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Draft Land Management Plan

Part 2:

Cleveland National Forest Strategy



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Part 2-Cleveland National Forest Strategy

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Land Management Plan Strategies

This document is the second of the three parts of the land management plan for the Cleveland National Forest and describes the strategic direction to be used over the next 3 to 5 years to realize the desired conditions described in Part 1 (the Vision) of the land management plan. This part includes a description of the suitable uses for each of the land use zones and 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 land management 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 is subject to the design criteria identified in Part 3 of this plan. These design criteria are applied at the project-specific planning level.

Seven land use zones have been identified for the Cleveland 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 dependence on 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 Country 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 Cleveland 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.

- Existing Wilderness (EW): This zone includes designated wilderness lands.
 - Agua Tibia Wilderness
 - Hauser Wilderness
 - San Mateo Wilderness
- Recommended Wilderness (RW): This zone includes land the Forest Service is recommending to Congress for wilderness designation.
 - Cutca Valley
 - Pine Creek Expansion
 - Upper San Diego River
 - Wildhorse

Table 2.2.1: Suitable Uses Resource Management, CNF

Table 2.2.2: Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, CNF

Table 2.2.3: Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, CNF

Table 2.2.4: Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, CNF

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 Rivers

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

Eligible rivers include:

- Cottonwood
- San Luis Rey River (Main)
- San Mateo Creek

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 System lands 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:

- Agua Tibia
- King Creek
- Organ Valley

Proposed Research Natural Areas include:

- Guatay Mountain
- Viejas Mountain
- San Diego River

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, paleontological, or other special characteristics. Uses that are compatible with maintaining the target of the areas designation are appropriate.

Existing Special Interest Areas include:

- San Luis Rey River (West Fork)
- Guatay Mountain

Proposed Special Interest Areas include:

- Chiquito Springs
- Filaree Flat
- Pine Mountain

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 Cleveland 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.

Cleveland National Forest's management is guided by the expertise of the people working in all of its functional areas including resource management, public use and enjoyment, and facility operations and 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:

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

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. 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.

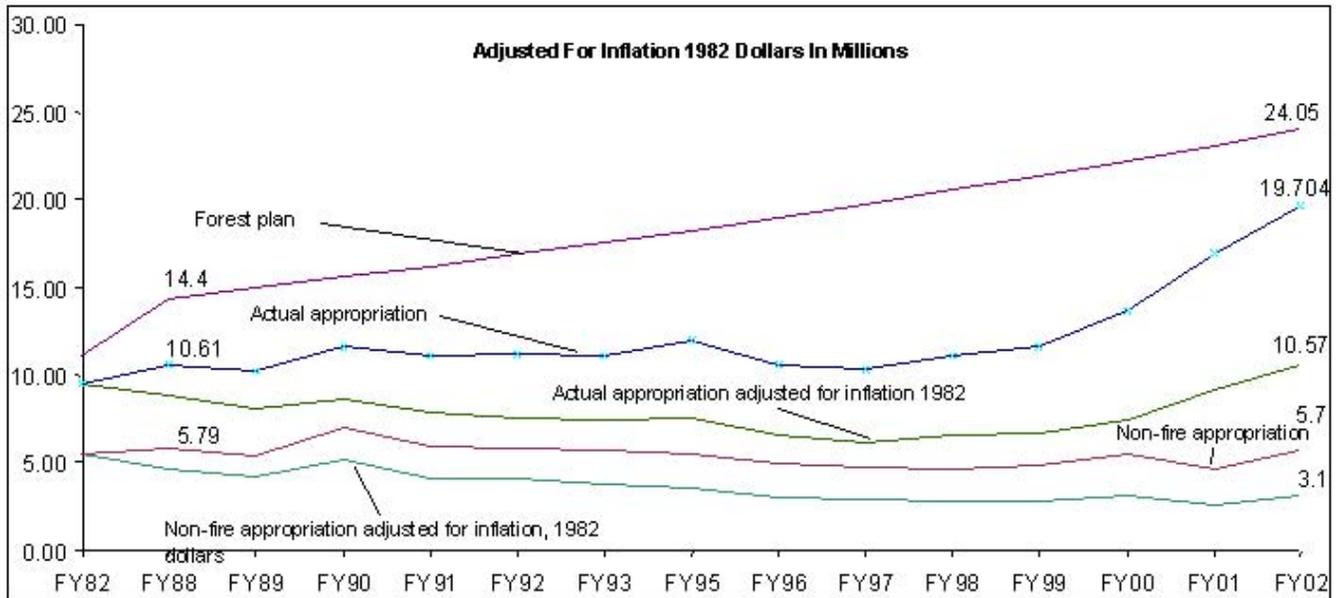
General Budget History

From fiscal year (FY) 1999 to FY02, overall funding to the Cleveland National Forest increased, nearly doubling in just three years. This increase is attributed primarily to the increase to hazardous fuels reduction and fire pre-suppression & preparedness. While the base budget for the fire program more than doubled in size, funding for all other forest programs adjusted for inflation has actually decreased. Even not adjusted for inflation, the non-fire budget has remained relatively constant for nearly 15 years, since 1988. During this same time, costs to the forest increased exponentially as a result of the growing neighboring populations of Orange, Riverside,

Imperial and San Diego counties as well as other changing influences.

These two factors, flat budgets and increased costs, present new challenges to the forest as it tries to serve public and resource management needs. Maintenance, special use permits monitoring and administration backlogs are accumulating as forests struggle to meet wage increases and other operational requirements. Additionally, even though fire program funding increased significantly over the past decade, so did costs. The program remains short of required funds to meet maximum efficiency levels and the original planned budget of the 1986 Forest Plan.

Figure - 2.2.1 Cleveland National Forest Appropriated Budget History Adjusted for Inflation



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 experiences in order 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 and the immediate support staff. From the Supervisor's Office in Rancho Bernardo, human resources, engineering, recreation, resources, public relations, information technology and other staff functions provide technical and administrative support to the districts.

District Management: The forest is divided into three ranger districts: Trabuco, Palomar and Descanso. Each District Ranger and staff is directly responsible for developing, conserving, and using the natural resources of the forest and the associated land of the ranger district. The proximity of the forest to large and expanding urban populations and the U.S./Mexico border adds complexity to the range of management issues, public pressures and demands for forest resources, goods and services. It requires working with a variety of internal and external customers, cooperators and organizations to balance diverse and often competing interests

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.

The focus of the wildlife management program is the management and protection of plant and animal habitats and species. Emphasis is given to the management of federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as Forest Service-designated sensitive plants and animals. Activities in this program include: the development and maintenance of partnerships with national, state and local agencies to establish and maintain species habitat goals; the integration of habitat planning into land management and project plans; and the improvement and maintenance of wildlife and fish habitat

Vegetation management is the maintenance and improvement of healthy and productive stands of native trees in forested areas and plant species. Specific maintenance and improvement activities include reforestation projects, the continued promotion of vegetation growth and survival, and the protection of desired vegetation from animal damage, human damage, and undesirable plant competition.

Insect infestations and regional drought conditions have significantly and adversely impacted forest health in the past three years. However, the extent of these impacts on forest resources is uncertain due to a lack of funds and personnel to implement forest-wide area surveys and remediation plans

This program encompasses all activities associated with the management of water quality and supply, soil productivity and stability, air quality management, hazardous materials mitigation, and geologic and paleontologic resource management on forest lands. The objective of this program is to identify the health of the forest's air, water, and soil resources, and to implement measures to protect and enhance their natural properties.

Land ownership and adjustment includes all activities related to the management of the forest's real estate functions. Program activities include land acquisition to improve public access of forest lands and enhance resource values, the maintenance of forest boundary lines, and the processing of title documents.

The heritage resource management program on the Cleveland National Forest includes the protection and interpretation of archeologic and historic sites, ethnography (the study of social interactions and community behaviors), and the fostering of relationships with local Native American tribal organizations and their members.

The forest restoration program incorporates an integrated set of vegetation management actions designed to meet multiple objectives including restoration of forest health and community protection. Close coordination between the fire and aviation management staffs and resource management staff is required. The forest has identified the following vegetation management project categories related to community protection and forest health.

- **Mortality Removal - Annual Need: 400 acres.** The removal of dead vegetation to reduce fire hazard. This category includes the use of timber sales to remove merchantable trees, contract removal of nonmerchantable trees and shrubs. These projects include treatment of all slash and 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: 500 acres.** The removal of living trees from overstocked stands, in most cases trees of 24 inches in diameter or less. These projects include treatment of all slash and 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: 500 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: 1000 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: 1000 acres.** Most of the planned fuelbreaks are also along roads

and ridgetops and are proposed for limiting wildfire patch size. 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 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: 1,000 acres.** This term describes 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 nonflammable state to increase defensible space and firefighter safety. A secondary buffer (the WUI threat zone, see 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 apply to National Forest land only and apply to all structures on public land and can also be applied where National Forest boundaries are directly adjacent to communities on private land. Techniques may include hand or machine removal of vegetation and herbicides in the primary buffer. Treatments in the WUI threat zone 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.
- **Prescribed Fire - Annual Need: 5,000 acres.** Projects placed 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.

Table 2.2.5: Resource Management Performance Indicators, CNF.

Public Use and Enjoyment

The overall mission of the conservation education program is to build intellectual and personal connections between people and their natural and cultural heritage. The program focuses on public service information regarding recreational opportunities, stewardship responsibilities, and resource education.

The recreation special use program incorporates the management and monitoring of all concession and recreational special use permits on forest land. The Cleveland National Forest manages over 340 recreational special use authorizations, including 2 concession campground complexes and over 300 summer homes.

Campgrounds and Developed Sites: The Cleveland operates 22 campgrounds with over 650 individual campsites and an additional seven picnic areas. Activities include trash collection, cleaning, maintaining equipment, monitoring water systems, and others associated with keeping the facilities clean, safe, and in good repair.

Concentrated Use Areas (CUA): A concentrated use area is an undeveloped area where maintenance and management time and money are invested because recreation use leaves evident impacts, including litter, vandalism, or soil compaction. Activities at such sites include hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, scenery viewing, picnicking, camping, snow play, and water play. Facilities in these areas are limited to portable toilets, minimal parking, trash cans, signs and kiosks. These facilities require cleaning, pumping, graffiti removal, and repair of vandalism. Graffiti and trash removal are required along heavily used roads as well as in CUAs.

Table 2.2.6: Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, CNF.

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Buildings, Grounds & Utilities: This program area focuses on operating and maintaining Forest Service owned and leased fire and administrative buildings, and other associated buildings and infrastructure. The facilities include administrative offices, fire stations, communication and utility buildings, barracks, storage buildings, shop

buildings, and an air tanker base. This work includes operating and maintaining numerous gas and electrical utility systems, water systems and sewer systems. Work involves annual (routine) maintenance and deferred/heavy maintenance as well as facility upgrades and improvements to buildings, utilities and grounds.

Roads: Many of the Cleveland's roads are in hazardous condition due to increased urban use, storm damage, crossing needs at creeks, and diminishing funds to maintain them. While many roads were shut down to minimize risk, demand for their use increases.

Trails: Daily use requirements of trails continue to grow as the population of neighboring communities increase. In an effort to reduce costs, the majority of the forest's 350 miles of trails and 10 trailheads are maintained through volunteers and partnership groups. Trail maintenance work consists of clearing, inspecting, constructing, decommissioning and marking trails.

Table 2.2.7: Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, CNF.

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Non-recreational Special Uses: Special use management includes activities related to permitting, monitoring, and processing a wide variety of commercial and private uses. The growth in residential, commercial, and industrial development in southern California put pressure on the forest to expand its scope of special use operations. Currently, the forest is reviewing applications for large-scale infrastructure projects on forest land that include utility corridors, multi-lane roads, and tunnels. The amount and complexity of existing and proposed special use permits necessitates extensive permit processing and monitoring operations.

Minerals: The minerals program involves processing and monitoring all operations on National Forest land related to mineral development. These activities include processing mineral applications and reclaiming land affected by mineral activities, including former mines.

Grazing: Grazing encompasses activities associated with livestock grazing on National Forest land. These include issuing and administering grazing permits, as well as monitoring permit compliance.

Table 2.2.8: Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, CNF.

Fire and Aviation Management

The Cleveland National Forest fire organization is the largest and most complex component of the forest and the primary management focus. It includes the following areas of responsibility:

- Management and Administration
- Fire Pre-Suppression and Preparedness
- Wildfire Suppression
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Management and administration provides for direction and oversight of all fire management activities including fighting forest fires, adhering to approved employee safety practices, community protection and forest health projects, educating the public and responding to inquiries.

Primary pre-suppression activities include fire prevention, maintaining fire suppression equipment, fire suppression training and first aid training. Fire prevention activities focus on three primary areas: education, community preparedness 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 lands in the forest. This also is done along all electrical transmission and distribution systems placed by public utilities across the forest.

Fire Management personnel respond primarily to wildland fire incidents on the forest. Initial attack firefighting can involve hundreds of firefighters. Extended attack operations (more than 2 days) involve the leadership and

coordination of up to several thousand firefighters and support personnel in a complex interagency environment with substantial urban interface. Frequently 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 Cleveland National 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.

To safely reintroduce fire into the ecosystem, land managers conduct prescribed burns, fires that are intentionally lit by experts under carefully monitored weather and fuel conditions. Prescribed fires clear dead, dry plant and chaparral material and improve conditions for wildlife by encouraging new plant generation. This provides better wildlife food sources and protects water sources from the erosion caused by wildfire. Finally, prescribed fire results in better protection of National Forest facilities and communities within and along their boundaries.

Table 2.2.9: Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, CNF

Strategic Program Emphasis and Objectives

Over the next 3 to 5 years the Cleveland National Forest will emphasize selected program objectives that best fit expected management priorities. 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

This section describes the detailed program objectives that the forest intends to emphasize to progress toward achieving the desired conditions and goals discussed in Part 1. Lists of more specific tactics are included to help the reader understand what may be involved in implementing these objectives.

Effective Management

Forest staff expect to enlist the support of local communities, partners, and volunteers to promote land stewardship through jointly developing and carrying out a broad range of conservation activities.

Tribal Relations

Emphasis will be placed on further developing relationships with tribal governments, working together to resolve issues, and facilitating continued traditional or cultural use of the forest. See Tribal 2: Government to Government Relations.

Resource Management

Wildlife, Fish and Plant Management

Program emphasis for wildlife management is expected to focus on minimizing the effects of urbanization. Forest staff expect to emphasize protecting core habitat areas from the effects that urbanization poses so that these areas continue to conserve biodiversity in an interconnected regional open space network. Forest biologists expect to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation through conserving and managing habitat linkages within and where possible, between the forests and other public and privately conserved lands (see Link 1: Habitat Linkage Planning, Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition). Forest staff expect to neutralize or reverse declining trends in threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and sensitive (TEPCS) species populations by maintaining or improving habitat capability, removing invasive species, and by reducing conflicts with other activities such as

recreation, resource, or community development (see WL 1: Imperiled Species Management). Managers expect to implement approximately five percent of the recovery tasks and conservation measures identified in recovery plans and species and habitat conservation strategies as funding becomes available (see WL 2: Management of Species of Concern). Managers also expect to continue to emphasize the improvement of our knowledge base regarding riparian dependent threatened and endangered species through the basic inventory of suitable habitat (see AM 2: Forestwide Inventory).

Vegetation Management

Forest staff expect improvement of forest health by implementing the community protection program (see Fire 2: Direct Community Protection). Vegetative treatments targeting the restoration of desired fire regimes; the improvement of water quantity, quality, and flow to maintain or improve riparian habitats; and the improvement of watershed conditions will be deferred until community protection projects are implemented. Staff expect to implement approximately five percent of identified forest health projects (see FH 3: Restoration of Forest Health).

Invasive Species

Forest staff expect to place a high priority on controlling nonnative species that prey on or compete with TEPCS species. Managers intend to implement control measures on approximately five percent of known areas where invasive species are conflicting with TEPCS species (see IS 1: Invasive Species Prevention and Control).

Physical Resources (Soil, Geology, Water and Air)

Forest managers expect to emphasize gaining control of groundwater and surface water resources to benefit ecosystem health and forest administrative needs (see WAT 2: Water Management). To address the increased demand for groundwater and surface water resources of the National Forest, staff expect to emphasize balancing the needs of water users with resource needs for maintaining or improving stream, riparian, springs, and wetland habitat through procuring water rights and instream flow agreements. Staff expect to complete approximately 90 percent of the water diversion permit reauthorizations backlog, including the acquisition of water rights that are available or the relocation of diversions to the forest perimeter where possible (see Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations).

Land Ownership and Adjustment

Forest staff expect to work collaboratively with others to acquire lands that contain unique resources, that allow for continued public access, that enhance public use, or that improve habitat linkage. Managers expect to implement land adjustment strategies on approximately five percent of the areas identified on land adjustment maps (see Lands 1: Strategic Acquisition).

Forest staff expect to emphasize retaining and restoring clear title to National Forest System land through resolving trespass and encroaching uses and by posting boundaries bordering developing areas (see Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations and Lands 3: Boundary Management).

Heritage Resources

The heritage resource staff expect to document all known significant cultural properties to identify any activity that is or has the potential to adversely affect or that does not complement the site. Staff expect to develop measures to mitigate the adverse effects or impacts on approximately 40% of the sites (see Her 1: Heritage Resource Protection).

Public Use and Enjoyment

Recreation

The recreation staff expect to emphasize providing balanced, environmentally sustainable, recreation opportunities to meet the needs of a growing, urban, culturally diverse population, particularly day use opportunities (see REC 1: Recreation Opportunity). Managers expect to implement adaptive management measures on all concentrated use areas and developed sites that have TEPCS conflicts identified (see REC 3: Recreation Participation). Designate remote camping areas.

Recreation special uses are an important program component. Managers anticipate completing the reauthorization process for recreation residence permits by 2008.

Investment emphasis is expected to focus on Forest Service recreation facility maintenance needs. Managers expect to develop opportunities through partnerships and special funding to reduce the backlog of recreation facility maintenance. Managers expect to reduce the recreation facilities maintenance backlog by approximately 20% (see Fac 1: Facilities Maintenance Backlog).

Conservation Education

Managers intend to emphasize partnership and volunteer programs to improve visitor services and to increase opportunities for interpretation and environmental education. Managers expect to increase partnerships by approximately 20% (see REC 4: Conservation Education).

Landscape and Scenery Management

Scenic resource managers expect to maintain aesthetic, recreational, and open space values, especially those of high-valued scenery including scenic backdrops and large open spaces (see LM 3: Landscape Character).

Special Area Management

Forest Staff expect to complete or revise two of the four wilderness implementation plans (see SD 1: Wilderness).

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Buildings and Grounds

Forest Staff anticipate decommissioning approximately 10% of unused facilities and restoring these sites to natural conditions. Priority will be given to those that have health and safety concerns (see LM 2: Landscape Restoration). Managers expect to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance by approximately five percent. Staff intend to construct facilities to meet fire crew needs (see Fac 1: Facilities Maintenance Backlog).

Road and Trail Systems

Managers of the transportation system expect to emphasize addressing user demand, forest and community protection needs, and resource considerations (see Trans 1: Transportation System). Roads and trails are expected to be maintained in order to reduce the level of effects to species and watersheds while safely accommodating use (see REC 3: Recreation Participation). Managers expect to maintain approximately 15% of the forest system roads to their objective maintenance level. Trail managers expect to designate OHV trails and roads (see Trans 4: Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities), and to assess trails that may be suitable for mechanized (i.e., mountain bike) use.

Roads accommodating high levels of use are expected to be candidates for improvement, including parking areas in appropriate locations for popular destinations. Managers expect to improve parking opportunities on approximately ten percent of identified potential sites (see Trans 3: Improve Trails).

Managers expect to decommission unneeded or unauthorized roads and trails (see Trans 2: Unnecessary Roads). Staff expect to complete site-specific road analysis on approximately 30% of the unclassified roads and to make appropriate designations (National Forest System Road, decommission, conversion to Forest Designated Trail, either motorized or non-motorized).

Access to the National Forest will be acquired where needed for administrative and public use through the purchase of, or exchange for, easements and rights-of-way. Program emphasis is expected to focus on developing and maintaining road and trail systems that address access issues and minimize conflicts with private landowners (see Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations). Staff expect to acquire approximately two percent of the rights-of-way needed to operate the forest road and trail system.

Commodity and Commercial Uses

Non-Recreation Special Uses

The demand for the infrastructure needed to provide water, energy, transportation and other needs to support communities will be balanced with the preservation of open space and natural settings. Managers expect to authorize special uses only when they cannot be accommodated on private land. Maintaining open space is expected to be given priority over accommodating urban needs. Managers expect to complete the reauthorization process for all expired authorizations (see Lands 2: Land Use Authorizations).

Livestock Grazing

Managers intend to focus the livestock grazing program on addressing the backlog of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance projects to be consistent with the requirements of the Rescission Act of 1995. Managers expect to comply with NEPA with signed decision notices for allotments and livestock areas according to the 1995 Rescission Act allotment NEPA schedule. Managers anticipate revising the schedule as necessary when priorities change or as resource issues and concerns arise.

Minerals and Energy

Fire and Aviation Management

Preparedness

Suppression of wildfires is the first priority for program managers (see Fire 4: Firefighter and Public Safety). All wildfires on southern California National Forests are considered to be a threat to communities (see Fire 1: Fire Prevention). Fire Staff expect to implement aggressive fire suppression and prevention strategies near communities to protect life and property from wildland fire and subsequent floods. Staff expect to maintain the suppression organization at approximately 90% of the most efficient level or higher (see Fire 3: Fire Suppression Emphasis).

Managers intend to focus on creating buffers around structures, fuelbreaks, and vegetation treatments to maintain or restore forest health within community protection areas as the second priority for the program (see Fire 2: Direct Community Protection). Over the next three to five years, managers expect to strategically integrate vegetative treatments to maximize community protection efforts and to minimize wildfire size, while considering habitat needs (see Fire 5: Fuelbreaks and Indirect Community Protection). Mortality removal will be integrated with thinning within the community protection buffers (see FH 3: Restoration of Forest Health). Managers anticipate completing approximately 20% of the identified treatment needs.

Program Strategies and Tactics

This section describes the detailed program strategies that the forest may choose to emphasize to make progress toward achieving the desired conditions and goals discussed in Part 1. The forest will prioritize which strategies will be brought forward in any given year using the program emphasis 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.

Management and Administration

Management intends to establish effective relationships with federally recognized tribes:

1. Within this planning cycle, develop government-to-government protocols, according to the National Tribal Relations Strategy, with all recognized tribes and organized groups of local Native Americans.
2. Develop protocols to promote collaborative partnerships for managing heritage resources, ecosystem restoration, comprehensive fire planning, and recognizing historic Native American access rights to the forest and resources.

Management Efficiency

Partnerships and Cooperative Relations

Tribal Relations

Tribal 1: Traditional and Contemporary Uses

Allow traditional use, access to traditionally used areas, as well as contemporary use 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 use.
- 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:

- Over the next 10 - 15 years (the life of the plan), develop government-to-government protocols, according to the National Tribal Relations Strategy, with all recognized tribes and organized groups of local Native Americans.
- Develop protocols to promote collaborative partnerships for managing heritage resources, ecosystem restoration, comprehensive fire planning and recognizing 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 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 enhanced environmental protection.
- Manage recreation opportunities to respond to the 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:

- Develop the capacity to use existing databases and annually monitor the results to track and display the cumulative effects of forest plan implementation.
- Conduct surveys within suitable habitat to determine the presence of threatened and endangered species.
- Survey the suitable habitat of 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, affect other resources, or need special management or protection.
- Identify and mitigate geologic hazards (seismic activity, sliding land, 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, construction activities, vegetative type distribution and development, and the variation in species habitat, to develop an improved understanding of the relationships of geologic resources and hazards to ecologic functions and patterns as they apply to managing forest land 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 appropriate agencies and academic sources to develop protocol and survey guidelines, gather current information and identify additional research needs for resource management. Implement research as opportunities occur. Priority wildlife studies:
 1. Ecological revegetation and restoration and mine reclamation techniques.
 2. The effects of nonnative species and the effects of management activities on TEPCS habitat.
 3. The effects of cowbird interactions with vireos and flycatchers.
 4. Best methods for removal of exotic species (bullfrog, etc.).

5. The results of the removal of nonnative species from TEPCS species habitat.
6. The effects of off-highway vehicle disturbances and other recreational activities on wildlife.
7. Validation of the use of habitat linkages.
8. The effects of forest product removal on other resources.
9. The effects of management activities on oak regeneration.
10. Additional information on species specific habitat use and distribution on National Forest System lands.
11. The validation of watershed standards for cumulative effects (less than 20% manipulation/year and less than 40% over five years).

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objective 3; and Goal 6: Mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals, objective 3.

Biological Resources

WL 1: Imperiled Species Management

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

- Maintain or improve habitat conditions for wildlife, fish and plant species.
- Use vegetation management practices to reduce habitat loss due to catastrophic fire.
- Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the 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 the recovery objectives identified in an approved USFWS recovery plan. In the absence of an approved plan, implement interim Forest Service objectives.
- Establish and maintain a working relationship with county planning to insure coordination on development projects within the county.
- Where known or potential conflicts may occur, coordinate with California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G) regarding fish stocking to implement measures to resolve conflicts with all TEPCS species and habitats.

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 conservation considerations section of species accounts (habitat management strategies). Develop habitat management strategies for additional species if new information indicates a viability concern. Prioritize implementing 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, southwestern pond turtle, coast range newt
- Southwestern willow flycatcher
- Humboldt lily

Value of vegetation management to species at risk:

- Quino checkerspot butterfly
- Golden eagle, California spotted owl, flammulated owl, long-eared owl, California gnatcatcher

Importance of keeping vehicles on roads:

- Arroyo toad
- Munz's onion

Habitat fragmentation, species linkages and corridors and biological diversity:

- American badger, mountain lion

STRATEGY: SURVEY/INVENTORY/INCREASE KNOWLEDGE BASE

Riparian and Aquatic Species:

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

Species with limited distribution:

- Quino checkerspot butterfly

Terrestrial species:

- American badger, mountain lion

Upland plants:

- Parry's tetraococcus, San Bernardino bluegrass, Jaeger's milkvetch, Humboldt lily

STRATEGY: HABITAT RESTORATION/IMPROVEMENT

Streambank stabilization, riparian area plantings:

- Southern steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey, 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:

- Partially armored three-spine stickleback, and other native fishes
- Coast range newt, arroyo toad, southwestern pond turtle

Vegetation and fuel treatments, prescribed burning:

- Partially armored three-spine stickleback, southern steelhead trout, and other native fishes
- Quino checkerspot butterfly
- Purple martin, flammulated owl, California spotted owl

STRATEGY: MONITOR/STUDY

Generally, federally listed species.

Riparian or aquatic species:

- Southern steelhead trout, Santa Ana speckled dace
- California red-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:

- Laguna Mountains skipper
- California spotted owl

Species recovery after wildfire (burned area monitoring):

- Hermes copper butterfly, Santa Ana speckled dace
- California spotted owl
- Cuyamaca cypress

Upland plant species:

- Hammitt's claycress, Munz's onion, Gander's ragwort, Laguna Mountains aster

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:

- Southern steelhead trout, Santa Ana speckled dace, arroyo chub, partially armored three-spine stickleback, California red-legged frog
- South coast red-sided garter snake, western spadefoot, arroyo toad
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, long-eared owl, purple martin, California spotted owl, American dipper

Coordination With Other Agencies:

- Southern steelhead trout
- Mountain lion, American badger
- California condor, California spotted owl

Habitat Acquisition:

- Western spadefoot
- 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

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

- Southern steelhead trout, Santa Ana speckled dace, and other native fishes
- Arroyo toad, California red-legged frog
- Southwestern pond turtle
- Southwestern willow flycatcher

Fire Prevention and Suppression:

- Southwestern pond turtle, coast range newt, arroyo toad
- Hermes copper butterfly
- Belding's orange-throated whiptail
- Southwestern willow flycatcher, California spotted owl, flammulated owl, California gnatcatcher
- American badger, mountain lion

Upland plants:

- Jaeger's milkvetch

Linked to GPRA:

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

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 the treatment of 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 or 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 and decisions that could cause additional invasions. Emphasize the use of 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 to determine changes in the density and rate of spread. Conduct follow-up inspections of ground disturbing activities to ensure compliance with the 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 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 CDF&G and other cooperators such as Partners in Flight to maintain and to improve fish, wildlife and plant habitat.
- Maintain and improve 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 the habitat for ecological health indicators (e.g., arrundo, tamarisk and bullfrogs).
- Maintain developed wildlife water sources and other habitat improvement structures.
- Protect habitat during fire suppression activities where feasible.

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

FH 1: Vegetation Restoration

After stand-replacing fires, drought, or other events or activities that degrade or cause a loss of plant communities, restore the vegetation through reforestation or other appropriate methods:

- Where needed, implement reforestation using native tree species grown from local seed sources. In such plantings, consider the long-term sustainability of the forest vegetation by taking into account factors such as fire regime and regional climate. Consider using 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 pine, Cuyamaca and Tecate cypress) 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 maintaining 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 2,000 feet) chaparral.

Linked to GPRA Goal 5: Improve watershed condition [USDA Objectives 5.1 and 5.2], objectiveds 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 characterized forests of the pre-suppression and early suppression eras (ca. 1880-1930). Restore species composition to a mix that is 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 the impacts of large, 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 the natural resource values 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 staff. Forest health protection staff investigate detection reports and coordinate 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 to 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). 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 the natural watershed functions including slope processes, surface water and ground water flow and retention, and riparian area sustainability:

- Assess the 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 that 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 to interpret and protect unique values.
- Identify, prioritize based on risk, and mitigate the 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 the 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 through 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 Forest Service management does not contribute to listed water quality degradation.
- Actively pursue the acquisition of water rights and water allocation processes to secure instream flow 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 uses 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 (NFS) 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 flows that are 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 (NFS) land or on adjacent non-NFS land with the potential to affect TEPCS fish and amphibian habitat. In the event of hazardous material spills in known habitat on NFS 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 to improve habitat condition and linkage.

- Acquire lands or interest in lands by purchasing, donating, exchanging, acquiring rights-of-way, transferring, interchanging, or adjusting boundaries to address the issues associated with complex ownership patterns such as urban interface fire protection and occupancy trespass.
- Acquire land 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 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 the 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 the linkages to surrounding habitat reserves and other open space for the maintenance of biodiversity.
- Work with land conservancies, local government and others to secure long-term habitat linkages.
- Manage forest uses and activities to be compatible with maintaining habitat linkages.
- Actively participate with local government, developers, and other entities to protect forest values in the 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 processes. Protect and manage the 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 uses that result 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. 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, until designated or released from consideration.

- For those designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, a Comprehensive River Management Plan and boundary declaration will be prepared and implemented as required in the designation language.
- 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. Allow uses and management activities, including access, that complement or are subordinate to the values and features.

- 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 without this documentation.

Heritage Resources

Her 1: Heritage Resource Protection

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

- Within the life of this revised plan, document all known significant cultural properties to identify any activity that does or has the potential to adversely affect the site, or that 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 that are 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 GPRA 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 people to partner in the stewardship of heritage resource sites.

- Develop public involvement programs to foster partnership in heritage resource stewardship to aid in identifying and evaluating heritage sites.
- Work with the local communities to understand, document, preserve, and interpret the forest history. 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 by surveying non-project 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 by 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 the forest 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 meet current needs and future demand. As a priority, compensate for the 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 developing strong, well-supported conservation education partnerships with non-profit organizations, 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 in order to achieve scenic integrity objectives:

- Use the best environmental design practices to harmonize changes in the landscape and to 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 in order 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 places.
- 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 practical after the implementation of the revised land management plans, develop, update or revise Forest Orders to develop the long-term orders 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 are reduced by replacing outdated substandard facilities with safe, efficient, durable, environmentally sensitive facilities. 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 the facilities no longer needed or which have been abandoned, and restore the sites to natural conditions.
- Reduce the facility maintenance backlog giving priority to 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 with approved facility master plans.
- Construct new facilities to accommodate supplementary fire employees and equipment.

Transportation Management

Trans 1: Transportation System

Plan, design, construct, and maintain the road and trail system to meet those objectives established to implement the land management plan, 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 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 the priorities identified in the roads analysis process, reduce the road maintenance backlog to provide safe, efficient routes for recreation traffic and the through-traveling public, and to safely accommodate fire protection equipment or 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 analysis.
- Establish the 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 complements local, regional and national trails and open space, and also enhances 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 to 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 the surrounding communities and to create opportunities for non-motorized trips of short duration.

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 designating 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 accommodate this experience are identified.

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

Special Forest Products

Special Forest Products

SFP 1: Offer Special Forest Products

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

- Record forest product removal permits in order the magnitude of the removals.
- Use public fuelwood sales to remove large pockets of drought induced tree mortality in urban interface areas where high fire danger is present.
- Limit woody species collection 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 (NFS) 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 NFS land and to reduce administrative cost.
- Require SUAs to maximize opportunities to co-locate facilities and minimize the encumbrance of NFS 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 that may potentially be 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 the TEPCS species at events approved by the Forest Service for recreational special use events in 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 the 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 the 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 in order to eliminate occupancy trespass and to prevent unauthorized occupancy.

Lands 4: Mineral Withdrawals

Monitor and manage withdrawal status to document the condition of land 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 the TEP species key habitat in areas of mineral potential where habitat is not protected by any other means and would benefit from withdrawal. Protective measures will be maintained for the time needed to provide the necessary protection of TEP species and key habitat. Implement withdrawal 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 the 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 the conservation of 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 land 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 to 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 the 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.

- Continue with implementing the border fire prevention program as an effective measure in preventing human-caused fires related to immigration.
- Make campfire closure within wilderness permanent and increase patrols within the wilderness.
- Consider applying fire retardant along roads and land 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 by 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 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 the removal of tree mortality adjacent to structures as the first step in reducing threats to human life and investments.
- When National Forest System land is 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 wildland urban interface defense zone on National Forest System land to avoid expensive treatment 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

Firefighter and public safety is 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.

Linked to GPRA 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 fire and flood. Consider the construction of 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 and 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 refer to as 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 unit or place has a theme, setting, desired condition and program emphasis section.

- Theme - the theme refers to the images of the landscape that can be defined with a brief set of physical, visual, or cultural attributes that characterize the sense of place.
- Setting - the setting includes a description of the landscape character of the place.
- Desired Condition - the desired conditions paint a picture of what the place could be as the forest implements activities in order to move toward the overall forest-wide desired conditions.
- Program Emphasis - the program emphasis identifies prioritized activities that the forest intends to emphasize over the next 3 to 5 years.

These are the places identified for the Cleveland National Forest:

- Aguanga
- Elsinore
- Laguna
- Morena
- Palomar
- Pine Creek
- San Dieguito/Black Mountain

- San Mateo
- Silverado
- Sweetwater
- Upper San Diego River

Aguanga

Theme: This place forms a scenic backdrop surrounded by rapidly urbanizing rural communities. The Aguanga Place supports dispersed backcountry and wilderness recreation. The Pacific Crest Trail corridor links the Laguna Mountains with the San Jacinto Mountains to the north. The place includes important wildlife habitat linkage between the Palomar/Agua Tibia Wilderness and the Santa Ana Mountains.



Setting: The ridge between Aguanga and Palomar Mountains and the summits and slopes of the Agua Tibia Wilderness form a backdrop to southern Riverside County, the city of Temecula, and the rapidly developing rural communities of the Temecula Valley along the Highway 79 corridor. Elevations range from 3000 feet at Dripping Springs to 5000 feet at Eagle Crag. Rapid urbanization will dramatically change the rural character of the private land surrounding the Aguanga landscape.

Aguanga includes the Temecula Creek and upper San Luis Rey River watersheds. Drainages are typically dry, sandy and strewn with boulders. The headwaters for both the San Luis Rey and Santa Margarita Rivers originate in this place and represent some of the least developed watersheds remaining in coastal southern California. The rural community has been dependent on ground water from the groundwater basins recharged by annual runoff from the forest. Rapid urbanization is likely to change the demand for water as city sub-divisions with fully developed infrastructures replace the rural ranches that have been dependent on well water.

In general, steep chaparral-covered mountains give way to stands of pine and oak at higher elevations with stringers of bigcone Douglas-fir stands along the northeast facing drainages. In the past, this area was characterized by its expansive stands of old-growth chaparral including distinctive stands of redshank and tree-sized manzanita. However, large fires in the past 15 years have burned nearly the entire western half of the area. The Agua Tibia Wilderness has important stands of bigcone Douglas-fir, and includes the Aqua Tibia Research Natural Area, emphasizing one of the most impressive stands of bigcone Douglas-fir and canyon live oak forest. The Aqua Tibia RNA also represents the southern range extension for several plant species such as madrone, pink honeysuckle, broadleaf stonecrop, and woodland pinedrops, indicating habitat affinities with more northerly ranges. The high levels of ozone and other air pollutants in the region are known to affect the health and vigor of these vegetative communities.

Numerous communities along Highway 79 are at risk from wildfire. Community protection projects have been accomplished adjacent to several of these communities and more are planned. Recent drought has resulted in mortality of the chaparral species which is expected to increase fire suppression and community protection needs. A lack of fire safe councils is a barrier to maximizing community protection efforts.

The vegetation age class varies between 3-100 years. One federally endangered plant, Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), and two federally threatened plants, slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), and Vail Lake ceanothus (*Ceanothus ophiochilus*), occur in the Aguanga Place. Other sensitive plants include rainbow manzanita (*Arctostaphylos rainbowensis*), Orcutt's brodiaea, Payson's jewelflower (*Caulanthus simulans*), Mojave tarplant (*Hemizonia mohavensis*), Lakeside ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*), Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*), Hall's monardella (*Monardella macrantha hallii*), and San Felipe monardella (*Monardella nana leptosiphon*).

Habitat between the Agua Tibia/Palomar Ranges and the Santa Ana Mountain Range has been identified as a link for top carnivores such as mountain lions. The fragmentation of wildlife habitats is recognized as a threat to the conservation of biodiversity.

The Aguanga Place is popular for recreation. Access points into the forest originate from Highway 79. Camping, hiking, target shooting and hunting are popular activities within this place. Aguanga Ridge, under Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service jurisdiction, is popular for target shooting. Law enforcement is minimal. As a result, trash buildups and resource degradation in the shooting area have occurred. The Aguanga Place lacks educational and interpretive services, particularly regarding invasive species. There are no open off-highway vehicle (OHV) areas and OHVs must stay on roads and trails, but unauthorized off-road vehicle use is occurring. There are some abandoned, un-reclaimed mines located within this place, along with active high-grade tourmaline mining.

There is a maintenance backlog on Forest Service roads making access difficult for vehicles, including fire engines. Access to National Forest System lands by the public and for administrative purposes could be improved with acquisition of rights-of-way through private parcels. Trail-use is moderate, and existing trails also have a maintenance backlog similar to roads. Cutca Trail, the Dripping Springs Trail loop, and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail provide most of the trail related recreation. The Barker Valley Trailhead parking area is currently insufficient to accommodate levels of use.

Existing Wilderness:

- Agua Tibia Wilderness 15,890 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Cutca Valley 3,821

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

- Pine Mountain 273 acres

Established Research Natural Areas:

- Agua Tibia 517 acres

Desired Condition: The Aguanga Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape functioning as a rural backdrop for southern Riverside County. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the remote, undeveloped character of the backdrop, pockets of bigcone Douglas-fir in high elevation drainages, and the undisturbed character within the foreground and from key vista points along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Program Emphasis: Conservation easements for wildlife connectivity on land outside congressional boundaries are needed in order to maintain habitat links to the Santa Ana Mountains and San Jacinto Ranger District.

Maintain the scenic integrity of the rural backdrop and the remote and rural character of the Aguanga Place. Develop multiple lines of defense against wildfire and enhance defensible space. Protect bigcone Douglas-fir stands and communities adjacent to the forest by maintaining the existing fuel break system, continuing large chaparral burns adjacent to the communities in the eastern portion of the Aguanga Place, and by treating chaparral vegetation adjacent to bigcone Douglas-fir stands. Evaluate the effects of high levels of ozone on the Agua Tibia Wilderness airshed.

Coordinate planning along the eastern boundary for access, boundary management, land adjustment, and water

extraction with adjacent communities. Emphasize high water quality in the San Luis and Temecula Creek watersheds. Acquire rights-of-way to improve access. Foster outdoor learning opportunities for neighboring communities. Improve working relationships with the tribal governments. Identify Heritage Resource management opportunities through completion and implementation of a Heritage Resources Management Plan.

Protect the natural appearance and opportunity for solitude in the Agua Tibia Wilderness. Maintain a scenic buffer along the Pacific Crest Trail corridor. Balance trails usage with trailhead facilities and improve parking at popular destinations. Accommodate dispersed recreation and equestrian use where feasible. Improve road access to the Agua Tibia Wilderness and trail access within the wilderness. Increase road and trail maintenance to support management objectives, including fire suppression and prevention. Designate routes for off-highway vehicle use. Improve campground facilities and replace outdated facilities per the respective facilities master plans. Identify and resolve problems associated with unauthorized shooting. Minimize vandalism and resource damage with conservation education and increased Forest Service presence. Some abandoned mine restoration is expected.

Elsinore

Theme: Urban interface and open space background for neighboring communities and commuters on I-15 and Ortega Highways. An island of undeveloped land surrounded by rapidly developing communities.



Setting: The Elsinore Place includes the east-facing slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains and is almost entirely surrounded by urban development. The Elsinore Front is steep (slopes approach 85%); elevations range from 1000 feet near Corona to over 5600 feet at Santiago Peak. Santiago Peak is the tallest peak in the Santa Ana Range and, along with Modjeska Peak, forms what is commonly called Saddleback. Regional haze associated with urbanization, agriculture and seasonal fuel management activities occasionally obscures or limits scenic quality.

Elsinore is the background for neighboring communities and a mountainous backdrop to thousands of motorists traveling between Los Angeles and San Diego along Interstate Highway 15, and from Riverside to Orange County, along Highway 74 (Ortega Highway). Ortega Highway is the only route through the Santa Anas linking the coastal cities along Interstate 5 to the inland cities along Interstate 15, and has become a busy commuter route.

The Elsinore Place includes woodlands and riparian areas, coastal sage scrub, chaparral/chemise communities, and alluvial fan scrub. Pine plantations, oak woodland, chaparral, and bigcone Douglas-fir all occur here. In the northern section of the place, dense stands of pine and oak are present.

Forest health in the southern part of the Elsinore Place has been maintained by wildfire. Wildfires result in high levels of property and resource losses in this place. A need exists to enhance community protection efforts in this place and to increase fire prevention efforts. Numerous fire starts are moving plant communities towards type conversions. The fire/flood sequence continues to pose a threat to downstream housing developments. Fire-safe buffers along the urban interface are inconsistent and private landowners expect the Forest Service to provide community defense zones. Past vegetation management in this place has been limited to fuelbreak construction and maintenance.

Suitable habitat for some threatened, endangered and sensitive species is located in this place, including Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*), California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), Stephen's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), and the southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*). This place has a large number of water developments for quail, deer and other small animals. Non-native, plant, fish, and amphibian species, such as arrundo, bullfrogs, goldfish, catfish, and Spanish broom occur here and are a continuing management challenge.

At least two locations in this place may be important for habitat linkages to other open space, (county or private) in order to maintain biodiversity in the southern California bio- region.

Access to the Elsinore Place is limited. The forest does not have rights-of way for many of the roads leading to this place. The rapid pace of urbanization has increased the need for public access. Open, undeveloped lands adjacent to the forest are being developed and public access is being progressively restricted.

The community of El Cariso is located off the Ortega Highway (State Highway 74). Other private inholdings also exist in the place. The Elsinore Place contains some of the infrastructure supporting the surrounding urban communities. Communication sites (several of them large), high-powered transmission lines, large scale-water storage facilities, electric generating sites, and an important road corridor between the inland valley and the coast, are all immediately adjacent to or located within the Elsinore Place. As the population in the adjacent communities has increased, issues have arisen concerning the need for additional infrastructure to occur within or across forest boundaries.

The majority of developed recreation sites (campgrounds and picnic areas) and special use permits on the Trabuco Ranger District and the Wildomar Off-Highway Vehicle area are located within the Elsinore Place. The OHV area is susceptible to erosion and sedimentation problems. Its location adjacent to a federally designated wilderness encourages trespass problems. Off-highway vehicle use, backcountry driving, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, hang-gliding, camping, and picnicking occur in this landscape. A hang-gliding site exists off Killen Trail above Lake Elsinore. Ortega Falls is a popular setting for seasonal water play. On weekends and holidays recreation sites along the Highway are generally filled to capacity. Some hiking trails lead to this place but due to the lack of public access, there are only a few trails located within the place.

Unauthorized activities include trash dumping, unauthorized trails, trespasses (clearing brush or building fences or structures), marijuana gardens, and graffiti.

Existing Wilderness:

- San Mateo Wilderness 497 acres

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

- Chiquito Springs 11 acres

Desired Condition: The Elsinore Place is one of the most visible landscapes on the forest and is maintained as an undeveloped island in the rapidly developing southern Riverside County and a natural appearing urban backdrop to the Highway 15 corridor. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the undeveloped quality and character of the urban backdrop, including the natural appearing skyline silhouette of the Santa Ana Mountains, and the scenic integrity of areas visible from the Highway 15 and Ortega Highway corridors.

Program Emphasis: Provide a variety of quality recreation experiences including the improvement of developed recreation facilities. Maintain the natural appearance of the urban backdrop. Resource damage and unauthorized wilderness use by off-highway vehicles will be minimized. Implement forest health projects to improve oak regeneration. Improve community protection and defensible space. Coordinate planning for access, boundary management, flood control, and fire prevention in the urban interface with neighboring communities and county governments. Acquire land that facilitates access and boundary management and protect sensitive habitats and habitat linkages. Improve road conditions to accommodate fire equipment and to supply safe public access. Address trespass and encroachments and emphasize health and public safety.

Laguna

Theme: Characterized by winter snow play and cool summers including breathtaking desert views and diverse

wildlife. The Laguna Place is within an hour's drive for millions of people in the San Diego area and is the most popular recreation destination on the forest. Laguna is rich in both historic and prehistoric heritage values. Meadow habitats within Laguna support an abundance of rare and vulnerable plant and animal species. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Noble Canyon National Recreation Trail, the Sunrise Scenic Byway and the Laguna Recreation Area are important features within this place.



Setting: The Laguna mountain plateau is defined by a steep escarpment on the east that descends to the desert lands below. The place is located in the heart of the Laguna Mountains where elevations range from 3,800 to over 6,000 feet. The highest peaks on the forest surround Laguna's most distinctive feature, Laguna Meadow. Deep canyons drain the waters of the Laguna Place to the south and west where Kitchen and Cottonwood Creeks occasionally produce year-round flows in wet years. Surface water quantity, however, has decreased.

High elevations support the growth of a mixed-conifer/black oak forest and grassy meadows. The Laguna Place is the largest woodland expanse on the Cleveland National Forest. Recent drought has caused high mortality in the coniferous vegetation expected to increase fire suppression and community protection needs. Insect and disease infestations represent a growing threat to the remainder of the conifer forest. Approximately half the forest area has been treated to reduce vegetation levels to a pre-suppression era fire regime. The remaining area is over-stocked with vegetation and forest health thinning is planned. Community protection from wildfire in this place has been minimized by past forest health projects. However, some secondary buffer installation is needed to maximize community protection.

Meadow complexes provide habitat for several threatened and endangered species including the Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*) and the San Bernardino Bluegrass (*Poa atropurpurea*). The Laguna Mountains skipper butterfly host plant, Cleveland's Horkelia (*Horkelia sp.*) occurs within the meadow complex, co-existing with recreation and grazing uses. Several occurrences of the San Bernardino Bluegrass are protected along the meadow margins within fenced enclosures. Laguna Mountain also supports sensitive plants such as velvety false lupine (*Thermopsis californica semota*), Parish's meadow foam (*Limnanthes gracilis parishii*), Laguna Mountains aster (*Machaeranthera steroids lagunensis*), and Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*). Laguna Mountain includes Watchable Wildlife sites for several animals and summer nesting and breeding sites for migratory birds, such as ducks and purple martins. In addition, spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), a Forest Service sensitive species, are year round inhabitants. The endangered southwestern arroyo toad occurs (*Bufo californicus*) in the lower drainages of Laguna Mountain at Pine and Kitchen Creek.

The Laguna Place has a high concentration of privately permitted recreation uses including long-term recreation residences, resorts, and clubs, as well as short-term recreation services and events. Utility infrastructure on National Forest System land accommodates local need but does not meet objectives for scenic resources and biological conditions. Designated communication sites serve regional demand and have surplus capacity available for anticipated growth. The abandoned Mount Laguna Air Force Base affects the quality of the Laguna recreation experience because of public safety and environmental hazards.

The San Diego State University astronomy department maintains an observatory here. Access facilitates recreation activities and sustains ecosystems where major year-round roads maintained by the County of San Diego exist. Access through Kitchen Creek and Thing Valley Roads is subject to seasonal closures and is

unreliable for local residents and tribes. A few remaining important in-holdings are available for exchange to complete the consolidation of important recreation areas and habitat linkages.

The Laguna Place is the closest high elevation Forest Service destination in the San Diego area for year-round camping, hiking, horse riding, bicycling, snow-play and other recreation activities. The picturesque Sunrise Scenic Byway bisects the Place and climbs to the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Noble Canyon National Recreation Trail and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail pass through the Laguna Place. The landscape appears mostly natural with evidence of rural recreation development visible along the Sunrise Scenic Byway. Access to vantage points and overlooks allows unobstructed views of the vast desert panorama to the northeast. Travelers from outside the area and residents comprise a diverse population who enjoy year round activities in this area. A large amount of visitors see the the Laguna Place while driving along scenic mountain drives. The Laguna Place still offers solitude in many isolated settings.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- Cottonwood 3.3 miles

Proposed Special Interest Area:

- Filaree Flat 440 acres

Desired Condition: The Laguna Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as the most popular year-round recreation and local scenic touring forest destination. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed through time are opportunities for panoramic desert views from the Laguna crest; vegetative diversity—especially mature over-story trees and grassy meadows that are visible from key recreation/scenic developments (i.e. developed recreation sites, national scenic and recreation trails, and the Sunrise Scenic Highway); built elements that are harmonized and complement the cultural and natural character of the place; special geologic, historic, and botanic features that add diversity to the landscape; and a predominantly undeveloped landscape in the immediate foreground of the Sunrise Scenic Highway.

Program Emphasis: Protect the Laguna Place's unique scenic attributes and ecosystems. Maintain the natural appearance of the landscape. Supply high quality recreation settings and experiences. Viewsheds around Laguna Meadow and panoramic views of the desert from the Laguna Crest will be highlighted. Maintain views along the Sunrise Scenic Byway, Noble Canyon National Recreation Trail, and the Pacific Crest National Recreation trail. Improvewildlife viewing opportunities. Preserve dark night skies for astronomical research and stargazing. Maintain and develop recreation facilities in compliance with the Built Environment Image Guide and support a variety of recreation activities. Winter recreation will be managed appropriately - parking, traffic control, and sanitation facilities are to be improved and expanded. Promote recreation opportunities outside of the Laguna Place in order to alleviate growing recreation demands within the place. Protect cultural resources. Develop interpretive opportunities where resources can be protected. Improve forest health. Thin overstocked stands. Manage healthy coniferous vegetation for its scenic and recreation value. Resolve recreation conflicts with sensitive habitats. Manage the trail system to minimize user and resource conflicts. Continue decommissioning the abandoned Air Force base and restore it to natural conditions. Maintain reliable year-round road access. Acquire inholdings that improve habitat connectivity, enhance recreation, and alleviate incompatible uses. Continue community protection.

Morena

Theme: A gateway to the desert province, this place is comprised of gently rolling terrain and covered with uniform expanses of chaparral interrupted by scattered oak covered drainages. It is home to the Corral Canyon OHV area, some of the southern most segments of the Pacific Crest Trail National Scenic Trail, and unique heritage resources. Bisected by the Interstate 8 corridor, it is an unspoiled corridor with expansive views.



Setting: The Morena Place retains an open-space character and large expanses of undeveloped land. The Pacific Crest Trail National Scenic Trail bisects the place from north to south; Interstate 8 bisects this place from the northeast to southwest. The popular Corral Canyon Off Highway Vehicle Area is located here. There are numerous surveys of archaeological sites in the area, including some with cultural significance to local Native Americans. Heritage sites are subject to vandalism by the public or impacts from current land-uses. Corral Canyon has been identified as an eligible National Register archaeological district. The only active Cleveland National Forest fire lookout is located here. The only rock climbing location on the forest is located within this place.

Morena has a south facing aspect where elevations range from approximately 3000 to 5,500 feet. Large valleys surrounded by steep mountains are the dominant features within this landscape. Scenery is further characterized by steep, uniform, chaparral covered hills. To the east, an expanse of open space currently links the Morena Place to the Anza-Borrego State Park via the McCain Valley Wildlife Management area. The place is a watershed for San Diego municipal water supplies with notable features including Lake Morena and Kitchen Creek.

This area is known for dangerous, fast moving wildfires that require aggressive fire suppression tactics. A successful International Border Fire Prevention program guides fire protection procedures in the southern part of this place. The construction and maintenance of fuel breaks is an important activity here. Recent drought has resulted in the mortality of chaparral species and is expected to increase fire suppression and community protection needs. Forest Health projects may be limited due to the existing pattern of wildfires burning large acreages in this place.

At low elevations, desert plant communities transition with red shank, lower mixed montane, coast live oak, Coulter pine, chemise, great basin sage, and grassland meadows. The vegetation age class varies between 30 to 100 years. San Bernardino blue grass (*Poa atropurpurea*), an endangered plant, persists within the Bear Valley meadow complex where grazing also occurs. Tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) is currently a noxious weed problem within the Cottonwood Creek drainage. However, Morena Creek supports habitat for the endangered southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), and other wildlife species such as quail, deer, and cougar. In addition, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), occur at Los Pinos, Corte Madera, and Morena Butte. The Corte Madera ranch and the surrounding valley have been set-aside as a wildlife refuge. Within Morena, OHV uses at Corral Canyon and Bear Valley impact wildlife habitat.

The Morena Place has a moderate number of short-term recreation events including hang gliding. Boulder Oaks, the only equestrian campground on the District, is located within this place. Nonconforming uses (i.e., drug trafficking, nonsystem trails, litter and undocumented immigration) present management challenges.

Utility infrastructure on National Forest System land accommodates local needs. Designated communication sites serve government needs with surplus capacity available for anticipated growth. However, demand for non-government facilities is not met. Access is appropriate for recreation in the Bear Valley and Corral Canyon areas. Seasonal road access through Kitchen Creek and Thing Valley Roads is unreliable for local residents. A few remaining inholdings are available to complete the consolidation of important recreation areas, to protect heritage values, and to provide habitat linkages. Access is appropriate for recreation activities.

The Interstate 8 corridor, which bisects the Morena Place, is a significant component of this landscape. Millions of travelers annually move through this place along the Interstate, from which they have access to distant views of both the Morena and the Pine Creek Wildernesses. Within the Morena Place, old oaks provide shade and shelter for isolated dispersed camping. Opportunities for water play exist among the boulders and oaks that line Kitchen Creek. The dense chaparral thickets are relatively impenetrable, and visitors view the landscape from established road and trail corridors including the Pacific Crest Trail. This place is less than five miles from the border with Mexico and less than 40 miles from trails and recreation areas within the Sierra Juarez National Forest and Laguna Hansen National Park. The Corral Canyon OHV Area is an important variable in this landscape. The OHV area is the most important destination within the Morena Place. Its close proximity to Interstate 8 makes Corral Canyon one of the most easily accessed OHV areas in southern California.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

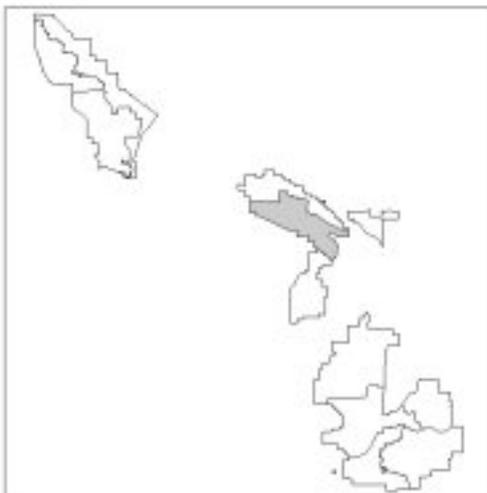
- Cottonwood 8.6 miles

Desired Condition: The Morena Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as one of the primary gateways to the deserts of the southwest and a natural appearing viewshed to the Interstate 8 corridor. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the rare and inviting streamside woodlands that enhance the recreation experience in this chaparral-dominated landscape, and the natural appearance of areas that can be viewed from the Interstate 8 corridor, the Sunrise Scenic Highway, and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

Program Emphasis: Maintain the remote undeveloped character of the Morena Place. Continue providing OHV and motorized recreation opportunities. Secure year-round access via Kitchen Creek Road through cooperative efforts with local governments. Protect scenic Values along the Interstate 8 corridor and the Pacific Crest Trail. Emphasize community protection. Construct and maintain fuelbreaks. Enlist local tribal governments to help protect heritage values within Morena. Acquire inholdings to improve access, consolidate or expand recreation opportunities, protect heritage values, and to protect important habitat. Minimize wilderness fires related to immigration routes. Minimize wilderness resource damage and resolve sanitation issues.

Palomar

Theme: A mountainous, forested area with winter snowfall and summer showers that sustain critical habitat for rare and endangered species. This place features Mt. Palomar, a prominent historic mountain in clear view of millions of San Diego and Riverside County residents and known for the Palomar Observatory with famous star-gazing opportunities and dark night skies. It features cool, year-round, high country recreation attractions with scenic drives.



Setting: Palomar Mountain, the most distinctive feature in this landscape, is the site of the Palomar Observatory. Improved access to the mountaintop was established in the 1920's in order to construct the Palomar Observatory and to deliver the 200-inch mirror for a telescope, at that time the world's largest. Astronomy continues to be an

important part of the recreation experience and research programs in this place. There is a great amount of vegetative diversity as elevations range from less than 3,000 feet at Lake Henshaw spillway to over 6,100 feet at the summit of Palomar Mountain. Because significant rainfall occurs in the place, both hardwood forests and montane conifer forests are present over broad areas.

The west fork of the San Luis Rey River is the primary watershed in the area. Lake Henshaw is located within the Palomar Place and is managed by the Vista Irrigation District for urban uses.

Most of the Palomar Place is covered with a dense mixed conifer forest that is subject to bark beetle attacks and stand replacement fires. The problem is magnified by the recent drought-related mortality of white fir and incense cedar. Forest stand maintenance and management are management challenges with possible threats to human life and investments from wildfire. Hidden within the conifers are hundreds of structures, mostly on private land. Increasing needs for fire suppression and community protection are indicated. Unauthorized fern harvesting is having an adverse impact on native fern populations.

The Palomar Place supports diverse plant and wildlife communities. Wildlife species in the area include a southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) population, a self-sustaining wild trout fishery (Santo Domingo trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss subspecies*)), spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), bear, and deer. An existing special interest area for native trout is located in Barker Valley along the West Fork San Luis Rey River. The largest Cleveland Forest population of both the Laguna Mountain skipper butterfly (*Pyrgus ruralis lagunae*) and the southwestern willow flycatcher occur here. The Palomar Place is also popular for hunting.

Access to Palomar Mountain is via State Highway 76. Most visitors arriving in the area are from population centers to the west. County Road S-6 (South Grade Road) and County Road S7 (East Grade Road) are the two access points off Highway 76 to Palomar Mountain. Additional access is possible from the east but no rights-of-way across private parcels exist to permit public use of this route. Access to National Forest System lands on top of Mt. Palomar is difficult due to land ownership problems and a lack of rights-of-way for public and administrative access across private lands. There are landline and trespass issues with the Palomar Mountain community.

Hundreds of visitors travel through this landscape daily enroute to the Palomar Observatory, the California State Parks, private lands, and Forest Service recreational facilities. Developed recreation facilities support high visitor use. Henshaw Lake and Warner Valley are located at the foot of Palomar Mountain and can be seen from the road corridors. The headwaters and tributaries of the West Fork San Luis Rey River provide opportunities for dispersed camping, hiking, fishing, and biking in remote, primitive settings such as Barker Valley. Snow play also occurs here.

Management and law enforcement problems occur within this place. There is increasing public demand for the limited facilities within this place, along with a backlog of maintenance and repair needs at campgrounds, picnic areas and fire stations. Staffing should be increased to manage the diverse use that occur near the San Luis Rey River and on Palomar Mountain.

Recommended Wilderness:

- Cutca Valley 4,798 acres

Existing Special Interest Areas:

- San Luis Rey River (West Fork) 218 acres

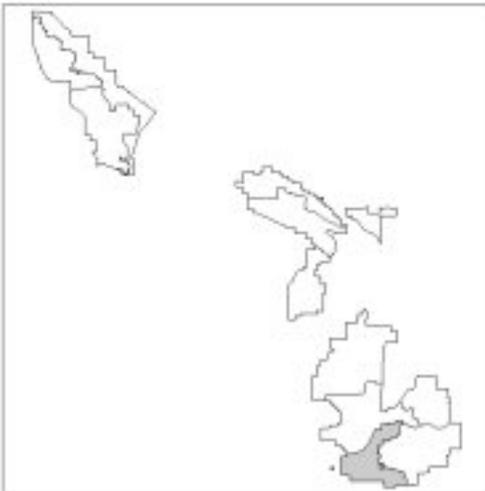
Desired Condition: The Palomar Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as one of the forest's most popular year-round recreation and scenic touring destinations. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed over time are dark night skies; built elements that are harmonized and complement the cultural and natural character of the place; scenic vista points along State Highways S6 and S7; special historic features that add diversity to the landscape; mature over-story trees in and around developed recreation sites—especially conifer species; and the predominantly natural appearance of the landscape visible from these locations.

Program Emphasis: Maintain scenic drives and developed recreation opportunities. Improve public facilities. Maintain dark skies and opportunities for stargazing. Protect habitat for rare and vulnerable species such

as the California spotted owl, the southwestern willow flycatcher and the Laguna Mountain skipper butterfly. Improve defensible space and community protection through the implementation of forest health projects that reduce stand density. Acquire rights-of-way to enhance access on existing Forest Service roads, including Palomar Divide Road. Acquire lands to improve administrative and public access and to consolidate public land. Maintain roads to accommodate fire equipment and enhance backcountry driving opportunities. Evaluate the effects of groundwater extraction.

Pine Creek

Theme: A wilderness landscape that contains the southern portal of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The place features an undeveloped canyon landscape with two designated wilderness areas that include high-quality riparian habitats with important populations of wildlife species. It is one of the most remote and isolated places on the Cleveland National Forest, offering opportunities for solitude and quiet contemplation.



Setting: The Pine Creek Place is an undeveloped, wilderness landscape where evidence of human activities is not common. It is located in the extreme southwestern corner of the forest. Hauser Canyon and Pine Valley Creek Canyon are the most distinctive landscape features. Pine Valley Creek drains from the Laguna Mountains to the south and Cottonwood Creek flows west through Hauser Canyon. The creeks meet outside the forest at Barrett Lake Reservoir. Elevations range from 1,600 to 4,400 feet; the canyons are rough, steep and narrow, rising as much as 1,500 feet in less than a mile. Large water diversions adjacent to Pine Creek play a major role in the availability of water resources and wildlife habitat in this area.

Most of area is covered with coastal sage and broadleaf chaparral. Granite boulders and rocky outcroppings dot the landscape. Although the streams are dry most of the year, riparian and oak woodlands, comprised of oaks, cottonwood, and willows, thrive in the grassy canyons. Water is generally unavailable, running water occurring only during rainy periods and during spring run-off.

Most of the vegetation in the place is approximately 35 years old and in healthy condition. However, recent drought has resulted in the mortality of chaparral species and is expected to increase fire suppression and community protection needs.

Vegetation management has been associated with opening some areas to unauthorized off-highway vehicle usage. There are other areas where vegetation management within designated wilderness would be required to improve community protection along a wilderness boundary. Arson along transportation corridors and illegal campfires related to undocumented immigration are the primary sources of wildfire in this place. The current emphasis on fire prevention in this place, known as the Border Fire Prevention Program, is expected to continue.

Pine Valley Creek has high-quality riparian habitat and important populations of arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), least Bell's vireo (*least Bell's vireo*), and southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*). Limited access to Pine Creek has resulted in minimal impacts to wildlife. Eagles are seen within the Pine Creek Place. Water is randomly discharged from Lake Morena into Hauser Canyon. The unnatural release schedule affects habitat and wildlife communities.

Interstate 8, Japatul Valley Road from Horsethief Trailhead to the forest boundary, and Dehesa Road are the main roads in the Pine Creek Place. Interstate 8 and Japatul Valley Road offer birds-eye views of the rugged Pine Creek Wilderness. Interstate 8 bisects the northern tip of the Pine Creek Place. For millions of visitors traveling westward on the Interstate, views of the Pine Creek Wilderness from the I-8 corridor will be their last glimpse of undeveloped land before they descend into the rural and urban landscape of southern California.

The Pine Creek Place is the southern gateway to the 2,560 mile Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. This important trail cuts across the extreme east corner of the Pine Creek Place. The place is remote and isolated. Recreation use fluctuates depending upon the availability of water and seasonal temperatures. The trails within the Pine Creek Place are little used. Hauser Creek Trail is the only trail in the southern part of this landscape and vehicular access to the trail is limited by private land ownership on the southern border of the forest. Unauthorized access on the north side of Hauser Wilderness from the adjacent OHV area is common.

Non-conforming uses (e.g., drug trafficking, nonsystem trails, litter and undocumented immigration) affect the agency's ability to protect and manage the wilderness character of this place.

Existing Wilderness:

- Hauser Wilderness 6,834 acres
- Pine Creek Wilderness 13,368 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Pine Creek Expansion 409 acres

Desired Condition: The Pine Creek Place is maintained as a predominantly naturally evolving area that functions as a remote, undeveloped, wilderness landscape where only ecological changes are evident. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed over time are pristine canyon woodland communities; vegetative diversity as expressed by healthy, coastal sage scrub communities; the natural appearance of the landscape—especially in those areas visible from the Interstate 8 Highway and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail corridor and from key vista points along these corridors; and the undisturbed/undeveloped character of the Pine Creek Wilderness.

Program Emphasis: Maintain the current character and level of development within the Pine Creek Place. Emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities. Management activities are to promote wilderness values. Manage wilderness areas in accordance with up-to-date wilderness plans. Move toward elimination of existing roads and power lines within the wilderness areas, and minimize trespass with motorized vehicles. Maintain scenic views from the Interstate 8 corridor. Maintain or develop long distance trail networks for hiking, backpacking and equestrian use. Develop access to loop trails and day-use opportunities within the wilderness. Develop common management goals for open-space protection and land acquisition plans for Lake Morena and Barrett Lake in cooperation with San Diego water authorities. Cooperate with San Diego water authorities to achieve water discharge from Lake Morena which mimics natural conditions and supports unique wildlife and plant values. Maintain existing fuelbreaks and increase community protection efforts. Enhance defensible space, firefighter and public safety. Minimize wildland fires related to immigration routes through the The Border Fire Prevention Program. Control and reduce resource damage due to undocumented immigration.

San Dieguito/Black Mountain

Theme: An open-space parkway and wildlife habitat link. Popular backyard to the rapidly urbanizing community of Ramona. The Black Mountain Place is the last remaining open space with potential links to wildlife habitats to the southeast and the northwest. This area is part of the San Dieguito River Parkway of regional trails and open-space.



Setting: The place offers a natural setting for dispersed day-use recreation activities set within a rural ranching community. State Highways 76, 78 and 79 and the community of Ramona separate this place from the southern part of the Cleveland National Forest. Orosco Ridge and Black Mountain encircle Pamo Valley and the Temescal Creek floodplain. The 4,050 ft Black Mountain is the highest and most distinctive feature within this place. In general, the landscape exhibits an undeveloped character.

Santa Ysabel Creek flows through Lake Sutherland, then joins Temescal Creek and drains Pamo Valley. Short-term use of water resources in this area may be affecting water quality. The place is a botanically unique area and contains the Organ Valley Research Natural Area (RNA). Organ Valley RNA conserves oak woodland and savannah plant communities dominated by Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*). Both Black Mountain and Organ Valley have areas composed of gabbro rocks. Soils derived from gabbro are unusual and harbor many rare and sensitive plants such as Orcutt's linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*), Orcutt's brodiaea (*Brodiaea orcuttii*), Gander's ragwort (*Senecio ganderi*), Ramona horkelia (*Horkelia sp.*), and felt-leaved monardella (*Mondardella hypoleuca* ssp. *lanatana*).

In general, the vegetation within the place is mostly chaparral with large oak woodland riparian components and scattered pines. The chaparral vegetation is vigorous, and varies between 10 to 100 years in age class, with the exception of Orosco Ridge, where type conversion of scrub communities to grasslands may be occurring due to short fire intervals. Chaparral communities have adapted to a southern California fire regime, regenerating within a couple years. Insects and drought have caused losses of pine and oak forests. Prescribed burns have been successful. Mechanical eradication treatments for the noxious weed, tamarisk, has been partially successful in San Ysabel Creek. Additional vegetation management projects are needed for the maintenance of forest health and community protection.

Although much of the land within the place is privately owned, the area is highly diverse and supports a large number of sensitive species, including the arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Pamo Valley, which is owned by the City of San Diego, is leased for ranching. Attempts to control exotic, non-native animal species (bullfrogs and cowbirds) have not been effective.

The place's southern border includes the rapidly developing community of Ramona. Adjacent land owners include the City of San Diego and the California Department of Fish and Game. San Diego County's Black Canyon and Pamo Roads access the place. The Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians uses Black Canyon Road and Sutherland Dam for access to tribal land.

Day-use, hiking, dispersed camping, and backcountry driving are the most popular recreation activities. There are no developed sites or facilities for public use. Orosco Ridge has six miles of roads open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) and is open to shooting. Deer hunting is popular. The place is also a well-known site for hang gliding. Illegal dumping, and depreciative behaviors such as vandalism, bonfires and parties occur in this place.

Portions of the place have been surveyed for the presence of heritage resources. Both prehistoric and historic sites have been located. There is a historic bridge on Black Canyon road. The place is also a traditional collecting area for local Native Americans.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- San Luis Rey River (Main) 3.2 miles

Existing Research Natural Areas:

- Organ Valley 562 acres

Desired Condition: The Black Mountain/San Dieguito Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as an important link in regional trail and open-space networks and serves as a backyard to the community of Ramona in terms of both scenery and recreation opportunities. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed over time are views of a predominantly undeveloped landscape from the surrounding communities, special historic features, and botanical elements that add diversity to the chaparral/coastal sage scrub vegetation, such as rare Engelmann oak stands.

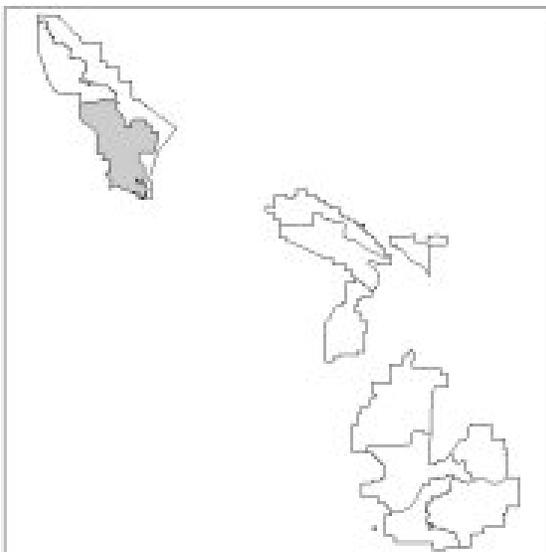
Program Emphasis: Retain the undeveloped natural character of San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place. Manage vegetation to enhance community protection. Maintain vegetation within one fire return interval of the pre-suppression fire regime, minimizing type conversion of scrub communities to grasslands. Limit the spread of exotic, nonnative plant and animal species. Maintain Penny Pine plantations. Preserve wildlife habitat and connecting links between the San Diego River watershed and San Dieguito/Black Mountain. Protect botanical values within the Organ Valley RNA with the elimination of motorized use.

Improve safety, parking, and sanitation in recreation facilities. Develop interpretive facilities. Provide for hang gliding and shooting areas to satisfy demand. Limit shooting to designated areas operated by a concessionaire. Improve and maintain roads to accommodate fire equipment and enhance opportunities for backcountry driving. Upgrade Black Canyon Road and Sutherland Dam Road for safety and all-weather use. Protect heritage resources along Black Canyon Road.

Coordinate with community planning efforts by the city of Ramona concerning urban interface development on the south end of the San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place. Support interagency efforts to link San Dieguito River Parkway to Forest Service land. Participate with the City of San Diego concerning long-range planning for Pamo Valley. Acquire rights-of-way that facilitate public access. Consolidate National Forest ownership within the San Dieguito/Black Mountain Place and acquire land that contain key habitats or enhance wildlife corridors. Monitor the effects of water use.

San Mateo

Theme: A day-use retreat. The San Mateo Place is one of the few remaining wildland areas in southern California that is bordered by large natural reserves. The place offers opportunities for challenge, solitude, and contemplation close to urban populations as well as exceptional opportunities for trail-based recreation, including mountain-biking in the northern half of the place. The place supports the southern most population of native steelhead trout and exceptional botanical values. The Ortega Highway is an important variable in this landscape.



Setting: The San Mateo Place is primarily an undeveloped landscape. The place includes the west-facing slope of the central and south Santa Ana Mountains. The southern part of this place includes the San Mateo Wilderness. Ortega Highway crosses through this place and divides the federally designated wilderness segment in the south from the non-wilderness area to the north. To the south and west the San Mateo Place is bordered by large tracts of nature reserves and the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base. The place contains portions of an inventoried roadless area.

San Mateo Creek is one of the few remaining free-flowing streams in southern California and possesses unique plant and animal habitats. San Mateo and Devils Canyon contain water for most of the year. The other major drainages in the place are San Juan Creek, Los Alamos Creek and Hot Springs Creek. The San Mateo Place has several popular waterfalls, including Ortega, and Tenaja Falls.

Two communities, Rancho Carrillo and Rancho Capistrano, are located in and nearby the the San Mateo Place. Rancho Capistrano is located on the forest boundary and Rancho Carrillo is surrounded by the wilderness in the southwestern part of the place. Several other private inholdings are also located within the wilderness or adjacent to the wilderness boundary. These communities are at risk from wildfire and community protection projects are needed to reduce that threat.

Chaparral and coastal sage habitats are characteristic of the San Mateo landscape. The wilderness area contains a number of oak woodlands and grassy meadows. Seasonal wildflower displays are abundant in this landscape. A high percentage of the vegetation in this place is chaparral. While in generally healthy condition, land in lower San Mateo Canyon have been degraded by human caused fires spreading into the wilderness.

Both San Mateo and San Juan Creeks have been designated as critical habitat along parts of their reach for one or more threatened or endangered species, including southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*). Other endangered, threatened and sensitive species that have habitat occupied and unoccupied in this place include the southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and a number of plants. Chiquito Basin, which is located in the San Mateo Place, has a number of endemic and rare plants. The seasonal wildflower display is spectacular. Nonnative vegetation, including artichoke thistle, yellow star-thistle, and animals (fish & amphibian) can also be found throughout the place.

Access to and within the San Mateo Place is limited to a few roads. The most highly used road is Ortega (Wildland Firefighter's Memorial) Highway. Ortega Highway has become a commuter road, and is the only east-west route in the area which connects Riverside and Orange Counties. Motorized access to a small segment of the northern portion of the place is limited because the forest boundary is adjacent to open space or wildlife reserves. Access in the south is limited due to land ownership and the lack of rights-of-way.

Plant materials traditionally used by Native Americans thrive in several locations.

Dispersed day-use and trail-based recreation, especially hiking and mountain biking, bird watching, photography, water play, and nature study are the most popular activities. The San Mateo Place boasts the most extensive designated trail system on the Cleveland National Forest. Morgan and Tenaja Falls are popular day-use destinations. Some trails receive very little use due to patterns of land ownership. Recreation access is limited by lack of public rights-of-way through private parcels. Trails outside of the wilderness are very popular with mountain bikers. Camping is currently permitted only in developed campgrounds and the federally designated wilderness. The San Mateo Place has high need and potential for environmental interpretation.

A number of abandoned mines exist within the place. Two grazing allotments, El Cariso-Verdugo and the Miller section of the Miller Mountain-Tenaja, allotment are also located here. In addition, two recreation residence tracts are located in San Juan and Hot Springs Canyons.

Unlawful activities within the San Mateo Place include marijuana plantations, unauthorized motorized vehicle use, wildlife poaching, and mechanized use in the wilderness. There are also a number of trespasses (fences, unauthorized trails).

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- San Mateo Creek 14.1 miles

Existing Wilderness:

- San Mateo Wilderness 38,912 acres

Recommended Wilderness:

- Sitton Peak 1,029 acres

Proposed Special Interest Areas:

- Chiquito Springs 727 acres

Desired Condition: The San Mateo Place is maintained as a predominantly naturally evolving landscape that functions as an undeveloped day-use wildland and wilderness retreat for southern Orange and Riverside County. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are a mosaic of chaparral and coastal sage scrub, punctuated by riparian woodlands that have high scenic value and enhance the recreation experiences (i.e. bigleaf maples, California bay, other deciduous trees and wildflowers); expansive vistas that accentuate the impression of remoteness; and the undeveloped character of the land especially in those areas visible from important trail and road corridors (Ortega Highway).

Program Emphasis: Maintain the undeveloped, primitive and semi-primitive character of the San Mateo Place. Conserve opportunities for solitude and challenge within the San Mateo Wilderness. The unique diversity of plant and animal species, and their habitats are to be protected. Control or limit the spread of invasive, noxious, or undesirable nonnative plant and animal species. Coordinate wildfire protection with Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base and neighboring communities. Maintain opportunities for mechanized trail-based recreation in the northern part of the San Mateo Place. Manage recreation residences to meet county and federal standards. Maintain forest boundaries and secure public access through cooperative efforts with adjacent communities and counties. Manage grazing allotments to standard.

Silverado

Theme: The Silverado Place is a canyon lands backdrop for millions of southern Orange County residents. Canyon communities, open-space links to surrounding communities and trail-based recreation characterize this place. The Silverado Place is an important habitat link to surrounding regional wildlife preserves. Riparian habitats support recreation activities and species diversity.



Setting: The Silverado Place occupies the northwest side from the north forest boundary down to and including Trabuco Canyon. The northwest slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains are dominant features within this landscape. Elevations range from approximately 1,200 feet at the mouth of Silverado Canyon to over 5,600 feet at Santiago Peak. The area is known for fault activity. The Silverado Place is closer to Los Angeles than any of the other place on the Cleveland National Forest. A number of Orange County cities are minutes away from this part of the forest.

The Silverado Place generally has high rainfall during the wet season. Due to the available moisture, riparian

habitats, for species such as oaks and ash, are concentrated here. Large California bay laurel trees and the southern most populations of bigleaf maple thrive in Trabuco Canyon. Bigcone Douglas-fir grows at the heads of several of the canyons. The headwaters of Silverado's canyons contain the greatest concentrations of bigcone Douglas-fir in the Santa Ana Mountains.

The vegetation is generally healthy in this place, but due to the age of the chaparral, there is potential for high intensity wildfire that could damage or kill stands of bigcone Douglas-fir. A significant number of acres are chaparral greater than 80 years of age in this place.

There are community protection concerns within the Silverado Place, especially in the community of Silverado. A fire safe council has been formed and has identified a fuelbreak and an emergency escape route across National Forest System lands as enhancements that are needed for community protection. The Silverado Place is a difficult location to fight wildfire due to the lack of roads and fuelbreaks to provide firefighter access and defensible space.

The Silverado Place has a number of threatened, endangered and sensitive species. *Dudleya* sp. occurs on Modjeska Peak. The place has suitable and occupied habitat for the California spotted owl. The arroyo toad, speckled dace, and other sensitive species are present or have habitat in this place.

Invasive, nonnative, exotic species, both plant and animal (arrundo, eucalyptus, gums, star thistle, vinca spp., ivy, bullfrogs, etc.), are present here and present a continuing management challenge.

Due to presence of the arroyo toad, a seasonal closure occurs on the popular Maple Springs Road (Silverado Canyon).

Several locations within the the Silverado Place serve as habitat links to several Orange County parks. The Silverado Place is part of Orange County's NCCP (Orange County's habitat conservation plan for multi-species).

Historic and pre-historic sites can be found in some of the canyons.

The Silverado Place is an important day-use area for Orange County. Trail-based activities, particularly hiking and mountain biking, are increasing in popularity. Blackstar, Falls Canyon and Holy Jim Harding, along with Silverado Motorway, Silverado Truck Trail, and Maple Springs, are important visitor destinations. Vehicular access is constrained by patterns of land ownership. Maple Springs Road is the only road opened to vehicular traffic that connects to another forest road, North Main Divide. Neither Blackstar nor Harding Roads are open to motorized access. These roads are used as biking and hiking trails.

A number of special uses are evident within this place. A section of the 500kV Valley-Serrano powerline is located in one of the upper canyons (Ladd Canyon). A high concentration of abandoned mines and shafts are located within this place. A number of recreation residences exist in Trabuco/Holy Jim Canyon. The California Department of Fish and Game stocks Trabuco Creek with fish when water flows are sufficient.

Unauthorized activities include trash dumping, unauthorized trail construction, trespass (clearing brush or building fences or structures), marijuana gardens, and graffiti.

There are no special designations.

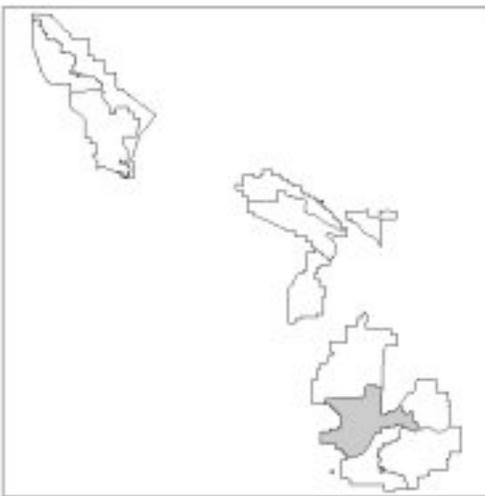
Desired Condition: The Silverado Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as a backdrop for southern Orange County and a refuge for communities and the unique natural resources sheltered in its canyons. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved over time are the undeveloped quality and character of the urban backdrop, and areas viewed from canyon communities; woodland plant habitats that have high scenic value and enhance the recreation experiences (i.e., bigleaf maples, California bay, other deciduous trees and wildflowers); and rare vegetative communities on upland slopes that add diversity to the landscape (i.e. knobcone pine and coastal sage scrub).

Place Emphasis: Improve forest health through vegetative management. Vegetation treatments protect chaparral stands and bigcone Douglas-fir. Develop fire protection measures for canyon communities. Remove or limit spread of nonnative species to improve water quality. Develop additional parking areas for trail-based activities to improve access. Maintain mechanized use throughout the area. Address conflicts associated with trail-based recreation. Increase Forest Service presence through the use of personnel, signage, and publications. Enhance interpretive opportunities and accessibility for persons with disabilities. Increase volunteerism, environmental education and interpretation. Develop services and facilities in partnership with local communities. Complete the special interest area designation process for Chiquito Springs. Administer recreation residences to meet county

and federal standards. Lands that are acquired will enhance habitat linkages, public access, and consolidation of public lands. Acquire rights-of-way for public and administrative road access through cooperative efforts with internal and external partners. Evaluate the feasibility of a transportation corridor linking Orange and Riverside counties. Evaluate alternatives to Maple Springs Road. Improve road maintenance for safety and to accommodate contemporary fire fighting vehicles. Maintain a road network that supports the demand for scenic driving with canyon-woodland views. Administer special uses to maintain important viewsheds.

Sweetwater

Theme: Sweetwater Place is a transition zone between the southwestern deserts and the urbanized southern California seacoast. It contains the Interstate 8 road corridor and is one of two designated transportation corridors on the Cleveland National Forest. The corridor offers expansive, scenic views of Guatay, Laguna, and Viejas mountains to tens of thousands of interstate travelers each day. It is characterized by the most mixed land ownership pattern in the planning area and offers many opportunities for coordinated community planning and partnerships.



Setting: Sweetwater Place is a transition zone between metropolitan San Diego and the relatively undeveloped mountain, desert and wilderness open-spaces of the Southwest. Interstate 8 is one of the primary east-west linkages in the southern United States. Millions of travelers annually move through this landscape. Sweetwater is also the primary entry to the Cleveland National Forest and offers a snapshot of the forest and panoramic views to travelers passing through.

The Sweetwater area is home to tens of thousands of people. The land ownership pattern is a mixture of private and public land. It contains the urban fringe of San Diego, the communities of Alpine, Descanso, Pine Valley, Guatay, and the Viejas Indian Reservation. The character and appearance of Sweetwater is a mix of natural and rural/urban elements.

The landscape supports a variety of vegetation types. Oak woodlands, chaparral, and riparian vegetation types characterize the most common. Gabbro soils and many rare plant species are found here including Tecate cypress (*Cypressus forbesii*) at Guatay, Englemann Oaks (*Quercus englemannii*), at Roberts Ranch, and San Diego thorn-mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*). Guatay and Viejas Research Natural Areas have been proposed to conserve these species. Also located within Sweetwater, the Guatay Mountain Special Interest Area was established in 1986 to conserve the largest stand of Tecate cypress on National Forest System lands.

Fire frequency within Sweetwater Place is high. Increased traffic and population have resulted in a corresponding increase in human ignited fires and fire frequency. Vegetative management issues within the place are complex and relate to both forest health and community protection. Recent drought has resulted in mortality of chaparral species, which is expected to increase fire suppression and community protection needs. There are hundreds of structures within the Forest Service protection area that are in extremely hazardous settings. Substantial vegetative buffer work will be required to create a safe fire-fighting environment.

Several threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, including least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and

arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), are found within Sweetwater Place. Pine Creek supports one of the few native fish species on the forest, partially armored 3-spine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus microcephalus* (a Forest Service Sensitive species)). A bridge has recently been constructed at Pine Creek to protect arroyo toad habitat.

There are important cultural and historic values within Sweetwater Place. Prominent landmarks such as Viejas Mountain, Chiquito Peak, Guatay Mountain and Cuyamaca Peak are important to the local communities. There is an important archaeological site at Robert's Ranch. Sections of the historic San Diego Flume are within the place. An historic settlement site and archaeological sites are located near the community of Descanso.

Within Sweetwater Place, undocumented immigration, resource conflicts, and illegal activities pose a variety of management challenges. Lack of public access, encroachment, trespass, user created non-system trails, dumping, and homesteading are common activities. Drug production, burglary and other illegal activities are also widely reported.

Sweetwater Place supports various recreational activities including, hiking, equestrian use, mountain biking, and hang gliding. Trail-based activities are popular. Segments of the California Riding and Hiking trail also pass through the place. There is, however, no continuous system of trails and users are developing trails from the adjacent communities.

Special Designations:

Existing Special Interest Areas

- Guatay Mountain

Proposed Research Natural Areas:

- Guatay Mountain
- Viejas Mountain

Desired Condition: Sweetwater Place is maintained as a natural appearing landscape that functions as one of the primary transition zones between the deserts of the southwest and southern California's coastal communities. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved or developed over time are the undeveloped character of Forest Service land that remain in this otherwise highly developed rural area; opportunities for unobstructed, panoramic views from the Interstate 8 corridor—especially on the on the eastern side; the scenic integrity of important cultural properties (traditional cultural properties); and built elements that are unobtrusive and exhibit a consistent architectural theme.

Place Emphasis: Management efforts help to ensure that activities originating from neighboring private land harmonize with forest land management objectives. Reduce the danger of fire and floods by managing vegetation in community threat zones. Minimize illegal activities, off-road vehicle use, administrative backlogs, fire danger, and resource degradation. Increase fire prevention efforts to reduce the frequency of fire ignitions. Emphasize species conservation and control or eradication of noxious weeds. Minimize private encumbrance of public land with acquisition of rights-of-way. Place emphasis on boundary management and land adjustments. Recreation development will focus on establishing a trail network for day-use hiking as well as links to long-distance trail networks. Manage development within the Interstate 8 road corridor to conserve panoramic views from the highway. Encourage and enlist community partners to actively participate in managing, planning, designing, maintaining and monitoring resource conditions (including groundwater withdrawal and quality), and to help to resolve problems as they arise within the place.

Upper San Diego River

Theme: A remote, primitive landscape with deep, rugged river canyons, popular waterfalls, and scenic vistas within a rapidly urbanizing area. This is one of the key ecological areas within the National Forests of southern California, containing a large number of rare species and habitats.



Setting: Two distinct qualities characterize the Upper San Diego River Place. The first is the upper portion of a 52-mile river system that is part of the San Diego River Conservancy that is mostly remote and relatively undisturbed except by fire. The second quality relates to urban development, including roads, unauthorized social trails, power-lines, and undeveloped parking areas. These developments are beginning to influence the appearance and remoteness of this place. Elevations range from 750 feet at the El Capitan spillway to over 3,400 feet the Inaja Memorial Picnic Area. The place supports many rare and vulnerable plant and animal species and includes the Kings Creek Research Natural Area, which contains stands of the Cuyamaca cypress. Three inventoried roadless areas are also found within this place.

This place includes the headwaters of the San Diego River and its tributaries. The steep canyons of Boulder Creek, Cedar Creek, and the San Diego River exhibit a remote, undeveloped character. The Upper San Diego River Place is located in the central part of the Cleveland National Forest between the community of Ramona, the Cuyamaca Mountains (Cuyamaca Rancho State Park), Capitan Grande Indian Reservation and the historic community of Julian. Private land and tribal lands make up the lower portion of this place and surround the El Capitan Reservoir. The San Diego River drainage is the most distinctive natural feature in the area.

Vegetation includes a diverse mix of plant communities that change with elevation. The mix ranges from chaparral communities that dominate the hillsides at lower elevations, and Coulter pine and black oak mixed with manzanita at higher elevations (above 3,000 feet). The San Diego River Place is the only area in the world where the Cuyamaca cypress (*Cupressus stephensonii*) grows. In addition, the rare Englemann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*) grows in patches around Eagle Peak and other areas. The upper San Diego River Canyon above El Capitan Lake contains the largest contiguous stand of coastal sage scrub on the Cleveland National Forest. This vegetation community is critical habitat for the threatened California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*).

There is a history of large, dangerous wildfire in this place including the recent Cedar fire which burned the entire upper San Diego River watershed and spread all the way to the San Diego City communities of Scripps Ranch and Tierrasanta. This fire resulted in loss of over 2,000 homes and commercial buildings, 14 fatalities, and threatened to eradicate the Cuyamaca cypress. A drought had resulted in the mortality of large areas of chaparral vegetation and triggered a bark beetle outbreak killing approximately 40% of the Coulter pine. The Inaja fire in the 1950s resulted in 11 firefighter fatalities when a fire crew was overrun by fire in the San Diego River watershed. There is a defensible space issue associated with most of the development in the place and a lack of community fuelbreaks. Interagency protection efforts are currently being discussed regarding the communities adjacent to the western perimeter of the place and a fire safe council has been formed in Julian to the northeast.

There is a high potential for human caused fire near El Capitan Reservoir, Cedar Creek Falls, and adjacent to San Diego Country Estates, and for both lightning and human caused fire near Eagle Peak. The Cedar Creek Falls location has also been identified as a problem area for law enforcement and fire management due to poor access.

Fire frequency is an issue related to other vegetative cover within the place. The intervals between fires are very short in the coastal sage scrub. In fact, some parts of the San Diego River Bottom have burned three times in the past eight years. The Cuyamaca Cypress is now at risk to loss from fire until an aerial bank has been reestablished, possibly taking 30-50 years.

Land ownership patterns adjacent to this place often constrain public and administrative access. Dense urban development occurs along the forest boundary in some locations. Tribal interests, such as the Viejas, Barona, Inaja, and El Capitan Grande Indian Reservations, own large areas of land adjacent to Upper San Diego River. Access between the tribal land and National Forest System land is constrained as rights-of-way and partnerships do not exist. Some urban influences do exist, including infrastructure, such as roads and power lines along the periphery, as well as some visible fuel breaks. The proximity to urban development results in an increased threat of wildfire.

The majority of this place is undeveloped, and road and trail access is limited. Trail-based access within the place is limited to a network of unofficial (non-Forest Service) trails and a short trail from Saddleback to the area above Cedar Creek Falls. The San Diego River Conservancy was recently established to protect open-space values along the San Diego River corridor. The San Diego River Place is the location of a proposed link in the regional trail Sea to Sea Trail. Most visitors come to this place to enjoy the scenery, solitude or to access specific destinations. Visitors to the Inaja National Recreation Trail can hike to vista points above the San Diego River headwaters and enjoy views that extend to the ocean.

Overall, recreation use throughout the Upper San Diego River Place is light and widely dispersed; however, urbanization has increased use and concentrated use is occurring at Cedar Falls and contributing to resource damage there. Good opportunities for hunting exist and there is high level of use on existing roads and non-system trails by mountain bikers. Only one developed site, the Inaja Memorial Picnic Area, is located within the place. Other than the self-guided trail at Inaja, there are no interpretive facilities, no partnerships, and no education or interpretive programs designed to engage the public in environmental education. Unauthorized motorized use is occurring around the periphery.

Recommended Wilderness:

- Upper San Diego River 5,766 acres

Established Research Natural Areas:

- King Creek 992 acres

Proposed Research Natural Areas:

- San Diego River 5,965 acres

Desired Condition: The Upper San Diego River Place is maintained as a remote, natural appearing landscape that functions as respite for the surrounding urban population. The valued landscape attributes to be preserved (or restored) over time are a mosaic of coastal sage scrub, chaparral vegetation, riparian woodlands, and rare botanical species that add diversity to the landscape (i.e., Cuyamaca cypress and Engelmann oak). Other attributes include broad, undisturbed expanses of landscape that frame panoramic vistas; opportunities for viewing unique landscape features such as deeply dissected canyons, waterfalls, distant landmarks from vista points and road and trail corridors; and built elements that are rustic and unobtrusive. A diversity of age classes is developed over time in the chaparral as this watershed recovers from the Cedar Fire. Homeowners, in cooperation with the Forest Service, maintain defensible fuel profiles around their homes in recognition of the frequent fires that are likely to occur in this area.

Program Emphasis: Management emphasis is to maintain the natural-appearing setting for dispersed recreation activities. Increase Forest Service presence. Increase public understanding of natural systems through education and interpretation. Fire prevention emphasis featuring community protection will be increased in the lower portion and on the west and north sides of the place. Recreation management in the vicinity of Cedar Creek Falls will be improved. Acquire rights-of-way to improve administrative and public access. Eliminate or designate unofficial trails. Plan a trail system and develop support facilities to allow safe access to popular destinations including an east to west section of the Trans-County Trail. Coordinate management with the San Diego River Conservancy. Conserve biological values associated with the research natural areas. Protect Cuyamaca cypress from fire while it recovers an aerial seed bank (30-50 years) and restore mature coastal sage scrub in the San Diego River bottom.

Forest-Specific Design Criteria

Place Specific Standards

CNF S1 - Avoid activities resulting in direct trampling or erosion problems to Laguna Mountains skipper key and occupied habitat and adjacent areas (Laguna and Palomar Places).

CNF S2 - Future development at Elsinore Peak will be designed to avoid adverse effects to Munz's onion (Elsinore Place).

CNF S3 - Livestock grazing in San Bernardino bluegrass *Poa atropurpurea* habitat will be deferred until after seed-set (Laguna, Palomar, Morena Places).

CNF S4 - 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 unconforming land uses within the viewshed of the trail (Morena, Laguna, Aguanga Places).

CNF S5 - Avoid activities that may disturb San Diego thornmint *Acanthomintha ilicifolia* key and occupied habitat (Sweetwater Place).

CNF S6 - Restrict activities that may disturb slender-horned spine flower *Dodecahema leptoceras* (Aguanga Place).

Wilderness Standards

CNF S7 - 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.

CNF S8 - Emphasize minimum impact suppression tactics in all wilderness wildland fire responses. See Appendix D.

CNF S9 - 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
- Species Recovery Plans
- Species and Habitat Conservation Strategies

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. Predicting where and when future fires will burn is an inexact science. If future wildfire 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 similar to the last three years. Fluctuations in the budget, either upward or downward, would 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 I—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-2.2.1-Suitable Uses Resource Management, CNF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W
Resource Management:	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Fuelwood Harvesting	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified	Not Suitable
Rangeland Type Conversion for Forage production	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Restoration of Vegetation Condition	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	When Justified	When Justified
Disposal of National Forest System lands	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified	When Justified	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Table-2.2.2-Suitable Uses Public Use and Enjoyment, CNF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W
Public Values and Uses:	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Recreation Residence Tracts (see map)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	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)
Target Shooting Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Motorized Use on Roads	Forest System Roads	Forest System Roads	Forest System Roads	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Forest System Roads	Designated Roads	Designated Roads	Designated Roads	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Motorized use off Forest System Roads (36CFR295) and (36CFR261.51)	Designated Motorized Trails	Designated Motorized Trails	Designated Motorized Trails	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
Dispersed Area Camping (vehicle access permitted to designated campsites)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Dispersed Area Camping (foot access)	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable

Table-2.2.3-Suitable Uses Commodity and Commercial Uses, CNF

Land Use Zone	URI	DAI	BCM	BCNM	CB	W
Commodity and Commercial Uses:	Urban and Rural Interface	Developed Areas Intermix	Back Country Motorized	Back Country Non-Motorized	Critical Biological	Wilderness
Special Uses: Low Intensity Land Use	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	For Research	Not Suitable
Communication Sites	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Livestock Grazing	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Designated Areas
Major Transportation Corridors (36 CFR 219.27 (a) (9))	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Road construction or reconstruction	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Major Utility Corridors (36 CFR 219.27 (a) (9))	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Designated Areas	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
Developed Facilities	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Table-2.2.4-Suitable Uses Fire and Fuels Management, CNF

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

Table-2.2.5-Resource Management Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Resource Management	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Acres of Terrestrial Habitat Enhanced	42	259
Miles of Aquatic Habitat Enhanced	3	10
Acres of Noxious Weeds Treated	0	5
Acres of Vegetation Improved (Timber Stand Improvement)	41	500
Acres of Watershed Improved	5	16
Acres of Land Ownership Adjusted	250	325
Number of Heritage Resources Managed to Standard	28	45

Table-2.2.6-Public Use and Enjoyment Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Public Use and Enjoyment	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Products Provided to Standard (Interpretation and Education)	12	20
Recreation Special Use Authorizations Administered to Standard	49	85
PAOT Days Managed to Standard (Developed Sites)	796,172	1,381,578
Recreation Days Managed to Standard (General Forest Areas)	5,032	9,477

Table-2.2.7-Facilities Operations and Maintenance Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Facility Operations and Maintenance	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Miles of Passenger Car Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	21	40
Miles of High Clearance & Back Country Roads Maintained to Objective Maintenance Level	23	100
Miles of Road Decommissioned	3	10
Miles of Trail Operated and Maintained to Standard	41	80

Table-2.2.8-Commodities and Commercial Uses Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Commodity and Commercial Uses	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Number of Mineral Operations Administered	4	7
Manage Grazing Allotments	2,146	3,571

Table-2.2.9-Fire and Aviation Management Performance Indicators, CNF

Performance Indicators for Commodity and Commercial Uses	Current Level	Estimated Forest Capability and Need
Number of Mineral Operations Administered	4	7
Manage Grazing Allotments	2,146	3,571

Appendices

Appendix A - Special Designation Overlays - Cleveland National Forest

Wilderness

Existing Wilderness

Agua Tibia Wilderness

15,933 Acres

The Agua Tibia Wilderness is located in the Palomar Ranger District. The wilderness is bounded on the east by the Cutca Valley and the Cutca inventoried roadless area, on the south and to the west by the Pauma and Pechanga Indian Reservations, and on the north by the Cleveland National Forest's Dripping Springs campground, which is located just off State Highway 79. There are approximately 25 miles of trails within the wilderness, accessed from the campground.

Canyon slopes are covered with fragile soils that support a vegetative cover of dense chaparral, while the peaks are capped with stands of conifer. Elevations within the area range from 1,700 to 5,077 feet at Eagle Crag Peak.

The wilderness is close to the rapidly urbanizing north San Diego County and southern Riverside County. Residents from the surrounding communities have easy access to the Agua Tibia Wilderness although currently, the Agua Tibia is lightly used. Recreation visitor days are estimated at 3,146 days annually. About 90% of the use originates from the Dripping Springs Campground, and the remainder originates from the east via Cutca Valley Trail.

Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Places: Aguanga

Hauser Wilderness

7,547 Acres

The area is a congressionally designated wilderness, located on a long, narrow finger of land on the extreme south end of the Descanso Ranger District. The primary access to the wilderness is via the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail from the Morena Regional Park trailhead. Access to the trailhead is from Morena Lake Road and Buckman Springs Road.

The wilderness is a broad south-facing slope of Hauser Canyon, an important watershed for Barrett Reservoir. Elevations within the wilderness range from 1,600 near Barrett Lake to 3,681 feet near Bronco Flats. The steep slopes are primarily covered with coastal sage scrub and broadleaf chaparral, with numerous granite boulders and rocky outcrops. Hauser Creek Trail follows Hauser Canyon for four miles just outside the southern wilderness boundary. No other trails exist, and the rest of the area is seldom used. Recreation visitor days are estimated at 1,200 days annually. Day-use hiking and hunting are the most popular recreational activities. Barrett Lake, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and the Marine Memorial are the most popular destinations.

Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this unit.

Places: Pine Creek

Pine Creek Wilderness

13,480 Acres

This wilderness is located on the Descanso Ranger District and is situated in Pine Creek Valley, south of Interstate 8. Access is from Horsethief Canyon Trailhead, located off Lyons Valley Road, an easy reach both from the north (Japatul Road from Alpine) and from the south (Skyline Truck Trail) from Jamul and the western segment of the signed Espinosa Trail. The primary source of users is from the north (Pine Valley Trailhead/Secret Canyon Trail). The Secret Canyon Trail parallels the Pine Valley Canyon and eventually intersects with Espinosa Trail. The Espinosa Trail can also be accessed from the east, via Buckman Spring Road and Corral Canyon Road.

Recreation visitor days are estimated at 7,272 days annually. About 60% of the use originates from the Pine Valley Trailhead, and the remainder originates from Horsethief Trailhead.

The rough, steep canyon walls are covered with young, even-aged chaparral, due to a minor fire in 1970 that burned the entire area; however, there are several mesas within the wilderness that support some broadleaf woodland. Pine Creek and its tributaries represent typical riparian areas. Several minor canyon drainages feed into Pine Creek, bisecting the wilderness. Elevations vary from 1,600 to 4,400 feet.

Class II National Ambient Air Quality Standards apply for this wilderness.

Places: Pine Creek, Interstate 8 Corridor

San Mateo Wilderness

38,484 Acres

This Congressionally designated wilderness is located in the southern part of the Trabuco Ranger District. Several trails off the South Main Divide Road, near the Ortega Highway (State Highway 74), provide access to the area; however, public entry is restricted by adjacent private lands. Public access is not allowed from two additional roads off the Ortega Highway, Morrell Canyon (private development within the wilderness) and the road to Rancho Carrillo (another private in-holding). Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base prohibits access from the south, and there is no access from the west. Access from the north is via the Bear Canyon Loop trail. Additionally, the steeply angular topography of the Wildhorse area makes much of this wilderness almost entirely inaccessible.

Elevations in the wilderness range from 500 to 3,500 feet, and the vegetation consists predominantly of chamise and broadleaf chaparral with some interspersed oak woodland and grass meadows. San Mateo Creek is the major stream running through this area. It contains southern steelhead trout and a number of other threatened, endangered and sensitive species, and is one of the few remaining unregulated streams on the forest.

Most of the recreation use that occurs within the Wilderness occurs within the first five miles of the boundary. Tenaja Falls, located near San Mateo Creek, is a popular destination. Morgan Trail, Tenaja Trail and Fisherman Camp Trail are the most frequently used trails.

Within the wilderness is located one entire grazing allotment, and part of a second. Infrequent wildfires occur in the wilderness.

Places: San Mateo, Elsinore

Recommended Wilderness

Cutca Valley

The 14,510-acre Cutca Valley inventoried roadless area is located in the northern part of the Palomar Ranger District, approximately 12 miles southeast of Temecula. From the east, the area can be accessed from the High Point Road (FS8S05) and Palomar Divide Road (FS9S07). The eastern boundary parallels High Point Road.

Cutca Valley Trail (1E01) provides access to both the Cutca inventoried roadless area and the Agua Tibia Wilderness.

The topography of this area is a valley with rugged terrain and forested up-slopes, along with perennial streams. Canyon slopes are covered with chaparral, while higher ridges and peaks support stands of conifers.

This area is part of two sub-watersheds, one of which flows into the San Luis Rey River and the other into the Santa Margarita River. Slopes are therefore strategic and valuable water sources.

Recreational opportunities include hiking, hunting, backpacking, photography, minimal target shooting, equestrian use and rock hunting.

Places: Palomar, Aguanga

Pine Creek Expansion

The area lies within the Descanso Ranger District, and is situated in the Pine Creek Valley, south of interstate 8. Access is from Horsethief Canyon Road on the west, and from Skye Valley Road on the southeast. Public access is limited by adjacent private lands. Several miles of the wilderness abut Interstate 8, however, there is no direct access from the highway.

The rough, steep canyon walls are covered with young, even-aged chaparral, due to a minor fire in 1970 that burned the entire area. There are several mesas within the wilderness, which support some broadleaf woodland. Pine Creek and its tributaries represent typical riparian areas. Elevations vary from 1,600 to 4,400 feet. Several minor canyon drainages feed into Pine Creek, bisecting the wilderness.

Recreational opportunities include hiking, backpacking, and hunting. One of the primary designated trails, Espinosa Trail, runs through the upper portion of the area.

Places: Pine Creek, Sweetwater

Sitton Peak

The 3,840-acre Sitton Peak expansion area is located on the western slopes of the central Santa Ana Mountains, on the northern part of the Trabuco Ranger District. The Sitton Peak expansion area is the steep, undeveloped, unroaded southern slope of the San Juan Creek Canyon. No Forest Service system trails access the interior of this roadless area. A primitive, unmaintained road (Sitton Peak Road, FS 7S09) delineates the southern border. This road is deeply eroded, rocky and overgrown in places, but offers relatively easy access for hikers.

Sitton Peak offers a 360-degree panoramic view and is one of the few remaining peaks on the Trabuco District without an existing electronic site. Vegetation in this area is mainly chaparral.

Recreational activities common in this area include hiking, viewing scenery, photography, hunting, mountain biking, and equestrian use.

Places: San Mateo

Upper San Diego River

This area is the headwaters of the San Diego watershed and is located east of the town of Ramona. Access to the area is primarily via unauthorized trails from the nearby San Diego Country Estates, and on the eastside from Saddleback junction.

The topography of this area is characterized by rugged, very steep terrain in east San Diego County, along with a well-defined river channel. Elevations range from 880 feet at the riverbed to about 3,000 feet in the upslope area. There are waterfalls during spring runoff and during periods of above-average rainfall.

This river corridor supports Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, characteristic habitat for the federally threatened California gnatcatcher. Oak woodland vegetation types are also found here.

Hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, and some placer mining are the recreational activities pursued in

this area.

Places: Upper San Diego River

Wildhorse

The 1,480-acre Wildhorse expansion area is located on the western slope of the Elsinore Mountains, within the Trabuco Ranger District, approximately five miles southwest of Interstate Highway 15. It consists of several small parcels of National Forest System land located on the northeast side of the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. The South Main Divide Road (FS6S07, formerly Killen Truck Trail) parallels the northeastern edge of this area.

The vegetation here is primarily oak woodland. Natural features include Lion spring and scattered stands of oak.

Morgan Trail and nearby Morgan Trailhead are in the northern section of the inventoried roadless area. The area has dense stands of chaparral, archeological sites, and an intermittent stream.

Places: Elsinore

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Eligible

Cottonwood

Within the Cottonwood Creek corridor several sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places have been documented on both public and private lands. The sites represent the area's prehistoric use. Some have exhibited evidence of contact between the local inhabitants and the Hohokam pueblo builders of Arizona, which is a rare finding for California. The cultural resources found within the Creek corridor are therefore considered to be outstandingly remarkable, and the Creek is found to be eligible for designation as a Recreational river.

Places: Laguna, 3.3 miles; Morena, 8.6 miles

San Luis Rey River (Main)

California's largest southwestern willow flycatcher population (a Federally listed endangered species) is located immediately below Lake Henshaw Dam on land outside the Cleveland National Forest Boundary. About 1/3 of this population is on the Cleveland National Forest. The amount and character of the River's flow is sufficient to sustain the population, even though water levels are artificially controlled and water flow is heavily regulated. The population of this endangered species is the outstandingly remarkable value for this river, and is the basis for its eligibility for classification as a Recreational river.

Places: Palomar, 0.11 miles; San Dieguito/Black Mountain, 3.2 miles

San Mateo Creek

San Mateo Creek is one of the few remaining streams south of Los Angeles that is not dammed, and because of its location on federal lands, it has retained a pristine character. San Mateo Creek has an exceptionally high habitat quality for aquatic species. The San Mateo Creek watershed supports the southernmost population of southern steelhead trout known to exist. The population is located on the lower reaches of the San Mateo Creek corridor and in Devil Canyon. The largest known population of sticky dudleya, a Forest Service Sensitive Plant Species, is also located along San Mateo Creek in Devil Canyon, and at the confluence of Devil Canyon and San Mateo Creek (Devil's Gorge). These outstandingly remarkable fish and botanical values contribute to this Creek's eligibility as a Wild River.

Places: San Mateo, 14.1 miles

Research Natural Areas

Established

Agua Tibia

The Agua Tibia RNA was established for the study of bigcone Douglas-fir. Located within the Agua Tibia Wilderness, the site is relatively undisturbed and contains typical bigcone Douglas-fir habitat characteristics. The target species occurs on northern slopes and canyon bottoms at lower elevations and on various aspects at higher elevations. It has a sparse herb layer and occurs on very steep slopes. The trees are somewhat fire resistant, but would be eliminated by frequent fires. The surrounding vegetation that would provide a buffer zone is predominantly broadleaf chaparral. Access to the RNA is either through Cutca Valley or through the Mission Indian Reservation, both involving some strenuous hiking.

King Creek

The King Creek RNA, located on the Descanso Ranger District adjacent to Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, contains a small, rare population of Cuyamaca cypress, a relic of the ancient genus *Cupressus*, which was once widespread across North America. Cuyamaca cypress exists in six distinct stands on the National Forest and also on State Park land on the slopes of Cuyamaca Peak. All of the King Creek stands burned in a fire in 1950. Access to the RNA by trail is good, and a powerline road forms the northern boundary. Cuyamaca cypress is considered a federal "Species of Concern" (former candidate for listing) and has also been designated a Forest Service sensitive plant species. Most of the Cuyamaca cypress in both the RNA and in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park burned in the 2003 Cedar fire, but regeneration is expected to be adequate to repopulate the stands because trees were old enough to have substantial cone banks at the time of the fire.

Organ Valley

The Organ Valley RNA, located on Black Mountain, is dedicated to the study of Englemann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*). Englemann oak woodlands are distributed within a very limited area of cismontane southern California and northern Baja California, Mexico. Many of the original groves have been destroyed by overgrazing and/or development. The stands located within the RNA also suffer to some degree from the deteriorating factors mentioned above; however, Organ Valley has not been grazed for some time and the site is relatively undisturbed. The Englemann oaks are healthy and vigorous. They vary in size, representing several age classes. Two Forest Service sensitive plants also occur in the oak habitat, Orcutt's brodiaea (*Brodiaea orcuttii*) and velvety false-lupine (*Thermopsis macrophylla* var. *semota*).

Proposed

Guatay Mountain

The Guatay Mountain Research Natural Area (GMRNA) is located in San Diego County, California, on the Descanso Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest. It is approximately 36 miles (58 km) inland from the Pacific Ocean and 18 miles (29 km) north of the Mexican border. The RNA, 435 acres (176 ha) of which is designated Botanical Special Interest Area, lies entirely on lands managed by the Cleveland National Forest, which is the sole administrator of the RNA. Although a portion of the land area within the RNA is newly acquired and consequently outside the Forest Service Congressional Boundary, the land has approved purchase unit status and therefore has National Forest Service system lands status.

The land bordering the GMRNA to the north and west is privately owned with rural residential development,

including the town of Guatay (population 782 in 2000). To the east and southeast, GMRNA is bordered National Forest System lands. Lands bordering the RNA to the south are a privately owned cattle ranch.

GMRNA is located near the former sites of two Native American villages. Residents of these villages regarded Guatay Mountain as sacred. Formerly included within grazing allotments, grazing was excluded from the area in 1998. Day hikers occasionally visit the peak, but otherwise recreational use is infrequent.

Guatay Mountain is important as representative of the Tecate cypress (*Cupressus forbesii*) forest and mafic southern mixed chaparral vegetation types. Tecate cypress is listed as rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The Tecate cypress stand within GMRNA is the only known occurrence of this species and this vegetation type on Forest Service land. Guatay Mountain is also distinctive in its geology and soils. Developed on mafic rock types, loosely termed “gabbro”, that underlay most of area, the soils of GMRNA support distinctive vegetation and species not found on other soil types, including *Calochortus dunnii*, listed as rare by the state of California (California Department of Fish and Game 2003b) and rare and endangered by CNPS (California Native Plant Society 2003).

The portions of the RNA not included in the Tecate Cypress Botanical Special Interest Area are currently designated General Forest Roaded (mixed emphasis) in the Cleveland National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest 1986).

Guatay Mountain Research Natural Area was formally nominated by the Cleveland National Forest in May, 1995, after a site visit by a 4-member team of ecologists and biologists from Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research Station and Cleveland National Forest (Phillips 1995). Designation of the RNA was included as a guideline in the Tecate cypress Species Management Guide and Fire Management Guide, approved by Cleveland National Forest in October, 1991 (Winter 1992).

Places: Sweetwater

Viejas Mountain

The Viejas Mountain Research Natural Area (VMRNA) is located in San Diego County, California on the Descanso Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest. It is approximately 30 miles (48 km) east of the Pacific Ocean and 20 miles (32 km) north of the Mexican border. The RNA lies entirely on lands managed by the Cleveland National Forest, which is the sole administrator of the RNA.

Ownership of the land bordering the VMRNA is a mix of private, communal, and public. Lands to the north of the RNA are within the El Capitan Indian Reservation, and lands to the east are within the Viejas Indian Reservation. To the south and west, private property is interspersed with lands of the Cleveland National Forest.

Viejas Mountain is representative of the chamise chaparral vegetation type, and is recognized as having high biodiversity and research potential. The chamise chaparral within the RNA is representative of the gabbroic variant of chamise chaparral common in Cleveland National Forest, and consequently captures important variation of this widespread type. Viejas Mountain RNA also provides habitat for San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*), a species Federally-listed as threatened, California State-listed as endangered, and recognized by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare and seriously endangered, as well as six additional plant species recognized as sensitive by the Regional Forester and/or CNPS. Twelve animal species of special concern to the State of California are known or expected to occur within the RNA. The peak of the mountain is a sacred site for local Kumeyaay Indians (Shipek 1985).

The Viejas Mountain area was formally nominated as a Research Natural Area by the Cleveland National Forest in May, 1995, after a site visit by a 4-member team composed of ecologists and biologists from Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW) and Cleveland National Forest (Phillips 1995). The Viejas Mountain area was previously considered as a Botanical Special Interest Area, but RNA designation was seen as more appropriate in view of the high research potential of the site.

Places: Sweetwater

San Diego River

The San Diego River Research Natural Area (SDRRNA) is located in San Diego County, California on the Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest. It is approximately 30 miles (48 km) east of the Pacific Ocean and 21 miles (33 km) north of the Mexican border. The RNA lies entirely on lands managed by the Cleveland National Forest, which is the sole administrator of the RNA.

Ownership of the land bordering the SDRRNA is a mix of private individuals, communal, and public institutions. A coalition of tribes manages the Capitan Grande Indian Reservation on the south of the RNA. Helix Water District owns a two-mile (3.2 km) stretch of the San Diego River streambed and the adjacent ¼ mile (0.4 km) wide floodplain. The San Diego Country Estates development and the Barona Mesa rural residences border the southwest of the RNA. Land on the northwest is private land regulated by San Diego County under the zoning code of Agricultural Zone 20.

Prior to 1930, San Diego River bottom area was probably used as a temporary village settlement for the Barona Indians. Currently, recreation is the major use of the area; activities are concentrated in the southern part of the RNA. Cedar Creek Falls is a popular destination for hikers, cyclists, and horseback riders. SDRRNA has been used for scientific research studying the unusually high biodiversity and fire ecology. Scientists conducting studies in the RNA are from Forest Service, non-profit organizations (California Native Plant Society [CNPS] and the Natural Conservancy), and academics (University of California at San Diego, San Diego State University, and Pomona College).

San Diego River area was recognized as unique and important for its inland coastal sage scrub community and riparian habitat. California sagebrush (*Artemisiacalifornica*) is the dominant shrub, which is one of the primary plant species associated with the California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtilacalifornica*), a Federally-listed threatened species. Most of the SDRRNA is included in a proposed critical habitat for the California gnatcatcher (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 2000a,b). As of June 23, 2003 the critical habitat designation has not been finalized. The riparian zone in SDRRNA and Helix Water District property was once considered by the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (2001) to be designated as critical habitat for arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*), a Federally-listed endangered species. But the designation was vacated in fall, 2002.

San Diego River area was formally nominated as a Research Natural Area by the Cleveland National Forest in May, 1995 after the site was visited by a 7-member team composed of ecologists and biologists from Pacific Southwest (PSW) Research Station and Cleveland National Forest. Nomination of the SDRRNA is part of a Habitat Conservation Agreement developed with the USFWS to further the protection of coastal sage scrub.

The entire area of the proposed RNA was burned in the 2003 Cedar fire. Most of the target vegetation elements should recover naturally. Some of the coastal sage scrub has now burned three times since the early 1990s, making the proposed RNA a natural laboratory for the study of frequent fire effects on this vegetation type.

Places: Upper San Diego River

Special Interest Areas

Existing

San Luis Rey River (West Fork)

The West Fork of the San Luis Rey River was designated as a Special Interest Area because it supports a population of wild trout. This 86-acre site is accessible from the Palomar Divide Truck Trail. The primary management objectives are to protect the aquatic environment and surrounding riparian area, perpetuate the naturally sustained population of rainbow trout, and to offer a quality backcountry angling experience.

Guatay Mountain

Guatay Mountain is of special interest because of its unique old growth stand of Tecate cypress and associated habitat for the hairstreak butterfly. This SIA is the site of the largest stand of Tecate cypress found on National

Forest System lands, although larger stands do occur on private land located on Otay Mountain.

Private lands border the SIA on three sides and include the other half of the Tecate cypress stand. Access is excellent along Old Highway 80 through the old Guatay campground. A firebreak, which was constructed during the Laguna fire in 1970, cuts across the northern boundary of the stand. Dunn's mariposa lily, a sensitive plant species also occurs on the site.

Proposed

Chiquito Springs

Acres: 738

Emphasis: Botanical

Description of Values: Chiquito Springs includes an undisturbed deergrass meadow and large stands of coast live oak riparian forest, chaparral, and sage scrub. The riparian forest is habitat for the largest known population of San Miguel Savory, a Forest Service sensitive plant species. The area meets SIA criteria including unique plant communities and plant species. The extensive population of San Miguel Savory represents the northernmost extent of the species. The deergrass meadow and oak riparian habitat in the area are very high quality.

Description of Area: Chiquito Springs features the largest known population (and the northernmost population) of San Miguel Savory (*Satureja chandleri*). Other unique features of the area include a deergrass meadow and a population of Fish's milkwort (*Polygala cornuta* var. *fishiae*), a species of concern listed by the California Native Plant Society. Four vegetation types occur within the proposed botanical area including the deergrass meadow, oak riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, and chamise chaparral. San Miguel Savory (*Satureja chandleri*) is a Forest Service sensitive species. This species is a perennial woody mint that typically grows in shaded, moist areas. It is known from about 20 populations in the coastal mountains of southern California. Fish's Milkwort (*Polygala cornuta* var. *fishiae*) is a plant of limited distribution and is locally important. This species is a small perennial shrub that typically grows in exposed dry areas of chaparral.

Chiquito Springs is located in the center of the Santa Ana Mountains, on the Trabuco Ranger District. It is located on the USGS Alberhill Quadrangle, Township 6 South, Range 6 West, Sections 13, 14, 23, and 24. Elevations range from about 2,700 to 3,200 feet. Soils in the area are mapped as rock outcrop-Cienaba complex, Capistrano sandy loam, Vista sandy loams, and Escondido sandy loams.

A Forest Service trail passes through the area. No grazing is permitted in the area. The trail and nearby campgrounds receive heavy use. The San Juan and Chiquito trails are very popular with mountain bikers. There is some potential for disturbance by off-trail biking.

Access: Chiquito Springs is just north of State Highway 74 and west of El Cariso Village. It can be accessed by taking Main Divide Road (Forest Road 6S05) to Blue Jay Campground, then taking the San Juan Trail to the south.

Desired condition: The unique plants and plant communities in the area are highlighted by designation. The area is featured in interpretive talks and presentations. Interpretive signing and additional protection have conserved the unique resources of the area.

Filaree Flat

Acres: 440

Emphasis: Botanical

Description of Values: At Filaree Flat, montane meadows, vernal pools, and a state endangered plant (Cuyamaca Meadowfoam) are present. Three other Forest Service sensitive plant species, Cuyamaca Larkspur, San Diego Gumplant, and False Lupine, also occur in the area. This area features excellent wildflower displays and educational opportunities. The area meets SIA Criteria including unique and important plant communities and plant species. Montane meadows and vernal pools occur in only a few areas of southern California. Pebble plains

are known only from Filaree Flat and a few areas in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Description of Area: Filaree Flat is located at the northern end of the Laguna Mountain Recreation Area, on the Descanso Ranger District. The proposed botanical area is located on the USGS Monument Peak Quadrangle, Township 14S, Range 5 East, Sections 33 and 28. Elevations range from about 5,300 to 5,400 feet. Soils in the area are diverse, including Bancas stony loam, Reiff fine sandy loam, Sheepshead rocky sandy loam, and Crouch sandy loams. Of special interest is a large area of Boomer loam soil in the eastern part of the area. This is a gabbro-derived soil, an unusual soil type derived from ultramafic plutonic rock, which is high in magnesium and low in calcium. Many sensitive plant taxa are strongly associated with gabbro soil. In the Filaree Flat area this soil type is associated with areas of pebble plains, where several uncommon plant taxa occur.

Filaree Flat includes two habitat types rare in southern California: montane meadow and pebble plains. The area has an extensive area of montane meadow. Pebble plains occur in the west/central part of the proposed botanical area. Four Forest Service sensitive plant species occur in the area. A large population of the state-listed endangered Cuyamaca meadowfoam occupies the wet meadow, and a small population of the state-listed rare Cuyamaca Larkspur occurs in the upland pebble plain area. A large population of False Lupine, a Forest Service sensitive species, occurs in the sage scrub at the southwest corner, and scattered individuals of San Diego Gumplant occur in the meadow. Four vegetation types occur within the proposed botanical area: montane meadow, pebble plain, Great Basin sage scrub, and Jeffrey Pine/ Black Oak Forest.

Recent changes in management, including the restriction of dispersed camping and a change in the grazing season, are allowing this area to improve. Due to the intensive recreational use of the Laguna Mountain area, this area is potentially threatened by inadvertent damage from recreational users.

Access: Filaree Flat is located just west of Sunrise Highway (San Diego County Road S-1) and immediately north of Pine Creek Road (Forest Road 14S05).

Desired condition: The concentration of native plants is exceptional. The unique resources of the area are conserved by interpretive signs and additional protections to limit disturbance by forest visitors. The area is featured in interpretive talks and presentations which highlight the unique plants and plant communities.

Pine Mountain

Acres: 273

Emphasis: Botanical

Description of Values: Pine Mountain is an excellent example of the transitional community seen on the eastern slope of the Palomar Mountains. A mixture of coastal and desert-oriented species is seen here, as well as a large stand of redshank. Botanical resources include a riparian community featuring Coast Live Oak, and numerous wildflowers. Desert-affiliated species at Pine Mountain include California Juniper (*Juniperus californica*), Desert Savior (*Dudleya saxosa* ssp. *aloides*), Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) and Desert Needlegrass (*Achnatherum speciosum*). Two Forest Service sensitive species, Orcutt's Linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*) and Mohave Tarplant (*Hemizonia mohavensis*) occur in the proposed botanical area. This area meets SIA criteria including unique and important plant communities and plant species. The Hot Springs Mountain area, of which this is a part, contains several rather unusual plant associations and plant species. Redshank chaparral is unique to southern California and Mexico.

Description of Area: Pine Mountain includes areas of desert transition grassland, a rare habitat type on the forest. It also features redshank chaparral, a vegetation type that is unique to southern California. Three vegetation types occur within the proposed botanical area including desert transition grassland, oak riparian woodland, and redshank chaparral. Two Forest Service sensitive plant species occur within the area. Orcutt's Linanthus (*Linanthus orcuttii*) occurs in the southeast corner of the proposed botanical area. This small annual plant occurs in openings within the chaparral. A few individuals were located in spring 1995 (a drought year); it is expected that more plants will be observed in years with average or above-average amounts of rainfall. Orcutt's Linanthus is nearly endemic to the Cleveland National Forest, where it is known from about 20 populations. The second sensitive species is Mojave Tarplant (*Hemizonia mohavensis*). This species occurs along the streamcourse at the western edge of the proposed botanical area, and until recently was thought to be extinct. Several populations were discovered on the Palomar District in 1994 and 1995 by botanists from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

In addition, one species of concern to the forest occurs in the area. Cleveland Horkelia (*Horkelia clevelandii*) occurs on the rock outcrops, and along the stream course at the southern edge of the proposed botanical area. Cleveland Horkelia is the host plant for the federally listed endangered Laguna Mountains Skipper butterfly. At this time the Laguna Mountains Skipper is not known to occur in the Pine Mountain area. The proposed botanical area is located on the USGS Warner Springs Quadrangle, Township 10 South, Range 2 East, Sections 1 and 12. Elevations range from about 3,100 to 3,660 feet. Soils in the area are mapped as rough broken land, Ramona sandy loam, and Tollhouse sandy loam.

A Forest Service road and campground are located just north of the area, which is mostly in an undisturbed condition. An unofficial trail is present within the proposed botanical area and there is a small area being used for target shooting near the southeast corner of the area, where an unofficial road parallels a stream. This area is currently used for occasional recreational hiking.

Access: Pine Mountain is located on the eastern side of the Palomar Mountains, on the Palomar Ranger District. It is east of State Highway 79 and can be accessed via Indian Flats Road (Forest Road 9S04).

Desired condition: The area's integrity and visitor safety have been assured by relocating the shooting area and closing the spur road. Recreational hiking is welcomed. The area is featured in interpretive talks and presentations which highlight the unique plants and plant communities found here. Interpretive signing and other protections conserve the unique resources of the area.

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.