecting, collecting, curating, and distributing paleontologic resources.

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objectives 1, 2, and 3.

WAT 2: Water Management

Manage groundwater and surface water to maintain or improve water quantity and quality:

- Assess impacts of existing and proposed groundwater extractions and tunneling projects and proposals to assure that developments will not adversely affect aquatic, riparian or upland ecosystems and other uses, resources or rights (e.g., tribal water rights).
- Promote water conservation at all National Forest administrative and authorized facilities. Protect and improve water quality by implementing best management practices and other project-specific water quality protection measures for all National Forest and authorized activities. When reviewing non-forest water-related projects that may affect forest resources, include appropriate conservation and water quality mitigation measures in the review response.
- Conserve and protect high quality water sources in quantities adequate to meet National Forest needs.
- Take corrective actions to eliminate the conditions leading to State listing of 303(d) impaired waters on National Forest System land. For those waters that are both on and off National Forest System land, ensure that Forest Service management does not contribute to listed water quality degradation.
- Actively pursue water rights and water allocation processes to secure instream flows and groundwater resources for current and future needs sufficient to sustain native riparian dependent resources and other forest resources and uses.
- Identify the need for and encourage the establishment of water releases, for current and future use, to maintain instream flow needs including channel maintenance, and to protect and eliminate impacts on riparian dependent resources.
- Participate in all Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing and re-licensing efforts on National Forest System land to ensure sufficient consideration and protection is provided for riparian dependent resources. Incorporate instream flow, riparian, and other natural resource management requirements into 4(e) license conditions.
- Monitor water development projects to ensure that instream flows are meeting riparian dependent resource needs.
- To maintain or improve habitat containing TEPCS species, coordinate activities with CDF&G, NMFS, USFWS, State Water Resource Control Board and other appropriate agencies involved in recommending instream flow and surface water requirements for waterways.
- Cooperate with federal, tribal, State and local governments and private entities to secure the instream flow needed to maintain, recover, and restore riparian dependent resources, channel conditions and aquatic habitat.

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 1.

WAT 3: Hazardous Materials

Manage known hazardous materials risks:

- Develop a hazardous materials response plan that addresses risk and standard cleanup procedures.
- Coordinate with federal, tribal, State, city and county agencies and local landowners to develop emergency response guidelines for hazardous spills on National Forest System land or on adjacent land with potential to affect TEPCS fish and amphibian habitat. In the event of hazardous material spills in known habitat on National Forest System land, the Forest Service will contact the USFWS within 24 hours. Quickly contact resource personnel and use them as consultants to minimize impacts to habitat and to initiate emergency consultation with the USFWS if necessary. Provide habitat maps to response personnel for hazardous spills.

Land Adjustment

Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition

Consolidate the National Forest System land base to support resource management objectives, improve management effectiveness, enhance public benefits, and/or improve habitat condition and linkage:

- Acquire lands or interest in lands through purchase, donation, exchange, rights-of-way acquisition, transfer, interchange, and boundary adjustment in order to address the issues associated with complex ownership patterns such as urban interface fire protection and occupancy trespass.
- Acquire lands or rights-of-way for road and trail access to support appropriate National Forest activities and public needs.
- Work with land conservancies, local government, and others in order to secure long-term habitat linkages.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Link 1: Habitat Linkage Planning

Identify linkages to surrounding habitat reserves and other open space for maintaining biodiversity. Collaborate with local government, developers, and other entities to complement adjacent federal and non-federal land use zones and associated design criteria:

- Participate in regional planning efforts to identify linkages to surrounding habitat reserves and other open space for maintaining biodiversity.
- Work with land conservancies, local government and others to secure long-term habitat linkages.
- Manage forest use and activities to be compatible with maintaining habitat linkages.
- Actively participate with local government, developers, and other entities to protect forest values at intermix and interface zones.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Special Designations

SD 1: Wilderness

Protect and manage wilderness to improve the capability to sustain a desired range of benefits and values and so that changes in ecosystems are primarily a consequence of natural forces. Protect and manage areas recommended for wilderness designation to maintain their wilderness values:

- Within one year of the approval of the land management plan revision, establish a schedule to review and update all existing wilderness management plans and implementation schedules and create new wilderness management plans and implementation schedules for those wildernesses where they do not exist. Accomplish this work within the life of the land management plan.
- Within three years of the designation of new wildernesses and wilderness additions, prepare wilderness management plans and implementation schedules.
- Ensure that current and future issues and management needs, including adequate biophysical and social monitoring, are addressed in all wilderness planning. Identify all use that results in adverse impacts and develop measures to alleviate those impacts to an appropriate level using state-of-the-art processes such as limits of acceptable change.

SD 2: Wild and Scenic Rivers

Manage designated Wild and Scenic River segments to perpetuate their free-flowing condition and designated classifications, and to protect and enhance their outstandingly remarkable values and water quality.

- For those designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, a Comprehensive River Management Plan and boundary declaration will be prepared and implemented as specified in the designation language.

Manage eligible Wild and Scenic River segments to perpetuate their free-flowing condition and proposed classifications, and to protect and enhance their outstandingly remarkable values and water quality through the suitability study period, and until designated or released from consideration:

- For those eligible Wild and Scenic River segments, interim protection measures will be applied to the bed, bank, and one-quarter mile on either side of the ordinary high-water mark.

SD 3: Research Natural Areas

Protect and manage Research Natural Areas to maintain unmodified conditions and natural processes. Identify a sufficient range of opportunities to meet research needs. Compatible uses and management activities are allowed:

- Submit Establishment Reports for designated Research Natural Areas to the Regional Forester within five years of approval of the revised land management plan.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

SD 4: Special Interest Areas

Protect and manage Special Interest Areas (SIAs) for the values and features for which they are established. Use and management activities, including access, that complement or are subordinate to the values and features are allowed:

- Within three years of the approval of the revised land management plan, update current management plans, implementation schedules and monitoring protocols for existing designated SIAs. Within five years of the approval of the revised land management plan, prepare management plans, implementation schedules and monitoring protocols for newly designated SIAs and for existing SIAs that are without this documentation.

Heritage Resources

Her 1: Heritage Resource Protection

Protect heritage resources for cultural and scientific value and public benefit:

- Within this planning cycle, document all known significant cultural properties to identify any activity that adversely affects, or has the potential to adversely affect, or does not complement the site. Develop measures to mitigate the adverse effects or impacts.
- Use partnerships to implement site management plans for heritage resource sites, focusing on those sites with recognized significance or at risk from public or land use effects.
- Evaluate historic sites for appropriate management. Develop site management plans for noteworthy heritage resources wherever they occur.

Linked to Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1 and 2.

Her 2: Public Involvement Program

Provide public involvement programs with opportunities for the public to partner in the stewardship of heritage resource sites:

- Develop public involvement programs to foster partnerships in heritage resource stewardship to aid in identifying and evaluating heritage sites.
- Work with local communities to understand, document, preserve, and interpret the forest history for the public. Develop opportunities for partnerships with the public to maintain and re-use historic heritage resources.

Her 3: Forestwide Heritage Inventory

Increase knowledge of the occurrence, distribution, and diversity of site types for heritage resources on the forest:

- Increase the heritage resource database through the survey of nonproject acreage. Prioritize those places where the percentage of uninventoried high heritage resource sensitivity acres exceeds 50% of the total high heritage resource sensitivity for the place.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objectives 1 and 3.

Her 4: Heritage Research

Document and strengthen the linkages between heritage research and ecosystem management and research; and integrate knowledge and appreciation of past cultures into today's diversity:

- Identify research needs and opportunities for research programs for qualified persons or groups by developing cooperative agreements.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Public Use and Enjoyment

Recreation

REC 1: Recreation Opportunity

Manage forestland to achieve recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) objectives:

- Wilderness ROS will be mapped and implemented when existing wilderness plans and schedules are updated and/or when new wilderness plans and schedules are written.

REC 2: Sustainable Use and Environmental Design

Analyze, stabilize and restore areas where visitor use is negatively affecting recreation experiences, public safety and environmental resources. Manage visitor use within the limits of identified capacities:

- Implement recreation capacity control measures in specific high use areas as use levels become a concern.
- Implement adaptive management processes at recreation facilities to proactively respond to persons with disabilities, contemporary urban visitors, aging populations, diverse ethnic groups, and day use emphasis.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

REC 3: Recreation Participation

Offer a wide range of high quality, environmentally sustainable developed and dispersed recreation opportunities to a rapidly growing and culturally diverse visitor population, with minimal visitor conflicts and effects to other resources:

- Develop new, environmentally sustainable recreation opportunities and infrastructure to relieve concentrated demand within existing high-use areas and to accommodate future growth and new uses elsewhere.
- Improve, remove or replace aging developed recreation infrastructure to better meet current needs and future demand. As a priority, compensate for opportunities lost due to closures.
- Conduct TEPCS occupancy surveys within potential TEPCS recreation conflict areas.
- Implement recreation residence tract consistency reviews and continuation determinations.
- Inventory and analyze existing and potential dispersed use, including recreational target shooting, water play, snow play and camping opportunities. Identify areas where that use is consistent with resource protection and public safety, and mitigate or eliminate problems over time.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

REC 4: Conservation Education

Visitors have a greater understanding about the significance and importance of forest ecosystems, heritage resources, and the interrelationship between people and the natural environment:

- The Forest Service plays a leadership role in the development of strong, well-supported conservation education partnerships with non-profits, volunteer groups, communities, governments, organization camps and private entities, emphasizing and enhancing the capability of field program and project delivery, especially to underserved populations. Coordination between forests is promoted for maximum results and cost efficiencies of programs, projects and visitor centers.

Linked to GPRA Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals. , objective 3.

Landscape Management

LM 1: Landscape Aesthetics

Manage landscapes and built elements to achieve scenic integrity objectives:

- Use best environmental design practices to harmonize changes in the landscape and advance environmentally sustainable design solutions.

LM 2: Landscape Restoration

Restore landscapes to reduce visual effects of nonconforming features:

- Prioritize landscape restoration activities in key places. Integrate restoration activities with other resource restoration.

LM 3: Landscape Character

Maintain the character of key places to preserve their intact nature and valued attributes:

- Maintain the integrity of the expansive, unencumbered landscapes and traditional cultural features that provide the distinctive character of the place.
- Promote the planning and improvement of infrastructure along scenic travel routes.

Law Enforcement

Law 1: Enforcement

Provide law enforcement services for safety and resource protection:

- Provide law enforcement services commensurate with available staffing levels, the number of incidents recorded annually, and the ability of the public to access forestlands.
- As soon as practicable after the implementation of the revised land management plans, develop, update or revise Forest Orders to develop long-term orders that are applicable to all four Forests of southern California and/or to individual Forest needs.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objectives 1 and 3.

Law 2: Investigation

Criminal and civil investigations are conducted in a timely manner:

- Provide investigative services commensurate with available staffing levels, the degree of severity and impact of an incident, and the number of incidents recorded annually.

Facilities Operation and Management

Facilities Management

Fac 1: Facilities Maintenance Backlog

The backlog of facilities that do not meet the desired condition or complement the recreation setting is reduced by replacing outdated substandard facilities with safe, efficient, durable, environmentally sensitive infrastructure. Accommodate the facilities needs of new fire employees and equipment:

- Identify and evaluate applicable property or buildings of potential historic value in support of the facility master plan. Remove facilities no longer needed or abandoned, and restore sites to natural conditions.
- Reduce the backlog with priority for health and safety and accessibility compliance.
- Increase the operating efficiency of existing buildings.
- Upgrade site utilities for efficient operation. Remodel or construct new buildings to conform to approved facilities master plans.
- Construct new facilities to accommodate the 2003 supplementary fire employees and equipment.

Transportation Management

Trans 1: Transportation System

Plan, design, construct, and maintain the road and trail system to meet plan objectives, to promote sustainable resource conditions, and to safely accommodate anticipated levels and types of use:

- Implement landscape scale transportation system analysis on a priority basis. Coordinate with State, county, local and regional government entities, municipalities, tribal governments, other agencies, and the public.
- Add unclassified roads to the Forest Service Road System when site-specific road analysis determines there is a public need for the road.
- Enhance user safety and offer adequate parking at popular destinations on high traffic passenger car roads, while also minimizing adverse resource effects.
- Using priorities identified in the roads analysis process, reduce the road maintenance backlog to provide safe, efficient routes for recreationists and through-traveling public, and to safely accommodate fire protection equipment and other high clearance vehicles.

Linked to GPRA:

Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Trans 2: Unnecessary Roads

Reduce the number of unnecessary or redundant unclassified roads and restore landscapes:

- Decommission roads and trails that have been determined to be unnecessary for conversion to either the road or trail system through site-specific road analysis.
- Establish level of restoration through project planning.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 2.

Trans 3: Improve Trails

Develop an interconnected, shared-use trail network and support facilities that complement local, regional and national trails and open space, and that also enhance day use opportunities and access for the general public:

- Construct and maintain the trail network to levels commensurate with area objectives, sustainable resource conditions, and the type and level of use. Convert ecologically sustainable unclassified roads and trails, and other roads that meet the need for trail-based recreation.
- Manage the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail to protect the trail experience, and provide for the conservation and enjoyment of its nationally important scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities.
- Maintain and/or develop access points and connecting trails linked to surrounding communities and create opportunities for non-motorized trips of short duration.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

Trans 4: Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities

Improve off-highway vehicle opportunities and facilities for highway licensed and non-highway licensed vehicles:

- Improve 4 Wheel Drive opportunities in the easy, more, and most difficult route categories.
- In conjunction with the designation of low maintenance standard roads (and where applicable, open areas), develop motorized trails that address the needs of off-highway vehicle enthusiasts.
- Submit candidate roads and trails to the State of California, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division, for designation as the California Backcountry Discovery Trail as opportunities to afford this experience are identified.

Linked to GPRA Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 2.

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Special Forest Products

SFP 1: Offer Special Forest Products

Deliver miscellaneous forest products at appropriate levels to sustain resource values. In a manner consistent with adjacent Districts, manage special forest products to reduce or eliminate impacts to other resources:

- Record forest product removal permits to analyze magnitude of the removals.
- Use public fuelwood sales to remove large pockets of drought induced tree mortality in locations of urban interface where high fire danger is present.
- Limit collection of woody species under miscellaneous forest product permits to fuel reduction treatment areas or other project areas with completed NEPA project planning.

Lands and Special Uses

Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations

Optimize encumbered National Forest System land and efficiently administer special use authorizations (SUAs):

- All special uses comply with law, regulation, and policy. Upon termination, restore areas to a specified condition. Administer existing SUAs in TEPCS species habitats to ensure they avoid or minimize impacts to TEPCS species and their habitats.
- Work with special use holders to better administer National Forest System land and reduce administrative cost.

- Require SUAs to maximize opportunities to co-locate facilities and minimize encumbrance of National Forest System land.
- Phase out water diversion permits that adversely affect TEPCS species.
- In TEPCS species habitat that has been degraded by water withdrawals, work to amend existing permits as necessary to provide suitable water flows for TEPCS species.
- Where overhead transmission lines occur in California condor habitat, work with utility companies or permit holders to install high-visibility or avoidance devices and raptor guards on poles and other structures potentially used as perching sites by California condors.
- Cooperatively identify emergency routes around all areas of key and occupied TEPCS pebble plains plant habitat.
- Establish permit holder responsibility for public education about TEPCS species approved by the Forest Service for recreational special use events within all TEPCS species habitats.
- For special use permit holders operating within TEPCS species key and occupied habitats, develop and provide information and education (e.g., workshops, annual meetings) on ways to avoid and minimize effects of their activities on occupied TEPCS species habitat.
- Use signing, barriers, or other suitable measures to protect TEPCS species key and occupied habitats within permit areas.

Linked to GPRA:

Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Goal 4: Help meet energy resource needs [USDA Objective 5.1], objective 1.

Lands 3: Boundary Management

Reduce the backlog of landline posting and incidents of trespass:

- Survey and post key boundaries to eliminate occupancy trespass and prevent unauthorized occupancy.

Lands 4: Mineral Withdrawals

Monitor and manage withdrawal status to document the condition of lands that could affect other actions (e.g., watershed protection, mining):

- Review existing withdrawals to determine if continuation is consistent with the statutory objectives of the programs for which the lands were dedicated.
- Recommend for withdrawal from mineral entry TEP species key habitats in areas of mineral potential where habitat is not protected by any other means and would benefit by withdrawal. Protective measures will be maintained for the period of time needed to provide the necessary protection for TEP species and key habitats. Implement in occupied habitats for the arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, mountain yellow-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo.

Minerals and Energy

ME 1: Minerals Management

Administer minerals and energy resources to afford commodities for current and future generations commensurate with the need to sustain the long-term health and biological diversity of ecosystems:

- Limit withdrawals from mineral entry to maintain opportunities to access mineral and energy resources.
- Assure long-term access and availability for leasing of oil and gas resources from environmentally suitable

lands for regional, statewide and national energy needs.

- Use terms and conditions to offset the effects of mining consistent with conserving habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.
- Eliminate unapproved and noncompliant minerals operations.
- Facilitate environmentally and culturally sensitive exploration, development, and production of mineral and energy resources on National Forest System lands open to these activities or on withdrawn lands consistent with valid existing rights, and integrate these activities with the planning and management of other resources.
- Work with California Department of Fish and Game to prohibit suction dredging to protect threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species.
- Work with the Bureau of Land Management to formalize the status of abandoned and idle wells and ancillary facilities and restore the land to natural conditions.
- Coordinate with California Department of Fish and Game on applying and enforcing State suction dredge regulations on the San Gabriel River. Participate with the State to identify for the public those sections of streams that are open or closed to dredging.
- For approved mining operations within occupied TEPCS habitat, riparian habitat, or other areas with species of concern, monitor mining operations as needed to ensure compliance with plans of operation.

ME 2: Biomass Utilization

Seek opportunities to use debris from forest thinning and mortality removal for producing energy.

Fire and Aviation Management

Fire and Fuels Management

Fire 1: Fire Prevention

Reduce the number of human-caused fires and associated human and environmental impacts. Focus fire prevention programs on the urban interface, TEPCS species habitat, vegetative areas threatened with type conversion and areas of major recreation use:

- Make campfire closure within wilderness permanent and increase patrols within the wilderness.
- Consider application of fire retardant along roads and adjacent to areas of high recreation use where human-caused fires are frequent.
- Consider full or partial forest closures when there is a lack of firefighter capability or extreme weather and fuel conditions that would result in unstoppable wildfires.
- Continue with environmental and fire prevention education in the classroom in local schools.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 2: Direct Community Protection

Reduce the number of high risk/high value, and high and moderate risk acres using both mechanical treatments and prescribed fire. Identify and schedule for treatment the high risk and high value acres near communities, including the installation of wildland urban interface (WUI) defense and threat zone vegetation treatments. Highest priority should be given to those areas with substantial drought and insect-killed vegetation that present a significant threat to life and property in entire communities:

- Promote removal of tree mortality adjacent to structures as the first step in reducing threats to human life and investments.

- When National Forest System lands are managed for direct community protection, consider the use of Memorandums of Understanding with Fire Safe Councils as a means of allowing residents to meet State fire law or county brush clearance ordinances on a combination of private and public lands.
- Herbicides or the repetitive use of prescribed fire should be used in the WUI defense zone on National Forest System land to avoid expensive treatments of resprouting chaparral species.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objectives 1 and 3.

Fire 3: Fire Suppression Emphasis

Improve wildfire suppression capability when in proximity to communities or improvements. A full range of suppression strategies may be used elsewhere on the forest. All natural ignitions will be suppressed:

- Cross train with other fire agencies to improve suppression coordination and performance on fires burning in the wildland urban interface or developed area intermix.
- During periods of limited firefighter availability, communities within the forest direct protection area should be the highest priority for initial attack coverage.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 4: Firefighter and Public Safety

Acknowledge firefighter and public safety as the first priority in every fire management activity. Integrate all fire management activities with those of other government agencies and conduct fire management activities in a cost effective manner:

- Improve residential inspection capability to enhance the defensible space around structures.
- In concert with other agencies and Fire Safe Councils, develop evacuation and structure protection plans that will enhance both firefighter and public safety

Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objective 2.

Fire 5: Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection

Maintain the existing system of roadside fuelbreaks and fuelbreaks along watershed boundaries to minimize fire size and the number of communities threatened by both fires and floods. Consider constructing new fuelbreaks on land outside of wilderness or other special designations.

- Consider an opportunistic approach to fuels management. Take advantage of wildfire occurrence and wherever possible, connect wildfires to forest health and wildlife habitat improvement projects as well as fuelbreaks to maintain multiple lines of community defense and to minimize future wildfire patch size.
- Pre-plan fire suppression activities to avoid or minimize the use of locations of known invasive nonnative species.

Linked to GPRA Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire, objectives 1 and 3.

Place Based Program Emphasis

The forest has been divided into a series of geographical units that we call places. Each place has its own landscape character. Landscape character has been described as an overall visual and cultural impression of landscape attributes, the physical appearance and cultural context of a landscape that gives it an identity and "sense of place."

Each place has a theme, setting, desired condition and program emphasis section.

- Theme - refers to images of the landscape that can be defined with a brief set of physical, visual or cultural attributes that encapsulate the sense of place.

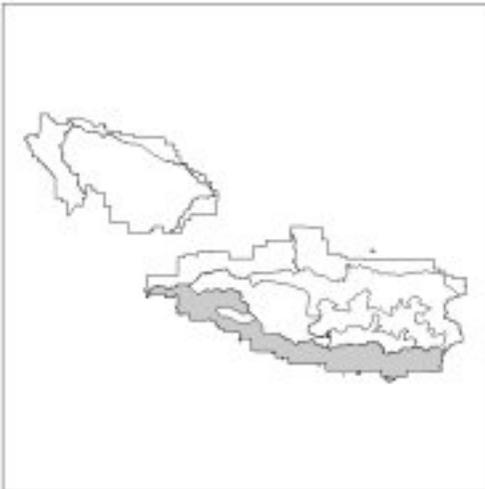
- **Setting** - provides a description of the landscape character of the place.
- **Desired Condition** - paints a picture of what the place could be as the forest implements activities to move toward the overall forest-wide desired conditions.
- **Program Emphasis** - identifies priority activities the forest will emphasize in the next 3 to 5 years.

These are the places identified for the Angeles National Forest:

- The Front Country
- Angeles High Country
- Angeles Uplands East
- Angeles Uplands West
- Big Tujunga Canyon
- I-5 Corridor
- Liebre-Sawmill
- San Gabriel Canyon
- Santa Clara Canyons
- Soledad Front Country
- Mojave Front Country

The Front Country

Theme: The scenic mountain backdrop for the greater Los Angeles area. This place provides portals from the Los Angeles Basin, with its 15 million plus population, to the National Forest. This "backyard" landscape is extensive and includes the 60 miles from Lytle Creek to the Newhall Pass.



Setting: The Front Country Place rises dramatically from the Los Angeles Basin from an elevation of approximately 300 feet to an elevation of approximately 6,000 feet. The communities that make up the urban interface of the San Bernardino, San Fernando, and San Gabriel Valleys define the lower elevation edge of the place. The area is easily accessible from various points along the Interstate 5, 15, and 210 travel corridors. The trails through the place offer forest visitors dramatic urban panoramas and views to rugged mountain backdrops. This place includes to a variety of Special Designations, including the San Dimas Experimental Forest and the 1,400-acre Fern Canyon Research Natural Area (RNA), which offers opportunity for study of mixed chaparral and live oak woodland communities. Five Inventoried Roadless Areas are located in the Front Country, some of

which may be proposed as wilderness.

The southern aspect of the place includes steep slopes with sharp to rounded summits and deep narrow canyons. The steeper reaches of the slopes are typically barren and highly eroded. Canyons characteristically have steep, rocky sides and are often strewn with large distinctive boulders.

The mediterranean climate of southern California affects vegetation types and water availability. Perennial water is present only in the largest creeks and rivers. Chaparral is the most dominant plant community. Canyon and Coast live oaks grow along the shaded slopes of the canyons. Deciduous trees and shrubs occupy riparian areas. Degradation of air quality (in surrounding communities) is a factor that is affecting forest health in a variety of ways including stressed plant communities, lower water productivity and lower water quality. Human use has resulted in the presence of invasive exotic weed infestations in many areas.

There is a rich diversity of plant and animal species are found in the place as well as habitat for four federally listed plants and several other rare plants. Riparian areas along the streams include habitat for numerous riparian dependant species, and serve as valuable linkages between the National Forest and adjacent habitat on private land. Potential threats to habitat for riparian dependent species and other sensitive habitat include recreation uses, wildfire, flood control and other water conservation activities and practices.

The cultural landscape of the place is generally characterized by urban influences resulting in a modified character in many areas. The modified setting is often inconsistent with the types of recreation opportunities visitors are seeking. In other areas, steep slopes limit access (protecting resources) resulting in feelings of remoteness and solitude while enjoying hidden treasures that include, springs, waterfalls, a variety of landscapes, many recreation experiences including hunting and fishing. Access is limited by a trail system that some think is not meeting the needs of the recreating public. Some trails are located in poor locations (steep, unstable areas) requiring high maintenance. There is also a network of user created trails that are the cause of resource problems in many areas. The developed sites in the area are aging and do not meet the needs of the modern recreation user. Many facilities cannot accommodate modern vehicles and at a fundamental level do not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Region 5 Built Environmental Image Guide (BEIG). In many areas within the place, managers feel that the levels of recreation use are exceeding the capacity of the facilities.

The place has numerous electronic and communication sites located on ridgelines and mountain tops. Many of the utility corridors that support the Los Angeles basin are located in the place as well as flood control structures and dam facilities. Finally, there are many unauthorized activities occurring in the place resulting in resource problems.

Fire safe conditions along the urban interface within the place are inconsistent. Private landowners look to the Forest Service to accomplish the vegetative treatments required for community defense. Traditionally, fuel treatments have been focused on Front Country watershed protection, concentrating on age class mosaics and fuel breaks designed to reduce the threat of downstream flooding that often occurs after wildfire. Wildfires have resulted in significant property and resource losses. The numbers of fire starts are not consistent with natural disturbance cycles and are moving some plant communities toward type conversions that are out of character in the place.

The proximity of the place to the cities along the urban interface emphasizes the need to continue to develop and maintain good working relationships with other agencies and community government. Inconsistent management strategies have led to problems and emphasize the need to work together and effectively manage the National Forests to support common goals in an era of intense urbanization. Habitat linkages, access, water, urban infrastructure are just a few of the problems requiring a more common solution.

The Front Country Place is viewed by the residents of adjacent communities as their backyard. The area might be characterized as being loved to death. The area is intensively used resulting in user conflicts, trash, non-permitted uses, parties, car dumping, graffiti, and other activities that compromise forest resources.

Existing Wilderness:

- Cucamonga 216 acres

Established Research Natural Areas:

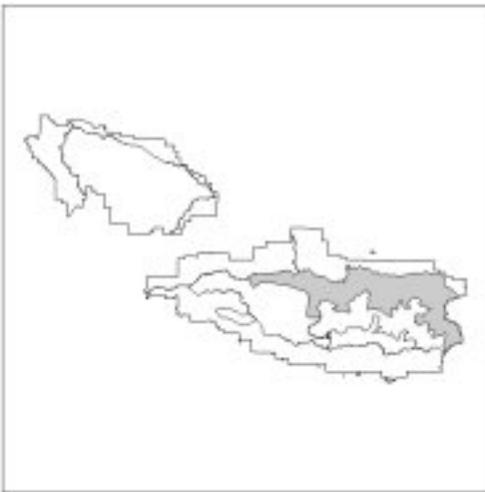
- Fern Canyon 1,400 acres

Desired Condition: The Front Country Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a "first impression" scenic backdrop for the Los Angeles/San Bernardino metropolitan area, and a forest portal for its 15 million residents. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the rugged and wild appearing mountain silhouettes, dramatic undisturbed views to urban and mountain landscapes especially from trails and roads, coast live oaks along the shaded slopes of the canyons, and a well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is on protecting communities from the threat of fire, managing for high recreation use levels, and maintaining urban and forest infrastructure (facilities) consistent with the natural setting and integrity.

Angeles High Country

Theme: The Angeles High Country Place is characterized by the highest elevations in Los Angeles County including the tallest peak in the County, Mt. Baldy (10,064 feet). The place functions as a year-round mountain recreation landscape for the greater Los Angeles area and is associated with winter snow play, opportunities for solitude, and hiking through spectacular big tree-covered vistas.



Setting: The Angeles High Country Place is located at the top of the Angeles National Forest and is regarded by many as the core area of the forest. Elevations within the place range from approximately 5,000 feet to approximately 10,060 feet. The area is characterized by steep slopes with sharp to rounded summits surrounding small alpine valleys. The place exhibits a forested (tree covered) environment offering community linkages to between the forest and the surrounding urban areas. The area is a truly unique setting where, on a clear day, visitors are offered panoramic views including the urban center of Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Mojave Desert to the north. Numerous special designations are found within this place, including eligible wild and scenic river segments, Congressionally-designated wilderness, proposed wilderness, and national inventoried roadless areas (IRAs). Three special interest areas (SIAs) are also found here. The Devil's Punchbowl SIA exhibits unique geological values, including folds, faults, plate tectonics, cuernas, and hogbacks. The Mt. Baden-Powell and Mt. San Antonio SIAs boast unique botanical elements, including ancient limber pine, and alpine and subalpine plants. The area is accessed from major highways, scenic byways, and a trail system that includes routes with State or national designations. The community of Wrightwood is the 'gateway' to the place. The high elevation of the place (above the inversion layer) and the more remote location offer an ideal setting for 'dark-sky' research facilities and communication sites.

The Angeles High Country Place is one of the 'resource jewels' of the Angeles National Forest. The higher reaches of its slopes are typically barren and show evidence of distinctive fractured rock formations and numerous landslides. The area is geologically unique in that it includes the point of highest elevation in the State for the San Andreas Fault. Watersheds in the place include streams that flow into the Mojave Basin and the Pacific Ocean. The ground and surface water supply is an important resource that many feel has been over extended or alternately under utilized depending on location. There is concern in the northeastern portion of the place where there is visible evidence of stress on riparian and aquatic ecosystems. Crystal Lake, a landslide feature, is the only

natural lake on the Angeles National Forest. Snowmelt constitutes the majority of available surface water.

The cooler and wetter mountain climate affects vegetation types within the place. The trees are seen as tight clumps or scattered individuals. Historically, the presence of large conifers has resulted in the place being known as the place where the big trees are. The predominant plant communities include Coulter pine and mixed conifer on the south facing slopes and bigcone Douglas-fir and Jeffrey pine on the north facing slopes. Oaks are present in dense woodlands along the shaded slopes of the canyons. Deciduous trees and shrubs are typical in riparian areas.

There is a rich diversity of animal communities living in the place including the endangered mountain yellow-legged frog. The place includes habitat for the Nelson's bighorn sheep. This species viability is a significant concern for managers due to a dramatic drop in population since the 1980s. The East Fork of the San Gabriel River includes important habitat linkages and sensitive resource areas for riparian dependent species and other wildlife between adjacent places.

The cultural landscape of the Angeles High Country Place includes a diverse range of recreation opportunities in areas with settings that are more primitive or natural appearing. Human development has occurred ranging from historic sites, recreation sites, observatories, visitor centers, ski areas, organization camps and private resorts. Many of these are attractions for year-round visitors looking for a mountain getaway from the surrounding urban communities. A wide range of opportunities include hiking, camping, backpacking, hunting, fishing, OHV uses, mountain biking, water and snow play. The place has established visitor centers and entrance stations. Similar to other areas of the forest, the facilities in this place are aging and out of date.

There is a history of fire in the place; however, most of this place is within the normal fire regime. The village of Wrightwood requires community protection strategies. Fuel treatments to date have been limited but are expected to increase due to the build up of fuels over the past decades.

A variety of special use authorizations exist in the place, ranging from organization camps to recreation residence tract to ski areas. There are also many activities occurring that are not authorized similar to other places on the forest. There are more unique user conflicts in the area such as the need for dark-sky at the observatory and the lights from a near by ski resort with night skiing.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Little Rock Creek 7.5 miles
- San Antonio Canyon Creek 2.2 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- Cucamonga 3,585 acres
- San Gabriel Wilderness 5,928 acres
- Sheep Mountain Wilderness 23,290 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Sheep Mountain Addition 1,897 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

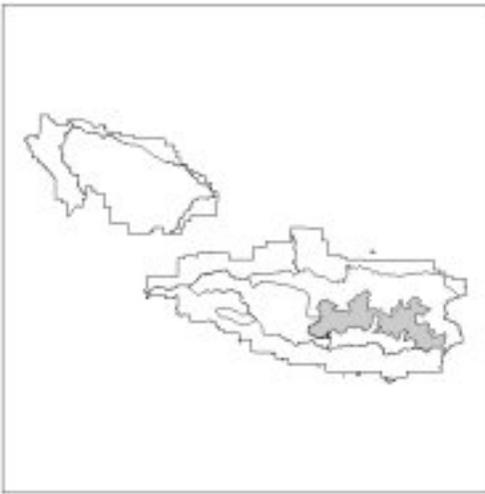
- Devils Punchbowl 89 acres
- Mt. Baden-Powell 252 acres
- Mt. San Antonio 164 acres

Desired Condition: The Angeles High Country Place is maintained as a naturally evolving and natural appearing landscape that functions as a year-round forested mountain recreation area. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are large conifer trees in groups and as scattered individual specimens, views of distant landscapes, oak woodlands along the shaded slopes of the canyons. The built environment portrays a rustic, historic image.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is focused on forest health particularly relative to community protection from fire around Wrightwood and large recreation complexes while maintaining the big tree character, vistas and natural appearing landscapes. Additional emphasis will be on the use by recreationists and urban and forest infrastructure that is sustainable such that it has minimal effects to species (mountain yellow-legged frog) and their habitat. Bighorn sheep habitat will be enhanced and wilderness plans will be developed. The Scenic Highway Implementation Plan will be implemented. Snow play opportunities will be assessed. Management of special use authorizations will occur along with resolution of water diversion issues. The focus is toward finding a balance that will result in a sustainable level of human use and the sustainability of forest health.

Angeles Uplands East

Theme: The Angeles Uplands East Place is a rugged Wilderness and backcountry landscape that serves as a transition zone between the front country and the wilds of the high country. This remote, natural appearing landscape extends from the San Antonio river drainage on the east to the eastern boundary of the San Gabriel Wilderness on the west.



Setting: The Angeles Uplands East Place is located between the Front and High Country Places of the Angeles National Forest. Elevations in the place range between 2,500 feet to approximately 5,000 feet. The landscape consists of very steep terrain, with narrow deep canyons and sharp to rounded summits. Access to the area is through the San Gabriel Canyon, or from portions of the Angeles Crest Highway and the Mt. Baldy Road. There is a well developed trail system accessed from facilities located along these same routes. The majority of this place is located within the boundaries of two designated Wildernesses (Sheep Mountain and San Gabriel). Several other areas within the place have been evaluated for wilderness.

The narrow, rocky canyons are the dominant feature of the landscape within the place. The upper reaches of several watersheds are located within the place. The steeper reaches and slopes are barren and show evidence of erosion, land slides, and rapid runoff. The canyon bottoms are often filled with large boulders. Water originating from this place is impounded downstream and is a source of municipal water for the communities in the northern Los Angeles basin.

The area is characterized by hot to temperate climates that affect the vegetation types and availability of water in the place. Mixed chaparral is the dominant plant community on south facing slopes. Canyon and coast live oaks are found in dense woodlands on the north facing slopes and in the canyon bottoms. Deciduous trees and shrubs are typically located in the riparian areas. Year-round water is present only in the largest creeks and springs. Noxious weeds are a problem, particularly along road corridors within the place.

There is a diversity of animal communities in the place. These include species such as the Santa Ana sucker and California spotted owl. Nelson's bighorn sheep are also found in the area. Riparian areas within the place include important habitat for numerous riparian dependent species and serve as linkages and corridors between the forest and habitat on adjacent private land. The balance between high levels of recreation use, the threat of fire and the maintenance of habitat are critically important.

The cultural landscape consists of settings that range between modified and natural appearing. The majority of the place is designated wilderness and accounts for its natural appearance. Human influence is most apparent in the form of developed campsites, dispersed camping and travel ways (roads and trails). Human use is most visible in the area around Mt. Baldy Village. Trails are located along drainages, on flats or on the ridgetops, offering visitors a dramatic range of views depending on location. There has been mineral exploration and development within the place. The place is an important source of spiritual renewal for several tribes that historically lived in the area. The opportunity for solitude and self reliance is an important attribute drawing many visitors to the wildernesses in the place. The focus of recreation use in the area is toward wilderness related opportunities. Recreation use tends to be concentrated in riparian areas where water play is an important activity. Dispersed camping and other forms of dispersed use are popular. The Mt. Baldy Educational Center is a popular facility. Developed recreation opportunities are less abundant and occur in areas near Mt. Baldy Village or as Recreation Residence tracts. Vandalism, graffiti and trash dumping are problems occurring near roads and trails.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- San Antonio Canyon Creek 1.4 miles
- San Gabriel River (East, North, and West Forks) 7.9 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- Cucamonga 400 acres
- San Gabriel Wilderness 25,605 acres
- Sheep Mountain Wilderness 127,636 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

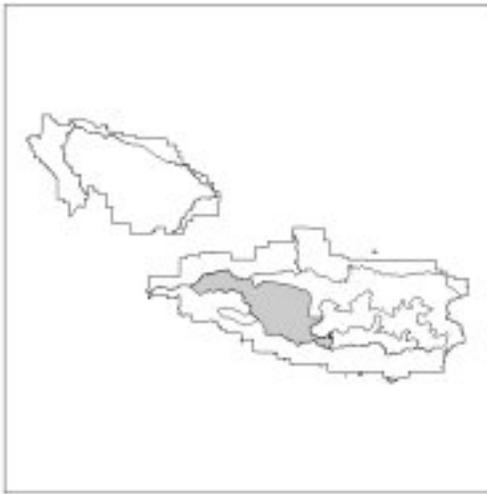
- Sheep Mountain Addition 6,765 acres

Desired Condition: The Angeles Uplands East Place is maintained as a naturally evolving and a natural appearing landscape that functions as wilderness and backcountry for primitive, dispersed recreational use. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are open views to steep, rock slopes punctuated with bigcone Douglas-fir and associated oaks, and a well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Managers expect emphasis to focus on forest health particularly relative to community protection from fire around Mt. Baldy Village and recreation residence tracts. Urban and forest infrastructure will be sustainable. Bighorn sheep will be enhanced and a wilderness management plan will be developed. Management emphasis is also expected to be focused on maintaining the sense of remoteness and solitude throughout the area. Maintaining water quality and quantity will have high priority.

Angeles Uplands West

Theme: The Angeles Uplands West Place is a popular, expansive, chaparral-covered landscape that serves as a mid-elevation gateway to the high country (Angeles High Country Place). This area provides dramatic canyon panoramas along the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway. Visitors can also find recreation experiences that provide challenge in a remote setting.



Setting: The Angeles Uplands West Place is located between the Front and High Country Places. Elevations in the place range between approximately 2,500 feet to approximately 6,300 feet. The slopes are steep on the southern aspect of the place, with sharp to rounded summits and deep narrow canyons similar to other mid elevation places on the Angeles National Forest. The place is accessed from routes that pass through the Front Country Place. These routes lead visitors to dramatic canyon panoramas and rugged mountain background views. This place includes portions of designated wilderness, areas that have been proposed for wilderness evaluation, and inventoried roadless areas. Also located here is the Falls Canyon Research Natural Area which was established in 1998 to provide study opportunities of bigcone Douglas-fir.

The steeper reaches of slopes are barren and show evidence of erosion. The canyons have steep rocky sides and are dense with upland vegetation. This place contains the midslope portions of the major watersheds that drain into the Pacific Ocean including the Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Rivers. Water quantity and quality is a management concern since the watersheds drain into various reservoirs (Cogswell and Big Tujunga) that are used for flood control and water table replenishment.

There is a lot of diversity in the vegetation between the north and south facing slopes. Chaparral is more prevalent on the hotter and drier south facing slopes. Pines and conifers are dominant on the cooler north facing slopes. Mixed chaparral is the most dominant plant community and is visible as dense continuous patterns of patches interrupted by openings of various sizes. Canyon and coast live oak are present in dense woodlands along the shaded slopes and in the canyons. Deciduous trees and shrubs are common in the riparian areas. Year round water is present only in the largest creeks and springs. Air quality is compromised from the urban areas surrounding the forest and is a factor in forest health causing stressed plant communities and lowered water quality and quantity. Noxious weed infestations occur along travel routes and riparian areas within the place.

The majority of the vegetation in the place is in a relatively healthy condition. Some vegetative treatments for forest health are needed in some locations, and there are communities on private land and developments on public land that require treatment for fire protection. The fire-flood sequence is a threat to property in areas downstream from the place.

The place includes habitat for the arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. The majority of the Big Tujunga Canyon is considered to be critical habitat for the California red-legged frog. There are numerous areas within the place that offer linkages to other areas of the forest and habitat on adjacent private land. Heavy recreation use of all kinds and fire are factors in the management of habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife and other riparian dependent species.

The cultural landscape of the Angeles Uplands Place is generally natural or near-natural in appearance. Human influence is most apparent in the developed and dispersed recreation facilities and travel ways. Developed recreation is limited by the character of the landscape within the place. Dispersed recreation is emphasized, including hiking, backpacking, equestrian, bicycling, mountain biking, hang gliding, hunting, fishing, and OHV use. The condition of trails varies, and other infrastructure such as campgrounds and trailheads are aging. The intense level of recreation use generates user conflicts on roads, trails and other areas. There are a variety of Special Uses authorized under permits within the place including organization camps, communication sites, and recreation residences. This area also has a high level of unauthorized uses including trash disposal, car dumping,

graffiti, illegal OHV use, partying, gang activities, illegal fires, illegal parking, and entry into closed areas.

The place supports multiple uses that are valuable to the public. Many of the utility service infrastructures that support the greater Los Angeles urban area are present within the landscape. Several county roads and State highways serve as major high-speed commuter routes from inland valleys and desert, and the use exceeds infrastructure design criteria and creates potential unsafe conflicts.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- San Gabriel River (East, North, and West Forks) 8.6 miles

Existing Research Natural Areas:

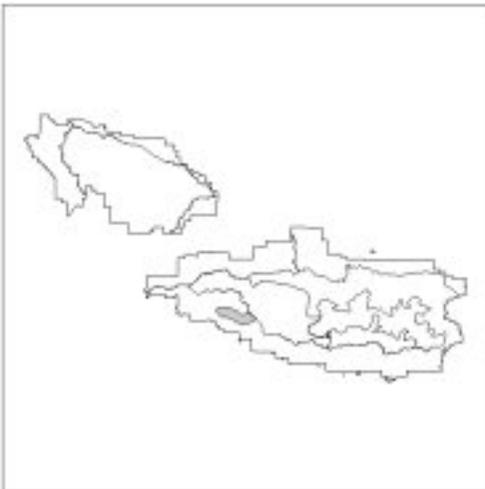
- Falls Canyon 1,440

Desired Condition: The Angeles Uplands West Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a mid-elevation recreation gateway to the high country. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are dramatic canyon panoramas along the scenic byway, the presence of bigcone Douglas-fir and Coulter pine, and a well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is focused on forest health, particularly protection of pockets of large conifers. Management is also focused on the high levels of recreation use, as well as the urban and forest infrastructure present, in a balanced and sustainable manner consistent with preserving the dramatic canyon panoramas. Private property will be protected from the threat of fire. Surveys will be conducted and critical habitat will be protected for the red-legged frog.

Big Tujunga Canyon

Theme: The Big Tujunga Canyon Place functions as year-round day-use recreation landscape for families seeking a gathering spot in a river-based woodland setting. This major tributary of the Los Angeles River links the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean offering residents of the Los Angeles area a link to a natural environment. The place's wooden riparian area serves as an important wildlife corridor, as well as a habitat for sensitive animal species.



Setting: The area of Big Tujunga Canyon is generally defined as down stream from the Big Tujunga Dam to Pipe Canyon, flanked by the steep canyon walls. This lower section of the canyon ranges in elevation from about 2,000 feet at Pipe Canyon up to 2,290 feet at the Big Tujunga spillway. Highly erosive, very steep slopes, with sharp to rounded summits and narrow canyons are the predominant landforms found in this place. The area is generally accessed from well-maintained and highly used county roads from Mt. Gleason Ave along the Interstate 210 corridor. This place offers access to the Upland and High Country Places.

Big Tujunga Creek constitutes a major portion of this place in terms of human use and scenic associations. The main canyon runs east to west, and is fed by a series of small intermittent streams. The river has created pools and

extensive floodplains along its course creating stream fishing opportunities. The channel terminates in a wide wash in the Front Country Place.

The riparian woodlands of the Big Tujunga Canyon Place provide a contrast to the contiguous mixed chaparral of the larger landscape. These riparian woodlands consist of dense stands of sycamore, white alder and willow. Upland vegetation is seen as tight clumps and scattered groups of canyon and coast live oaks. These shaded areas are valued for recreational uses along the length of the river. Degradation of air quality is affecting forest health by stressing vegetation and resulting in lower water quality and productivity. Noxious weed infestations also occur within this place.

There is a potential for flooding, especially following fires. Much of the place is in condition class 1, and will require treatments to help maintain that condition. Users are usually responsible for fire starts but larger fires typically originate in other areas of the forest.

Big Tujunga Creek provides habitat for the Santa Ana sucker, Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. Crucial habitat for the California red-legged frog encompasses a majority of Big Tujunga Canyon. Big Tujunga Canyon is an important corridor for wildlife movement between The Front Country, adjacent places and areas downstream and off forest. Heavy recreational use, exotic plant species, as well as flood control and water conservation practices are currently impacting habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife and other riparian dependent species.

The cultural landscape of the Big Tujunga Canyon Place is generally modified natural appearing. Early nineteenth century use of the area focused on recreation, recreation camps, and mining. These historical uses, along with modern modes of transportation, introduced and extended the range of invasive and exotic plants and animals. Other human influences are most apparent near recreational facilities, such as trailheads and paths along the river; however, the remainder of the landscape is subject to the effects of ecological change. Human impacts that create strong visual contrast in this landscape include: intensive recreation and special use authorization areas, graffiti, litter, utility corridors, water, flood control and retention basins, sediment disposal areas and road cuts. Most facilities and trails are located along the canyon bottom, on flats or cut into hillsides. Human impacts are more evident on the private property within the place.

Due to the accessibility to the water, this area is marked by concentrated public use, mostly family-based, and with cultures associated with recent immigration to this country. Recreation uses are varied but mostly oriented to water. It is an area that is enjoyed by many people and that enjoyment leads to chronic overuse. Recreation uses are conflicting with other resource values such as TEPS. Infrastructure supporting developed recreation is aging, and does not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act or the Built Environment Image Guide. The focus of recreation along low elevation riparian areas is reaching or exceeds capacity. The intensive use is resulting in impacts to vegetation and resources: soil compaction, loss of vegetation, pollution of riparian environments, and erosion near the river. Opportunities for environmental education are not developed to meet public and agency needs.

The remote nature of the canyon provides opportunities for illegal activities to occur undetected. User conflicts do occur. The views of the Big Tujunga County Flood and water conservation dam and reservoir are equally impressive, and include vistas that lend themselves to commercial and amateur filming opportunities.

Water-centered recreation in Big Tujunga Canyon is strongly influenced by the low flow releases from the dam. Surface and ground water extraction that supports local as well as municipal supplies occurs in and throughout the canyon and wash.

The paths through this landscape lead visitors to dramatic canyon scenery and shady areas along the river. Areas of concentrated use such as trailheads and easily accessible water areas are reaching or exceeding their carrying capacity to provide a safe and enjoyable experience to the public.

There are no special designations.

Desired Condition: Big Tujunga Canyon is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a year-round, day-use recreation landscape for families seeking a gathering spot in a river-based woodland setting. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are riparian woodlands along stream zones consisting of dense stands of sycamore, white alder, and willow, groupings of canyon and coast live oaks, and visitor access to free-flowing water.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is focused on day-use, water oriented recreation, and urban and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, compatible with the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concerns and their habitat. Recreation use carrying capacity levels will be developed. Forest health in terms of water quality and water needs will be managed to provide for forest ecosystem needs and instream flows necessary to support surface and subsurface resources. Habitat for Santa Ana sucker, least Bell's vireo, and California red-legged frog will be protected. Instream flow levels to accomplish this protection will be determined. Invasive species will be managed to achieve their elimination from the forest environment. A conservation/environmental education program will be developed.

I-5 Corridor

Theme: The I-5 Corridor Place functions as a scenic gateway and transitional landscape for visitors to southern California. The flow of people and materials through this gateway landscape links the greater Los Angeles area, as well as southern California, to the rest of California and the nation. It also serves as an important wildlife corridor between the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests.



Setting: The I-5 Corridor Place runs north and south along both sides of Interstate 5. This landscape is commonly defined as the area between Marple Canyon at the southern end, and the intersection of State Highway 138 at the northern end. The east and west boundaries are defined by the ridges visible from Interstate 5. The western boundary of this place is shared with the Los Padres National Forest.

The elevations in the place range from approximately 2,100 to 3,000 feet. The deep canyon of Pyramid Lake, along with its various lesser side canyons, dominates this landscape. Steep slopes with rounded summits and deep narrow canyons are other dominant landforms within this place.

The mostly hot to temperate climate affects vegetation types and water availability in the I-5 Corridor. All but the larger streams are dry through the summer. The predominant plant community at lower elevations is mixed chaparral. Chaparral is continuous on most slopes. Pine and juniper are present at higher elevations. Canyon and coast live oaks are present in dense woodlands along shaded slopes and canyons. Degradation of air quality is impacting forest health by stressing vegetation and resulting in lower water quality and productivity.

Numerous fire starts originate from Interstate 5. Fire safe conditions along the interface are inconsistent and private landowners look to the forest to create community defense zones. The urban development in the south is creating issues of community defense as well as encroachment and unauthorized activities. Fuel treatments have been limited in the past. Most of the fire occurrence has been within the historic range of variability but there are areas (e.g. along the highway corridor) that have been identified with excessive fire occurrence.

Riparian areas within the I-5 Corridor provide habitat for several riparian dependent species, including the federally listed southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and the California condor, which has historically nested adjacent to Pyramid Reservoir.

Piru Creek is one of two streams on the forest being managed for wild trout by the California Department of Fish and Game. The I-5 Corridor may also provide a significant habitat linkage between the Angeles and Los Padres

National Forest. Potential threats to riparian dependent species and the California condor include recreation, wildfire, and hazardous material spills into active stream channels.

The cultural landscape of the I-5 Corridor is generally rural and natural appearing. Some of the most significant heritage resource sites occur within this area and are being impacted by special use authorizations. Human influence is most apparent in developed recreation sites and along travel routes. Human influences that create strong visual contrast to the natural landscape within this place include: intensive administrative and recreation use areas, utility corridors, road cuts, and water retention basins. Most recreation, administrative facilities, and paths are located along drainages, ridge tops, or cut into hillsides. The paths through this landscape lead visitors past dramatic canyon and rugged mountain background views.

Hiking, backpacking, equestrian, bicycling, mountain biking, hunting, OHV use, and water-based recreation are the most popular recreation activities occurring within this place and require a support network of trails and roads. The dramatic changes in scenery and vegetation also provide for a viewshed that promotes driving for pleasure (especially along the Old Ridge Route). Recreation is centered at Pyramid Lake, with dispersed and developed recreation opportunities located in close proximity of major travel ways. Pyramid Lake offers year-round access to water-based recreation and also creates a downstream area for catch and release fishing. OHV opportunities exist within the Back Country Discovery Trail and a portal to the Hungry Valley State OHV Area. The demand for low elevation recreation along riparian areas, especially Frenchman's Flat, is reaching or exceeding capacity. Riparian areas are overused and under supported in terms of infrastructure (i.e., sanitation and trash facilities). Recreation and non-recreation special use authorizations are affecting significant heritage resource sites.

Adjacent developments are creating their own social trails on National Forest System land (mainly illegal OHV trails). The place is continually having problems due to trash, car dumping, graffiti, illegal OHV use, and partying, with enforcement capability minimum due to inadequate law enforcement coverage, especially at night.

The I-5 Place is a major utility corridor for electricity, fiber optics, natural gas, and crude oil. Many of the utility service infrastructures that support the greater Los Angeles urban area are present within the place, and have been constructed to conform with to the natural integrity of the landscape. This highly engineered infrastructure has resulted in conflicts with other forest resources such as heritage resources, water quality, and endangered species. Past oil and gas development has occurred in or near this place, and there maybe the potential for future oil and gas exploration and development.

Existing Wilderness:

- Sespe 934 acres

Desired Condition: The I-5 Corridor Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a scenic transportation gateway for visitors to southern California and corridor for utilities and water. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are dramatic natural appearing canyon and rugged mountain views from the interstate, the presence of coast live oaks along shaded slopes and canyons, and a well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is expected to focus on an urban and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, sympathetic to the natural setting and integrity, and mitigates effects to species of management concern and their habitat as well as heritage resources. Heritage resources will be protected through the development of management plans designed to reduce the effect of impacting uses and authorizations. Community protection needs will be recognized as a growing emphasis due to the increasing development along the forest border. Forest health in terms of water quality and water needs will be managed to provide for forest ecosystem needs and in-stream flows necessary to support surface and subsurface resources. Carrying capacity levels for Pyramid Lake and Frenchman Flat will be developed and the backcountry route to the Los Padres National Forest will be completed.

Liebre-Sawmill

Theme: The Liebre-Sawmill Place functions year-round as a low elevation open space for Los Angeles and Antelope Valley residents. It portrays a sense of remoteness due to its steepness and minimal use. Major drainages that flow into the Antelope Valley are focal points for water-based recreation and link the Mojave Desert to the Liebre Mountains. This desert interface landscape includes portals from the Antelope Valley to the Angeles

National Forest as well as the northern entry point for the Pacific Crest Trail into southern California.



Setting: The Liebre-Sawmill Place rises up from the Mojave Desert at elevations from approximately 3,500 feet up to 5,500 feet, reflecting a transition from the desert floor to the forest. This area is generally accessed from major entries along State Highway 138 and County Road N2. The paths through this landscape lead visitors to dramatic desert panoramas and rugged fault-zone background views. A botanical special interest area for black oak is proposed within this area.

The San Andreas Fault Zone defines the lower elevation edge. The higher elevation edge is marked by a series of peaks and ridges. Northern aspects include steep to very steep slopes with sharp to rounded summits and narrow canyons. The action of the San Andreas Fault greatly affects this landscape (including the presence of historic sag ponds such as Lake Hughes and Elizabeth Lake). Canyons have steep rocky sides and are littered with large boulders. Year-round water is available only in the largest creeks.

The climatic influence of the Mojave Desert affects vegetation types and water availability in the Liebre-Sawmill Place. The predominate plant community at lower elevations is mixed sage. Pine and juniper are present at higher elevations. Sycamore and Cottonwood are present in drainages and shaded canyons. The area marks a transition from desert floor to forest, characteristically defined by rolling oak-covered hilltops. Mistletoe infestations are present on a large scale, especially in the Black Oaks within the proposed special interest area. Degradation of air quality is effecting forest health by stressing vegetation, resulting in lower water quality and productivity.

Conditions to protect property and resources from fire along the forest boundary are inconsistent, and private landowners look to the Forest Service to provide community defense zones. Fuel treatments have been limited in the past. This area has not been subjected to wildfire on a large scale for some time resulting in a buildup of hazardous fuels. Most of the existing areas are in the range of historic fire occurrence.

The Liebre-Sawmill Place includes important habitat features for the California spotted owl, which occupies a majority of the north-slope drainages. A wide array of rare and sensitive plants occupy this place. The Liebre-Sawmill Place may also offer a habitat linkage between the Liebre and Tehachapi Mountains. Threats to wildlife and habitat include recreation activities and wildfire.

The cultural landscape of the Liebre-Sawmill Place ranges between semi-primitive and a modified natural appearance. Heritage resources reflect a span of human use in the area from Native American inhabitation to early Forest Service and Civilian Conservation Core activities. Human influence is most apparent in the developed and dispersed recreation facilities and paths leaving the majority of the landscape subject to ecological change. Developed recreation is limited, focusing mainly on water-based recreation (boating, fishing, picnicking) at the Elizabeth Lake Day Use Facility. Dispersed Recreation is the emphasis within the place. Hiking, backpacking, equestrian, bicycling, mountain biking, hunting, and OHV use are the predominate activities.

Recreation uses and water extraction authorizations constitute the majority of the special uses for the area. Other human influences exist with the place and can create strong visual contrasts within the landscape including, road cuts, utility corridors and intensively used areas. Most facilities and trails are located along drainages, on flats or cut into hillsides. A recreation residence tract is present that is oriented to the lake.

Most of the residents adjacent to the forest rely on water generated from the forest to meet or supplement their needs. Surface ground water supply in many locations is overextended, causing stress on riparian and aquatic ecosystems. Watercourses carry pollutants, including bacteria, which affect the human environment.

Encroachment across forest boundaries has increased due to urban development adjacent to the place. Boundary trespass is particularly occurring along northeastern edge of the place. Forest boundary lines are not consistently marked which affects the ability to address encroachments and unauthorized activities. Residents in developments and ranches adjacent to the forest are creating their own social trails on National Forest land, and this unauthorized use is resulting in resource damage and degradation. The area within this place also provides a variety of small forest products such as, pinecones, fuel wood, and traditional plants.

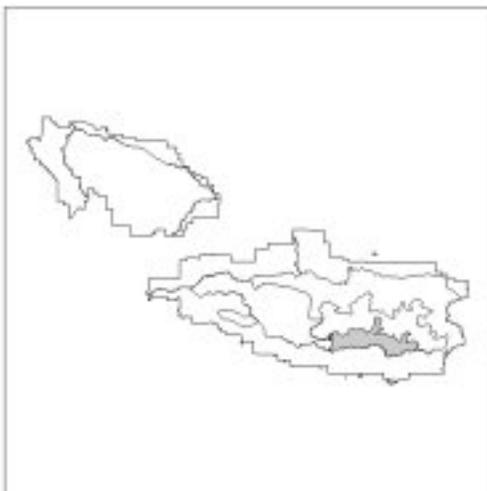
There are no special designations.

Desired Condition: The Liebre-Sawmill Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as year-round open space for Los Angeles and Antelope Valley residents. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the dramatic desert panoramas and rugged fault-zone background views, the marked transition of plant communities from desert to mixed sage, black oak, pine and juniper at higher elevations, visitor access to free-flowing water in drainages, and the undeveloped appearance of the landscape showing little visible human influence on the natural setting.

Program Emphasis: The management emphases is expected to focus on forest health, particularly on oak mortality and spotted owl habitat protection. It will also focus on those activities that maintain and promote the sense of remoteness and minimal use. Use by recreationists, as well as limited urban and forest infrastructure, will be that which is sustainable, sympathetic to the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concerns and their habitat. Forest health in terms of water quality and water needs will be managed to provide for forest ecosystem needs and in-stream flows. Priority will be given to managing an accurate and marked boundary line to minimize encroachment and unauthorized uses. Intensive management of the "Back Country Discovery Trail" will be implemented.

San Gabriel Canyon

Theme: The San Gabriel Canyon Place serves as year-round day-use recreation landscape for families seeking a gathering spot, as well as for those interested in motorized recreation opportunities, in a river-based woodland setting. This major river system flows through the Los Angeles Basin and links the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. This river system landscape provides residents of the Los Angeles Basin a link to a natural environment.



Setting: The area of San Gabriel Canyon Place is generally defined as north of San Gabriel Reservoir, east of Cogswell Reservoir, west of Heaton Flat and south of Smith Mountain.

It includes the San Gabriel OHV area. These higher and cooler parts of the San Gabriel River canyon range in elevation from about 2,500 up to 5,000 feet. The main canyon runs north to south. The forks of the San Gabriel River run east to west. Steep to very steep slopes with sharp to rounded summits and narrow canyons are the

dominant landforms of this landscape.

The higher reaches of slopes are barren and show evidence of fractured rock and landslides, whose deposits form terraces along the north fork. Canyons have steep rocky sides and are littered with large boulders. The San Gabriel Fault runs east-west through the canyon bottom. It is a portion of the largest producing watershed on the forest, that of the San Gabriel River. The river itself constitutes a major portion of this place in terms of human use and visual associations.

The riparian woodlands of the San Gabriel Canyon provide contrast to the contiguous mixed chaparral of the larger landscape. These riparian woodlands consist of dense stands of sycamore, white alder, and willow. Upland vegetation is seen as tight clumps and scattered groups of Canyon and Coast live oaks. One of the largest contiguous stands of Big Cone Doug Fir and Canyon Oaks exist in the West Fork portion of this area. Areas of closed canopies are valued as shady nodes along the river course. Fall colors are also evident in this Area. The degradation of air quality is impacting forest health by stressing vegetation and resulting in lower water quality and productivity. Noxious weed infestations are also present within this place.

There is a high potential for flooding in the Canyon, especially following fire (much of the canyon is characterized by a frequent fire regime and high reoccurrence).

A rich diversity of plant and animal species are present within the San Gabriel Canyon Place. Of significant importance is the federally threatened Santa Ana Sucker. Riparian areas within the East, West, and North Forks of the San Gabriel River provide important habitat linkages between adjacent places, and sensitive resource areas for wildlife. The West Fork of the San Gabriel is one of two streams on the forest being managed as a wild trout area. Potential threats to riparian dependent species and other sensitive habitat include recreation, wildfire, flood control, and water conservation activities.

The cultural landscape of the San Gabriel Canyon is generally urban and modified to natural appearing. Human influence is most apparent in developed and dispersed recreation areas and paths along the river leaving the larger landscape to ecological change. Human impacts that create strong visual contrast in this landscape include: intensive use areas, graffiti, litter, utility corridors, reservoirs and dams, borrow sites, sediment placement sites, water retention basins and road cuts. Most areas and paths are located along the canyon bottom, on flats or cut into hillsides. Public access is limited in general and not designed to accommodate the high levels of use. This area is generally accessed from State Highway 39. The paths through this landscape lead visitors to dramatic canyon scenery and shady areas along the river. Opportunities exist to better define the built image and create stronger links to adjacent landscape-units.

Due to the accessibility to the water, concentrated public use exists, mostly in the form family-based activities, or with cultures associated with recent immigration to this country. A developed OHV Open Area is located within the flood plain of the San Gabriel River. Recreation uses are varied but mostly oriented to water. Many people enjoy the area, and that enjoyment leads to chronic overuse. Recreation uses are conflicting with other resource values such as TEPCS. Infrastructure supporting developed recreation is aging, and does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act or the Built Environment Image Guide. The focus of recreation along low elevation riparian areas is reaching or exceeds capacity. Majority of the recreation facilities support riparian or other dispersed area recreation. Opportunities for environmental education are not developed to meet public and agency needs.

Private lands within the place promote a level of public use and recreation (i.e., gold panning) that is often in conflict with surrounding public lands. Also there exist activities that are not authorized.

The place is intensively used, resulting in user conflicts (e.g. among, hikers, bikers, equestrian users), nonpermitted OHV use, or other deprecative uses (party place). The intensive use is resulting in soil compaction, loss of vegetation, and erosion near the river. OHV use may be affecting the water quality through the introduction of hazardous material into the water courses. The extraction of water as well as the use of dams is affecting the riparian-dependent species. Chronic problems, such as trash, car dumping, graffiti, unauthorized OHV use, and maintaining closures exist in the place, and there is inadequate law enforcement coverage.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- San Gabriel River (East, North, and West Forks) 7.3, 4.2 and 7.4 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- San Gabriel Wilderness 4,182 acres
- Sheep Mountain Wilderness 147 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Sheep Mountain Addition 5,358 acres

Desired Condition: The San Gabriel Canyon Place is maintained largely as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a location for day-use, family-oriented recreation. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the presence of large sycamores and alders along the riparian zone, visitor access to free-flowing water, the presence of oaks, and a well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: The management emphases is expected to focus on extremely high use by recreationists, and urban and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, sympathetic to the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concern and their habitat. A carrying capacity assessment will be developed and implemented. Intensive management will be implemented to protect threatened and endangered species, water supply, and water quality issues as they relate to the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) impaired waterway mandate (TMDL). Forest health in terms of water quality and water needs will be managed to provide for forest ecosystem needs and in-stream flows necessary to support surface and subsurface resources while recognizing the needs for domestic water supply. Manage for probable "critical habitat" designation for Santa Ana sucker and implement management plan.

Santa Clara Canyons

Theme: The Santa Clara Canyons Place function year round as a low elevation backcountry open space for the greater Los Angeles area and the Antelope Valley. Major drainages that flow into the Santa Clara River are focal points for water-based recreation. The Santa Clara River links the forest to the Pacific Ocean. This canyon landscape offers visitors access to remote and semi-primitive experiences.



Setting: The Santa Clara Canyons rise up from the Santa Clara River Basin at elevations starting at about 1,200 feet and reaching up to 5,000 feet. This area is generally accessed from major portals along the Interstate 5, Interstate 14, and State Highway 138 travel corridors. A proposed special interest area focusing on a botanical theme (large tracts of Black Oaks) reflects the character of this area. The paths through this landscape lead visitors to dramatic canyon panoramas and rugged mountain background views.

The southern aspect includes steep to very steep ridges with sharp to rounded summits, and deep narrow canyons. The lower elevation edge is marked by the urban interface with the community of Santa Clarita. The higher elevation edge is marked by a series of peaks and ridges. The steeper reaches of slopes are barren and show evidence of erosion. Canyons have steep rocky sides with large boulders. There are major north-south trending drainages such as San Francisquito, Bouquet Canyon, Elizabeth Lake, and Castaic. Two human-made lakes exist on the borders of this area (Bouquet Reservoir and Castaic Lake).

The mostly hot to temperate climate affects vegetation types and water availability in the Santa Clara Canyons. Mixed chaparral is the most dominant plant community. Canyon and Coast live oaks are present in dense woodlands along shaded slopes and canyons. Black Oaks occur in dense patches at the higher elevations. Deciduous trees and shrubs occupy riparian areas. Year-round water is present only in the largest creeks and rivers. Mistletoe infestations are present on a large scale, especially in the Black Oaks present within the proposed special interest area. Degradation of air quality is affecting forest health by stressing the vegetation and resulting in lower water quality and productivity. Noxious weed infestations also occur within this place.

Conditions designed to promote the protection of improvements from fire are inconsistent along the urban interface of this place, and private landowners look to the Forest Service to create community defense zones. Fuel treatments have been limited in the past. Recently, large wildfires have occurred where there has been a buildup of fuels. Most of the existing areas are included in the historic fire occurrence; however, some areas have been identified as having excessive fire reoccurrence.

Several federally listed and Forest Service sensitive plants and animals occur in this place. One of three populations of the California red-legged frog known to occur in southern California exists here. The place also contains habitat for the unarmored three-spine stickleback, Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher, numerous other riparian dependent species, and the California condor. Water releases from reservoirs are important for the long-term viability of the stickleback, and the maintenance of riparian systems within major creeks. Some activities are affecting riparian dependent species including dispersed recreation, wildfire, and the spill of hazardous materials into waterways.

Heritage resources reflecting the span of human use of the forest are present in the place. This place has one of the highest density and variety of heritage resource sites in the forest, and the sites are affected by the increasing use of the place by people.

The cultural landscape of the Santa Clara Canyons generally range between semi-primitive to a modified natural appearance. Human influence is most apparent in the developed and dispersed recreation facilities and paths, leaving the majority of the landscape subject only to ecological change. Developed recreation sites are limited, focusing mainly on backcountry camping and day-use facilities along the canyon bottoms. Dispersed Recreation is the emphasis including hiking, backpacking, equestrian, bicycling, mountain biking, hunting, and OHV. OHV opportunities exist in designated areas as well as on an extensive trail network. Other activities such as hunting and fishing occur. Water recreation is also present at Bouquet Canyon Creek but there is a lack of sanitation and trash facilities along the streamside and chronic overuse is occurring. The condition of the trails varies, and infrastructure is aging, and does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act or the Built Environment Image Guide (BEIG) requirements, nor the needs and desires of the users. The magnitude of recreation use in the place has resulted in conflicts on the forest system roads and trails, and effects on other resources.

A variety of special use authorizations exist in this place that range from electronic sites to recreation residence tracts to shooting areas. This area of the forest also has many existing activities that are not authorized. Problems related to human use exist in the Santa Clara Canyons including, trash disposal, car dumping, graffiti, illegal OHV use, partying, gang activities, illegal fires, illegal parking, and maintaining closures. There is inadequate law enforcement coverage, especially at night.

The place supports multiple uses that are valuable to the public. Historic mining has occurred in this place. Mining operations are active in the place, and stone quarries are present. Many of the utility service infrastructures that support the greater Los Angeles urban area (including the Los Angeles Aqueduct) are present within the landscape. Several county roads serve as major high-speed commuter route from inland valleys and desert, and the use exceeds infrastructure design criteria and creates potential unsafe conflicts. Past oil and gas development also has occurred in or near this place, and there may be the potential for future oil and gas exploration and development.

Urbanization is resulting in an increase of housing adjacent to forest boundaries and is affecting forest land. Adjacent developments are creating their own social trails on National Forest land (including uncontrolled OHV use) and this unauthorized use is resulting in resource damage degradation. The urban development in the south is creating issues of community defense as well as encroachment and unauthorized activities. There are multiple access points to go through the area.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

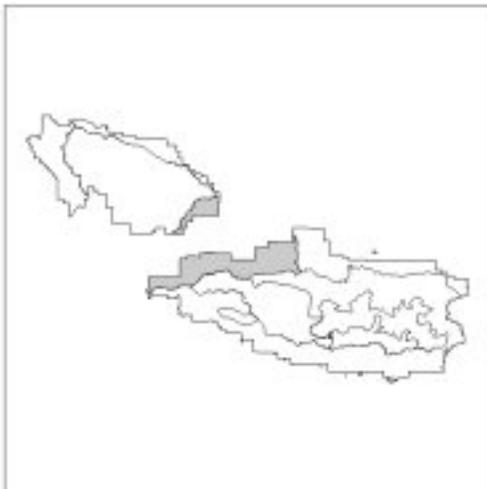
- San Francisquito Canyon, 13 miles

Desired Condition: The Santa Clara Canyons Place is maintained as a natural appearing and pastoral landscape that functions as a remote backcountry open space. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the dramatic canyon panoramas and rugged mountain background views, oak woodlands, a well-defined age-class mosaic in chaparral, the pastoral qualities of grazing activities, which is important to the interpretation to the examples of important Native American history and historic mining.

Program Emphasis: The management emphasis is expected to focus on community protection, recreation use, and urban and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, sympathetic to the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concern and their habitat. Forest health in terms of water quality and quantity will be managed to provide for forest ecosystem needs and in-stream flows necessary to support surface and subsurface resources. An unclassified roads/trails decommissioning plan will be developed and implemented. Red-legged frog habitat will be protected. Invasive weeds are expected to be eliminated on forest land, particularly in San Francisquito Canyon.

Soledad Front Country

Theme: The Soledad Front Country Place functions as a scenic backdrop and transitional landscape between the rapidly urbanizing Mojave Desert and Los Angeles Basin. The flow of people and materials through this transitional landscape link the greater Los Angeles area to the Mojave Desert. The growing communities along Interstate 14 are transforming this area from rural to urban in character. Residents of these new communities have the scenic views of the San Gabriel Mountains from their homes and travel corridors.



Setting: The Soledad Front Country Place runs northeast to southwest along both sides of Highway 14 along the Santa Clara and Soledad Rivers. This landscape is commonly defined as the area between Interstate 5 at the southern end and the intersection of State Highway 138 at the northern end. The northwest and southeast boundaries are, in general, defined by the area visible from Highway 14. There is a special interest area proposed that highlights the heritage resource values of the area.

Elevations in the area range from about 2,100 feet to 3,000 feet. The broad floodplain of the Soledad River, with its various side drainages, dominates this landscape. The broad floodplain, which leads to steep slopes with rounded summits, is the most prevalent landform in this place.

The mostly hot to sometimes temperate, climate affects vegetation types and water availability. The predominate plant community at the lower elevations is mixed chaparral. Pine and juniper are present at higher elevations. Chaparral is continuous on most slopes. The chaparral is seen as patterns of dense patches with large openings. Canyon and Coast live oaks are present in dense woodlands along shaded slopes and in the canyons. All but the larger streams are dry through the summer. Several canyons, including Elsmere and Whitney, still exhibit pristine characteristics. However, human influences on the viewshed include the altered vegetation composition resulting from an increase in fire starts. Degradation of air quality is affecting forest health by stressing vegetation, resulting in lower water quality and productivity.

Most of the vegetative communities within the area are in the expected fire regime; however, there are areas that have a history of excessive fire occurrence. Safe conditions along the urban interface within this place are inconsistent, and private landowners look to the Forest Service to create community defense zones. Fuel treatments have been limited in the past, and the focus of fire management is on property protection, concentrating on age class mosaics and fuel breaks to reduce downstream flooding. The flood-fire sequence poses a problem to downstream housing developments. Wildfires have resulted in high property and resources loss, and the numerous fire starts are moving vegetative communities towards type conversions.

A rich diversity of plant and animal species are present within Soledad Front Country.

Soledad Canyon includes habitat for the unarmored threespine stickleback, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher and numerous other riparian dependent species.

Potentially important habitat linkages between the forest and urban interface occur within this place. Potential threats to sensitive habitat areas include developed and dispersed recreation, mining, wildfire and groundwater extraction.

The cultural landscape of the Soledad Front Country is rapidly converting from rural to urban due to the development of housing tracts along the forest boundary. Human influences, such as, urban development, intensive use areas, transportation corridors, utility corridors, sand and gravel mining, road cuts and flood control channels, are creating strong visual contrasts and user conflicts within this place. Most facilities and trails are located along drainages, ridge tops or cut into hillsides. Urban development is affecting access to trails and forest roads, and residents of adjacent developments are creating social trails on National Forest land. Encroachment has increased due to urbanization resulting in problems of trespass, fire, and resource damage.

Trailheads and travel routes offer visitors year-round access to the Angeles National Forest. The trails through the place lead visitors by dramatic canyon and rugged mountain views. The area has a rich history and is known for a high occurrence of heritage resource sites. Recreation opportunities such as hiking the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and managed OHV areas occur in within this place. Recreation use is conflicting with other resources, and facilities are aging and do not meet Americans with Disabilities Act or the Built Environment Image Guide (BEIG). Environmental education venues, including the Placerita Nature Center, are present in the area but there is no unifying, overview or integrated focus.

This area accommodates other human uses and needs such as, providing the backdrop for movies and television shows, mining activities, electric utility and distribution lines, and water extraction. However, the supply of both ground and surface water does not adequately provide for forest ecosystem health and other demands. A variety of special use authorizations exist in this place that range from electronic sites to shooting areas. Past oil and gas development also has occurred in or near this place, and there may be the potential for future oil and gas exploration and development.

The place has many existing activities that are not authorized. Problems in the canyons associated with human use, such as trash and car dumping, partying, graffiti, illegal OHV use, and closure maintenance, are persistent. Law enforcement coverage is inadequate, especially at night.

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

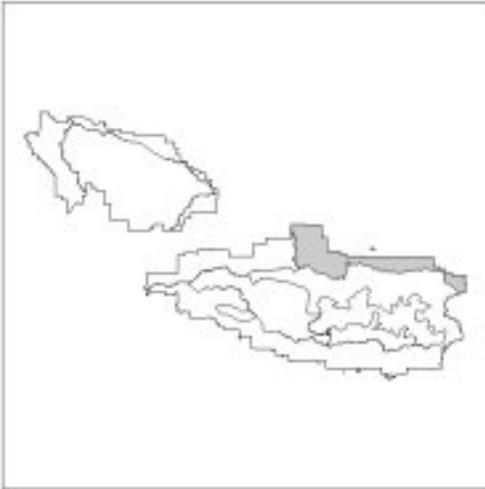
- Aliso-Arrastre - Middle 6,639 acres

Desired Condition: The Soledad Front Country Place is maintained as a natural appearing area that functions as a scenic backdrop and transitional landscape. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the dramatic canyon and rugged mountain views, the presence of pine and juniper stands, and a well-defined age-class mosaic with patches in chaparral.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is expected to focus on the protection of communities from the threat of fire, the management of high levels of recreation use, and the maintenance of urban and forest infrastructure (facilities). The success of this emphasis is dependant on a sustainable level of development and the delicate balance between the needs of people and the effects of those uses on the plant and animal communities in the forest. Uses must be balanced to promote the conservation of valuable natural resources and to sustain the needs of people.

Mojave Front Country

Theme: The Mojave Front Country Place functions year-round as a low elevation open space for Mojave Basin residents, as well as the metropolitan residents of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. It serves as the backdrop for the Antelope Valley, while providing breathtaking distinct desert views from within the place. This desert interface landscape provides portals from the Mojave Basin to the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.



Setting: The Mojave Front Country Place rises up from the Mojave Desert with elevations from about 3,000 feet up to 6,000 feet. The lower elevation edge is delineated by the interface with the Mojave Desert. The higher elevation edge is marked by a series of peaks and ridges and provides winter snow play opportunities. The northern aspect's steep to very steep slopes with sharp to rounded summits and narrow canyons are the dominant landforms of this landscape.

The steeper reaches of slopes are barren and show evidence of fractured rock and landslides. Canyons have steep rocky sides that are covered with large boulders. The area is influenced by the San Andreas Fault zone, along with other faults, that result in unique geologic formations such as those seen at Mormon Rocks and Devil's Punchbowl Special Interest Area. The presence of faulting has resulted in the movement and exposure of mineral resources that influences human activity, i.e., limestone mining, and clay extraction.

The rain-shadow from the San Gabriel Mountains affects vegetation types and water availability in the Mojave Front Country Place. It is a transition zone from high desert to forest. Desert scrub and pines are the most dominate plant communities. In higher elevations, pines are present as scattered individuals or tight clumps. Pinyon and Joshua trees are present at the lowest elevations. Sycamore and Cottonwood are present in drainages and shaded canyons. Scattered large drainages provide limited perennial water play and fishing areas along this front.

The Mojave Front Country Place includes habitat for the arroyo toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, least Bell's vireo, the southwestern willow flycatcher, desert tortoise and several Forest Service Sensitive plants and animals. Potentially important habitat linkages occur between the forest and adjacent private land. Potential threats to riparian dependent species and other sensitive habitat areas include developed and dispersed recreation, and wildfire.

The supply (ground and surface water) does not meet the need for forest ecosystem health and other demands. Surface ground water supply in many locations is overextended, causing stress on riparian and aquatic ecosystems. Watercourses carry pollutants, including bacteria, which affect the human environment. Abandoned mines are posing a safety hazard, and are a visual impact to the character of the area.

The cultural landscape of the Mojave Front Country is generally undeveloped. Some of the oldest and most varied heritage resource sites for the forests exist within the place. This area is quickly changing from a rural undeveloped landscape to an urbanized setting along the forest boundary. Housing increases along the boundary are affecting access to forest land. Human influence is most apparent in developed and dispersed recreation

facilities and on trails, leaving the majority of the landscape subject to ecological change. Human impacts that create strong visual contrast within this landscape include road cuts, utility corridors, and intensive recreational use areas. Most facilities and trails are located along drainages, on flats, or are cut into hillsides. This area is generally accessed from portals along State Highway 2, 14 and 138, and Big Pines Highway. The limited paths through this nearly inaccessible landscape lead visitors to dramatic desert panoramas and rugged mountain background views.

Hiking, backpacking, equestrian, bicycling, mountain biking, hunting, OHV use, and water-based recreation are the most popular recreation activities occurring within this place and require a support network of trails and roads, and developed facilities. The dramatic changes in scenery and vegetation also create a viewshed that promotes driving for pleasure. Recreation is centered along Little Rock and Big Rock Creeks, in close proximity to major travel ways. OHV opportunities exist within the Back Country Discovery Trail and the Little Rock OHV Area. The demand for low elevation recreation along riparian areas is reaching or exceeding capacity. Riparian areas are overused and under supported in terms of infrastructure (i.e., sanitation and trash facilities). Conflicts exist between recreationists and TEPCS species.

The presence of urban development along the forest boundary in this place is not consistent with the buildup concentrated in the northwest and northeast sections of this place. This presents a challenge to the local governments and the forest, to have a consistent management strategy along the forest boundary, and places greater emphasis on the forest to provide fire protection and habitat linkages in those areas of intense buildup along the boundary. Encroachment has increased due to the urban development resulting in access and trespass issues.

Adjacent developments are creating their own social trails on National Forest land, primarily caused by an increase in unlawful off-road vehicle use. The place is continually having problems due to trash, car dumping, graffiti, illegal OHV use, and partying, with enforcement capability at a minimum due to inadequate law enforcement coverage.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Little Rock Creek 10.9 miles

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- Devils Punchbowl 1,166 acres

Desired Condition: The Mojave Front Country Place is maintained as a natural appearing and cultural landscape that functions as a year-round, low elevation open space for Mojave Basin residents and the residents of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. It also serves as a scenic backdrop for the Antelope Valley. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are distinct desert views from within the place and rugged mountain background views, desert scrub, scattered Pinyon pines, Joshua trees, Sycamore, and cottonwood in drainages and shaded canyons, as well as the remnants of Native-American history.

Program Emphasis: Management is expected to focus on community protection, recreation use, and urban and forest infrastructure that is sustainable, consistent with the natural setting and integrity, and has minimal effects to species of management concern and their habitat. Forest health in terms of water quality and quantity will be managed to provide for forest ecosystem needs and the instream flow necessary to support surface and subsurface resources. Uses will be balanced and promote the conservation of resource qualities that sustain these uses and provide attractions for this area. Arroyo toad surveys will be completed and occupied habitat protected. Urban and forest infrastructure will be sustainable. In the Little Rock area the current Monitoring and Use Assessment Plan will be evaluated and redesigned.

Forest-specific Design Criteria

Place-specific Standards

ANF S1 - Pacific Crest Trail - Protect scenic values in accordance with adopted scenic integrity objectives. Protect foreground views from the footpath as well as designated viewpoints. Where practicable, avoid establishing unbecoming land uses within the viewshed of the trail.

Wilderness Standards

ANF S2 - Open campfires and glass containers are not allowed within any wilderness. Visitors must use gas, jellied petroleum, pressurized liquid fuel or other portable camp stoves that are completely enclosed.

ANF S3 - Emphasize minimum impact suppression tactics in all wilderness wildland fire responses. See Part 3, Appendix D.

ANF S4- The maximum visitor group size is 25 people. Exceptions may be approved by the authorized officer.

Forestwide Guidance

Functional management plans (both existing and anticipated) that provide more specific direction are listed below:

- Wilderness Plans and Implementation Schedules
- Wild and Scenic River Management Plans
- Forest Fire Management Plans
- Special Interest Area Plans
- Research Natural Area Establishment Reports and Implementation Plans
- Scenic Byway Plans
- Management Plan for the San Dimas Experimental Forest.

Performance Risks

The forest operates in a dynamic environment, characterized by uncertainties in both internal and external operating conditions, due to fluctuations in the natural environment and the institutional environment. If events unfold in a manner that was not anticipated when this prospectus was prepared, attainment of the objectives shown above will be affected.

Risks Related to the Natural Environment

Fires, insect or disease outbreaks, and other disturbances are likely to occur, and could significantly alter current conditions.

The forest has experienced large wildfires in the last 10 years. Where and when future fires will burn is an inexact science. If future wildfire disturbance events exceed historical averages, or are concentrated in areas that are particularly vulnerable (urban interface, riparian areas, or special habitats), then the extent, location, and timing of management activities could all be affected.

Risks Related to the Institutional Environment

The forest budget could differ from projections.

The trends in accomplishment of objectives shown above are dependent on the forest receiving an operating budget that is similar to its experienced budget over the last three years. Fluctuations in the budget, either upward or downward, would likely cause a change in the direction and/or magnitude of projected accomplishments. In addition, changes in the mix of funds between program areas also have the potential to affect the rate or magnitude of performance.

National or Regional strategic initiatives may emerge in response to broad-scale issues.

This land management plan is linked to the agency's National Strategic Plan (see Part 1: Southern California National Forests Vision) that is updated every three to five years. Historically, both Congress and the Executive Branch have also instituted program initiatives outside of the forest planning process that affect much or all of the

National Forest system (e.g., the roadless rule, the National Fire Plan, and the National Energy Policy). Such changes in national direction have the potential to add to, override, or otherwise adjust the performance objectives of the forest.

Tables Appendix

Table-2.1.1-Suitable Uses Resource Management, ANF

Resource Management:	Land use Zone						
	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W	EF
	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness	Experimental Forest
Fuelwood Harvesting	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	Not Suitable	None
Rangeland Type Conversion for Forage production	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Restoration of Vegetation Condition	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	For Research
Disposal of National Forest System lands	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Table-2.1.2-Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, ANF

Public Values and Uses:	Land Use Zone						
	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W	EF
	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness	Experimental Forest
Recreation Residence Tracts (see map)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Designated Areas
Developed Winter Sports Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Hunting (including dog training) and Fishing	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)	Regulated by the State (CDF&G)
Target Shooting Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Motorized Use on Roads	Forest System Roads	Forest System Roads	Forest System Roads	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Forest System Roads
Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Forest System Roads	Designated Roads	Designated Roads	Designated Roads	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Motorized use off Forest System Roads (36CFR295) and (36CFR261.51)	Designated Motorized Trails and Open Areas	Designated Motorized Trails and Open Areas	Designated Motorized Trails and Open Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Mountain Bikes	Designated Roads and Trails	Designated Roads and Trails	Designated Roads and Trails	Designated Roads and Trails	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Dispersed Area Camping (vehicle access permitted to designated campsites)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Dispersed Area Camping (foot access)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable

Table-2.1.3-Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, ANF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W	EF
Commodity and Commercial Uses::	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness	Experimental Forest
Special Uses: Low Intensity Land Use	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	For Research	Not Suitable	For Research
Communication Sites	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Livestock Grazing	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Designated Areas	Not Suitable
Major Transportation Corridors (36 CFR 219.27 (a) (9))	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Road construction or	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	When Justified
Major Utility Corridors (36 CFR 219.27 (a) (9))	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Developed Facilities	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	For Research
Oil and Gas Exploration Areas	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Fuelwood Harvesting	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	Not Suitable	None

Table-2.1.4-Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, ANF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W	EF
Fire and Aviation Management:	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness	Experimental Forest
Community Protection Areas	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified	Suitable
Fuelbreak Construction including type conversion	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	Not Suitable	When Justified	For Research

Table-2.1.5-Resource Management Performance Indicators, ANF

Performance Indicators for Resource Management	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Acres of Terrestrial Habitat Enhanced	464	620
Miles of Aquatic Habitat Enhanced	31	50
Acres of Noxious Weeds Treated	13	50
Acres of Vegetation Improved (also see Hazardous Fuels Reduction)	562	1,000
Acres of Watershed Improved	172	375
Acres of Land Ownership Adjusted	45	300
Number of Heritage Resources Managed to Standard	75	130

Table-2.1.6-Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, ANF

Performance Indicators for Public Use and Enjoyment	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Products Provided to Standard (Interpretation and Education)	490	659
Recreation Special Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	504	715
PAOT Days Managed to Standard (Developed Sites)	222	1,295
Recreation Days Managed to Standard (General Forest Areas)	445	2,205

Table-2.1.7-Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, ANF

Performance Indicators for Facility Operations and Maintenance	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Miles of Passenger Car Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	9	72
Miles of High Clearance & Back Country Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	154	400
Miles of Road Decommissioned	3	10
Miles of Trail Operated and Maintained to Standard	78	360

Table-2.1.8-Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, ANF

Performance Indicators for Commodity and Commercial Uses	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Land Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	225	780
Number of Mineral Operations Administered	50	100
Manage Grazing Allotments	200	200

Table-2.1.9-Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, ANF

Performance Indicator for Aviation and Fire Management	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Acres of Hazardous Fuel Reduction	927	10,050

Appendices

Appendix A - Special Designation Overlays - Angeles National Forest

Wilderness

Existing Wilderness

Cucamonga

8,581 Acres

Located on the eastern flank of the San Gabriel Mountains near Cajon Pass, this area is adjacent to some of the most densely populated areas of southern California. It is jointly managed by the San Bernardino National Forest and may be accessed by Forest Roads 2N58 and 1N34.

Elevations in the Cucamonga Wilderness range from 4,920 to 9,008 feet (Telegraph Peak rises to 8,985 feet). Movement of the nearby San Andreas Fault has left landslides as visual reminders on the landscape. Vegetation at the lower elevations is predominantly chaparral, with conifer stands blanketing the high country. The area is characterized by extremely rough and precipitous terrain. The headwaters of Lytle, Cucamonga, Deep and Day creeks lie immediately south of the wilderness boundary. A herd of bighorn sheep inhabits the area. There are three dispersed campsites within the wilderness (two on the San Bernardino NF side, one on the Angeles NF side), and human use of the area is heavy. (Tilton)

Places: The Front Country, Angeles High Country

San Gabriel Wilderness

36,118 Acres

This wilderness is located in the San Gabriel River Ranger District. The boundaries of the San Gabriel Wilderness are the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway (State Highway 2) on the west, the San Gabriel Mountains summit and the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway on the north, State Highway 39 on the east, and the West Fork of the San Gabriel River on the south. Access is from: Bear Creek Trail, an eleven-mile trail, with trailheads near Rincon and Coldbrook Ranger Stations, both off Highway 39; the Mt. Waterman Trail, a ten mile trail, from Three Points to Buckhorn, with a one mile side trail to Twin Peaks Saddle; or Devil's Canyon Trail, a four mile trail down into Devil's Canyon.

The area encompasses some extremely rugged terrain, including steep, fractured slopes. Elevations range from 1,600 to 8,200 feet. The predominant vegetative type is chaparral, which covers about 75% of the wilderness in the lower elevations. Dense chaparral rapidly changes to pine and fir-covered slopes and majestic peaks, with glimpses of wildflowers and a variety of wildlife as you enter the upper elevations. The remainder of the vegetation is woodland, grasslands and mixed conifers. Wildfires are a threat to the area, especially during periods of hot, dry Santa Ana Winds.

In 2000 the entire wilderness on the Angeles had 100,000 visits, which accounted for less than 3% of total forest use. The riparian woodlands located in canyon bottoms receive the most use. Much of the use is concentrated on the few trails within the wilderness, causing some overuse and congestion. Popular recreation activities that occur in this area include hiking, fishing, waterplay and picnicking.

As one of the original wilderness areas nationally designated in 1964, the San Gabriel Wilderness is in a Class 1 air shed. There is no grazing within the wilderness.

Places: San Gabriel Canyon, Angeles Uplands East, Angeles High Country

Sheep Mountain Wilderness

39,482 Acres

In 1984, the Sheep Mountain Wilderness was set-aside as one of the Nation's truly unique wild areas. The Sheep Mountain Wilderness is located in the San Gabriel River Ranger District; however, an additional 400 acres of this wilderness lies on the adjacent San Bernadino National Forest. The wilderness is generally bounded by: Highway 2 (Angeles Crest Scenic Byway) on the north; Highway 39 on the west; the East Fork of the San Gabriel River on the south; and the Mt. Baldy Village Road and Devils Backbone Trail to the east. The area can be accessed from East Fork trailhead, Coldwater Canyon, Highway 2 at Vincent's Gap, and from the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Vegetation, consisting primarily of chaparral, offers high-quality scenery.

The wilderness land is rugged and not easily accessible, but is still highly used by Los Angeles residents. With elevations ranging from 2,400 ft. to over 10,000 ft., this area offers something for everyone. Whether you're a novice hiker, an experienced backpacker, a fisherman, or just interested in the "great outdoors", this rugged terrain provides a variety of opportunities for all. The area known as "Bridge to No Where" is even popular for bungee-jumping.

Mining activities that pre-date 1964 are still present within the area. Concern exists about the stockpiles of tailings next to the wilderness, and the potential raveling of these piles to the canyon bottoms. Special Use Permits provide reasonable access to these private areas and development of mining operations.

Places: Angeles Uplands East, Angeles High Country, San Gabriel Canyon

Recommended Wilderness

Sheep Mountain Addition

The areas proposed are rugged and not easily accessible, but are still highly used by Los Angeles and San Bernardino residents. Elevations range from 2,400 feet to over 10,000 feet, offering a variety of recreational opportunities. The vegetation consists primarily of chaparral at the lower elevations and mixed conifer in the higher elevations.

The proposed addition can provide improved connectivity and expand the wildlife corridor, habitat for three groups of Big Horn sheep: Iron Mountain, Cattle Canyon and Middle Fork.

There is one large in-holding within the inventoried roadless area, the Gold Ridge Mine. A special use permit provides reasonable access to this private land and development of the mining operations.

Places: San Gabriel Canyon, Angeles Uplands East, Angeles High Country, Mojave Front Country

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Eligible

Little Rock Creek

The eligibility study for this river shows that its undisturbed and primitive condition give it local scenic significance. This desert and high country setting attracts visitors for picnicking, waterplay and driving opportunities. A diverse array of wildlife species, including threatened, endangered, and sensitive species are found within this portion of Little Rock Creek, along with prehistoric sites valued by local Native American

tribes. Little Rock Creek and its tributary, Cooper Canyon, are eligible for classification as a Scenic River.

Places: Mojave Front Country, 10.9 miles; Angeles High Country, 7.5 miles

San Antonio Canyon Creek

The eligibility study for this portion of the river recognizes its recreational values, especially its year-round flowing water. Numerous dispersed recreation activities occur along this river, including waterplay, picnicking and barbequeing. The Manker Flats and Glacier developed recreation areas are located near this portion of the river, along with the Ice House Canyon Trail that enters the Cucamonga Wilderness. The 3.7-mile upper portion of the river, which lies outside of privately owned property, is eligible to be classified as a Recreational River.

Places: Angeles Uplands East, 1.4 miles; Angeles High Country, 2.2 miles

San Francisquito Canyon

The entire length of the San Francisquito Canyon flows freely into the Santa Clara River, qualifying it as outstandingly remarkable. The lower segment of the River is considered outstandingly remarkable as a result of the combination of geologic processes and historical values in the corridor. The dam site has become the archetypical example for dam design and engineering. The entire river is eligible for classification as a Recreational River.

Places: Santa Clara Canyons, 13 miles

San Gabriel River (East, North, and West Forks)

East Fork: The eligibility study for this river indicates that the scenic value is considered to be locally and regionally important due to the variety and seasonal variation of landscape elements. The recreational value is considered to be of local, regional and national importance, as the peace and solitude offered by this wilderness environment attract visitors from outside the local and regional areas. The presence and the diversity of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered and sensitive fish and wildlife species characterize the outstandingly remarkable local and regional wildlife features. The entire 8.4-mile segment within the wilderness is eligible as a Wild River; the entire 7.3-mile, free-flowing segment outside of the wilderness, as a Recreational River.

North Fork: This 4.2-mile segment of the San Gabriel River supports very heavy dispersed recreational use, primarily water play, picnicking, and barbecueing. The Oaks developed picnic area, West Fork and North Fork Parking areas, and Rincon OHV area are all within close proximity of the river. Also, State Highway 39 is within 75 yards of the river. This variety of activities is unique locally and regionally because of the attraction of the river's year-round flowing water; therefore, the entire segment is eligible for classification as a Recreational River.

West Fork# Upper Portion: Steep canyons, conifer and riparian woodland forests, and remoteness characterize the locally and regionally significant scenery of this portion of the West Fork. The National Scenic Bikeway Trail, along with year-round flowing water, makes this river fork valuable to recreationists from local areas and around the region. The entire upper segment is eligible as a Scenic River.

West Fork- Lower Portion: Year-round flowing water, which is limited in many areas of southern California, along with a catch and release trout stream, make this Fork attractive to both local and regional recreationists. Both primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities exist along this segment. Its uniqueness can also be attributed to its proximity to the LA Metro region. Occupied and potential habitat for several TEPCS species is found along this stream segment. The existing road that parallels the river is conspicuous; therefore, this Fork is appropriate as a Recreational River.

Places: Angeles Uplands West, 8.6 miles; San Gabriel Canyon, 18.9 miles; Angeles Uplands East, 7.9 miles.

Research Natural Areas

Established

Falls Canyon

Falls Canyon Research Natural Area, 1,440 acres, was established in 1998 to preserve the bigcone Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*) and canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) woodland target elements. Bigcone Douglas-fir grows in relatively dense stands on steep slopes in this RNA, where it has been largely protected from fire. The oldest trees have been determined to be over 350 years old and have survived several historic fires. Falls Canyon is a tributary of the West Fork of the San Gabriel River on the slopes of Mount Wilson. Elevations range from about 3,400 to 5,700 feet within the RNA. Access is from the Mount Wilson road and various trails that border and traverse the area.

Place: Angeles Uplands West

Fern Canyon

Fern Canyon Research Natural Area was established to protect the target elements of chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) chaparral and canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) woodland. A relict stand of low-elevation ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) also occurs in the RNA at Brown's Flat, a shallow 80-acre bowl created by an ancient land slump. The RNA covers 1,400 acres and ranges in elevation from 2,592 to 5,512 feet. Fern Canyon RNA falls entirely within the San Dimas Experimental Forest, which is managed by the Pacific Southwest Research Station and is closed to general public use. Researchers can gain access via special use permit. The entire RNA was affected by the 2002 Williams fire. Burned and partially burned vegetation is expected to recover naturally.

Places: The Front Country

Special Interest Areas

Established

Devils Punchbowl

The Devil's Punchbowl Special Interest Area is located in Los Angeles County (T4N, R9W Sections 19, 20, 29, 30). The 1,255-acre area is managed by both Los Angeles County Parks and the Angeles National Forest.

Prominent biological features include the chaparral to conifer transition between 4,000-6,000 feet and riparian associations along a small, permanent stream.

The area has a geologic theme, emphasizing the area's folds and faults, plate tectonics, and sculpture of the land. Devil's Punchbowl is a unique assemblage of spectacular rock formations illustrating various geologic processes. Geology of this area provides insight into the history and effects of the San Andreas Rift Zone. This SIA also contains a desert riparian plant community and provides nesting habitat for the prairie falcon. Most of the area is currently managed as a Los Angeles County Park. It is very beautiful area of lush vegetation and striking rock formations at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Places: Mojave Front Country

Mt. Baden-Powell

The 252-acre Mt. Baden-Powell Special Interest Area is located in Los Angeles County (T3N, R8W Section 7; T3N, R9W Section 12).

The north slope of this peak supports one of the best examples of Limber Pine (*Pinus flexilis*) in southern

California. The peak and adjacent area contain elements of subalpine habitat, including at least three San Gabriel endemic plant species.

Places: Angeles High Country

Mt. San Antonio

The 164-acre Mt. San Antonio Special Interest Area is located in both Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties (T2N R7W, Sections 5 and 6). Elevations here range from 7,000-10,000 feet.

The Major Theme of the SIA is subalpine and alpine vegetation, especially lodgepole pine forest. Mt San Antonio exhibits one of the best examples of subalpine habitat with a unique proximity to thousands of square miles of arid and semi-arid landscapes. Block faulting has lifted Mt. San Antonio to 10,064 feet above sea level, almost 9,000 feet above the surrounding valley floors. It is adjacent to the Sheep Mountain Wilderness. Four endemic plant species also grow here and the area provides summer habitat for Nelson's Bighorn Sheep.

Places: Angeles High Country

Proposed

Aliso-Arrastre - Middle

This area is known for its heritage resource values. The proposed Special Interest Area includes numerous prehistoric archaeological sites, including at least three villages. One of the villages, the Chavez Site (CA-LAn-902) is the largest village site known to exist on the Angeles National Forest. There are also hundreds of seasonal encampments and special-use resource procurement, processing, and storage sites distributed across the proposed SIA. Of particular interest may be the more than 100 stone circle features so far found within the proposed SIA, many of which are interpreted as house rings, storage caches, and religious sites. This concentration of stone circles may be unique in southern California. Also located within the proposed SIA are several sites containing cupule rock art features. One of these sites is currently being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. There is a joint educational agreement between Los Angeles Pierce College and the Angeles National Forest to study the archaeological sites located in this proposed SIA.

The span of Native American habitation ranges from the historic period to the Late and Middle Prehistoric Periods, and likely even earlier. Glass trade beads show evidence of Native American habitation in the historic period, and C14 dates from earth ovens, arrow points, and shell bead types prove habitation in the Late and Middle Prehistoric Periods. Artifacts include objects manufactured from steatite obtained from the Channel Islands and obsidian obtained from the Owens Valley. These provide strong evidence of trade networks with desert and coastal groups. The proposed SIA contains archaeological materials that provide a unique opportunity to obtain invaluable data related to past human life-ways and environmental adaptations, as well as paleoenvironmental conditions. Several sites contain human burials and are therefore of interest to Native Americans. The proposed SIA encompasses Angeles National Forest administered lands within the Aliso, Arrastre, and Kentucky Springs Watersheds on the Santa Clara-Mojave Rivers Ranger District. The area of the proposed SIA has many other forest uses occurring including transmission line corridor (lines, roads), clay mining operation, Forest Service system roads, Los Angeles County Roads, plantations, private in-holdings, and hiking and riding trails.

Elevations range from 2,950 to 5,900 feet for the combined SIA with the elevations ranging from 2,950 to 4,000 feet for the segment of the proposed SIA *that appears in alternative*. The vegetation is primarily chaparral at the lower elevations and a montane chaparral mix with stands of Coulter pine, canyon oak, and incense cedar at the higher elevations.

The proposed SIA is located south of the town of Acton and north of the Santa Clara Divide. Access from the north is from Highway 14 along Aliso Canyon Road and from the east along the Angeles Forest Highway. Forest Service System roads 4N24 and 4N32 travel through the interior of the proposed SIA, and 3N17 provides access from the south.

Places: Soledad Front Country

GPRA Objectives

The GPRA priority goals for the Forest Service are provided in the Forest Service National Strategic Plan (2003 Revision). The priority goals embody the agency's many areas of responsibility, as captured in the mission statement: "The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." Forest land management plans further refine these goals through development of desired condition statements and forest-specific objectives. The land management plan identifies the role each forest plays in working toward these national goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire

Outcome: Reduced risk to communities and the environment from catastrophic wildland fire by improving the health of the nation's forests and grasslands.

"A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment: 10-Year Comprehensive Wildland Fire Strategy" (Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture, 2001) describes the need to reduce the risk of wildland fire to communities and the environment because:

- increased population growth in the wildland-urban interface place more citizens and property at risk;
- many of the traditional approaches to land management and suppression of wildland fire have resulted in dense, diseased or dying forests, which has contributed to severe fires and increased threats to communities and ecosystems; and
- post-fire ecosystem health problems from insects, pathogens, and invasive species are increasing.

Miles of rural landscape once buffered urban areas from the effects of wildland fire. Now forests are increasingly part of the wildland-urban interface, creating a greater challenge for fire protection. Recent research has identified 73 million acres of National Forest System lands and 59 million acres of privately-owned forestland at high risk of ecologically destructive wildland fire (condition classes 2 and 3, Fire Regime I and II) (Schmidt et al., 2002).

The following objectives support this goal:

Objective: Improve the health of National Forest System lands that have the greatest potential for catastrophic wildland fire.

Objective: Consistent with resource objectives, wildland fires are suppressed at a minimum cost, considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected.

Objective: Assist 2,500 communities and those non-National Forest System lands most at risk with development and implementation of hazardous fuel reduction and fire prevention plans and programs.

Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2]

Outcome: Improve the health of the nation's forests and grasslands by reducing the impacts from invasive species.

Invasive species, particularly insects, pathogens, plants, and aquatic pests, pose a long-term risk to the health of the nation's forests and grasslands. These species interfere with natural and managed ecosystems, degrade wildlife habitat, reduce the sustainable production of natural resource-based goods and services, and increase the susceptibility of ecosystems to other disturbances such as fire and flood. Rampant population growth and impact often occurs when new organisms are introduced into ecosystems and their natural enemies do not follow. Habitat

fragmentation (the division of forest and grassland habitat into smaller, more isolated patches) limits containment and eradication of invasive species.

Economic impacts to forests and grasslands from invasive species currently exceeds \$4 billion per year, without considering the cost of environmental consequences, such as loss of native fauna and flora in large areas. The best defense against invasive species is either preventing their introduction or aggressively eradicating newly detected pest species. The Forest Service accomplishes both courses of action by implementing the National Invasive Species Management Plan in cooperation with other USDA agencies, other federal departments, States, tribes, and private sector partners.

The following objective supports this goal:

Objective: Improve the effectiveness of treating selected invasive species.

Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreation opportunities [USDA Objective 5.1]

Outcome: Provide high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities on forests and grasslands, while sustaining natural resources, to help meet the nation's recreation demands.

By mid-century our nation's population is projected to increase by nearly 50%. Simultaneously, public access to privately-owned forestland is expected to continue to decline. This situation will increase the pressure on public lands to provide additional recreation opportunities. If public lands are to continue to provide additional recreation benefits without experiencing unacceptable impacts to resources, emphasis must be placed on effective management solutions. In particular, it is critical that we improve management of off-highway vehicle access and use on National Forest System lands to preserve high-quality experiences for all recreational users.

The following objectives support this goal:

Objective: Improve public access to National Forest System land and water and provide opportunities for outdoor health-enhancing activities.

Objective: Improve the management of off-highway vehicle use to protect natural resources, promote safety of all users, and minimize conflicts among various uses through the collaborative development and implementation of locally-based travel management plans.

Goal 4: Help meet energy resource needs [USDA Objective 5.1]

Outcome: Consider opportunities for energy development and the supporting infrastructure on forests and grasslands to help meet the nation's energy needs.

The nation's forests and grasslands play a significant role in meeting America's need for producing and transmitting energy. Unless otherwise restricted, National Forest System lands are available for energy exploration, development, and infrastructure occupancy (e.g., well sites, pipelines, and transmission lines).

The following objective supports this goal:

Objective: Work with other agencies to identify and designate corridors for energy facilities, improve permit application processing efficiency, and establish appropriate land tenure (including transferability clauses) in easements and other authorizations to provide for long-term project viability.

Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2]

Outcome: Increase the area of forest and grassland watersheds in fully functional and productive condition.

An estimated 3,400 towns and cities currently depend on National Forest System watersheds for their public water supplies. Our national forests and grasslands contain more than 3,000 public water supplies for campgrounds, administrative centers, and similar facilities. Communities that draw source water from national forests and grasslands provide water to 60 million people, or one-fourth of the nation's people. Although most forested watersheds are in fully functioning or satisfactory condition, many streams on National Forest System lands do not meet State water-quality standards. Some municipal watersheds, especially in the West, are at risk from catastrophic wildland fire and from impacts due to excessive use. These problems are compounded by land parcelization. The loss of valuable corridors connecting National Forest System land with other undisturbed tracts of land increases the difficulty of effectively managing watershed conditions. Sustaining functional watershed conditions over time maintains the productive capacity of our land and water.

The following objectives support this goal:

Objective: Assess and restore high-priority watersheds and maintain riparian habitat within these watersheds.

Objective: Monitor water quality impacts of activities on National Forest System lands.

Objective: Restore and maintain native and desired nonnative plant and animal species diversity within terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and reduce the rate of species endangerment by contributing to species recovery.

Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals

Outcome: Improve the productivity and efficiency of other mission-related work and support programs.

The Forest Service provides direction for natural resource stewardship through direct land management practices, indirect management under partnership agreements, and research and development programs. The agency also provides many goods and services such as recreational opportunities, clean water, and wood products, to the American people. We consistently strive to maintain the organizational structure and capacity to deliver the necessary mission work.

The following objectives support this goal:

Objective: Provide current resource data, monitoring, and research information in a timely manner.

Objective: Meet Federal financial management standards and integrate budget and performance.

Objective: Maintain the environmental, social, and economic benefits of forests and grasslands by reducing their conversion to other uses.

Objective: Maintain Office of Safety and Health Administration standards.

Objective: Develop and maintain the processes and systems to provide and analyze scientific and technical information to address agency priorities.